

Let's Schmooze

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There's a Baby in that Nasty Bathwater

It's true. In days of yore when families were huge (lots of kids) and warm bathwater was precious (slowly heated on a wood stove), the bathwater would get so soapy and dirty from repeated use that it really could hide a tiny kid. When that nasty water in the old metal bathtub was tossed out the window, the baby could go sailing out, too! Hence the folk wisdom:

"Be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater."

Today, in a figurative sense, America might be doing just that ~ throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

We're talking about the financial markets and Wall Street and the awful meltdown we just experienced, with bankers folding right and left. It's so easy to want to hang the whole bunch.

But ~ let's reason a bit.

We've endlessly heard about the greed, arrogance and stupidity on Wall Street ~ all those "fat cats" siphoning billions of dollars for themselves while the poor investing masses make due with huge losses and poverty and resentment. Yes, it's gross and it's disgusting.

But as gross and disgusting as it is, that's just the dirty bathwater. There's a precious kid down in that murky mess.

What kid?

For every greedy, arrogant and stupid executive at the top, there are hundreds of thousands of honest, hard-working employees in the financial sector going to work every day and quietly keeping things going. They're unnoticed and usually unappreciated, but without them, the daily wheels of finance would grind to a sudden and total halt.

Let's not demonize all these good workers when we demonize those devils at the top. Those workers are the "babies in the bathwater," and they suffer along with the rest of us when things get out of hand. And ~ it's those honest, hardworking workers who will probably quietly help us get things going right again in the financial sector.

You're right. Those corrupt fat cats at the top should be hung from the highest tree on the ranch. But, let's continue to appreciate and value all of the thousands of workers in the financial sector who toll at their jobs just as we do at ours. They are our hope for resolution.

Forgetting to appreciate them and value them would be like "throwing the baby out with the dirty bathwater." We don't want to do that. Let's be sure to value the "good" while we expunge the "bad."

All of those untold hundreds of thousands who silently toll in the financial markets are part of the "suffering masses" also

~ 'til we meet again ~