

## Water

How well do you know me? Probably not well at all, but I've known you all of your life. At times, I can look and feel different to you, depending on how you see me, or what I am doing at the time. You have experienced all facets of my personality, and if you are like most people, I haven't impressed you. That's me. I am that reliable friend who is always there when you need one . . . someone you can always count on to do the job. My versatility is well documented. I am that "Jack of all trades, and a master of all!" There is virtually nothing I do not do well, with the possible exception of drying things that are already wet. That might be considered the single shortfall in my DNA.



I'm old. In fact, I'm as old as anything you can conceive. Let's reference the *Book of Genesis* in the Old Testament to prove my point:

*" . . .and God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear. And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.'"* If I had a birth certificate, those would be the words I would use. Scientists call me H<sub>2</sub>O. I AM older than dirt! Pretty impressive? Yes, the "The Big Guy" himself created me very early in the process!



When it comes to traveling, I've been everywhere. I cover seventy percent of this planet. If necessary, I can transition into any of my related forms . . . solid,



liquid, crystalline, or gas. I am a master of disguise. While nature usually makes these transformations for me, people like you can accomplish some of these changes by boiling or freezing, but trust me, you have yet to master the art of making a snowflake. I can evaporate into a cloud and come back to earth as rain. But enough about that technical talk, recently, I've been receiving an unusual amount of media attention. Perhaps some of it is due to extreme weather conditions (global warming?), but in reality, I'm always here. For someone as important to life as me, I maintain a low public profile, but did you ever think where you would be without me? There are thousands of unanswered questions, and that's why people who need to know come to me for answers.

## The Message in a Bottle

The invitation to the show was a complete surprise because it did not arrive in a conventional manner. It was a message in a bottle – how appropriate! As I picked it up and unrolled the paper, I saw that the official looking note was from the producers of the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon! While the request did not state the specific reason they wanted me to appear on the show, it spiked my curiosity. At first, I doubted its legitimacy, but it was written on official NBC stationery, and when I called the number listed at the bottom, my doubts were erased. They wanted to hear my perspective on a number of important issues in a way that only I could explain.



## Fame

Appearing on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon was a dream come true. Guest spots on national TV are not that common for basic elements like me. In fact, I don't have an agent, a makeup artist, or a support staff, so I jumped into



*Here I am on the set of the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.*

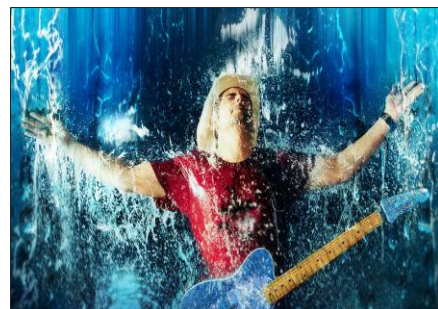
my best glass and made the trip to New York. If you've watched the show, you know that Mr. Fallon has a way of asking some pretty interesting questions. There are times he can be serious, but most of the time he manages to keep it light. That approach would suit me just fine because I have a very "translucent" personality. I'd be a very poor poker player.

When I arrived at the studio, one of The show's assistants asked if I wanted something to drink while I was waiting.

Seriously? What was I supposed to say to that? It was a prelude to what was in store for me that evening. To the casual viewer, the elements of what goes on behind the scenes of a nationally televised show are amazing. Did you know that they ask their guests if they wish to have a specific piece of music played when they are introduced? Without missing a beat, I said, "Do you know *Water* by Brad Paisley?" What followed was a chorus of blank stares, so I had to sing a few lines:

*"Inflatable pool full of dad's hot air  
I was three years old splashin' everywhere  
And so began my love affair with water."*

It took about a minute, but one by one, all of the musicians began chiming in. What I heard was



“music to my ears.” Once that was settled, I was handed a list of questions that Jimmy would ask if time permitted. His producer also reminded me that the show including his questions could take an entirely different direction, depending on the flow of our conversation. She also told me to expect jokes and remarks that “thin-skinned” people might consider demeaning or offensive. I assured her that I don’t have skin, either thick or thin, and that I could handle myself just fine. Nothing would bother or embarrass me. Tonight, I would be asked a series of interview questions, and my answers could determine just how serious or funny the show would be.

