

## John Problem Interviews Satan

JP: Good morning, Sir, and thank you for talking to us again.

Satan: You are fortunate that I am in a good mood this morning.

JP: I'm sure my readers will be delighted to know that you are in a good mood, this morning. And will be pleased to know why.

Satan: Brexit.

JP: Brexit?

Satan: Yes, Brexit. The best thing that could have happened to your piddling little country in centuries.

JP: Really?

Satan: Yes. A splendid disaster! Absolutely splendid! Your piddling little country will find its rightful place in the world. Forgotten.

JP: I'm afraid I don't understand.

Satan: Then I'll explain it to you. Firstly your leaders have to negotiate with the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament. And its 27 different countries, none of whom particularly likes your country. They think you give yourself airs. Then your leaders will have to negotiate with the World Trade Organisation – 60 countries. And then with a whole host of other countries to trade with. Frankly, your leaders aren't up to it. They are not elected for their brain-power, that's for sure. And they have no experience of trade and negotiation. No, I'm wrong. That dimwit Jeremy Hunt tried to sell marmalade to the Japanese!

JP: But our government is hiring 750 people to negotiate for them.

Satan: If you don't know how to negotiate yourself, how do you know how to choose someone to do it for you, eh? No. Mark my words. Your piddling little country will be mired in inefficient negotiation for years to come, trade will die, businesses will fail, prices will be going up all the time and people will starve even. Most satisfactory, your Brexit.