

EXCERPT TWELVE

Miss Kitty Explains Wealth Creation with the Story of the In-Home Flush Toilet and Mass-Produced Velvet Elvises

With the idea that Miss Kitty could be re-educated to understand that the little red hen should have shared her bread, Congresswoman Hippocrat tailored her line of questioning toward this goal.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Now, Miss Kitty, I am very concerned about your opinion that the little red hen did not need to share her bread with the dog, the cat, and the goose. Why can't you understand that the little red hen was wrong?

Miss Kitty: If you will indulge me, I will explain how my opinion comes from a lesson that can be learned from history.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Very well, then. Proceed.

Miss Kitty: During the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, and others like them, those who had less plundered the wealth of those who had more, and yet, after the wealth was spent and gone—the poor were left even poorer than they were before they took the wealth in the first place.

Congressman Wranglycrat: So, what's your point?

Miss Kitty: My point is that—in the long run—no one benefits

from the thievery of wealth. In Zimbabwe, where the government took the land of white farmers, there is starvation where there was once abundance. The same goes for Cuba.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: I happen to know the retired President of Cuba. I met him when I accompanied President Clinton to a gathering he hosted at the U.N. several years ago. I'll never forget how Fidel approached President Clinton to shake his hand, and at the same time, the President of Venezuela rushed to shake President Clinton's hand, too, but was not allowed to do so. I don't understand why President Clinton preferred to only shake Fidel's hand. The Venezuelan president is a great leader, in my opinion. They have free health care in Cuba, you know, and Fidel made everyone equal.

Miss Kitty: Yes, he made them all equally poor. Before he came along, fifty thousand Americans a year were making Cuba their home. Now, the flow of people is reversed. Cuba has become nothing more than a slave plantation from which many Cubans will do whatever it takes to escape. And now, the president of Venezuela is following Cuba's lead.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: We don't have time to think about the problems of tiny countries like Cuba, Iran and Venezuela. They are no threat to us. We have a planet to save! And of course, we care about the poor.

Miss Kitty: I, too, am concerned about the poor, and I would like to give you an example, if I may, of how the poor people in this country have already been helped.

Congressman Wranglycat: If you must. But make it brief.

Miss Kitty: Thank you. I happen to be a toilet-trained cat, and a hundred and fifty years ago flush toilets in private

dwellings did not exist. Instead, people used commodes and outhouses.

Congressman Wranglycrat: A toilet-trained cat? Well, bully for you!

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Miss Kitty, must you use toilets as an example to make your point?

Miss Kitty: It's a perfectly good example to use, but the same could apply, for instance, to velvet Elvises.

Here, Miss Kitty was referring to paintings on velvet material of the famous singer, the late Elvis Presley.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Velvet Elvises?

Miss Kitty: Yes. Velvet Elvises.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: All right. Either example will do. You may continue.

Miss Kitty: Very well. Even though the first flushable toilet was invented by a Mr. John Harrington in 1596, flushable toilets did not become commonplace in homes until the early 1900's, and more often than not, people used commodes or outhouses.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: I was afraid it was going to get to this.

Miss Kitty: Are you going to hear me out, or not?

Chairwoman Fishycrat: All right.

Miss Kitty: The first people to have flushable toilets were, of course, the people who could afford to have them put in their homes, while poorer people continued to use outhouses.

Congressman Wranglycrat: And what is your point?

Miss Kitty: Well, in the days when only rich people had toilets, socialists and communists would have been very angry about that. In a revolution, they would have stormed into a rich person's home, removed their toilet, and set the toilet up elsewhere, as a communal shared toilet to be shared by all of the masses.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: That's preposterous!

Miss Kitty: Nevertheless, it explains my belief that Progressives are often inclined to take something of value out of the hands of a wealthy person and divide it among everyone else. That is just not how Republicans think.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Oh, really? And how is it that Republicans think?

Miss Kitty: They trust the workings of free market capitalism. Thanks to free market capitalism, industrial capitalists figured out a way to mass-produce toilets and in their efforts to beat competitors, they kept their prices as low as possible, which made toilets affordable for nearly everyone.

