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THE KING - Arnold Palmer won \$184,065 during the 1967 PGA golf season (winning 4 times), his best earnings year ever on the links. Rory McIlroy won \$11.53 million on 9/25/16 (the day of Palmer's death) by winning the PGA Tour Championship in sudden death and clinching the season-long FedEx Cup (source: PGA).

ONE PERCENTER - It took at least \$465,626 of adjusted gross income during tax year 2014 (i.e., the most recent year that tax data has been collected) to rank in the top 1% of wage earners (source: Internal Revenue Service).

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"Life is a storm, my young friend.

*You will bask in the sunlight one moment,
be shattered on the rocks the next.*

*What makes you a man is what you do when
that storm comes.*

You must look into that storm and shout ...

Do your worst, for I will do mine!

Then the fates will know you as we know you."¹

- Alexandre Dumas

Do you sometimes think if you can just solve one problem you are dealing with, whether big or small, then all will be fine? But when you pass that hurdle, there always seems to be another problem to deal with, and sometimes numerous problems at once!

I have thought about this and have come to the conclusion that problems are just a part of life. There will always be ups and downs, brambles and thorns, but that's a good thing! Because overcoming challenges brings growth. Overcoming one challenge seems to give us more ability and confidence to fight the next beast!



Facing Life Storms

LOUSY MATH - The California Public Employees' Retirement System projected that the investments backing state employees' pensions would grow from \$159.1 billion in 1999 to \$613.5 billion in 2016 due to an +8.25% annual rate of return plus yearly contributions. Actual fund size in 2016 was just \$295.1 billion (source: CalPERS).

GOOD TV - 114.4 million Americans watched Super Bowl # 49 on 2/01/15 between the Patriots and the Seahawks, the most watched telecast in US history. 84 million Americans watched presidential debate # 1 on Monday 9/26/16 between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump (source:

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This story, by N. Isaac Bott, shows how life's storms aren't something to avoid, but to conquer:

"A few years ago, during a severe winter storm, I passed a herd of bison standing in a large meadow on the side of the road. The storm was intense, with over 18 inches of accumulation in just a few hours. The bison, ironically, stood still in the middle of the meadow. In conditions that would kill entire herds of cattle, these majestic animals stand face first in the winter fury as the wind blows and the snow accumulates.

They don't turn their hindquarters into the wind, nor do they move with it. They stand and face the storms of life undaunted, stoic and valiant. Perhaps we would do well to emulate the bison, as we face the uncertainties and challenges that we face in life. The storms of life will inevitably come, so why not face them? And face them with strength, determination, and power. Sure, it'll feel uncomfortable at first, it may even be scary, but if we get comfortable with the feeling of being uncomfortable – that discomfort will begin to lessen.

The fleeting emotion we call happiness, is but a comparison of one state to another. And as such, those who have experienced extreme pain and grief, are most capable to experience supreme happiness."²

These thoughts have inspired me, and I hope will inspire you whether you are facing an intense storm or a small storm in life. Often, after a storm, a rainbow appears!

Sources:

¹ *The Count of Monte Cristo*, an adventure novel written in 1844, by French author Alexandre Dumas.

² N. Isaac Bott, DVM, Mountain West Animal Hospital, Inc., Springville, Utah

www.docbott.com, and <https://facebook.com/mountainwestanimal>

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