The stock market is all lit up talking about the dreaded Hindenburg Omen, which sometimes (though not always) predicts a major stock market crash.

Listen to me: All of this trash is nonsense. Things like the Hindenberg Omen and other market forecasts are merely attempts to look at symptoms rather than causes. It would be like if doctors panicked every time a patient had a fever and immediately concluded the patient had not a head cold but full-blow AIDs with an unrelated case of pancreatic cancer. Is it possible? Yes. But it's better than you do blood work, look at X-Rays, take biopsies, etc., before you jump to conclusions based upon the symptom – the fever.

These omens, including the Hindenburg Omen, are the academic equivalent of people attempting to read tea leaves and divine the will of gods based upon the movement of stars in the sky. It's a modern day manifestation of human misjudgment desperately looking for patterns and meaning without studying the underlying economics. It's the same way some fools think beta represents risk but if you were buying a business, it would tell you it was riskier to pay $50 per share than $100 per share. Common sense, and every businessman on the planet, tells you that is absurd.

The market very well may crash. It may also double. What I am sure of, though, is that ten years from now, people who used their money to buy the most future profit, whether they did it by acquiring shares of stock, undervalued bonds, real estate or antique furniture – it doesn't matter – will do better than those who tried to predict what other people were thinking.

How about you stop worrying about whether the market is up or down tomorrow and instead ask yourself:

- Which asset or assets are available to me that offer the greatest future cash earnings with the least possible risk?
- How can I structure the acquisition in a way that doesn't put my balance sheet, income statement, or cash flow statement at risk?

That really is it.

It doesn't matter if you are buying lemonade stands or Fortune 500 corporations, used lawnmowers or apartment buildings. Buy future earnings, avoid wipeout risk, and keep reinvesting your profits. Over time, compounding will do the rest. These idiots who call themselves investment bankers sometimes make me want to hurl. They have no idea what those little electronic blips represent … actual, honest-to-God living, breathing companies with products, sales, costs, staffs, clients, and reputations.

If the stock market crashes tomorrow, it will be because a group of easily fooled people panicked and those with the fortitude and wisdom to understand value when they see it will step in and buy their shares for less than they are worth. A decade from now, those same fools will be screaming about how the rich "stole" their money.

No matter what the world economy is doing, there are always intelligent things that offer opportunity to profit. Some of the greatest fortunes in history – Carnegie, Mellon, Rockefeller, Morgan – were made during the depths of a terrible deflationary depression in the 1870's. If they managed to take over the world, you can figure out how to at least afford a nicer lifestyle to free to you to focus on doing what you want with your time. It's a much lower hurdle to clear.