



Razor's Edge

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Living Within Our Means

NEW YORK, NY, Nov. 16 (PinoyGlobal) - I do not have to emphasize here how serious is the economic melt down happening in the U.S. The whole world knows about it and is feeling the impact of its disastrous effect. In fact the economic fallout emanating from this country has reached distant shores covering Europe, Asia and even Russia. This is really grim and a far cry from the stable economy America used to enjoy only a few years ago. Now she is in one of her most critical historic economic recession. The only way I could make rhyme or rhythm of this chaotic situation is by way of analogy.

I imagined a group of six individuals confronted with the problem of survival. Between them they had six bananas, but all six of them had to eat to survive and so they schemed a method of sharing the fruits. It so happened, as there is always someone in the crowd who takes charge of the situation, one individual was of a stronger will, kind of wise guy, and more physically fit than the others. So the five others had no choice but to go along with the self-appointed head, for fear of being brutalized by their more powerful and smarter friend.

As the situation became critical, meaning, subsisting only on six bananas they decided to share the fruits among themselves. But the one with a stronger will got five bananas and ate them leaving one for the other five to divide it among themselves. This went on for long periods every time they harvested six bananas, until 50 years have past and the sharing was still the same, they had one banana to divide by the five of them while the smart guy has been eating five bananas every time. Then they figured it out that the scheme was so unfair and something had to be done before their

stronger friend would even get the one they would share among themselves leaving them to starve.

On their first move they got two bananas, which was an improvement by far from the one they had to share among the five of them. Later they wanted three and got that too. Afterwards they went up to four then five with one banana each this time. In the end the wise guy had one banana to eat like the rest.

The moral lesson I am driving at here is about the big corporation moguls who caused this meltdown of the economy today by exploiting their corporations, the stocks, money and manipulating the entire economy of the country that has sunk us to where we are today – in a deep recession. And it will take decades to recover if we recover at all within a time frame that will not be so ruinous to the nation. What is keeping us with high hopes is in the patriotism of Americans who never fail to unite in time of national crisis.

This is exactly what is happening with the U.S. today. Compared to its relatively small percentage of the earth's population, America uses up a huge amount of the world's resources in oil, iron, minerals and money. However this is impossible to sustain because other countries want their fair share of earth's treasures too.

The United States is shocked with what happened with the economy. The Dow Jones is down to 8,000, the NASDAQ to 1,600, unemployment is high and nobody buys expensive goods now, which is another drain on the overall economy. People are hoping that with the new US president taking over in January things will be easier. But logic tells us that we have 10 trillion dollars in debt while our income is only 5 trillion, what does that tell us, that the

imbalance between these figures could be disastrous to America. That sums up to a debt ratio of 300% percent, which is hard to recover at the rate the economic meltdown is going. The stock market has not improved. Everyday the reading is dismal, gloomy and grim.

During the time of Marcos back home, when the income from the money generating bureaus including our export was so negligible against the national debt and the ratio was only about 100%, our people went right away to the streets to protest against the loans the government got from the World Bank, which they perceived as the root cause of the country's economic dislocation and people suffering hunger and untold poverty.

With these negative developments transpiring before our eyes here in America, we should meet the challenges of the times with sobriety and doing what we can to help both the government and ourselves. What I am driving at is for us to save instead of squandering our money on unnecessary expenses like drunken sailors buying goods, things, clothes and cars when the need is not urgent. Some of us have more than one car but still there are those among us here, who own two or more cars, what for, to show off? Maybe they can afford, good

and well. But is it necessary or is it ego getting the best of them, then they should drop that nonsense! This stupid pride has to be stopped. Putting up with the Joneses is a sickness of pride and ego that causes misery in the end.

Why do we have an attitude of trying to be in constant competition with the natives in America when we should be happy to be here earning something that we did not make at home? Let us seek for real happiness that come in desiring simple things and not squandering money during times of national crisis. Let us not desire for the material things of life but for the spiritual fulfillment that brings wholesome and everlasting joy money cannot buy. #

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