
Free Pictures with the Easter Bunny

Have you ever agreed to do something you knew immediately you would regret? A voice inside your head warns you to decline the opportunity because it will bring you extreme embarrassment, but you agree anyway? I experienced exactly that this past weekend.

Our neighborhood was having an Easter Egg Hunt, and my wife asked me to be the Easter Bunny. While the creative part of my brain considered how much fun it would be and agreed to the job, the logical part of my brain considered how hot it would be and pointed out that only an idiot would climb inside a wooly costume in the middle of a 96 degree Texas afternoon.

If I thought the bunny suit and giant feet were hot, I had no idea what was coming when I lifted this bunny head the size of a large ottoman onto my shoulders. Within five minutes, I knew exactly what I had gotten myself into. I experienced moderate discomfort during the first minute. I found myself gasping for fresh air by the end of the second minute. I began sweatin' like a beer bottle at a picnic by the end of the third minute. I was certain the heat was so bad I wasn't getting enough oxygen to my brain by the end of the fourth minute. And by the time I had spent five minutes in this costume, I had a pretty good idea of the internal temperature of a Hot Pocket the moment it comes out of a microwave. And I hadn't even gone outside yet!

Being the eternal optimist, I tried to ignore the fact I was about to spend nearly forty-five minutes in this costume and was already losing sight in my right eye. Instead, once I got outside I used my one good eye to see the smiles on the faces of the kids who lit up when they saw the Easter Bunny. As I saw these kids running toward me with their arms out for a hug, my mind shifted to the positive impact of what I was doing. Throughout the experience, I learned a few lessons I would like to share:

Remind yourself why you're doing a good thing!

There were many times in that costume I could have stayed focused on my own discomfort. By reminding myself why I was in the position in the first place, it made it all worthwhile. In fact, the time went by rather quickly when my mind shifted to the good thing I was doing for many children who would have these memories for a lifetime. Too often I see people volunteer to coordinate a project for all the right reasons, but manage to complain throughout the entire process. Whatever challenges come your way when you're planning a worthwhile endeavor, stay focused on the reason you got involved in the first place.

Smile through it all!

Every time I posed for a picture with a child, I found myself smiling. I suddenly realized that no one could see my face! I could have been frowning or sticking my tongue out at the camera, and no one would have known. Life would certainly be different if we had the

luxury of wearing a costume with a permanent smile on the outside. We could live in our misery while putting on a smile to everyone around us. Since we can't do that, we need to smile though it all.

Do what your wife tells you to do!

It may have been hot in that bunny suit, but it simply could not compare with the grief that could have come from refusing to do it. If you've ever heard me speak, then you know my philosophy: you can be right, or you can be happy! I choose happy. I hope you do, too.

The experience is over, and the lessons have been learned. I've regained most of the sight in my right eye, and I dropped nearly five pounds. I'm a better for having done it. As a logical person, I sometimes consider logic over fun. Perhaps the best lesson I learned that day is that sometimes you simply need to listen to your creative mind, and leave logic for another day! When you do, there's no limit to the lessons you can learn.

God bless!

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