When you appear on live TV, there is absolutely no margin for error. If you make a mistake, belch, or subject yourself to other crass bodily after effects, those transgressions immediately appear on twenty million television screens. That’s enough to test anyone’s deodorant protection, but as the ultimate liquid and universal solvent, I don’t have to worry about that. I checked my appearance in the dressing room mirror to make sure that there was no foreign matter floating on or in me. I also made sure that my new glass was lipstick free. I didn’t want to see postings on TMZ discussing my lack of good judgment or style. This was to be more of a fun discussion than an actual interview, but I was ready for both. Mentally, I slipped into my alter-ego - ice.



### **It’s Show Time!**

When the band (“Roots” - the name of Jimmy Fallon’s studio band) began playing my song, the reality of what was actually happening began to hit home.



As I came out I was taken back by the magnitude of the situation. The lights were exceptionally bright, somewhat obscuring my view of the loud and constantly cheering audience. The stage is much larger than it appears on television. I was shown the route to where I would be greeted and introduced by Mr. Fallon and then the chair on which I would be placed.

When the director signaled that we were about to begin, Jimmy looked at me and as his introduction said, “That’s a really nice glass you are inside. Is it Waterford?”

“Jimmy, you certainly know crystal. Yes it is.”

“You know, you look very familiar. Have we met somewhere?”



I answered, "Of course we have, and you're not the only one who asks me that question. I know everyone! There isn't a person on this planet I don't know and who doesn't know me."

"How do you figure that?" said Jimmy.

"Well, you know I AM seventy percent of your body, and as long as we are on the subject, I'm probably the only one that has seen *everybody* naked!"

The audience roared with laughter!

"How do I follow that?" he said as things slowly subsided. "It looks like it's going to be one of those nights!"



A unique feature of the Tonight Show in its current format is that even though it is scripted, it tends to leave that script and flow in the direction the guest or the host moves. When Jimmy senses he has something he can build on and has audience appeal, he pursues it. Tearing up the sheet of paper he had in front of him, he then said, "My writers are going to crucify me if this doesn't work, but I've got an idea. Let's play a 'lightning round' of questions. I will ask you about a particular topic and I want you to say the first thing that comes into your mind. Got it?"



"Well, Jimmy, its your show" I said. "I always go with the 'flow.'"

"Then are you ready to start?"

"Let's go for it!" I said enthusiastically.

\* \* \*

## The Lightning Round with Jimmy Fallon!

**Let's start at the beginning. What is your earliest childhood memory?**

Wow, that's going back a long time. The first thing I remember was a 'thump' and then a 'crash' as I fell away from that glacier.



**What do you do for excitement?**

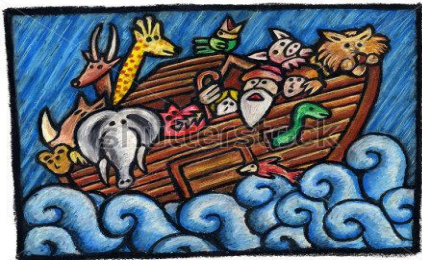
Usually, I'm in a state of constant motion. I can't stay still, so boredom is rarely an issue. Every once in a while I'll stir up a tropical storm, make a rainbow or

blanket the ground with snow. Depending on my mood, I might create something a bit more unpredictable like a typhoon or a hurricane. I don't always play by the rules.

**Oh you don't? Give me an example of when you don't play by the rules.**

Besides instigating those "manipulations of nature," I like to do things that are not conventional. Did you know that according to the laws of physics, when objects freeze, they contract? Well, I do the opposite . . . I expand.

