Mathematics can be hard to understand if one looks at things the wrong way

This is the story of 3 traveling salesmen who ended up at the same hotel in a small town one evening. Only to find out that there was precisely one room left.

After some arguing back and forth, the hotel manager agreed to let the 3 men share the room and split the bill. The room was a total of $30 for the night. Each salesman forked over a $10 bill.

Everything settled, they headed upstairs to make the best of the accommodations.

Late that evening, the manager was going over the books and realized that the the salesmen had been overcharged by $5. Being an honest-minded fellow, he decided to give the men a refund.

The bellhop happened to walk by and the manager gave him a $5 bill, telling him to take it up to the 3 salesmen.

On the way up, the enterprising bellhop got to thinking. First it occurred to him that those salesmen had no idea that they'd been overcharged, and a refund was coming. It was certainly tempting for him to just keep the entire $5.

But if he did, and something was said about a refund, most certainly questions would be asked of him. Questions for which he would have no suitable answer.

Then another thing struck him: He had a $5 bill. There were 3 salesmen. How to divide the money evenly? So, he detoured long enough to make change for the bill.

Finally, he made it up to the hotel room and presented each salesman with a $1 refund.

Because he'd concluded that was an easy division. Besides, nobody would be any the wiser to the fact that he pocketed $2.

So, let's total it all up: The salesmen each paid $9, for a total of $27 for the room. Add to that the $2 the bellboy kept, and we have $29.

Hm, what happened to the other dollar?