

One of the Many Who are Helping to Pay for the MGM Grand Hotel

by Gerald Locklin

This middle-aged gentleman
is neither stupid nor a drunk,
still he sat in the bar and repeated,
“Counter, hah! What good does it do
to count the deck: Aren’t the cards
just as good for the dealer
as they are for the player?”

When I pointed out that the dealer
has options and gets to the deck first,
he repeated, “It’s the same deck
for the dealer and the player.”

So I said, “Suppose you’re holding twelve
and you know that there are nothing but
face cards left in the deck?
Is that an advantage?”

He shifted his stance: “If they catch on you’re counting
they’ll shuffle the deck anyway.”

“Why do they do that,” I asked,
“if counting isn’t an advantage?”

“It’s the same deck for everyone,” he said.

I began to feel like a character
in a Robert Frost dialogue.

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