

## I-am-bad in Islamabad-again! - Week 1, 2 July 2012

**Aha**, yet another July 4<sup>th</sup> coming up where I will be in a foreign land. Go figure. Working in a Moslem country always makes me think of... the Wise Men of Chelm. I hope to be back home by Ramadan, Inshallah. Here are a few stories of such.

---

A Schlemiel marries a dominating woman. She has her friends over the house and orders him, "Schlemiel, go under the table." Of course, the poor man crawls under the table. Then, after several hours, she orders, "Schlemiel, come out from the table." He says, "No, I refuse! Am I not master in my own home!"

A young married man is shocked when his wife of three months produces a baby. He runs to the rabbi's home. "How can that be, after only three months; everyone knows it takes nine months to produce a baby!" exclaims the man. The rabbi says, "You have been married for three months?" "Yes," says the young man. "And your wife too has been married for three months?" "Yes," says the young man. "Then it is clear from simple mathematics; how much is three plus three?" The young man says, "Oh, I see, nine!"

A man becomes a teamster but soon finds his horse is taking the profits. He decides to cut costs by weaning his horse from food. Each day, he feeds the horse fewer oats. After a week, the horse is very thin and the man is making money. But in the second week, the horse dies. The man says to God, "Why is it, Master of the University, God of Abraham, that now I am making progress, you chose to take the life of my horse?"

---

**Talk at Sunbelt World Trade Association.** Gave a nice breakfast talk without PowerPoint on *What Works/ Doesn't in Donor-Funded International Development* to small crowd half of which were my LSW's relatives and a former UoA Hydrology student of mine. Nice as no one got visibly ill, and we all tried not to discuss the disgusting increase in taxes and penalties from Obamacare. Ugh.

**Current assignment:** Team Leader/ Environmental Assessment for the \$240-million *Afghanistan Agribusiness Project*. Reading the daily papers here at Islamabad Serena Hotel, noting the Pakistan "NO GO" zones for foreigners due to insecurity, "waive of piety" which enveloped Pakistan since General Zinat Haq – prosecution of minorities (that is, Shias, Christians, heretics), non-governmental organizations and women; tolerance and treaties with the Taliban; support of Al Qaeda and the Osama Ben Laden enclave; notation by the Fund for Peace's *Failed State Index* which lists Pakistan as the 13<sup>th</sup> most failed state. Honor killings, childhood rapes, domestic violence go unpunished and publicly supported. Go figure.

---



**Have fun, be happy, and don't worry! It doesn't help! It's really more fun in the Philippines! And Tucson!**