

JUST A THOUGHT

Hard To Make Light

so many funny story lines but nobody wants to laugh

It took our beloved government long enough, but they finally caught up with the rest of us and proclaimed once and for all that our world is in a recession. Now, I'm told that the government doesn't really like to make statements like that because, well, we Americans are a sensitive bunch and you just don't want to say stuff that is going to depress us, even though we are already depressed because we have been living with this recession for about a year now, even though our Government really didn't want to call it that until just recently. So I'm guessing that the government decided that we were all sufficiently depressed enough now to where they could go ahead and call it a recession without causing too much damage, even though they quickly added that things could get worse before it gets better. God, I love our politically correct government.

Now I have always believed that in times of trouble, one needs to have a good sense of humor. I have laughed my way through so many personal recessions that people often have trouble deciding if my tears come from laughter or the pathetic nature of my situation. I'm not sure myself half the time.

So as I read the headlines and watch the evening news, I am struck once again at the irony of our world and feel that the ideas for funny stories simply will not end. I may be broke, but God I have a lot of stories swirling around in my creative mind that should keep my fingers flying on this keyboard for months to come.

The problem is that there is also so many sad stories at a time like this as well. It's hard to make light of the situation when you don't have to look outside your own family to see the affects of a recession. I can joke about the reality that I have been in a recession my entire adult life – I am a writer after all – but when I look at my girls and see how this mess is affecting them, the jokes turn into a speechless frustration.

My daughters are married young ladies with all the hopes and dreams they have put themselves in position to obtain. Their God given talents, hard work and positive attitude has given them hope that their dreams and aspirations can be realized. They and their husbands want to establish their careers have a family and make their own mark in this world, and right they should. They are part of the solution, not part of the problem.

So when I see my daughters having to put those dreams and aspirations on hold because of all the uncertainty, the recession quickly becomes something I no longer want to laugh about. A recession can be a very funny thing until you put your families face on it. Then you just want to scream like the rest of us.

Still, there are many story lines that beg to have a humorous spin on them. I am a light hearted writer who will likely take advantage of many of the situations out there. I will have some great material to give you in the coming months, that's for sure. And I have learned through my own struggles that a good sense of humor really does go a long way in helping us through the rough spots. I make no apologies for trying to bring a few smiles during these tough times.

But before I write one funny line, I wanted those who follow me to understand that I'm really not that shallow of a person. I may put a funny spin on many of today's headlines, but you should also know that when I am alone, those tears I cry are not from laughing – they are in feeling the frustration of my daughters and their families in trying to pursue their dreams in such difficult times.

We will get through this, I am certain. But it won't be because we made light of it and laughed our way through it. We will get through this because we are sensitive enough and have the passion for those we care about to understand that a recession may affect our jobs and our checking accounts – our dreams and our ambitions, but it will only serve to make our relationships to one another even stronger.

And that's no joke.

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