

# Rising Stars

## LAZINESS, AN ART

By Ehsanur Raza

There is a proverb (if there isn't there should be one) that goes, "Never leave till tomorrow what you can do even later." I am an ardent believer of this. The minute I sat down to write this weeks due assignment the first thought that entered my mind was, "How about if I work on it next week, or maybe the week after or even...?" I also had an excuse there was no electricity therefore it was too hot to think. The act of being lazy and having an excuse to go along with it, lame as it may be, is considered an art. Most people think such an art is detrimental. Nothing gets done and even if something gets done it is done too late. Get it? If not then go through the line again, later. The point is laziness can be quite beneficial. As they say every cloud has a silver lining.

If we think about it for a moment, the world may have been a very different place if some key people practiced the art of procrastination. Take for example, the first two people Adam and Eve. When the snake, a.k.a. Satan, a.k.a. The Dude with Horns, offered Eve the forbidden apple she could have said, "I will think about it later." Most likely, she would have found something better to do and forget all about it. Then Adam would never have eaten it and then sent to earth. Where would we be then? Definitely not on this planet. Just think, we missed paradise because of eagerness.

Taking a more down to earth example, what would have happened if the laborers and contractors building the great pyramids had the same zest for work as the ones in Bangladesh? Here the average time to build an average bridge takes years. In comparison, a pyramid would take so long that the Egyptians would still be building them. This would benefit all the present-day architects, students, scientists, curious busybodies etc, who are trying to figure out how such a magnificent structure is built. They could clearly study the building process instead of spending hours speculating the methods.

In case of the revolutionary age, if James Watt were a lazy

person then he would never have invented the steam engine. Consequently, no car, train or boat would be invented. That way the fossil fuels would not be squandered and the ozone layer would not suffer from an embarrassingly large hole. The world would have been a nice and clean place. The only bad thing with this is that Michael Jackson would not be able to make money with the song "Heal the World" as the world would already be "a better place for you and for me."

Readers may argue that laziness gets nothing done. On the contrary, it often gets more things done than necessary. Newton, the great scientist, went to take a nap under a tree and an apple fell on his head. That made him think about gravity and creating new physical laws that would torture science students for all ages. Look at Pythagoras. He had nothing better to do so he went and created a mathematical theorem that gives headaches to math students all over the world. Great leaders like Churchill sat down lazily all day and devised ways to win wars. Of course, if the soldiers were lazy in turn then there would be no wars making the world more peaceful.

To point to another positive side to lethargy we can look at our own country. Building anything takes a longer time than estimated, say about two years more. If things were completed on time then everyone would finish their job quickly and then have to look for something new. The good thing about our slow process is that workers do not have to look for new jobs too soon. Also if you are an 'Embezzler of Government Funds' type person then you should know that it is safer to steal small amounts of money over long periods of time. So being slow and lazy sure helps in this regard.

Look at our everyday life. Laziness could make a good mark here. Think about driving just so that we can save time we speed, overtake from the wrong side and hardly use our brakes. The good thing is the brakes last longer than usual, the

bad thing is that we might not. While driving we become impatient; no one feels idle enough to take the scenic (?) route or at least to reach the destination a little later. However, everyone likes to be lazy about setting out as late as possible.

Crossing the road is not any different. People feel an urge to shake off their idleness and jump in front of the traffic as soon as a car approaches. It is the same in case of queues banks, schools, in front of lifts, you name it. Everyone is so filled with energy at such times that they have to be at the head of the line. At such times very few people feel compelled to be a little lazy by standing in line and waiting. What they do in their haste is jam the counter/entrance and then wait, albeit longer.

So you see laziness is not such a bad thing after all.



## Bad habits

dip the child's finger in *neempata* juice, which is unbearably bitter. The idea is that whenever the child puts the finger in his mouth, he will be shocked by the bitter taste, and will instantly remove the hand. Another remedy involves hitting the poor finger the instant it comes anywhere near the mouth.

How can you tackle someone who allots advice free of cost and on absolutely unnecessary matters? Say you have a very important appointment to keep. You are all set and ready to take off but bang! You crash into one of these people who completely disregards your plan, and opens his basket of advice. On such occasions you can't really be rude because he is meaning to help you, but you feel like running him down with a bulldozer. Such people are often members of the elderly groups: *mamas* and *chachas* who take it for granted that being older gives them the right to advise the young. If, however, the advice-dispenser is from our own age group, then perhaps he is just being egotistical about his own intelligence. The only thing these people end up doing is ruining your mood completely. The best way to avoid them is to quickly agree to whatever they say with a quick nod. This way he'll soon run out of topics to contradict, and leave dejectedly.

*Kutnamy* is one of our favourite pastimes, often nicknamed *raja ujeer maara* (killing kings and their advisors). This bad habit is equally common in young and old, rich and poor. Criticism is often helpful, but I don't quite understand the significance of

talking ill of others when they are not present to defend themselves. People with this bad habit have often proved to be dangerous. They can produce bitterness in a perfectly good relationship. Apart from the momentary pleasure that these people get in mud slinging, what other benefit can there be? After a while he is naturally not trusted by anyone and is not welcome anywhere. Still he is not discouraged by this and starts an all new 'operation *kutnamy*'. The best treatment can only come from his

family and friends. Only by openly boycotting such a person from society can you make him understand the meaning of trust.

Yet another kind of people just love to eat up other people's money, and never show the face of their own wallet (if it at all exists). Miserliness can be categorized into three types. The first type amuses anyone who talks to him, such that the other person just loves to treat him in order to be near him, no matter what the expense is. He will have a fantastic sense of humour and will make you fall off your chair in laughter when you are with him. He will most likely introduce himself as a globetrotter or an adventurer who has a bottomless barrel of wild stories (like Roald Dahl's Uncle Oswald) and is willing to share these with you in exchange of a treat. The second type are usually the *chalaas* or the *chamchas*. They will praise you profusely in order to be in your good book. They are fine artists who know how to flatter someone. They usually have a good nose for smelling money and orbit around the rich guys, licking their boots.

So far I have talked about the pretty harmless kinds of *kiptas* (misers). They will be with you as long as you have money, and will be the first ones to desert you once your resources are exhausted. But encounters with the third kind of misers can prove to be very hazardous. Once they spot their victims, they stick to them like Sindbad's *bhuts* (the ghost of Sindbad) and will drink the last penny out of you, whether or not you are willing to pay. So be smart and stay away from them.

Is being unruly a bad habit? Ask any mother and she will emphatically say "yes".



**"DON'T"**

bite your nails, or you will end up chewing your fingers off" - this is a common *jhari* that I receive from everyone, aimed at warning me about a bad habit that I have. I know that biting nails can harm the eyes and bla bla bla, but I can't help it. The 1/2 mm-long nail on any of my poor fingers captivates and fascinates me, until I part from it by cruelly decimating it. This shows how addictive bad habits are! You can give up 'saat rajar dhon', but you can't give up bad habits.

Among the many types of bad habits, biting nails undoubtedly tops the list. Kids love to bite nails, as much as babies like to pick up debris from the soil and put them into their mouths. As they grow up they usually chew more candies and bite fewer nails, but in some cases this habit becomes a lifetime hobby. Mothers, in their fight against nail biting, have come up with some ingenious solutions. One such remedy is to