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The 'Yellow Brick Road' Isn't About a Movie

The underlying theme of *The Wizard of Oz*, 1939 (the 'yellow brick road'), was gold. The need for a gold standard for an economy/nation to function/remain sustainable.

It's shocking how many Americans have no idea what's coming—and what awaits. Yesterday, I talked to a woman who worked and saved all her life—she amassed more than \$800K in the stock market. She seems to know bad things for stocks and real estate are on the horizon, yet, as in *The Wizard of Oz*, she might not take the warning and continue on dancing down a 'yellow brick road'—without a need/imperative to act.

Americans don't see a stock market held aloft by phony business cycles—without a downside. Or elites using rising stock prices/home prices to keep their musical chairs going with *song and dance*—intended to deflect reality. As Larry Hosford used to sing: 'It's easy to think, you're smarter than most, in a world full of singers and dancers.'

Today's investors don't see the significance for those who sold before the 29 crash. Those were the lucky ones. After the crash there was no getting out. When a stock sells, it's not an individual to individual trade—instead, holding companies 'buy and hold' until buyers are located. What happens to holders in a market with no buyers?

Without buyers, holding companies don't buy/hold stocks. Instead, stockholders ride the collapse all the way down, until those who buy only at the bottom—buy the stock.

Most investors don't know which companies in which they hold stock. They've given over their account to someone who invests for a large company, where what's good for the company comes 1st, the welfare of that agent who oversees your trading account comes next, then, if the stockholder is fortunate, that agent looks out for your benefit.

Many Americans, unknowingly, are in the same predicament, when it comes to real estate holdings. Stocks/real estate are each held-up artificially for the benefit of the monied-class/government. When the real estate bubble bursts, home prices, instead of rising, will fall precipitously, to where home buyers owe more than the home is worth.

For those, getting out is harsh. Where there was 1 home for sale on the street, now there are 10. And the longer one waits for a return to an up-cycle, more and more homes are price reduced/listed by desperate homebuyers, needing a sale—to survive. This indicates a bleak future for any holding both stocks and mortgaged real estate.

The woman I talked to wants to talk again, but I won't be surprised if, in the interim, she loses everything. So, what about the rest of us who know something evil comes

our way? Do we see it the same/agree as the steps to take or are we all over the map?

It's the latter. Some economists were for years naysayers about holding gold—in any portfolio percentage. They became gold advocates late. Some expected the dollar to be king for as far as the eye could see. That has now tempered to nearer horizons.

Among some friends I still hear 10% of a portfolio should be in gold. Opposed are those like myself who've never owned a stock—only real estate/gold/silver. Or, closer to the center of the economic universe, Bill Holter, who advises: keep no more in banks or dollar denominated assets than you can afford to lose. To we Scottish—that's zero.

When I have more dollars than I'm comfortable with, I check-in with Bill to see if he still thinks pre-65 dimes are the best bet. Of course he does: if you're at a farmers market with a \$500 silver American Eagle, post dollar collapse, you get your bread/cheese/eggs for \$500. With a worthless dollar there's nothing to make change with.

Sometimes I fail to remember what silver dimes will be—post-collapse. Instead I see them in terms of being the least valuable silver asset—if one needs to sell to dealers. But, in fact, the collapse is coming, and silver dimes will be among the best barter items for procuring the necessities of life. It's not about speculation—it's buy and hold.

But, I'm certain enough to tell it straight up: if you're still in stocks, you're nuts. If you have dollars in CDs, they've likely been used to buy mortgages. When that bank goes under, you lose, brother. If you have 800K in dollars, good luck when they make you turn it in for new currency? And, what happens when dollar purchasing power is zero?

I buy dimes and hold. I quit buying gold years back in favor of silver eagles/junk. Now, I only buy dimes. My purchase record likely tells where the collapse is waiting.

Let's say there's 20 steps that need to be taken to protect yourself—as best you can. You need guns to protect what you've gathered and lots of ammunition. You already needed to be skeptical/not let them shoot things into your body, once in, stay in. And know neither political party has any interest in saving you—though either might kill you.

You need dimes for the market, silver 1 oz. Eagles, from the US mint—for the bigger stuff. And gold—it all ends up with gold. You might need crypto (I have none/don't want none). If you have to get out of a tyranny with capital controls, bitcoin does that for you.

Food and water. You need to be stocked-up on food. You need a means to grow food (my dimes will get me food access?). Solar—for when the grid is off more than on (AI will end up using the grid for useless bullshit). Because we may be incapable of re-creating a working grid, you need a generator/fuel to turn lights on—pull water from a well.

For any who don't see the signs: Treas/Sec Bessent, who used to slam Yellen over 3 month bills, now advocates for shortest-dated securities—measured in mere weeks.

In 2024 the average US tariff rate was 2.4%, now it's more than 15%—what might go wrong with that? There's a ramp-up in student loans delinquencies, and the number of mortgage re-possession (especially in younger working-age adults), has risen sharply.

In New York, Mamdani has openly called for the state to seize methods of production along with private housing—policies met with surprising acceptance. On the other end of the spectrum, Trump advocates for getting rid of useless regulations—except maybe that one where, under penalty of law, we will be charged for criticizing Israel/Zionism. Does that mean, when push comes to shove, MIGA is more important than MAGA?

Fighters protect themselves at all times. In a future where most likely you die by starvation, get on over to that 'yellow brick road'—and get yourself some barter-ables.

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