Congressman Wranglycrat: So, what's your point?

Miss Kitty: The same thing has happened to television sets, where once, only rich people owned them, and computers, and many other things. In other words, there may have been just a small number of one invention or another at first, but eventually, industrial capitalists competed with each other, and in the end, these products were affordable to nearly everyone.

Congressman Gatorcrat: And what about Velvet Elvises?

Miss Kitty: Well, if there was only one velvet Elvis in the world, it

would be worth millions of dollars, but as velvet Elvises became mass-produced, it enabled many Elvis Presley fans to purchase their own velvet Elvis at a price they could afford.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: But what about countries that have a lot of poor people, like China? Can't you see how important it is to care about the poor?

Miss Kitty: China? Why China is a wonderful example of how capitalism is making life better for everyone. Even without free elections, no one knows better than the Chinese the difference between living under a completely socialist system and a free market economy. Thanks to the introduction of free market capitalism, it is becoming possible for even poor farmers to purchase a television set. Under communism, they had rampant poverty with no way out.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: I hope you are finished.

Miss Kitty: I have only two more things: Children who grow up with the attitude that they themselves do not have the power to create their own happiness and prosperity are doomed. To teach children that wealthy businessmen only make money by exploiting poor workers, is, well, not being truthful, and it makes way for jealousy and resentment towards all wealthy people. It is a hateful way of thinking. The second thing is a quote from President Lincoln, our first Republican President, who had this to say about wealth: "I don't believe in a law to prevent a man from getting rich; it would do more harm than good. So while we do not propose any war upon capital, we do wish to allow the humblest man an equal chance to get rich with everybody else."

EXCERPT THIRTEEN

Miss Kitty is Questioned About Her Patriotism

This excerpt is from the third day of Miss Kitty's second week of questioning. The title is self-explanatory.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Miss Kitty, I have observed every day you have testified before this committee that you have worn an American flag necklace.

Miss Kitty: That's right.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Is there some reason you have chosen to wear an American flag around your neck?

Miss Kitty: Yes. I'm a patriotic American, and I am, after all, testifying before a Congressional committee, aren't I?

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Now let's not get started on the wrong foot here. There's no need to get huffy with me.

Miss Kitty: I apologize if that's how you perceived my answer.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: All right. Let's start over. Please tell the committee why it is that you have worn an American flag necklace every day.

Miss Kitty: Because I am a proud American citizen.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Come on, Miss Kitty. Is that it? I'm proud to be a socialist—I mean Democrat, but I don't wear a donkey symbol around my neck every day. There must be some other reason you wear that necklace.

Miss Kitty: I wear this flag because I believe in the laws of this country, except for the one that I am currently protesting, as I believe it infringes on my rights as an American citizen.

Congressman Kraftycrat: That's enough proof for me.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Proof of what?

Congressman Kraftycrat: That Miss Kitty is much too American in her beliefs, and we're going to have to do something about that!

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Yes, we will. Miss Kitty, wouldn't you at least agree that the American flag is a symbol of greedy free market capitalism to many?

Miss Kitty: Yes, that and other noble things, like our willingness to fight for the freedom of others. Perhaps that explains why my mistress and her parents get so many dirty looks when they drive around in their Ford Crown Victoria with an American flag waving from one of the windows. I have seen these looks myself, and it is not only sad, it is frightening to see the hatred in their eyes, and to think that we experience this in Texas, of all places!

Congresswoman Hippocrat: It's probably all in your imagination, Miss Kitty.

Miss Kitty: I know what I saw.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Perhaps you were just getting dirty looks because you were in a gas-guzzling car.

Miss Kitty: I agree. There is that possibility too. However, both reasons stem from the same sickness.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Oh, and what might that be?

Miss Kitty: It's a terrible thing, and it's been going on far too long in this country.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: And what is that?

