



THE THUNDER IN PARADISE :
30 POEMS CREATED FROM INTERVIEWS WITH HULK HOGAN

Arranged by James Folta

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All of the text for these poems comes from transcriptions of various interviews with Hulk Hogan from 1985-2013. I didn't adjust the order of anything from the original interviews. I only removed the interviewers' questions, cut down Mr. Hogan's answers, and rearranged them on the page.

Of course, none of these are my interviews. Many thanks to ABC News, Big Lead Sports, Busted Open Radio, CBS2 Boomer And Carton Show, Chicago Tribune, Digital Spy, Forbes, FSM, Gimme Noise, IGN, IGN Sports, NYPost.com, Online World of Wrestling, Sky News Radio, Southtown Star, Sports Illustrated, StarPulse.com, Stuff.co.nz, TBO.com, "The Blaze" 1260 AM, The Sun (UK), The "Ultimate Hulkamaniac" Gery Roif and his radical Geocities page, TNAInsider.com, TWNPNews, U.K. Daily Star, UGO.com, WOW Magazine, WrestlingForum.com and WrestlingInc.com.

And the biggest thanks to Hulk Hogan. Please don't leg drop me for this. Or worse, sue me.

- James Folta
www.JamesFolta.com

THE INCREDIBLE HULK PART 1

FSM, Mar. 2013

I.

Well, we had to choose somebody.
The Blossom Twins, Marty and Spud

they were broken in the right way,
but there's not too many places to go now.
I think you need to refresh the pot.

I know things
a lot of it has to do with instinct.

I've seen so many things happen,
from a plane hitting a building when I'm wrestling,
to someone getting shot at ringside and dying,
to a referee having a heart attack,
from one rope breaking to all the ropes breaking,
to a guy fainting in the ring.

Everything that could have possibly happened has happened with me,
It's all these types of things that I'm trying to fix.
But every once in a while, I'm just like, 'I need a time-out, guys.'
I guess.

Then, all of a sudden, we're not cool.

II.

He's done too many coconut headbutts (laughs).

His dad had already fired me
because I chose to star in Rocky III,

A lot of guys do drop my name,
and a lot of it is through desperation,
because they have nothing else;

I called him a "curly-toed jabroni".
So I'm sure he's gone mad over that.

I'm still prevalent.

(laughs)

III.

they knew I wasn't just a fly-by-night,
I wasn't like some actor like Angelina Jolie,
who you couldn't have a conversation with.

all the cigar smokers and
the people in the front row
who wanted violence and blood got mad and left.

But that's just my opinion. I could be wrong.

they inserted a battery (into my back)
that was made by NASA for the space shuttle,
and lasts forever.

and I turned to my kids, smiled,
and forgot he was coming,
and when he hit me, I broke two ribs.

I was dying,
but you and I can laugh about it now

(laughs)

Q&A: HULK HOGAN ON FALSE FRIENDS, TNA AND TURNING DOWN VIAGRA
TBO.com, May 2013

I came to Tampa with my parents
when I was six months old.

somebody tried to steal my spot
always on the East Coast too.
in Connecticut and Minnesota and Japan,

I mean, dude,
it's laid back
all this beautiful atmosphere and peace.

but things are definitely moving in the right direction for me,
thank god. It was a tough time.

Nobody expects something to come back to haunt them

be completely truthful with them,
When you find out who somebody really is,
it can be hard to take.

We're having a hard time keeping up brother.
or I forget about slamming the 700 pound
Giant
or being on "Walker Texas Ranger"

But it's like a shot in the arm,
it makes me feel
like I've got a full head of hair

HULK HOGAN APOLOGISES FOR PUBLISHING GORY BURN PHOTOS
StarPulse.com, May 2013

I apologise
 my burned hand
I now realise
 a moment before

HULK HOGAN INTERVIEW: TALKS FAN Q&A, TOP WRESTLERS AND MORE
CBS2 Boomer And Carton Show via TNAInsider.com, Apr. 2013

if it gets really intense
we could go on forever.

The wrestling fans are so smart.
They know fights in the locker room
that happened 20 years ago.

they're always curious about what happened
when Andre went after Bad News Brown?

Or,
when Paul Orndoff wanted to beat up
Vader when he was naked in the shower?

Well brother,

This guy just knocked the door wide open.
a guy named Sting.

a Mt. Rushmore for wrestling.

nobody said well
this is an exhibition
it could get really testy in there.
there was egos involved

it was pretty intense.

