

# The Little Book of Business Jokes

## Book 1

*Why?*

*Because times are hard for nearly everyone, business has become a place of too much stress and laughter is still the best medicine.*

*Everything in this little eBook is intended to be funny not offensive. Please do not take it any other way.*

*If it makes you laugh, please pay it forward and share it with others.*

Curated by: Howard Mann

# A Marketing Lesson

Two beggars are sitting side by side on a street in Rome. One has a cross in front of him. The other one the Star of David.

Many people go by and look at both beggars, but only put money into the hat of the beggar sitting behind the cross. A priest comes by, stops and watches throngs of people giving money to the beggar behind the cross, but none give to the beggar behind the Star of David.

Finally, the priest goes over to the beggar behind the Star of David and says: "My poor fellow, don't you understand? This is a Catholic country. People aren't going to give you money if you sit there with a 'Star of David' in front of you, especially when you're sitting beside a beggar who has a cross. In fact, they would probably give to him just out of spite."

The beggar behind the 'Star of David' listened to the priest, turned to the other beggar with the cross and said...

"Sol, look who's trying to teach the Goldstein brothers about marketing!"

# The Sales Process

John arrives at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter tells John that he has arrived at a moment where the balance between Heaven and Hell is exactly equal. This event allows him the unique opportunity to take a look around at Heaven AND Hell and decide where he wants to spend eternity.

John takes a little stroll around Heaven ... nice puffy clouds... people hanging around playing harps...smiling...peaceful. He thinks that looks pretty nice. Could be a good choice. With that he hops in the elevator down to Hell...

The doors open and the devil shows him into a big room....WOW.... What a party! People dancing, drinking up a storm, singing, laughing, having an amazing time.

“Now,” he shouts, “THIS is the way to spend eternity!”

He jumps back on the elevator and runs to tell St. Peter that while Heaven is certainly lovely, Hell is simply an awesome party and that is his choice.

John jumps back on the elevator and when the doors open he is shocked to see flames shooting everywhere, people screaming with fear and pain, etc.... John quickly runs to find the Devil and says,

“What happened? I was just here and it was a giant party.. how could this be?”

“Simple,” replies The Devil “Before you were a prospect... now you’re a client!”

# Corporate Turnarounds

The circus owner had fallen on hard times and was in desperate need of a fool proof scheme to earn money. It occurred to him that he had witnessed an elephant stand on 3 legs, 2 legs and even 1 leg. But never did he see an Elephant stand on no legs. He sent out the word far and wide that for \$100.00 a try he would pay \$10,000.00 to anyone that could make an elephant stand on no legs.

Soon the line of people stretched for a country mile. They each tried every way possible to get that elephant to jump up in the air but, to no avail. Just when the circus owner was getting close to breaking even a long white car pulled up and a little man got out and walked to the circus owner. "Are you paying \$10,000.00 if I can make that elephant stand on no legs?" he asked. "Yes I am!" said the now confident circus owner.

With that the little man went back to his car, went into the trunk and pulled out 2 large bricks. He took the 2 bricks up to the front of the elephant and held them up so the Elephant could see them. He then walked calmly to the back of the elephant, laid the elephants testicles on one brick and WHAM! slammed the other brick on top. The Elephant went up in the air like a rocket.

"I'll take that \$10,000.00 now" he said with his hand outstretched to the shocked circus owner.

Now the circus owner was down 10 grand and felt all was lost until he had one last idea. He had witnessed an elephant shaking its head up and down but never side to side. Surely this would be impossible for anyone to do. He offered the same program - \$100.00 to try with a \$10,000.00 prize.

Again the people came from all around to give it a try. They pushed and pulled but nobody could get that elephant to move its head from side to side. With his deficit nearly closed that same white car pulled up and out popped that same little man.

"You offering another 10 grand to make that elephant shake his head from side to side?" he asked

"Um, yes" said the circus owner with a shaky nervous voice

With that the little man walked back to his car, pulled the same bricks from his trunk and walked in front of the elephant again.

"Do you remember me?" he asked. The elephant nodded his head up and down.

"Want to see me do that again?"

The elephant emphatically shook his head from side to side

# Truth in Advertising

Some years ago Chicken magnate Frank Perdue used all of his contacts to get an audience with the Pope. After exchanging pleasantries Mr. Perdue got to the point of his visit. "Your Eminence, do we have a deal for you. If you change The Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread....' to 'give us this day our daily chicken....' we will donate \$500 million dollars to the Church".

The Pope responds saying, "That is impossible. The Prayer is the Word of the Lord and it must not be changed".

"Well then," says Frank Perdue, "we are prepared to donate \$1 billion to the Church if you change the Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread....' to 'give us this day our daily chicken....'"

Again the Pope replies "That is impossible. The Prayer is the Word of the Lord and it must not be changed".

Finally, Frank Perdue says to the Pope, "Sir, this is our last offer. We will donate \$5 billion to the church if you change the Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread....' to 'give us this day our daily chicken....'" "Well" says the Pope "That is certainly generous. A change like that would require me to call a meeting of the College of Cardinals. It will take some time to arrange, but I will do it." and with that Frank Perdue leaves the Pope to get back to him.

The College of Cardinals assembles from across the globe and the meeting is called to order. The Pope stands at the head of the table to open the meeting.

"Today, my esteemed colleagues, we are gathered here to discuss the possible cancellation of the Wonder Bread account."

# Product Design

Jonathan was considered one of the greatest inventors in the country. One day a small old man came into his office with a large duffel bag. "They call me [Mohel](#) Murray" he said "I have been the greatest Mohel for over 70 years. After every circumcision I have done I would keep the tips I cut off and have stored them in this duffel bag. Now, after 70 years, I would like you to invent something that uses them that is worthy of my life's work."

