

Stages of fighting with your sibling

BUSHRA ZAMAN

You've just had a heated argument with your sibling and are annoyed by it. But then you realise you do not know what to do now. If you know what that is like, here are the stages you might go through next.

WHO SHOULD APOLOGISE FIRST?

You try to go over what was said between you and your sibling during the fight to find out who started the argument. You may have filtered out memories of you saying mean things out of spite, but that is not important right now. What is important is getting your sibling to understand that whatever you did was only a reaction and definitely not the cause of the argument. Is this manipulative behaviour? Maybe, but you still have steam blowing out of your ears so that contemplation has to wait.

THE TRUCE

A few hours go by and you get bored easily when you're cooped up in your room, sulking on your own. You figure your sibling must be bored too and decide to call a truce for the both of you. You walk up to your sibling and make the ultimate sacrifice by apologising first. You then stare at them straight with a smug face waiting for them to apologise back. Only,



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

they don't.

TOOK A STEP FORWARD, NOW TAKE TWO STEPS BACK

Within minutes you find yourself banning your sibling from borrowing your things ever again and ask them to return everything immediately. Borrowed a scrunchie

the other day? Return it. Broke a bobby pin belonging to you? Replace it.

This unnecessary bickering cannot continue for long, however, since you live in the same house and have to see each other every day. You start feeling a tinge of guilt due to the slight chance of having

overreacted to trivial issues. A very slight chance.

MAKE AMENDS WITHOUT APOLOGIES

Upon fully realising your faults, you decide to be nice to your sibling again, but without apologising this time because you've already apologised once earlier with clearly unsatisfactory results. So, a different approach seems more reasonable.

You begin to roam around your sibling for no reason, you might even cook or order their favourite snack and casually drop it off wherever they are around the house. You might even resort to spying on your sibling right after, just to observe their genuine reaction and to check whether they are still mad at you.

ACKNOWLEDGE THE AWKWARDNESS

After what feels like a decade, you finally begin to function normally. Lay low and accept that it's awkward, but it's still better than being at war with them. Offer to watch a movie together, or stir up an impromptu discussion about that one relative who made you both uncomfortable at the last dawlat. After all, you did miss them these past few hours.

Bushra Zaman likes books, art, and only being contacted by email. Find her at bushrazaman31@yahoo.com

satire.

Putting up street signs across Dhaka deemed "the most useless job ever"

HASIB UR RASHID IFTI

"I wake up early every morning, yet don't get out of bed until at least an hour later. What's the point? Whatever I'm being paid for, it's all futile. Do you have any idea how tough it is to do something, knowing that it's the most worthless job in the world!" whimpered Rahim Miah, an employee of the Dhaka City Council, whose job is to put up street signs across the capital.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

Street signs like "Use the over-bridge", "Do not urinate here" or "Do not litter the footpaths" across Dhaka are as ignored as the Humanities department of local schools. Commoners like us walk past them and pretend they don't exist, exactly the way one would ignore an old high-school classmate to avoid awkward interactions. What we seem to forget is that someone out there wakes up every morning to put up those signs and that our mindless ignorance affects their mental health.

"Street signs have their unique twists in Dhaka," continued Rahim Miah, "My entire job is to tell citizens of Dhaka things that should not need to be told in the first place. Your lack of hygiene, etiquette and basic common sense has fed my family for years now, and I thank you for that. However, every time one urinates just below the sign which specifically asks them not to, it makes me feel the way it makes the United Nations feel about their opinion regarding any global conflict."

Dr Sigma Fraud, a psychologist at Rectangle Hospital, explained why citizens of Dhaka deliberately choose to ignore the street signs, "People of Dhaka choosing to ignore the instructions and throw garbage exactly where it says not to is actually related to the exertion of power. A helpless inanimate signboard is the only place outside home

where a Bangladeshi man can dump all of his outrage and fury in a socially acceptable manner. That, and multiple different acts of violence on family members at home."

"Studies show typical Bangladeshi corporate slave takes in the highest per capita nonsense in south-east Asia. With bosses, spouses, families of spouses and apartment complex make-believe committees telling them what to do, a typical Bangladeshi citizen gets furious when an inanimate sign tells them 'Do not throw garbage here,'" explains Dr Fraud, "Their instant reaction is a voice in their head screaming, 'Are you really going to let this sign tell you what to do?' And so, they do the exact opposite of what the sign says."

Rahim Miah is now scared to go back to his new job which is to put up signs telling people to wear masks and maintain social distancing guidelines, "This will also be absolutely futile, they might as well make me put a sign saying 'Cast your own vote' at the polling booths."

"But I must admit, after seeing a colleague of mine put up traffic lights at the intersections, I don't feel as useless anymore," smiled Rahim Miah.

Remind Ifti to be quieter at hasiburrashidifti@gmail.com