HULK HOGAN'S RUN

U.K. Daily Star, Feb. 2013

It's either hold 'em
or fold 'em.

Is Dixie Carter really in the wrestling business?

You're at that point now.

You either run with the big dogs
or be a little dog and stay

on the porch.

it gives you a chance to sink your teeth
into the characters and the company

most of the wrestlers

They'd be bagging
groceries somewhere

I was a medium sized guy

The business has changed, the guys can do
more moves

more athletic

RECENT HULK HOGAN INTERVIEW

Sky News Radio via Online World of Wrestling, Jan. 2013

To never say never.
time goes by, I live

I'm not ego-talking
But, that was just the young heart talking.

a good look in the mirror
the old man couldn't do it.

My daughter Brooke might get in a bad spot
I could roll in there
pick up a steel chair
or throw a punch or something.

So, you can never say never.

it was the turning point
switch gears
fast-forward
the perfect storm.
America was at conflict with Iran/Iraq
the political situation
between the countries.
between good vs. evil.

the look and the reaction
off guard.
'Oh, my God.'

It was good and bad for me
I felt like I had been in a car wreck

making huge comebacks and
making the buildings rattle.
Earthquake, One Man Gang

I had to hear it and feel it with the instinct thing.
So, it just didn't work
for whatever reason.

HULK HOGAN Q & A: YES, HE DISCUSSED THE SEX TAPE
Big Lead Sports, Oct. 2012

Yes, this is it,
It's a huge deal

we're hitting on all eight cylinders
it translates in any language,

the same way out of the ring
the voice and the attitude.

We would meet
barbecue's at his mom's house

It was in my blood ...
they're like interchangeable parts.

he was changing planes and had a layover,
so I headed over and cut through security.

I zipped down to the gate,
He ended up drinking 108 beers

"holy shit,"
and went and woke up a buddy of mine

I ran back to the bus and said
"happy birthday, boss"

he kicks my seat.
He was all pissed off.

he made it easy.
like dancing with a broomstick.

What do you mean smelly?
we all lived in a place called Falcons Rest.

"oh my gosh, why is this happening."
"it never stops."

when someone hits me with a microphone,
20-plus years of him standing at my right side.

and my son going to jail,
all the craziness.

help me understand how great life is.
to drag this dead animal back to life

but some of us are hard-headed.
people still function on that low level, bottom feeder,

we're starting to put pieces of the puzzle together.
And it's not gonna be pretty,

HULK RULES!

FSM, Oct. 2012

that this is the biggest day
this really is a pivotal point.

We're starting to find the groove,
things are starting to feel right,

I was bouncing around
between doing nothing

Honestly, I don't know strictly what I do.
I simply try to be there,

If there's anything I can do to help
that's great.

Verbally, we figured that
if we told someone to jump over a box
and land on someone's head,
that's what would happen.

big-picture feel
needs the right tools

slowly but surely
starting to build.

plugging all the holes
to help keep the boat floating.

turn heel,
lash out at everybody,

get red-hot,
a white meat babyface

I would always tease him
by calling him "Broccoli"
even if it made things worse.
There was always that hope

everything has calmed
and is pretty much cool.

everything is about timing and selling.

with the painted face et cetera.

Everything is fixable.

No regrets, as everything was a test.
that's when I left the building.

HULK RULES! (*again*)
FSM, Oct. 2012

The closest thing
would be the infamous “Montreal Screwjob”,
which I still don’t totally understand.

HOGAN SET TO LEAD TNA, SAYS IT WILL 'FOCUS ON WRESTLING'
NYPost.com, Apr. 2012

we are focusing on the wrestling
really feeling the vibe.

so fast, we're almost
going shelf to shelf.

momentum-shifting moment
momentum-shifting moves,

the Hulkamania movement,
then it shifted to the beer-drinking

growing the black beard and
becoming the bad guy,

I have this huge monster idea

If I'm wrong, you probably won't see me again
because I'll be hightailing it out of here.

it's like a volcano that ready to explode.

we keep rolling forward

you never know.

HULK HOGAN HEADING TO NEW ZEALAND

Stuff.co.nz, Feb. 2012

we really want to make a good footprint everywhere we go

You tell me when your next summer is
and that's when I'll be there.

take us around your beautiful country
and showing us the sights.

