

### Thoughts and Smiles – July 18, 2022

One day, a farmer's donkey fell into a well.

The animal cried and grieved for hours while the farmer tried to do something to save him.

Eventually, the farmer decided the donkey was too old and the well had been dry for a long time, so getting the donkey out of the well wasn't worth it.

He called his neighbours, and each of them took a shovel and began throwing dirt into the well.



The donkey, realizing what was happening, started crying and growling even louder.

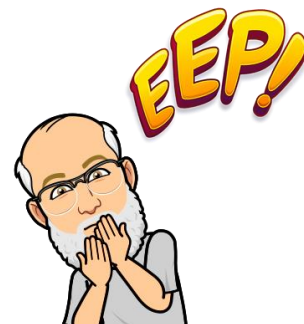
At one point, to everyone's surprise, the donkey stopped complaining after a few plates of dirt.

The farmer looked to the bottom of the well and was amazed at what he saw...

With every palate of dirt, the donkey was doing something incredible: it was hitting the ground with its hooves and taking a step above the ground.

Very soon, everyone saw in surprise the donkey coming to the mouth of the well, stepping over the edge and trotting out.

MORAL. Life will knock you down, but we can get out of the deepest pits if we don't give up. Use the dirt they throw you to move forward. Love more, fight more, and learn to recognize the various *a\*\*es* you're sure to meet in this world!



## What is YOUR “Iron Kettle”?

~ Original Post Melissa Vaughan

When my mom was cleaning out her house over 23 years ago to sell it, I wasn't very sympathetic over her attachments to things. I would go over on weekends to help her and we would go through things, things for a yard sale, things to donate, things to throw away. I would usually get upset over how long it was taking her to decide. For instance, we were going through kitchen cabinets and she spent 20 minutes looking at an iron kettle with a lid. Finally I said,



“Mom, at this rate it is going to take us another 2 years.”

She told me that her mother used to make meals in that kettle and leave them at doorsteps of neighbors during the depression, mom would deliver them, and then they would reappear back to her with an apron, or a wood carving, something in return for the meal. I realized that everything that my mom was going through was really a reliving of her life.

If you are reading this and are under the age of 60, you won't get it. You haven't lived long enough. Most of you have not had to move your parents into a nursing home, or emptied their home. You haven't lived long enough to realize that the hours you spend picking out the right cabinets, or the perfect tile will not be what matters in the later years. It will be the handmade toothbrush holder, or a picture that you got on vacation.

So, if your parents are downsizing, and moving to smaller places, or selling a home, give your mom and even your dad a break. Those things that you don't understand why they can't just pitch, and why you think you know what needs to be tossed or saved, give them a little time to make their decisions. They are saying goodbye to their past, and realizing that they are getting ready for their end of life, while you are beginning your life.

As I have been going through things, it's amazing just how hard it is to get rid of objects. But, life goes on, and you realize they are just things, but sometimes things comfort us. So give your parents or grandparents a break. Listen to their stories, because in 40 years, when you are going through those boxes and the memories come back, it will be hard to get rid of those plastic champagne flutes that you and your late husband used at a New Year's party 40 years ago. You will think nothing of the tile or the light fixtures that were so important then.

As happy as they are for you, and as much as they love you, you just don't have a clue until it happens to you and then you will remember how you rushed them, and it will make you sad, especially if they are already gone and you can't say I'm sorry, I didn't get it.