**Interesting. I'll keep that in mind. So, staying on the subject of not playing by the rules, I've been told that not all of your actions are . . . should I say considered nice or considerate? What was something you started that had unforeseen consequences?**



I have been known to miscalculate every so often. When I dumped forty days and forty nights of non-stop rain on Poor Noah and his family, they had to live in that jam-packed, dirty ark for the duration of the flood with two of each animal. If you've ever been to a zoo on a hot day, you know what he went through. I honestly didn't foresee all of that in the beginning.

**Have you ever been disappointed?**

Sure, several times. One that comes to mind was the Great Chicago Fire back in 1871. It burned for three straight days. I felt really bad because I couldn't put it out in time.

**People have a number of names for you, most of them technical, but do you have a nickname that bothers you?**

People call me all kinds of things, but if you want to stay on my good side, please don't call me a *drip*!

**Is there something that you can't do?**

Drown a fish . . . not that I'd want to do something like that.



## Do you feel that you've ever been given a "Bad Rap" about something?

Sure. Have you ever heard the term Aquaphobia – the fear of water? People generally fear what they do not understand. You know, Jimmy, I can float just about anything. At any point in time there are thousands of boats and ships, many weighing upwards of 90,000 tons on my surface. People and animals can swim. It's something I never have understood.



## People have been known to make millions doing some pretty unusual things. What was the most outrageous money making venture involving you?

Bottled Water. Who would have thought you could sell an abundant commodity like water, something that takes up over seventy percent of this planet (and that historically, everyone always got for free) for money? What's next, selling sunlight in a bottle?

## You know, you're a pretty good looking . . . er . . . element. When do you think you look your best?

Jimmy, that's a really difficult question to answer, so I have to go by what people tell me. In Venezuela, Angel Falls comes to mind. I am the highest standing waterfall in the world. Others have said that my role in creating rainbows ranks right at the top. My personal favorites include cloud formations I've devised, the ocean at sunset off a tropical island, and even the fountains at the Bellagio in Las Vegas.

## Let's discuss one of the many myths regarding you.



Perhaps the greatest myth is that the Fountain of Youth actually exists. Back in 1513, Ponce de Leon allegedly discovered the "water of life" in St. Augustine, Florida. According to written accounts, some of the natives lived to the age of 120.

*"Ponce de Leon was led to a fountain, wherein when the locals had washed, they found their flesh all glossy and sleek, as if they had bathed in oil, and a scent came from the spring like that of violets. The water was so weak, they said, that nothing would float in it, neither wood, nor any lighter substance. It all went to the bottom."*

Trust me, it just isn't so. People can't go back in time to recapture their youth.

**Interesting. So you don't believe in everlasting youth or the Fountain of Youth's powers. Just a thought, but I was thinking that maybe you might like to have a business partner . . . What do you feel is the most amazing fact about you?**

I never age . . .

**Again, I don't know what to do with that response. You are just full of surprises! You NEVER age! That makes sense, I guess. So maybe there IS something to that Fountain of Youth theory.**

**Well, that will take us to our break. Please stay where you are and we will be right back.**

\* \* \*

With that, the music started and the cameras slowly pulled back marking the end of the segment. As the sound of the network's first commercial filled the air, Jimmy heard his guest say as he passed by on the way to the dressing room, "Tell me that's not a commercial for *bottled water!*"

**About the author:**

*Robert Guise is a former English teacher and sales management professional who enjoys creating humor pieces, fiction, and satirical short stories based on simple, every-day subjects.*

*“I have two goals I try to accomplish with each story I write:*

- 1) To make my readers smile.*
- 2) Hopefully, you will read about something in my stories, and say to yourself, 'I never knew that.'”*



*“All you really need this time of year  
Is a pair of shades and ice cold beer  
And a place to sit somewhere near water.”*

*- Brad Paisley*