

## No Peace in the Barn

While traveling separately through the countryside late one afternoon, a Hindu, a Rabbi and a Critic were caught in a terrific thunderstorm. They sought shelter at a nearby farmhouse.

“That storm will be raging for hours,” the farmer told them. “You ought to spend the night. The problem is there is only one room for two in the house. One of you must sleep in the barn.”

“I’ll be the one,” said the Hindu. “A little hardship is nothing to me.” And he went to the barn.

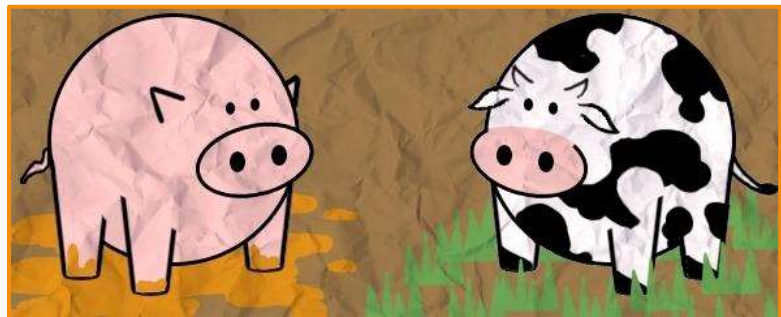
A few minutes later, there was a knock at the door. It was the Hindu. “I’m sorry,” he said to the others, “but there is a cow in the barn. Cows are sacred creatures, and I cannot impose.”

“Don’t worry,” said the Rabbi. “Make yourself comfortable. I will go sleep in the barn.”

A few minutes later, there was another knock on the door. It was the Rabbi. “I hate to be a bother,” he said, “but there is a pig in the barn. In my religion, pigs are unclean. I wouldn’t feel comfortable sleeping near a pig.”

“Oh, all right,” said the Critic.  
“I’ll go sleep in the barn.”

A few minutes later, there was a knock at the door. It was the pig and the cow.



You probably know the Critic – or, at least, one of his kinfolks. And you, like the pig and the cow, take no stock in his or her steady stream of negative assertions.

It’s one thing to offer constructive criticism that can be helpful to someone, but it’s quite another to engage in words that can be hurtful or tear down a person.

And oftentimes, the Critic may not know what he’s talking about.

It’s like the story told by the late Claude Ogle – Mr. Life Care, who passed away on Feb. 24 at the age of 104.

(more)

A certain church had a deacon who was always against any proposal relating to the business of the church. On one occasion, the deacons were discussing buying a new chandelier.

As expected, this deacon stood up and said, “No, I’m agin’ it. In the first place, no one in this church can spell that thing, and secondly, no one here can play it. And besides, we need a light fixture worse for the church!”

*Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you (Matthew 7:1-2 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter

