

Love – the best revenge

SHIFTING IMAGES



MILIA ALI

THERE is no silver bullet for raising a child since parenting is a complex task with uncertain outcomes. Perhaps the hardest part of parenting is

imparting a value system to children. It's hard because values are often subject to cultural, ethnic and social biases. Generally, parents want to inculcate ethical behaviour, and respect for others' rights and tolerance for diversity in their offspring. At the same time they hope that their children are able to cope adequately with emerging personal and professional challenges. The overall objective is to create a balanced and harmonious society.

Sadly, we now live in a post-truth era where fake news and conspiracy theories are driving political and personal agendas. The most disturbing aspect of this phenomenon is that well-crafted lies and hate rhetoric circulated in the social and mainstream media are impacting the views and actions of impressionable young people.

I grew up at a time when the influence of the media was relatively low and our thinking was primarily shaped by our parents and teachers. They encouraged us to pursue our goals with zest, but in the backdrop of certain ethical codes. Honesty, respect, love and compassion were an integral part of one's core education. We could not lie our way to the top or be so blinded by the need to succeed that we would forget to show compassion toward the less privileged. These rules were considered to be immutable in



SOURCE: FLICKR

the equation of life, whether we reached for the stars or were satisfied with mediocrity. I tried instilling the same values in my children. But sometimes I wonder if these principles are applicable in today's social set up which tolerates - and to an extent encourages - employing "any means" to attain the pinnacles of success. Unfortunately, some of these so-called "successful" people are on the first rungs of sociopathy—yet they wield tremendous influence over our world. Does this mean that we need to revisit

the lessons of "right and wrong" and recalibrate our moral barometer for the next generation?

Perhaps yes. It seems that to withstand the pressures of this new world order, young people need to acquire some "dark traits" like aggression, ruthlessness and the ability to counter manipulative moves with determination and, maybe, a degree of chicanery. Instructing children to be simply "good" would make them unprepared for life. For, in the current context, the "nice" kid who was

academically brilliant but achieved little due to a lack of aggressive or manipulative skills is probably an object of pity for his peers - his goodness hardly a consolation for failure. There is no place even in fiction for heroes, like Dickens' Sydney Carton (A Tale of Two Cities), who sacrificed his life for his love.

As I was struggling with these complex and disturbing thoughts, something close to home restored my faith in the power of innate human goodness and the magical effect it

can have in snuffing out hatred and negativity. A few days back I attended the launching ceremony of the Abinta Kabir Foundation. Nineteen-year-old Abinta's promising life was cut short last July in the tragedy at the Holey Artisan Bakery. Her family decided to honour Abinta's wish to improve the lives of less privileged children in the community by creating a Foundation to help them. What moved me most at the launch event was the absence of recrimination and anger. The entire effort was focused on serving a worthy cause and keeping Abinta's dream alive.

In the face of extreme grief, it is natural for a hate victim's family to become angry and vindictive. But Abinta's parents and grandparents sought an enlightened revenge. They made a loud and clear statement to the world: "Hatred took our daughter, and hatred is what we shall fight with our love." By tackling violence with compassion they have defeated the real enemies in our society - the ideologues who disseminate the culture of hate.

The road taken by Abinta's family may be the one less travelled. It is a hard and tricky road, but the precept serves as a reminder that each one of us can try in our small way to reinstate the core values of love and compassion in a world where violence and bigotry are gaining ground. However, to withstand the vicissitudes of life we may need to acquire a slight dose of devilish attributes - just enough to resist unfairness, hate and intolerance. But the balance must always tip in favour of goodness.

And this is the lesson I wish to teach my grandchildren.

The writer is a renowned Rabindra Sangeet exponent and a former employee of the World Bank.

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DECLASSIFIED CIA FILES ON 1971

"Yahya does not believe Pakistan can be held together by force"

Today we are publishing two documents from the recently declassified CIA files. These documents reflect on the developments following Yahya Khan's arrival in Dhaka on March 15, 1971 to meet Sheikh Mujib for "negotiations".

Interestingly, the document dated March 16 states that Yahya might not be open to agree to Mujib's demand, while the option of using force is equally unpalatable to him.

But the document dated March 18 referring to the US Consul General in Karachi hints that Yahya intends to give in to Sheikh Mujib's demand of transferring power to National Assembly members as he believes Pakistan cannot be held together by force.

The President's Daily Brief 16 March 1971 FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY PAKISTAN

According to one of Mujib's advisers, the East Pakistani leader intended to urge President Yahya, during discussions between the two in Dacca, to turn over power in East Pakistan to Mujib's Awami League immediately. Mujib also planned to demand the withdrawal of troop reinforcements sent to East Pakistan in the last few weeks. Should the military attempt to use force, Mujib plans to proclaim independence.

Yahya will be reluctant to agree to such actions. On the other hand, he will find the alternatives—East Pakistani secession or a

costly and probably futile effort to hold the country together by force—just as unpalatable. Meanwhile, there has been no central government response to Mujib's latest move toward complete independence for East Pakistan. The 35-point directive that Mujib issued yesterday essentially clarifies and amplifies actions to be taken under the noncooperation movement he launched on 7 March. If and when implemented, the actions would put Mujib in effective control of East Pakistan's government.

The President's Daily Brief 18 March 1971 FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY PAKISTAN

After a second meeting with President Yahya in Dacca yesterday, Mujibur Rahman

appeared discouraged but said he hopes discussions will continue. Another meeting is scheduled for today.

According to a report reaching the Consulate General in Karachi, Yahya does not believe Pakistan can be held together by force. He therefore intends to give in to most of Mujib's demands and turn "the whole bloody business" over to him - meaning the National Assembly, which is to write a constitution. According to other reports, the main barrier to an agreement is Yahya's insistence that martial law will continue until a constitution is written.

Meanwhile, the pro-Peking East Bengal Communist Party may already be trying to take the initiative away from Mujib and his moderate followers. [Paragraph redacted]

A WORD A DAY

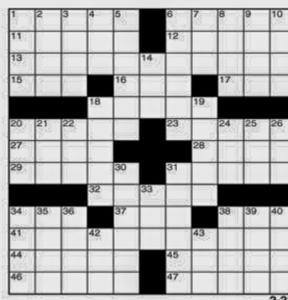


PHLEGMATIC
adjective

Showing little emotion

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| ACROSS | 38 Exploit | 18 Adage |
| 1 Elephant of story | 41 Breath-freshening candies | 19 Gymnast |
| 6 Kingdom | 44 Manicure mineral | Comaneci |
| 11 Unescorted | 45 Misbehave | 20 Fuming |
| 12 Game show host | 46 Extinct birds | 21 Brewpub order |
| 13 Coastal grasslands | 47 Fragrant flower | 22 Desire |
| 15 Wrap up | | 24 Illuminated |
| 16 Stunned wonder | DOWN | 25 Night before |
| 17 Period of history | 1 Diamond corner | 26 Word of assent |
| 18 La Scala locale | 2 Arkin of "Argo" | 30 Pirate's pals |
| 20 Yucatan native | 3 Audacious | 31 Computer image |
| 23 Longtime Chicago mayor | 4 Wee worker | 33 Negative link |
| 27 TV's Trebek | 5 Stay | 34 Limited |
| 28 Seedy joint | 6 Peruse anew | 35 Floor model |
| 29 Jeans material | 7 Print units | 36 Went fast |
| 31 Quick snacks | 8 Dull pain | 38 "Do--others..." |
| 32 Craze | 9 Lusty look | 39 Catch off guard |
| 34 TV spots | 10 Butte's kin | 40 Spot |
| 37 Young one | 14 Cobbler's tool | 42 Favoring |
| | | 43 Bar "rocks" |



YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

A	S	E	C	A	N	A	G
O	B	A	M	E	N	A	P
S	O	B	I	G	G	R	A
C	A	R	T	E	R	C	I
A	R	E	S	A	R	T	H
R	D	S	S	T	O	R	E
				B	I	T	S
				R	E	A	L
				M	O	N	R
				E	A	R	
				T	I	C	S
				E	A	R	
				A	D	A	
				T	I	G	
				E	E	L	
				S	A	Y	
				S	A	Y	

BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker





National Institute of Biotechnology
Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka-1349
Phone: +88-02-7788443; Fax: +88-02-7789636
Website: www.nib.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Science and Technology.		
2	Agency	National Institute of Biotechnology.		
3	Procuring entity name	Director General, National Institute of Biotechnology, Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka-1349.		
4	Procuring entity code	N/A		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Tender, goods; lot by lot basis.		
7	Invitation Ref No.	39.06.2672 001.07.007.16		
8	Date	09/03/2017		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement method	NCT, Open.		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget, Government.		
11	Development partner (if applicable)	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/programme code	N/A		
13	Project/programme name	N/A		
14	Tender package No.	2 (G-CR, G-GC).		
15	Tender package name	Package-1: Supply of Chemicals & Reagents and Package-2: Supply of Glasswares & Consumables.		
16	Tender publication date	10/03/2017		
17	Tender last selling date	04/04/2017		
18	Tender closing date and time	05/04/2017 and 12:01pm.		
19	Tender opening date and time	05/04/2017 and 12:16pm.		
20	Name and address of the office(s)			
	Selling tender document (principal)	Accounts Branch, National Institute of Biotechnology, Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka-1349.		
	Selling tender document (others)	N/A		
	Receiving tender document	Tender documents (hard copy & CD of soft copy) should be dropped in the tender box kept at Administration Branch, National Institute of Biotechnology, Ganakbari, Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka-1349. Tender documents may be hand delivered or posted by mail or courier service within the specified date and time.		
	Opening tender document	Meeting Room, National Institute of Biotechnology, Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka-1349.		
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERERS				
22	Eligibility of tenderer	While purchasing tender document attested copies of (i) up-to-date trade license, (ii) up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate, (iii) VAT registration certificate, (iv) financial solvency certificate, (v) manufacturer authorization letter (where applicable), (vi) at least three years experience supply and installation of similar goods to different procurement entities should be shown and to be enclosed with tender document.		
23	Brief description of goods or works	Basic Biology/Biotechnology Research Chemicals & Reagent and Glasswares & Consumables.		
24	Brief description of related services	N/A		
25	Tender document price	Tk. 1000.00 (one thousand) for Package-1 and Tk. 750.00 (seven hundred & fifty) for package-2 (non-refundable).		
	Tender security	Following amount from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in the form of Crossed Bank Draft/Pay-Order favouring Director General, National Institute of Biotechnology.		
Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount in taka	Completion time in weeks/months
26	Package-1	Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka	Lot 1: Tk. 15000/-; Lot 2: Tk. 3000/-; Lot 3: Tk. 7000/-; Lot 4: Tk. 30000/-; Lot 5: Tk. 11000/- and Lot 6: Tk. 4000/-	1.5 months
27	Package-2		Lot 1: Tk. 10000/- and Lot 2: Tk. 8000/-	1.0 month
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
28	Name of official inviting tender	Dr Md Salimullah.		
30	Designation of official inviting tender	Director General, National Institute of Biotechnology.		
31	Address of official inviting tender	National Institute of Biotechnology, Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka-1349.		
32	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +88-02-7789289, Fax: +88-02-7789636, email: dgmbdd@gmail.com		
33	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			
If there is any transport disruption or Govt. holiday on the date for dropping/opening of the tender, the next normal working day will be considered valid date of dropping/opening of the tender. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or part of tenders. Procurement items may be selected on priority basis/quantity of item may increase or decrease. This tender shall be governed by "The Public Procurement Act" and "The Public Procurement Rules."				

GD-533 Director General