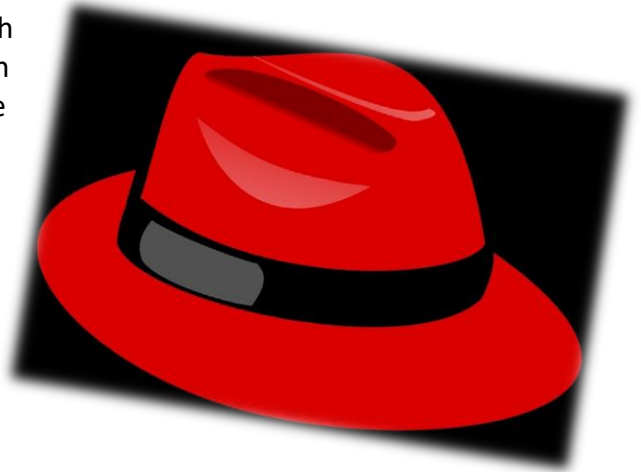


The Hat

Jack showed up at Mass one Sunday and the priest almost fell down when he saw him as he'd never been to church for many years. After Mass, the priest caught up with him and said, "Jack , I am so glad you decided to come to Mass again. What made you come?" Jack said, "I have to be honest with you Father, a while back, I misplaced my hat and I really, really love that hat. I know that Fred had a hat just like mine and I knew he came to Mass every Sunday. I also knew that he would take off his hat before Mass and would leave it at the back of the church. So, I was going to leave after communion and steal Fred's hat."



The priest said, "Well, Jack, I notice that you didn't steal Fred's hat. What changed your mind?" Jack replied, "Well, after I heard your sermon on the ten commandments I decided that I didn't need to steal Fred's hat after all."

With a tear in his eye the priest gave Jack a big smile and said; "I assume that after I talked about 'thou shalt not steal' you decided you would rather do without your hat than burn in hell, eh?"

Jack slowly shook his head. "No, Father, it was after you talked about 'thou shalt not commit adultery' that I remembered where I left my hat."

Jim Cook