Miss Kitty: Since the 1930's and 1940's Stalin's network of Hollywood communists, and others like them, made it a point to ridicule not only prosperous Americans, but those who were patriotic, and it's gotten even worse since then. Many children nowadays are growing up with no sense of pride in their country. And some are taught that's it's all right to exhibit hate even for someone who prefers to drive a large car.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: Is that so?

Miss Kitty: Yes. Ironically, the Crown Victoria is my mistress's family's only car, and her parents actually use less gasoline—with Angie's mom being a stay-at-home mom, and Angie being home schooled—than most families. As for patriotism, we are in a time of war, and yet, the entire time I have been questioned by this committee, I can see that not one of you has ever worn an American flag necklace.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: How dare you accuse me of not being patriotic! Perhaps my way of showing it, is not to wear an American flag necklace!

Congressman Wranglycrat: You'd better hold your tongue, Miss Kitty, or I'll have you brought up on charges of contempt!

EXCERPT FOURTEEN

Miss Kitty is Questioned About Our Right to Bear Arms

Congressman Kraftycrat: Miss Kitty, I am going to come right out and ask you the following question: Do you now, or have you ever owned a gun?

Miss Kitty: No. But I'm glad you brought it up. You Liberals really scare me with your views on self-protection. You don't seem to understand the need that our citizens have a need to protect themselves, and in my case, it's my claws.

Congressman Kraftycrat: That's a lie. We do understand the importance of protecting people from violence. It's you Republicans who have an irrational need to cling to your guns and religion. That's why we would like to see more gun control, and your claws, too, Miss Kitty, are lethal weapons.

Miss Kitty: Yes, I agree with you. They can be lethal weapons, but the humans I live with can tell you that I never use them to scratch the furniture, or them. I'm really very well trained, and as you know, I'm not at all happy about your plan to protect others from my claws.

Congressman Kraftycrat: Now, Miss Kitty, we have to be sensible when it comes to gun and claw control. To begin with, there really ought to be a ban against toy guns.

Miss Kitty: I don't believe it's so terrible to let children have toy guns. Little boys, especially, are naturally curious about guns, and by not allowing them to play with guns, I believe their curiosity and interest becomes all the stronger.

Congressman Wranglycrat: I don't agree with that. And with regard to your claws, they are a menace to small animals who need our protection.

Miss Kitty: But my claws are my birthright. I hope you have no plans to outlaw them.

Congressman Gatorcrat: Miss Kitty, you seem to be a little too alarmed.

Miss Kitty: A little too what?

Congressman Gatorcrat: Alarmed—I said alarmed.

Miss Kitty: Our freedoms, as cats, have already begun to erode.

Congressman Gatorcrat: Erode? You haven't lost any of your freedoms.

Miss Kitty: Not yet—not until the National Mandatory Indoor Cat Act goes into effect.

Congressman Gatorcrat: The National Mandatory Indoor Cat Act isn't such a terrible law. You will still be able to roam where you wish—indoors—and the greater good will be served.

Miss Kitty: Perhaps that is how all of you see it, but for me it would be a life sentence in prison.

Congresswoman Fishycrat: We all have limits on our behavior, Miss Kitty. The National Mandatory Indoor Cat

Act is a necessary law.

Miss Kitty: Not to me, it isn't. It's just another example of how we are losing our freedoms little by little.

Congresswoman Fishycrat: But we must keep an ecological balance, and that balance will be brought about when all cats are made to stay indoors. We have a planet to save.

Miss Kitty: That may be your opinion, but there is a saying that those who do not learn from the past are destined to repeat it, and if you get your way, I'm afraid this will be the case.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: The past? There has never been a national mandatory indoor cat law before. We consider it moving the country forward. It really is quite progressive.

Miss Kitty: It may be progressive to you. But to me, it is much like medieval times when cats were considered agents of the devil, and many of them were tortured and killed.

Here, Congressman Kraftycrat nearly had a fit.

Congressman Kraftycrat: Miss Kitty, The National Mandatory Indoor Cat Act will not lead to the torture of cats.

