

## Let me Tell you Something

Wow, you look like something the cat dragged in. Are we having a case of the Mondays? I heard through the grapevine that you've been in a rut, that you're stuck in the mud. Every day is like, Another day, another dollar, right? Another work day done. Same shit, different day. Same old, same old. So, you're down in the dumps, up shit creek without a paddle, eh? You woke up on the wrong side of the bed, did you? Well, remember, we all have trials and tribulations, twists and turns, ups and downs. That's just the way it is. Deal with it. That's life. Get used to it.

What makes you think you're so special, anyway? Are you on your high horse again? Give me a break. Cut me some slack. Quit yanking my chain, winding me up. We're all in the same boat here. We're all under the same roof. We're pigs in a poke, peas in a pod. You need to get off your pity pot and stop feeling sorry for yourself. You're barking up the wrong tree, and you'll pay the piper for it. You'll pay through the nose for that "me first" attitude of yours. For all intents and purposes, it's a crying shame, I tell you. You're raining on my parade.

I mean, life is like this: mark my words: if it's not one thing, it's another. You can't always get what you want. Life's not all fun and games. It's a dog eat dog world. Life's a game. Life's a battle. Life's a bitch and then you die. Life sucks. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. You can't win 'em all. You can complain all you want about rotten apples or sour grapes, but that's just the way the cookie crumbles. All that glitters isn't gold. What you see is what you get. That's the law of the land, the law of the jungle, the real McKoy. Life sucks, but life is what you make it. It's all how you look at it. These are the facts of life, in a nutshell, wrapped up with a bow, spelled out. It's the same old story, the same old song and dance.

Read my lips: In this day and age, life is tough for everyone. If you think you have it tough, put on the other guy's shoes. If you think the grass is greener on the other side, think again. In the end, you can chalk it up to a learning experience. You need to take a step back and appreciate what you have. Freedom isn't free. Happiness isn't a right, it's a privilege. Remember, it's always darkest before the storm, but with rain comes a rainbow. You've got to make lemons out of lemonade. The glass is half full, not half empty.

It goes without saying that you've got to think outside the box here and get out of your comfort zone. There's a solution for everything. It's a cut and dry situation, it's

black and white. There's no need to have a conniption fit. You might be scared to death, but you've got to put this thing behind you, move on. There's no need to hit the panic button or throw in the towel. You've got to move on, start a new chapter. Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

I mean, I know you're between a rock and a hard place. You're at loggerheads. You're under the gun here, you're at the breaking point, but even though you're at the end of your rope, it ain't over till the fat lady sings, so don't panic. Elvis hasn't left the building yet, but there's no time like the present to nip this thing in the bud. Stop and take a breath, survey the situation. Keep your ear to the ground.

Listen, I'm going to stop beating around the bush and cut to the quick here. Take my word for it. I'm not trying to be an armchair quarterback here, but you've got to work hard and play hard. If you want to make a difference, you've got to aim high, dream big, take a chance. A life without risk is meaningless. No pain, no gain. No guts, no glory. You've got to be tough as nails. Believe in miracles. Apply yourself, burn the candle at both ends, climb the highest mountain and tell them all to eat my dust! Aim for the stars. Follow your heart. Follow your dreams and fight the good fight.

Some say that if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, but I say get a grip, get real. Just say no. Take a chill pill. Lighten up. Chill out. Bore down. Mellow out. Cool it. Wake up and smell the coffee, stop and smell the roses. Get with the program. Think big. Visualize success. Go for the gusto. Grab the gold. Shoot for the moon. Put your best foot forward, your shoulder to the wheel, your nose to the grindstone. Give 'em hell. I mean, shit, if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. Make adversity your friend. Take the good with the bad. Make the best of a bad situation. If you get knocked down, stand back up. When you're down and out, pull yourself up by your bootstraps. Shake it off. Shake a stick. Get back on that horse. Toe the line. Take no prisoners! Take the bull by the horns. Keep on trucking. Put your money where your mouth is because, remember, only the strong survive. The squeaky wheel gets the grease, the early bird gets the worm. And last but not least, go whole hog, take the plunge, but look before you leap.

I mean, the bottom line here, what is call comes down to is this:

Shit happens, and that's a fact, Jack.