

Man alive – TRANSCRIPTION

The AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY presents

MAN ALIVE!

The great out-of-doors. Restful, calm, majestic. There's nothing like it to give you the feeling that it's great to be alive. Everyone shares in the feeling. Everyone that is, except Ed Parmalee.

Ed has a problem. No, it isn't Marion, his wife. It's this.

Ed doesn't know what's making that noise. What's more, he's afraid to find out. Why? He's scared it might be something serious. And his fear has frozen his judgment. He knows something's the matter with the engine, but because he's scared of what it might be, he won't admit anything's wrong. That's what a simple fear can do. Here are some other things it can do.

“Ed, what's that noise?”

- Noise, what noise?”

Ed's not really an idiot. He's simply denying the source of anxiety, pretending there's nothing there. Fear can also make us project the anxiety, try to laugh it off.

“It's a kind of knock-knock, knock-knock.

- Oh, I get it. Knock-knock, who's there? Marion. Marion, who? Marry in haste, repent at leisure.”

Or if that doesn't work, there's the camouflage called “icy disdain”.

“Why don't you go back to Glassner's garage?”

Now, Ed, you're just being stubborn. Just the way you are about your stomach trouble.

- Oh, for crying out loud, lay off, will you?”

And that was the last refuge in ducking the issue: anger, unreasoning anger.

But you can't drive away your anxiety about your car or your stomach by denial, sarcasm or anger. There are always reminders.

THE SEVEN DANGER SIGNALS THAT MAY MEAN CANCER

5 PERSISTENT INDIGESTION

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

“Forget it!”

And there comes a time when it's impossible to ignore the trouble any longer.

So you may want advice. It's easy to get.

“Looks bad. Once they start to go, it's curtains.

- Tough luck, it's the camshaft.
- Naah, me thought it's the widget fittings.
- My brother-in-law had the same trouble. Blooey!"

Ed is now more confused and worried than he was before. But what's this?

Mmmh! Save expensive repair bills, recondition your own motor, results guaranteed!

Well, there are the results... and the guarantee.

"Now, will you take it to Glassner's, Ed?

- Well...
- I tell you what I'd do, Mac. A place down the road a ways, there's a fellow name of Clyde has a special system for taking a motor down. Save you some dough"

This is Clyde.

Got a special system for taking a motor apart.

"Little worse shape than I figured. (...)"

Ed didn't save a dime by going to Clyde.

"Too bad, M. Parmalee. Wish you'd brought it in when the trouble first started. Now...

Well, here it is. We replaced... What's the matter, M. Parmalee? Something bothering you?"

Yes, something's bothering Ed: his stomach. As Marion said, it's been on the blink for a couple of weeks now.

Again, Ed's worried and scared. Worried that his indigestion might be something serious and scared to face the problem. So, when the subject comes up:

" Why do you take this stuff all the time, Ed?"

He uses the same bag o' tricks.

Denial: "What do you mean? I don't take it all the time."

Laughing it off: "I don't think it does you any good.

- Well, well, the Florence Nightingale of Blake Street. Hahaha!
- We were talking about your stomach."

Icy disdain.

And finally anger.

"Ed, Ed, I wish you'd go and see a doct...

- Out! Get out!"

Just a minute, Ed.

"Huh?"

You're being pretty difficult, you know?

"I'm being difficult?"

Right. The same as you were about your... car.

“Oh”

You know, your body is a lot like your car motor, except that it's a little harder to buy new parts for it. When your motor's in good shape, it runs like this.

When something goes wrong, it usually gives you a warning. Your body usually gives you a warning too. When it does, it's best to pay attention and do something about it.

“Do something? My medicine cabinet is loaded with stuff.”

Ed, using that in your stomach is like using this in your engine. It's dangerous. Look, Ed. You've had indigestion for more than a couple of weeks. Remember that sign board? It's something that could mean cancer.

“Yeah.

Well, I might as well give up then. Like the fellows were saying just the other day:

- Cancer? Once it starts in, it's curtains.
- Runs in the family.
- Contagious too.
- My wife's uncle had it. Blooey!”

You've heard amateur diagnosis before. You ought to know what it's worth: nothing.

“But what can I do?”

Very simple. Get your clothes on and go right now to see a doctor.

“Yeah. Yeah!”

It's perfectly right and normal to be afraid of cancer. Cancer is an enemy. But you don't fight it by getting panicky. Instead, you take positive action. You go to a man who has the weapons to fight the enemy.

Wait a minute! Ed! Ed, that's not the man! Remember Clyde, the mechanic with the special system? This is the same type of operator.

Yes, the only man to trust is a recognized physician.

Ed's still pretty nervous.

“All right, Mr. Parmalee”

You're always more scared of something you know nothing about, and Ed has a lot to learn about cancer.

Here are the facts. Cancer is not contagious. Cancer is not hereditary. Cancer is curable. Thousands of Americans are cured of cancer every year by one or more of three recognized cures: surgery, X-ray and radium.

You see, a cancer is a group of cells within your body whose growth is uncontrolled and very rapid. At first, the cancer may be localized, but unless its growth is checked quickly, it spreads.

It may spread this way by direct extension or, which is even more dangerous, it may spread like this, with cells leaving the main part of the cancer and entering the bloodstream to lodge and grow in other parts of the body. This is called metastasis. It can happen to a cancer at any time. When it does, the problems of locating and attacking the cancer are greatly increased. Cancer must be found and treated before it extends too far or metastasizes. Early examination is half the battle in successful cancer treatment. That means going to a doctor. With new scientific methods we can accurately detect cancer much earlier than we could even five years ago. But in order to get to a doctor early, we must constantly be on the lookout for cancer's danger signals. Watch for these:

- ANY SORE THAT DOES NOT HEAL.
- A LUMP OF THICKENING IN THE BREAST OR ELSEWHERE.
- UNUSUAL BLEEDING OR DISCHARGE.
- ANY CHANGE IN A WART OR MOLE.
- PERSISTENT INDIGESTION OR DIFFICULTY IN SWALLOWING.
- PERSISTENT HOARSENESS OR COUGH.
- ANY CHANGE IN NORMAL BOWEL HABITS.

Thousands of people are enjoying life today because they went to their doctor's early but the fact is that twice as many people could be cured of cancer every year if we would all do these things:

- *Watch for the danger signals.*
- *Ignore rumormongers.*
- *Keep away from quacks.*
- *Put no trust in so-called "home remedies" for cancer.*
- *Go to the doctor regularly for check-ups, and go immediately when a symptom shows up that might mean cancer.*

But here's Ed again a few days later waiting for the results of his examination.

"All right, M. Parmalee.

- Well, Ed, here are the answers you've been waiting for."

Ed realizes now how valuable was the time he wasted in denial, sarcasm and anger.

"To get to the point you are most concerned about though, Ed, you do not have cancer.

- I don't, I don't, oh, what a knucklehead I've been. I could have done that weeks ago. Oh, boy, no more worrying."

Hold it, Ed. It is foolish to worry day and night about cancer but it's just as foolish not to worry about it at all. Be on guard. Don't let fear make a mess of your life again. But use your good common sense.

Well, Ed's not making the same mistake twice.

Now he watches for warning signals, goes to a doctor every sixth months for a checkup, no matter how well he may feel. Oh yes, and so does Marion.

What a difference it makes ensuring their health, peace of mind and dispositions. Ed and Marion are able to enjoy life to its fullest.

THE END

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