Jonathan is intrigued and agrees to take on the challenge. "Leave the bag with me and come back in 5 weeks and I will show you what I have come up with."

5 weeks later Murray excitedly enters Jonathan's office. "Vell" Murray prods "What did you create?"

"Wait until you see what we invented!" says Jonathan proudly. And with that he places a small wallet on his desk in front of Murray.

Murray looks down at the wallet and looks up at the great inventor. "A VALLET?? 70 years of work and all you could come up with was a little VALLET!?"

"Yes" says the inventor "BUT, when you rub it in your hands it turns into a suitcase!"

# Great Innovation

Three construction workers are having lunch on a beam high atop the new skyscraper. Their conversation leads to what they think is the greatest innovation ever.

"That's easy" says the first worker "The telephone is the greatest innovation ever. It allowed people to instantly speak to one another across the street or around the world. Truly amazing!"

"No way" said the second worker "The airplane is clearly the greatest innovation. It shrunk the globe letting you get from one side of the world to the other in hours."

"You are both wrong" said the third worker "It is the Thermos!"

"A Thermos?" said worker 1 and 2 incredulously. "Why a Thermos"

"Yes, the thermos" confirmed worker 3 "In the morning if you put something hot in the Thermos, when you open it in the afternoon it is still hot. But if you put a cold drink in it in the morning and open it in the afternoon it is still cold."

"SO?" cry the other two

"How does it know?"

# Debt Collecting

When Montague dies he leaves behind dozens of creditors left holding the bag and hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt. Now that he is gone, chances look very slim for his creditors to collect a dime.

On the day of his funeral, his many creditors file past his open casket. One of his creditors is particularly bitter. As he passes the casket he leans over and places his mouth an inch from Montague's ear and whispers, "You miserable son of a bitch. You owe me ninety thousand fucking dollars and you went and took the easy way out. Now you are gone and I am left with nothing except your lousy I.O.U. Well, maybe you got away with it you piece of shit, but at least Ill have the satisfaction of cutting your balls off!"

With that, the creditor pulls out a straight razor and unzips the fly of the corpse. Suddenly, one eye of the corpse pops open and whispers..."You, I'll pay."

# Lessons from the CEO

The CEO of a Fortune 500 corporation is fired by his board after too many quarters of slow growth. As he is in his office cleaning out his desk, his replacement arrives. The new CEO shakes hands with his predecessor and asks "Sounds like you have had a tough ride. Any helpful advise as I step in?"

The outgoing CEO gives him a big smile and says "Not only do I... But I have done it already in the form of the three envelopes you will find in the top desk drawer. There is timely advice for you in each of them. Just open them in order as you feel the need."

In the months that follow, things continue to go poorly for the hapless corporation and finally, one evening, the new CEO finally decides that he should open envelope #1. He removes it from his desk and opens the letter inside. It reads "Clean house! Change all of your systems and procedures! Push the power of innovation!"

A few more months pass an quarterly sales are continuing to plummet along with profits. Close to wits end the new CEO grabs for the envelope #2. It's message: "Restructure! Downsize! Outsource everything!"

A few more months and the downward spiral continues. The new CEO is out of ideas and, in desperation, goes to the desk for envelope #3. He rips it open and reads the message:

"Prepare three envelopes!"

# The Job Search

A circus loses its lion tamer and posts a notice to audition new candidates.

Two applicants show up at the specified time. The big top is deserted except for the center ring, which contains a large cage full of lions. The circus owner greets the two applicants, one a handsome, muscular young man who goes by the name Boris the Brave and a gorgeous young woman that goes by the name Barbara the Beautiful.

After talking to each for a few minutes the circus owner asks "OK, who would like to go first?"

Boris turns to Barbara and, gallantly, says "Ladies first."

Without a blink, Barbara steps smartly into the cage, marches to the center, cracks her whip and instantly and all at once the lions leap to their hind legs. Barbara then points her finger at the king lion and then to her feet. The king lion meekly crawls across the floor and lies down at her feet. Barbara then strips down completely naked and stands statuesque at the center of the ring. Cracking her whip once again the king lion proceeds to lick every inch of her naked body.

Mesmerized outside the cage, the circus owner stands in awe of what he is seeing. He turns to Boris and says "Well, do you think you can do better than that?"

"You better believe it!" says Boris "Just get those lions out of the cage!"

# About Howard Mann

I'm in the business of helping you run your business better. With 15 years experience running a multimillion dollar company, I provide in-the-trenches knowledge and perspective other coaches don't. I offer three types of coaching to business owners and CEO's.

## **Business Strategy and Turnarounds**

Whether it is a better strategy to use the Internet, creating new products/services, reorganizing financing, or accelerating growth through acquisition, I help you create the right strategy and a determined plan to execute it.

## **Coaching**

I treat business owners like the unique individuals they are. I understand that you can't separate yourself from your professional role – the two go hand in hand. I bring the personal to the coaching relationship in a way other coaches don't.

## **Player-Coach**

These days, more and more executives and business owners are reaching out for a different kind of coaching, a player-coach who will jump in the foxhole with them. Working with you intensively one-on-one, I help support the changes and fight through blocks so the right kind of momentum can begin again.

If you feel your business could/should be doing more or just feel like it has hit a ceiling, take the first step to change that and [drop me a line](#). If you want a quick taste of some of my thinking stop by and [read my blog](#), subscribe to be mailing list and receive [my book as a free PDF](#) or buy a copy for yourself or a business owner you care about on [Amazon.com](#).