

On May 20, 2021, The Existential Adventures of Crazy Man and the Dog, Sidestepper, will be 100 episodes old.



One year ago today, we were in lockdown. The streets were deserted, outdoor patios closed, stores had somber lineups of masked shoppers...and I missed my trip to Cuba with my daughter.

2020 really sucked.

I had a severe back injury that started almost exactly when the lockdown started and I spent the first few weeks sleeping on the livingroom floor and crawling around my apartment. On one of those days (May 14, 2020) I lay on the floor, propped up against pillows and the wall with my laptop in my lap. I wasn't writing anything...just staring at the screen, thinking about nothing, going crazy.

Suddenly, a thought raced through my head hard enough to make my eyes spin in their sockets (though, that might have been the pain killers). I swear...steam blew out my ears and nose (though, that might have been the pain killers) and I played bounce your head off the wall (though, that might have been the pain killers) for a few hours while I considered my thought.

When my fingers stopped dancing across my thumbs, I put my hands on the keyboard and wrote:

One day Crazy Man stepped outside to see what it was all about.

I think we all had that thought around that time. I stared at these words for days, months, eons until they sank in and I realized that I was on to something. The next sentence attached itself to the first one like a block on a blockchain:

He'd been under his bed crying and drinking wine for so long that he couldn't remember what he was crying about and he'd run out of wine.

I was out of wine and I was out of pain killers. It was time to test this outside thing. But first, I stayed inside long enough to write the first episode of The Existential Adventures of Crazy Man and the Dog, Sidestepper. You can read it here:

<https://existentialadventures885013431.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/episode-1.pdf>

It's been one entire year of two episodes a week and Thursday, May 20th will be the 100th episode.

Since the second one, every episode has been inspired by the accompanying photograph. It's been the perfect way to blend my writing and photography together and I plan on doing it for a while longer. But I think I might take a rest, what with summer and sun coming, to build up a new storehouse of photo images. I was thinking, a week or two break and then one episode a month until the Fall. I think that might mix well with everybody's schedule. I mean, who needs angst in beach weather?

If you want to read other episodes, it might be easier to go here, where all the episodes are on one page:

<https://biffmitchell.com/crazy-man>

More to come and have a wonderful summer...we've earned it.

