

The Bard explains why he may miss Blogfest 2015

I missed Blogfest 2014, missed my target date for the Bard book, and now it seems I may miss Blogfest 2015 too. I may have some 'splaining to do, lest some folks think I 'm just shining them on.

My explanation: cancer.

I've been in treatment since fall 2013, when I was first diagnosed and underwent a couple of surgeries for head and neck cancer. After a period of recovery and monitoring -- and just when I was starting to feel pretty darn good again -- late last summer I learned it had recurred and metastasized.

I'm lucky, because the doctors say in my case there's a good chance of not only control but actual cure. The treatments are fairly rough, though, and I've just finished two months of strong chemotherapy. The good news is it was successful. The bad news is I'm pretty beat up: weak as a happy hour drink, skinny as a string, bald as a bowling ball.

Presently I'm working with oncologists, radiologists, oral surgeons and others preparing for the next step: about two months of daily radiation treatment, with a little chemo to spice up the routine. This will kick off around 1 February.

Head and neck radiation isn't easy duty and side effects can be rugged and unpredictable and sometimes disabling. For this reason, along with concern over exposure to colds, flu and other ailments, it's likely that I won't be able to attend this year's Blogfest.

I've looked forward to Blogfest for some time and to meeting in person the HBOers gathered there. I would love to be there...and I HOPE to be there...and there is still a chance I'll be there -- but things may certainly not work out that way. And that's the whole story.

If it happens that I miss the festivities this year, I *promise* to attend Blogfest next year, provided the Good Lord's willing and the cricks don't rise.

I hope Blogfest 2015 is the best yet. And I offer all best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to every last Huckleberry out there.