Miss Kitty: What about the Bubonic Plague, or Black Death of the Medieval Ages? Back then, people thought cats were evil, and killed and tortured them by the millions, and this led to a terrible consequence when, as a result, the rodent population increased. Surely you know that it was rodents and fleas that spread the disease that ended up killing nearly two thirds of Europe's population, don't you?

Congressman Gatorcrat: Well, of course, but perhaps, Miss Kitty, it is you who needs to be brought up to date, because nowadays there are such things as rat traps and mouse bait to

kill rodents.

Here, Congressmen Kraftycrat and Wranglycrat, being rodents, gave Congressman Gatorcrat looks of anger.

Congressman Kraftycrat: Mind your language, Congressman Gatorcrat.

Miss Kitty: Mouse bait? How is that friendly to the environment? It is still cats that are the most reliable and natural way to keep the rodent population down.

After this session, all those present became noticeably more tense, including Miss Kitty, herself, when two United States Marshalls entered the room and seated themselves among the onlookers.

On the bright side, to Miss Kitty's surprise, her mistress Angie, along with Angie's friends, Keela and Beth were also present, having arrived the night before on a flight from Houston. Originally, Angie's parents did not believe it would be possible for them to join Miss Kitty, however, Angie did promise Miss Kitty that she would do whatever she could to help her. What no one knew, was that Angie and her friends were keeping a very important secret.

EXCERPT FIFTEEN

Miss Kitty is Questioned About Her Obscene Profits

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Miss Kitty, can you please tell us what you earn from your cat toy business?

Miss Kitty: I don't have the exact figures, but, lately, I have been doing very well.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Well, can you give us a ballpark figure of how much you have earned this year?

Miss Kitty: Well, my first quarter gross income, before taxes and operating expenses was over \$350.00, if I recall. However, my after tax income will be more like \$31.00.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Come now, Miss Kitty, it couldn't be that low.

Miss Kitty: Yes, I'm afraid so. After local, and Federal taxes, and my Social Security and Medicare taxes, it was indeed that low.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: But your employer should pay half of your Social Security taxes.

Miss Kitty: But I am my own employer. I'm self-employed, so I pay double what most people normally pay.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: All right, Miss Kitty. But how was your second quarter?

Miss Kitty: The months of April and May are always a little better, because people get their tax refunds, and have a little more money to spend, but this year, I did make quite a bit more than normal.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: And how much did you earn for the months of April and May?

Miss Kitty: For April, my sales were over \$1500.00, and in May they jumped to \$5,000.00.

Congressman Wranglycrat: What?

Congresswoman Hippocrat: That's outrageous.

Chairwoman Fishycrat: Well, now we're getting to the truth. It looks to me like your cat toy business has made some healthy profits.

Miss Kitty: That's sales, not taxable net income, and I haven't yet calculated my expenses.

Congressman Wranglycrat: I would say your profits are healthy all right. And to think that there are some cats who live out of garbage cans and don't even have a home they can call their own. It just isn't fair.

Congresswoman Hippocrat: I second that. Miss Kitty, your profits aren't just healthy, they are obscene!

Chairwoman Fishycrat: I'll have to agree, Miss Kitty. Obscene doesn't even begin to describe them.

Congressman Wranglycrat: It looks like we'll have to create some new legislation. A windfall profit tax on Miss Kitty's income would do very nicely, indeed. We have many government

programs to fund, and a cat like you has no business with all of that money.

Miss Kitty: But I haven't calculated my profits yet, and I work hard at my business. And with the prosperity this country has experienced as a result of President Bush's tax cuts, spending on pets has doubled. There is now a greater demand for cat toys than ever. Running a business is not that easy. There is a lot of risk involved, and the government regulation and taxation is a rat's maze.

Congressman Wranglycrat: What did you just say? Did you just make a remark about rats?

Miss Kitty: It's just an expression.

Congressman Wranglycrat: So I see now that you are prejudiced against rats.

Miss Kitty: Well, I'll admit, the smaller ones are within my range of creatures that I hunt.

Here, Congressman Wranglycrat threw a fit and left the room.