My friends Butch and Luke – the Bushwhackers,
have told me all about how beautiful the place is.

I was so busy wrestling and
running around chasing my tail
I never had a chance to come your way.

I was a bad guy for a while,
then a good guy for a while

I had the normal problems
like everybody else does
with paying the bills and that sort of thing

HULK HOGAN INTERVIEW: 'I'LL BE IN THE WRESTLING BUSINESS UNTIL THE DAY I DIE'
Digital Spy, Jan. 2012

I don't know what happened,
it seems like I've been missing out.
I did pretty good for a few days!

I'm sure I will get physically involved
I usually do even though
I try to keep my nose out of everybody's business

'Can you get everyone over there?'

especially the guys
we call the shooters,
You need to break these guys in

'Can you fly?'

it kind of freaked me out
they wait
it makes them more tangible.

the bells ring
it goes, 'Oh yeah!'

this machine
it's yelling and screaming at you,
'What you gonna do, brother?!'
I think that's the coolest.

when the lady said something about
her blood pressure going up,
that made me feel good and it's kind of cool.

My usual answer is, 'Oh no, come on, no I don't',
but now I'm saying thank you and trying
to be cool about it

take the tag and start punching people
and throwing them around,
this cop
with a young partner who is in love
and he gets killed in the line of duty

and she falls in love with me
and it gets really crazy. I turned that down.

Things are cool.

HULK HOGAN MEDICAL PROBLEMS, BOBBY ROODE INTERVIEW
TWNPNews, Jan. 2012

They had to drill

a f**king

hole

in my face!

HULK HOGAN, UNPLUGGED
ABC News, Sep. 2011

We pray that she finds closure
happiness
this crazy delusional situation

she actually believes,
20,000-square-foot
a 19-year-old boy driving your Escalade,

in the same town with her ...

the wrong way at a red light,
put in jail
when her book's come out?

so the minute I

walk out of
wherever I
walk out of I
walk out of,

it's there, boom?

I'm happy now ...
to reach a doorknob
into a public restroom

in the mirror,
they have normal size
wives and normal size kids ...

Just little people in the real world.

HULK HOGAN ON PERSONAL BRANDING, FAMILY LIFE AND REALITY TV
Forbes, Aug. 2011

Let me tell you a lesson I learned.

Remember when the oil spilled?

I watched the news everyday all day for the next few days –
I was flipping out because I knew what it would do to the economy

“Terry, don’t you know God’s got this?
it will get taken care of.”

And I’ll be darned, things got a little better.

They cleaned things up a bit,
everything was under control.

But for a full 150 days, I was like “Oh my God”
and I was stressing out about something that didn’t need to be worried about.

So I learned a huge lesson with that.

HULK HOGAN ON PERSONAL BRANDING, FAMILY LIFE AND REALITY TV *(again)*
Forbes, Aug. 2011

I started off as the “Super Destroyer,”
and they had me under a mask,

It’s like running hot water under your feet.
When I step out the door,
I’m Hulk Hogan and that hot water is on.

People always expect Hulk Hogan
to be standing up straight,
or to have the bandanna on,
or to not have my arms covered up.

I go be as much “Hulk Hogan” as I can.
I’m aware the hot waters on.

I love being home and
being able to be Terry;
to get the hot water off my feet

You know with the economy,
and the foreclosures on homes,
and how tough it is to make it with families.

if I could pull a nose up on this thing,
anyone could.

to help people and to serve.
It’s not a humbling thing.
It’s a triumphant thing to reach out and serve people

It’s just “God’s Law”

low vibrational people.
I don’t want to be around people that say
“oh this is too hard”
or
“my God another day at work”
or
“I’ve got to work another 12-14 hour day.”

I was praying to God that maybe the reality show
would give my marriage more net worth
and make my partner feel like she had a purpose in life.

But it really didn't help.

I was constantly reinventing myself from the
diversionary tactics with cartoons,

more gas in my tank.

calculating my DNA strand

“he was a great man”

and that's what I would like to be known as.

HULK HOGAN BRINGS THE FIGHT TO IGN
IGN, Jan. 2010

We're going to find out, aren't we?

I'm going up against the monster, brother.
I'm heading into the gun fight.
I'm bringing the biggest blow dart I can get.

I don't mean this in tongue in cheek way -
but it's like deja vu.

Oh, how could you leave

And you know what?
I'm already winning.

And guess what?
I already won again.

