

Life is a feesh and then you die.



Here's an old one.

A man was about to eat the special of the day, when he leaned over and began whispering to the fish on his plate.

"Whaddya doing?" demanded the waiter.

"Ya nuts or something?"

"I'm talking to the fish. I speak fish language."

"Hokay...I should ask what ya said to the fish?"

"I asked him where he was from, and the fish says, 'Sheepshead Bay.'

So I ask the fish, 'How's it going there in Sheepshead Bay?' and the fish says, 'How should I know? It's years since I been there.'"

Get your fresh feesh!

What could be better than a bucket of clams, a filet of sole, redsnapper, Tilapia in orange sauce, poached salmon, gefilte fish, northern pike, sea bass with vermouth, soy, and almonds, swordfish. Fresh feesh so good it'll make you *shvindeldik* ("dizzy"); you'll think you died and went to heaven.

But there's a catch.

This might spoil your appetite. Steffner's Food Law: The more you enjoy something, the worse it is for you. As a rule, never eat anything with a list of ingredients that covers more than a third of the package. Then there's Duezabou's Observation: If you abstain from drinking, smoking, eating fatty foods, and carousing, you may not live longer, but it will feel longer. Then there's Fishman's Maxim: Take fish oil and a garlic pill first thing in the morning, and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.

Cutting bait

Soon comes the day when we say, "So long, and thanks for all the fish." When it comes to dying, some think we just turn into compost; others say we keep getting recycled, or that "goodness" must outweigh "badness," tipping the scales in our souls' favor. *"The kingdom of heaven is like a big net thrown into the sea collecting all kinds of fish. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore and sit down and pick out the good ones for the barrels, but they throw away the bad. That is how it will be at the end of this world...Have you grasped all this?"* Jesus the Messiah asked his band of followers after teaching them extensively about eternal destinies. We're not asking you to swallow a fish story. The Man who walked the shores of the Galilee hauls us out of the net of sin and leads us to everlasting life. There's no better place to fish.