

Rising Stars

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There are many people who steal things. (Reader- "That's very perceptive of you. Congratulations, you've made a stunning observation.") However there are many persons who swipe things even though they don't need to. I know of a few people of this sort. Even though I wouldn't know why they do such things I'm guessing that their minds say:

"It's right in front of me. I've really wanted it for a long time. In less than a few seconds it could be mine. There's nobody around. I'll never get caught. It's calling out to me: 'what are you waiting for?'

Do I do it?

How many kinds of people are there like this? Why do they steal things? Hmmm... Good question. I've gone back over my own experiences and listed all the types of these people I know. Please don't misunderstand me, I have many good friends who take things of mine over an extended period of time, but I wouldn't label them as thieves.

!People trying to be "hip": Hohoh! Now, these guys add a new dimension to the word "Stupid". They think that stealing something is "cool". These are the kind of people that walk into, lets say a clothes store, with their friends and swipe a shirt while no one is watching. Please note the proud inclination of their noses while they recount their tales of courage and bravery to others: "And there we were. I quickly stuffed the shirt into my bag and walked towards the door. You won't believe it, the shop-attendant didn't even notice....". When I usually hear stories that are like this, I think: "Oh god, why not just shoot me right now?"

These people have interesting explanations to offer when you ask them whether they returned the stolen item. They usually respond by saying: "Oh, I'm going to return it very soon." Yeah right! I can imagine these kinds of people on their deathbeds, a hundred years from now saying: "Oh god, I can't go now, I haven't returned that shirt yet!"

!The "borrowers" or so called - Here's the typical "borrower" who thinks like this:

Borrower: "Wow that's a really nice book. I wonder if he'll mind if I borrow it. It's such a pain to go and ask him whether I can have it for sometime. He won't mind if I took it. Anyway I'll only be taking it for sometime now. I'll definitely make an effort to give it back."

Sure, he'll make an effort to give it back! These people are usually too lazy to make that effort. You might as well give the book to the chap as a wrapped gift and kiss it goodbye. These guys are



real irritants. I wish there would be some kind of pesticide that would get rid of them. It's very amusing to study the tactics they improvise when you catch them in the act of stealing. They most commonly say: "I was only going to take it for a few days." I would at first believe them, but loads of books, which I lost in this way, have taught me otherwise.

!The "fun to steal" lot- These people are close relatives of the "trying to be hip" fellows. While the aspiring hip guys' steal to impress others or under the duress of peer pressure, these fellows do it because stealing is fun. So it is, they say. And breaking the law is fun too. Sure it is, they repeat. I'm sure people like this find getting caught just as invigorating. Here's an example of this kind of fellow in action. He's driving a car and stops at a petrol pump for oil. As soon as the tank is full he presses the accelerator and races out of the petrol place without paying his bill. Here's what he's thinking:

"Ok, let's make a run for it. Hahahah! Look at those idiotic people running after me. That was so much fun. I've never had this much fun before. Hahah!"

Yeah he's having fun all right. However he fails to notice two things. Firstly the petrol people have his license plate number and secondly he'll have an interesting time buying oil from that pump in the future. Kind of dense, isn't he?

!The "It's mine" kind of people- These kids are a lot like the borrowers, however there are some differences. While the borrowers usually say that they just borrowed an item the "It's mine" people flatly forget about whose object it is and by default inherit it. They are significantly more irritating than the "borrowers" and they deserve to be allowed to rot. Let me clarify:

I had this book I really liked. One day we had some guests and there was this teen that came over. After they all left I couldn't find that book of mine. I spent a week meticulously rummaging through my home, but I couldn't find it. A few weeks later I went to the boy's place and noticed that my book was there. I asked him whose it was and he said that it was his. I opened it and interestingly the place where my name had been written had been torn out. Why that little scrawny 8\$%\$@%\$%\$*8^!!! An argument followed but I never got my book back from him. After that I always referred to him as the "little scrawny 8\$%\$@%\$%\$*8^".

Stay away from these kinds of people. They are major pests. The world would be a cleaner place without them.

The kleptomaniacs-

You may have heard the term kleptomania before. Normally, people who steal take something because it is worth money or it is useful. People with kleptomania may take something that is useless to them.

These are signs of true kleptomania:

- * taking objects on impulse, without planning ahead
- * repeatedly taking things that are not valuable or needed for personal use
- * feeling increased tension right before the theft
- * feeling pleasure or relief at the time of the theft and
- * stealing without feelings of anger or revenge

Kleptomania is a rare condition. Most people who steal do not have kleptomania. Shoplifting is common, especially among teens, who may do it on a dare. Fewer than five percent of shoplifters have kleptomania.

Legal penalties for stealing

are the same no matter what the cause. If you think you might have kleptomania, seek help. Kleptomania is a disease. There are misconceptions that people who repeatedly steal eventually become kleptomaniacs. This is not true. Interestingly it can be seen that many kleptomaniacs suffer from eating disorders or substance abuse. Please note that these people have no connection with the people written about in the rest of the article.



Never Call Me Chicken

By Ehsanur Raza

!here we were, sitting and having dinner when all of a sudden someone suggested a contest in which all of us would have to chew on raw chilies. Some hesitated while others agreed enthusiastically. 'Clucking' sounds and calls of 'chicken' were thrown around those who refused until everyone ended up holding a hot green chili in their hands. Everyone took a big bite as the countdown reached zero. And then there was the "blast off". At first no one showed any signs of distress. Then, as if it had been rehearsed, everyone reached for the water jug simultaneously. A tug of war ensued with the jug only to find out that the water does not help relieve the burning sensation. We then remembered what our chemistry teacher had hopelessly tried to teach us: water and oil do not mix. The hotness in peppers being the oil. Sucking on great dollops of ice cream finally soothed our scorched tongues.

It is amazing: some words possess so much power. Words like 'chicken'. Those who did not wish to bite did so trying to prove they were not some scared old domestic fowl. Michael J. Fox in the movie "Back To The Future" got into a lot of trouble trying to take on a dare. If we take a look at history we see that the trait appeared from very early times. For example, in a garden called Eden a woman called Eve offered a man an apple. He refused at first and then she probably called him the C word. He took a bite and ended up being sent to live on earth, with the woman. And as a result the rest of us humans turned up and started ravaging the planet's natural resources. But that is another story.

Remember stories about knights of many shaped tables? Well, they always joined a match to run each other through with lances because of some insulting remark. Remarks such as, "Hey you foul feathered fowl. Cluck!" And did you know that dashing Victorian swordsmen usually started a duel not over some lady but because the other duelist called them you-know-what. No wonder we carry on with the tradition, if it can be called that. So what is it that makes a guy bristle when confronted with a challenge and the feathery word? A simple answer is that of losing face. Sometimes it is to impress some fair maiden. And sometimes it is done because it is so silly that it might be fun. Like climbing a tall building, going upto the edge and looking down. For a person with acrophobia this can be a very big deal. But some challenges like racing with a car and ending up wrapped around a lamppost are better left alone. It's all a matter of having the sense to realize when a challenge is worth accepting or not. Like chewing peppers, which is definitely not worth it. Well, maybe just once.

