

what dreams may come



Robin Williams was a popular stand-up comedian and actor known for his improvisational skills. Sadly, on Aug. 11, 2014, Williams committed suicide at his home in Paradise Cay, California, which his wife attributed to his struggle with Lewy body dementia.

The final question to Williams in a 2002 interview: “If heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you walk through the pearly gates?”

It is the question that every star who stops by *Inside the Actors’ Studio* – a cable television series – knows is coming at the end of the conversation with host James Lipton, a confessed atheist.

With a career spanning 35 years and more than 50 movies, Williams had influenced millions. And his suicide at age 63 doubtless stunned as many.

Lipton’s probing question prompts deeply revealing answers from his guests. The truth is, we all reveal something about the priorities in our lives when we talk about what we hope to find when it is over.

Explaining what he would hope to find “if heaven exists,” Williams – in a tone that only he could deliver – quipped: “There’s seating near the front. Uh, the concert begins at 5. There will be Mozart, Elvis and one of your choosing.” He added, “Or ... or, just nice, if heaven exists, to know there’s laughter. Just to hear God go, ‘Two Jews walk into a bar ...’”

His theology aside, Williams’ answer reveals the things that were most important to this man, one so gifted with stage presence and the ability to entertain a crowd.

So the question for each of us today: What do you hope to find in heaven; what do you most hope to hear God say to you? Your answer might just reveal something about your – and my – priorities. For example:

- “Welcome, here are the keys to your new mansion.”
- “Welcome, come visit with your lost loved ones.”
- “Welcome, come in and lounge by the river.”

Or perhaps, after a wearying life of faithful, passionate, tireless service lived in response to the work of Christ on the cross, you would prefer to hear these words instead: *Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord* (Matthew 25:21 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter