



Dear Barry,

I really hate the holidays! For the past twenty years I have escaped with my friends to Puerto Vallarta to avoid my nasty family. But this year, because of hip surgery, I am forced to stay home. My sister is insisting I spend Christmas dinner with her kids including her homophobic husband.. My retired Pentecostal preacher dad, who just turned 90, will be there and has made it clear I am not the son he wanted. I love my sister who is the only family member who's been supportive of me, but it hurts so much being in that hateful environment. But my sister insists this will probably be Dad's last Christmas and has begged me to put aside my hate and support her. I think she is asking too much!!! Please help me!

Signed Get Me the Hell to Mexico

Dear Get Me the Hell to Mexico,

I find it hard to believe that you hate the holidays, when for the last 20 years, you have had the pleasure of escaping with your friends to Puerto Vallarta.

Unfortunately, this year, you have had to stay behind due to an operation on your hip. So your choices appear to be alone, spend time with local friends or with your sister, her children and the homophobic husband and disapproving father. I have to assume that your sister has been there for your support in your recovery from surgery. She is now asking you to be supportive of her.

If you go, you are actually taking back the power from them all, by making them deal with you. You are not letting her husband and your dad, take away an opportunity to enjoy a holiday with your sister and her children. And torturing the other two by being there.

Also, by going, you become a positive, powerful and non fearful gay role model for the kids...who after all, will dictate the political future of our nation.

I would go, but set some boundaries with your sister. Those boundaries should include how many hours you will stay, and if there are any remarks that are about you or your sexuality, you will leave. I would also suggest that you bring a friend along for your own support.

It has been 20 years since you have spent the holidays with your sister and her children... do this for both of you, not your dad.

Sometimes the greatest holiday gift is forgiveness!!!!!!!