

Walk on the Wild Side: Looking Over the Edge and Ranting About It



Jennifer Burrows

Only when the last tree has died and the last river is poisoned and the last fish caught will we realize we cannot eat money. Cree Proverb

“May you live in interesting times,” says the Chinese proverb. Interesting, humph! Chaotic and wild may be closer to accurate. How does disturbing and a bit scary sound to you?

I may sound judgemental, but this is a rant and I’m just warming up.

Does life really unfold in perfect order or have we bought the ad? I always thought perfect should feel as smooth as chocolate truffles on the tongue.

Some days are chocolaty but for the most part we settle for something less. I imagine there’s a purpose to the tough spots even when you have to wait for hindsight to figure it out. Honestly though, other days feel like a darn rough ride on a road we didn’t build.

Starting to simmer.

As I write this, politicians and economists are debating ways to stick handle the global economy through rough times. They’re trying to overcome the havoc created through massive acts of self-interest by the powerful few who have held control.



Millions of people are hurting from the gross selfishness of those who claimed their damaging actions were for the good of all. Count the financial collapse as one example... and... *hmmmm...* maybe the war as another.

There's nothing moderate about the challenges ahead and what needs to change before smoother sailing returns. The effects of manipulation can cripple and endure for a long time. I'm dreaming that the officials and not the honest folk will be called on the carpet to ante up.

Now I'm cookin'.

It's the injured state of the world that really has me ranting. Hindsight isn't needed to realize the damage already done because money talks louder than the environment can.

There's hardly a place on Earth that isn't hurting.

Green forests and blue waters are turning brown. Mountains have been flattened and dumped to extract the profit underneath. Forests are burned and scraped bare. Every day we breathe more toxins and less oxygen. We bury our dead from the useless wars over control of resources that probably have alternatives.



Money is a good servant but a bad master.

Those who can walk away from the damage they do once their pockets are full also find us easy to ignore. Believing that only their lifetime matters they disregard the primal bond that connects humanity to an enduring Earth.

For as long as profit is held to be godlier than clean air, water, food and humane practices, life will be unbalanced. Damage intentionally done to Earth and everything upon her ultimately hurts us and multiplies the struggle.

I've heard it said that while money can't buy happiness it definitely can rent it. And whether we like it or not, money is what most of life organizes itself around. You can buy a wonderful dog for a reasonable price but no amount of money or influence will buy the wag of its tail. Wag responds to open hearts, which in recent history haven't been in power.

It's been centuries since we stopped trading in skins and even then money talked. Throughout history those who held the gold made the rules, so we shouldn't be totally shocked to discover we're up to our collective neck in alligators.

Numerous brilliant thinkers including psychics and prophesiers predicted these problems before they actually happened. But unfortunately these capable minds are seldom considered believable. Neither do these folk become the newscasters nor spokespersons that form the media that captures our ears.

Are we capable of assembling a more humane world or will we keep reasons not to?

I accept how extremes such as wealth and poverty or freedom and confinement serve us by illustrating what isn't balanced. But it's a challenge to think past your emotions if you're swinging on a vine that would defy Tarzan and Jane to keep their grip.

Without a doubt having enough money expands your options, quiets the nerves and makes life more fun. As a result, when political agendas and manipulative practices replace your options with a bed of nails, you can't stay silent. Too many hard working people have been hurt by massive acts of self-interest that were deemed legal and marketed to them as candy.

We've been had, even when many of us have devoured shelves of books or attended seminars and know the lingo to say we're never given more than we can handle. We stand up to our responsibilities and learn from our successes as well as from our mistakes. We aim to stay current and to stay awake. And while awake we're forever trying to do better even if we don't always pull it off.

Yet we're in the soup. Enduring solutions to national and global issues will likely take more time and money than we prefer. And many folk are challenged to hang on past tomorrow. We must stay strong to apply what we've learned from this mess. We must insist that policy makers look past their pockets and construct systems that support everyone and the environment as well.

One constant that you can count on is change

It's one mark of the past hundred years that people closed their eyes and believed the slick words: "progress at all costs". Now we have to right the ship we were told would never sink. Keep hopeful that the recent change of guard, ample clear vision and creative genius will inspire enough people to restructure the pieces into something much better.

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