I'm given the opportunity of a lifetime.
It's like a human being going up against a monster.

that we've got one hell of a shot, brother.

We already know that he's the red-eyed monster

But guess what?
Hulk Hogan's coming at you, brother, so better hang on for the ride.

HULK HOGAN INTERVIEW

UGO.com, Jan. 2010

Ooooooh boy.

You trying to read my mind or something, brother?

THANK YOU! I'm going to use that.

The Warrior is not "alive" anymore.

Vince McMahon put out a tape called "The Self-Destruction of the Ultimate Warrior."

there are a lot of guys that'll go

"I wouldn't do this past my prime. I wouldn't embarrass myself."

And I totally agree.

The more bald-headed I get.

It's pretty wild how compassionate the people are.

And brother, if it doesn't work, I'll be a great security guard at Target.

You can have your girlfriend do it or pay a professional and have your back shaved,

but the thing is you need to be self-sufficient.

You shave everything except the Grandfather Clock.

And that's how I do it, man.

So you got to be self-sufficient, brother.

You have to have a clean presentation.

HULK HOGAN RALLIES HULKAMANIACS, TALKS TO GIMME NOISE: TWIN CITIES MUSIC,
CULTURE, NIGHTLIFE

Gimme Noise, Nov. 2009

Well brother things change, you know?
You try to go with the flow.

"Oh no! How do we handle this?"

it got to the point where -
I don't want to say it was forced -

"Oh life is tough but you can get through it."

and this stuff wasn't a game.
This wasn't a dress rehearsal, man;
this shit really happened.
I went down the tubes. Bad.

The bottom line with that was that those conversations
were about me trying to talk to my son
who was sitting in solitary confinement -
where most people don't last even three days
but he stayed for 28 days -

"Hey brother, we're going to go to the beach when you get out
and maybe we'll do a reality show,"

that all got turned around on me.

So I came in and was like, "Watch this."

Just watch and see, brother.

HULK HOGAN: BODY SLAMS TAKE TOLL ON WWF LEGEND
Chicago Tribune, Jul. 2009

They don't realize that,
-- kind of --
my body is pretty beat up.

It's kind of hard to explain
the rebuild and rewind process.
I was having a hard time,

I shave half my face,
lay on the floor for 10 minutes
and then shave the other half of the face.

I walked farther and then went into the men's room.
I leaned on the sink to crack my back and pretended I was looking at my face.

It seems to get farther and farther in reach,
when I'm in there,
I'm totally free.

PRO WRESTLING EXTRA: A CONVERSATION WITH HULK HOGAN
Southtown Star, Jul. 2009

I'm trying to figure that out.
I've had two back surgeries in the last five months.
Just the middle of my waistline up and halfway down my back,

I'm trying to not joke or fool myself.
I'm trying to get a logical assessment,

I'm dying to do it.

I used to walk by the ring and touch it and get goose bumps,

like the little engine that could.
they've been chugging along for seven years.

If you look at history,
everyone says,
'History repeats itself.'

We got too full of ourselves.
We fell

It was so weird to watch the arrogance
and built-in egos that protect personas,
fall away.

You have a family or kids that depend on you,
and you really have to roll the dice.

Really take a good look at yourself.
Decide if you want to roll the dice.

This was the first Fourth of July that I didn't see the fireworks.

I decided not to become a story.

the bottom of a birdcage the next day.

HULK HOGAN SAYS HE 'TOTALLY' GETS O.J. SIMPSON'S RAGE
Chicago Tribune, Apr. 2009

I could have turned everything into a crime scene,
cutting everybody's throat,

through downtown Clearwater [Florida]
a 19-year-old boy driving

a 19-year-old boy is sleeping
in your bed, with your wife,

RADIO INTERVIEW

Busted Open Radio via WrestlingForum.com, Dec. 2008

Thursday was a month so
a month and two and a half days
for the old knee replacement.

I feel like Tarzan here
all of a sudden.

Damned if you do
damned if you don't.
It's actually my worst nightmare coming true.

Life is all about choices.
The one thing I worry about
I'll watch Kurt Angle walk around in the back,
I'll watch Jeff Hardy walk around in the back, so

You've got all these naysayers.
I run social media now because
Brooke & my son, Nick, have taught me
how to do it, and you get on
the social media and you get
all these naysayers.