*Okay – so what would be **YOUR** “iron kettle”? You know, the thing that means a great deal to **YOU**, but might not be known to your family or relatives.*

*Share in the comment section of today's blog post.*

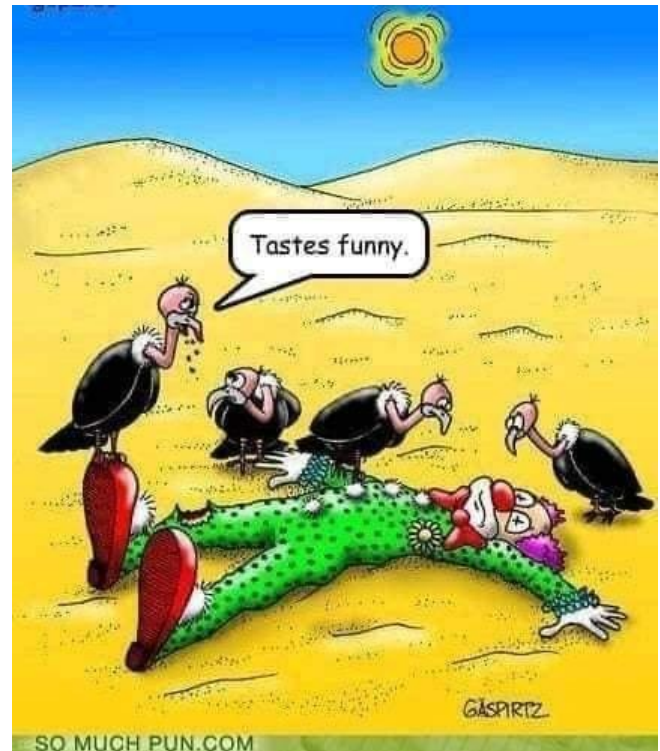
*Thanks*

*DJ*





And new to these posts are the – ***Honourably Mentioned*** – contributions sent in to the blog by readers who understandably might wish to remain anonymous!



The local old folks home had a garage sale, I got this cool gravy boat for just .25 cents! 🙌



That famous historical moment when Jesus met the Beatles





**So this is what I got from Match.com when I asked for someone tall, dark, and handsome, who enjoys quiet evenings watching T.V.!**



My daughter wanted this dog cake for her birthday. I am not paying £25 when I can do it myself.



**NAILED IT!**

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Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach United Church website.  
<https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>

And if you want the online experience of the church worship services, follow the link here below...  
[www.saubleunitedchurch.ca](http://www.saubleunitedchurch.ca) and click: "Watch"  
or the Hepworth page at: <https://youtu.be/kk-Jhp8c1fc>

And last...

damn near a foot of sun out here... I'm not goin to work in this mess.. y'all be safe



## RULES FOR SONS:

- 👤. Never shake a man's hand sitting down.
- 👤. Don't enter a pool by the stairs.
- 👤. The man at the BBQ Grill is the closest thing to a king.
- 👤. In a negotiation, never make the first offer.
- 👤. Request the late check-out.
- 👤. When entrusted with a secret, keep it.
- 👤. Hold your heroes to a higher standard.
- 👤. Return a borrowed car with a full tank of gas.
- 👤. Play with passion or not at all...
- 👤. When shaking hands, grip firmly and look them in the eye.
- 👤. Don't let a wishbone grow where a backbone should be.
- 👤. If you need music on the beach, you're missing the point.
- 👤. Carry two handkerchiefs. The one in your back pocket is for you. The one in your breast pocket is for her.
- 👤. You marry the girl, you marry her family.
- 👤. Be like a duck. Remain calm on the surface and paddle like crazy underneath.
- 👤. Experience the serenity of traveling alone.
- 👤. Never be afraid to ask out the best looking girl in the room.
- 👤. Never turn down a breath mint.
- 👤. A sport coat is worth 1000 words.
- 👤. Try writing your own eulogy. Never stop revising.
- 👤. Thank a veteran. Then make it up to him.
- 👤. Eat lunch with the new kid.
- 👤. After writing an angry email, read it carefully. Then delete it.
- 👤. Ask your mom to play. She won't let you win.
- 👤. Manners maketh the man.
- 👤. Give credit. Take the blame.
- 👤. Stand up to Bullies. Protect those bullied.
- 👤. Write down your dreams.
- 👤. Always protect your siblings (and teammates).
- 👤. Be confident and humble at the same time.
- 👤. Call and visit your parents often. They miss you.

