

# Being overly honest

RASHEED KHAN

The irony is that the saying 'honesty is the best policy' is a lie in itself. A more accurate saying would be 'honestly is the best policy only during opportune circumstances in which it is required'. Yes, of course, striving for honesty is great and all, and lying is generally for negative intentions. However, in my own experience, being overly honest, while having its strange perks sometimes, has oftentimes led to some serious problems.

Starting off, you can unintentionally offend some people **PRETTY** badly if you're too honest (and especially if they're sensitive). For example, if a good friend of yours tells you their opinion regarding a particular topic, it's probably not the best idea to immediately shoot their opinion down, even if it does sound pretty darn stupid in your perspective. Honesty breeds callousness, especially if you don't know how to politely articulate the things you want to say. Sometimes, the truth is, if you've got nothing nice to say, you shut your cakehole and keep quiet.

Of course, being an overly honest person, you'll have difficulty lying, even the white lies. In my case, I felt an odd sense

of guilt in it. Despite saying that lying is generally accompanied by negative intentions (which is true too), sometimes you really need to lie convincingly about certain things. What if a surprise birthday party is being planned for a friend of yours but you end up telling them about it? What if you ate that one out-of-bounds cake in the fridge? What if you passed wind in a public area?

You also have a tendency to say the right things at the absolute wrong time. Your friend broke up with that one guy who's the Lord of Douchebags and now she's crying. This is a terrible time to tell her he's been unfaithful to her the whole time too, but your honesty antenna is twitching a lot, isn't it?

As previously stated, being this way is bound to offend a lot of people but the plus side is that the friends you do retain are the most loyal friends a person can ask for. You're the person who slaps them awake when no one else will, and sometimes, that's the best thing someone can ask for, and it's the reason they come to love you so dearly. Sometimes, in the best cases, they even learn from you and help you the same way you help them. No matter how honest, sometimes we lie to

Some people think I say inappropriate things...

I prefer to think of it as radical honesty.



ourselves the most, and they prevent that.

Similarly, on your end of the spectrum, your honesty is one of the biggest reasons you're such a trustworthy person. You dislike other people's crap, and at the same time, you spout none (unless you're a hypocrite).

Ultimately, the point is to realise that there's a fine line between being honest and being a jerk. Try not to be the latter and exercise this both detestable and lovable quality with caution. Seriously, remember that one annoying snitch back in school?

# Confessions of a note maker

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

Dear fellow classmates who pass using my notes,

I'd call you "friends," but this one's dedicated to those who only keep me around for my perfectly margined, flawlessly structured, impeccable notes. My notes are pretty good aren't they? Or else how would I suddenly become your *dost* a week before exam? The last conversation in our chat box dates back to a year ago when you asked, just like this year, for the notes I'd prepared for the yearly exams. You can imagine why I laugh when you use *dost* before pleading your request.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. See, sharing notes has never been an issue. You having my notes does not, in any way, diminish my intellect. You can't take away what's already in my brain; I'm more than happy if we can pass together. However, my notes are just a little fragment of my preparation for the exam - things I need memorising last minute. If you're relying on passing just by skimming through the notes the night before, I'd advice against it. Read the textbooks. Angels didn't come down to bestow their knowledge upon me. Books and the internet are my true guides, and you have access to them too.

I'll be honest, it pisses me off when you crunch up the sides of my note copy and get oily fingerprints all over them. I'm the person who invests a generous amount of time from my day to sit and prepare these beauties. It shouldn't be a

surprise that I'm protective about them. My notes are my babies - handle with care.

I've said it before: I don't mind sharing my notes. Please don't take it as an invitation to place orders for your upcoming test. It's my personal preparation to pass and not a day job.

To those who furiously stomp their way towards me after an exam, blaming me for the contents of my notes being inadequate to fulfil your examination requirements, kindly step away and wipe off that accusing glare. My notes are made to *my* requirements and not yours. Don't blindly put all your faith on me and my notes. I don't remember cajoling you to use them either. It was the other way around. Hence, please take responsibility for your own decisions. I, the note maker, don't expect payments or seats in the popular table next to you. A little gratitude, however, isn't a bizarre expectation.

Okay, perhaps that was a lot of complaints. Good luck to you on acing your upcoming exams. I don't expect to get congratulatory sweets of thank you notes. Just don't treat me as a slave or spill tea on my notes - it's annoying. You should know not to piss me off too much. My notes can be altered to suit my vengeance.

Insincerely,  
 The note maker

*Samin Sabah Islam believes, there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at [sabahsamin11@gmail.com](mailto:sabahsamin11@gmail.com)*

