

Simple Simon Goes to the Fair
Or How Our Mother Goose is Cooked
By Dennis Knight

Simple Simon met a Pie Man, going to the fair.
Said Simple Simon to the Pie Man, let me taste your ware

We take you now to New York City, the center of world finance, banking and investment. It's the Big Fair, Wall Street, the American Stock Exchange. The markets at the fair are up and down, but mostly nowhere. Profits are high, but the classic cycle of investment, jobs, productivity and profits has stalled. It has become a time of profit taking without job creation. This is the story of Simple Simon and the Pie Man, and you are there.

Simon is a family man who has worked all his life in textiles, but his job has been sent off shore to a corner of the world where a tiny wage is still a living. Meanwhile, the Pie Man Corporation is enjoying this new international business model that lets it make more pies, more cheaply, and sell them for more. Simon hopes a grand success like Pie Man would have a future for him.

Said the Pie Man to Simple Simon, "Show me first your penny."
Said Simple Simon to the Pie Man, "Indeed, I have not any."

Simon was disappointed, but understood Pie Man is in business to make a profit, and was doing plenty of that. In the meantime, our highest court last year in a case called "Citizens United," held that corporations have the first amendment rights of persons. The Pie Man Corporation, is a who, not a what, and may spend money, unfettered, to influence elections, and by extension, the elected.

Simon's simplicity is that of a man without sophistication in the back room dealings that can make a Pie Man what it is today, or should we say, who it is today, a multi-national conglomeration without loyalty to country or civic responsibility. In Simon's view, this is America, land of opportunity, and he was not defeated but inspired.

So Simple Simon went a-fishing for to catch a whale;
But all the water he could find was in his mother's pail!

Simon still had some money in the stock market by virtue of a 401(k) but it was smaller now because stocks are down in the face of a lousy job market, a result of corporations taking profits and not investing in job creation. The little bit of water in his mother's pail was evaporating.

Simple Simon went to look if plums grew on a thistle;
He pricked his fingers very much, which made poor Simon whistle.

Simon still had the salty perspiration of his brow, and so

He went to catch a dicky bird, and thought he could not fail,
Because he had a little salt to put upon its tail.

And he went for water with a sieve, but soon it ran all through;
And now poor Simple Simon
Bids you all adieu.