

**A tribute to Meeting Professionals everywhere, written by
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Dear Meeting Professional, what can I say

To take your apprehension away

The first one to get there, the last one to leave

Dealing with the hotel and the meals and AV

Problems to solve, decisions to make

Running around, your reputation at stake

Keynote or plenary, panel or workshop

Budget and gift bags and travel non-stop

Who should you book, which speaker should you choose

One makes you a hero, one wrong choice and you lose

Their website looks good, they've mastered the art

Of seeming funny and witty and charming and smart

But real life is different, now you can tell

As the speaker descends from the high pedestal
She's a prima donna, he wants first class
They both sell their products, but neither one asked

They grace you with their wisdom and bless you with
their words

Why does the audience seem so perturbed?

What? No connection, no style, no content?

No money back guarantee if they ruined your event?

Dear Meeting Professional, what can I say

To take your apprehension away

I know you've been burnt and you're scared as well

That each speaker you hire could make your life hell

But please rest assured we are all not so bad

Most work with integrity and most are so glad
That you allow us the privilege of sharing our passion
That you organize everything in a well-run fashion

That you do your job with what appears to be ease
So we can stand up and share our expertise
No standing ovation, no rousing applause
You wait in the wings until everyone's gone

Your satisfaction lies in the evals that come in
Seeing people leaving with satisfied grins
We get the accolades and you get the mess
We get the pay check and you get the stress

Dear Meeting Professional what can I say
Thanks for what you do, you're *my* hero today.