HOGAN'S STILL RUNNING WILD

The Sun (UK), Aug. 2007

He wants to make me the Babe Ruth or
Muhammad Ali of wrestling.

Twenty years ago in the same city,
I bodyslammed Andre The Giant.

We'll probably end up doing business.
I don't know if he has a problem with me personally.

The ideas were OK, they weren't
home runs but they were pretty good.
all that stuff is cute.

it's just an ongoing saga with these guys.
I can't worry about these personal
b*****s with everybody.

shoot style beat me up all the time
– I'd get sick just thinking about wrestling him.

taking time off to do movies or
have surgery

I said:
'We're not going home until you
Gorilla Press me over your head and
I kick out of your finish.
then you can kick out of my Leg Drop
then we'll go home.'

in a rear chin lock
he calmed down
and stopped freaking out

That time in the ring is like being in heaven for me.

SHOW: WRESTLING EPICENTER FEATURING THE INTERACTIVE INTERVIEW
"The Blaze" 1260 AM via WrestlingInc.com, Aug. 2005

I listen with my heart.
I listen with my ears.

Yeah, brother.
I'm just trying to be humble about this thing.

Just don't over think it, man.
Just listen with your heart and your ears
and it will all come to you.

I don't just do things, I plan things.

Yeah, it's a gut check.

I'm so used to it, it's almost like a chess game
where everybody's screaming at you,
"make a choice, make a choice!"

"The training, the prayers, the vitamins...
I did it for the money!"

We stole most of the universe out there
It could've been a wild ride

I twist it around, add stuff,
take stuff away but it always works.

I realized this is a little different
from anything I've been in before

the guy that's trying to bury me
still has that demon inside of him.
If I don't put that beast to rest,
I don't think anybody will.

But, in this world we live in,
never say never.

Jesus dude, I have no idea what lies ahead.

HULK HOGAN INTERVIEW: RAW, HIS RETURN, AND PASSING THE TORCH.
IGN Sports, Jul. 2005

got up,

shook Andre's hand,
then hit him over the head with a steel chair and
beat the hell out of him.

people flipping the middle finger
in the ring was cool,

the death and devastation,
people want happy things,

He was totally psyched,
he told me it was like a dream come true,

just beating the hell out of one another,
"Mr. Wonderful"

That's true.

[laughs]

You got it down, brother.

I just want to ride the wave.
when I woke up I was still smiling.

It was unbelievable to get
past that hurdle of the leg drop.

I just put my hand up to my ear by accident,
"Oh, that works."

I really just stumbled into it.

I hurt myself and the guy
I kicked in the face. [laughs]

the Polish Hammer, the bear hug, you name it,
I tried it out in Japan

without the rehab, but we're crazier.
You'll want to check it out.

BAD AS HE WANTS TO BE: ANTI-HERO HULK HOGAN IS BENT ON DESTROYING WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Chicago Tribune, Aug. 1997

Some people think
but, hey,
every foreign country every weekend,

Wrestling has survived depressions
and stock market crises.

he's making a lateral move . . .
as a magnet

. . . and now he's having the last laugh,
because it's paying off.

'Short-sighted, no vision, loser, see you later,'

First, they're fun.
Second, they're safe.

a bad-guy part.
the transvestite serial-killer

They are equally draining because you have to give them your life.

they beat you down so much . . .
it's more mental stress,

That camera can tell if you're not believing
what you're saying, if you're not reacting

It's tough. You really have to stay focused,
but I'm trying.

WRESTLEMANIA III

Apr. 1987

they said it was my last ride man!
Yesterday when I finished hanging and banging.

As I went thru the intersection.
As I headed for the mountains,
some of the nonbelievers in the gym said

This is your last ride.
as I headed for the sunset, man.

As the sun beamed off the gold in my eyes,
I realized that sooner or later,
you gotta live and die

you've gotta face the truth, brother.
In its purest form, man.

The purest truth
Everyone that plays it straight.
All the ones that don't take any shortcuts, brother.

When he faces the truth,
when he feels the wrath of Hulkamania.
The day the whole Earth is going to shake.

I'm not worried about the people
all around the world.
They'll see it!

the intensity of Hulkamania.

WHO'S KIDDING WHOM?

Sports illustrated, Apr. 1985

Rock and
a dream,

the way we live.

a young kid,
lost and misguided,

a relationship
the Big Dude upstairs.

his personal life
isn't the greatest in the world.

When you hate yourself, I guess