

Fighting an Unmasked for War

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It has been almost eight years since being forced to be participants in and unwelcome war. Here is the latest report from the battlefield...

On Monday January 18, 2010 my wife Charmaine and I again conferred with our oncologist, Dr. Sandra Hazra. We are pleased to say that she continues to be a miracle worker and her predictions continue to be spot on. I think Dr. Harza is one of God's angels. The tests that she ordered indicated cancer was in the pelvis and left side. This is what she had said would be indicated after she had looked and the original pathology report from 2002. She also believed that together with God's help we would be able to prevent them from taking over for years to come.

On December 23, Dr. Harza started me on a daily pill designed (I think) to prevent protein from binding with the cancer cells thus starving the little invading critters to death. It appears that the pills are doing their job very well in that after four weeks there has been a significant reduction in the cancer. All of this makes me an avid supporter of this chemical warfare that Dr. Hazra is directing. She had added another drug that is injected once every three months. It is her belief, and that of Charmaine, that this combination will keep the raging war going in our favor. It appears that these latest efforts have decimated the invaders but there are still millions surviving. We are all hopeful that this latest injection will be effective in helping to further reduce the number of remaining invaders. I try and not think about past battles (surgery in 2002 and radiation in 2004) where each time we were elated at the appearance of our being victorious in this war to eradicate the invader only to suffer a sneak attack aimed at demoralizing Charmaine and me

Charmaine—God bless her—has, unlike me, remained positive since this war began almost eight years ago. She has repeatedly said that together we would win this and we would have many, many more years together. She has stayed positive even while I was feeling at my worst and at times I know I made her life miserable when I feared we would not be victorious in this fight. Even at that time she said that she believed we had at least twenty more years together. This was at a time when I honestly did not want to live twenty years feeling as I did at that particular time!

As a result of this cancer I have been forced to face my mortality and re-evaluate my priorities. It may seem strange but I see this continuing ordeal as a positive event in that it has served to make me more appreciative of that which I, and perhaps some of you, take for granted.

I have used this insidious disease to encourage other men to listen to their wives. When your spouse says you need to get a checkup - please humor her and do it. Hopefully she will go in the exam room with you because she will be able to both tell the physician more accurately about your true health and she will be able to better remember information provided by the doctor. My personal angel, Charmaine, is always with me for my appointments

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you that have kept me in your thoughts and prayers. I ask that you continue to do so for this war is ongoing and its outcome is still uncertain. It is my sincere belief that with the prayers of those that believe, the knowledge of medical professionals like Dr. Sandra Hazra, the continued, never faltering love, and support of Charmaine, and above all if it is God's will I will still be here to sometimes agitate some of you, and most important cause all of you to have good thoughts about your fellow man and have a great smile or laugh each day, even if you are only laughing at me.

Again, my heartfelt thanks and may God continue to bless us all.

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