



By:

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## Confusion

There are a thousand of ways in which one could get trapped in the cross current of confusions. For one, you could present the wrong expression with your body language. Other things include

tone of speech and even phrasing of sentences.

There I was with Marcos, having a hearty lunch with him having fried kway teow and myself mee siam when he expressed his woe of constantly being misunderstood by people. After some persuasion on my part to get him to speak up, he told me about some of the problems he was facing with his life.

For one, Marcos was fresh out of the Singapore Army after serving his national service. He had just landed a job when, recently, he got a call for him to be on standby for army duty. As he was just starting to get the hang of his job, and have yet to form strong bonds with his boss, he was petrified of losing his job during these times of instability in the economy. I talked Marcos through the situation, and realized that he had not confirmed details and worse yet, did not know whom he had spoken to on the phone. Sighing, I explained to Marcos that with any phone call, he needed to take down their details and never readily agree unless he got all his facts right. The next thing was that he should try and see whether he could get exempted, or make some arrangements with his boss. As army duty was compulsory in Singapore, all he had to do was approach his boss in advance and explain the situation to him, and inform him of how long he would be needed. Being a man himself (his boss), he could relate to national service and having to respond to the call of duty.

After hearing my advice, he settled down some. He started talking about his work, and then explained that the new job always saw him tired and worn out. Being a person who was new in the working world, I gave him some words of advice. "Life is on going, there is no room for pity or excuses. Every first job is an onerous task. It is better to be given

heavy duty and pushed to the brink because that will build up your knowledge and expertise. Sure, it will be tiring because you are working your brains and bone to the mettle, but once that is embedded into your soul, you will find it become routine.”

He then proceeded to worry about not being able to learn from his colleagues the ways of the trade. “No matter what you do,” I went on to explain, “you must always initiate your own learning process. If people cannot give you the information you need, you must find it out on your own. Read up on the processes of the workplace, or watch how others work.”

“My girlfriend says that this new job is making me so tired and depressed...” He stopped as I shook my head and denied him the opportunity to continue. “You must understand, Marcos. Be careful of what you hear from others, and what you choose to take in. Don’t easily accept pity or take in negative criticism. Accept that life has both good and bad days, and the sooner you accept this, the stronger your resolve at work will be.” I went on to tell him a beautiful story regarding a frog and it’s persevering spirit.

*A group of frogs were in a race to see which one of them could reach the top of the high tower. As they started off, they could hear the crowd jeering and throwing insults at them. “No way a frog could reach the top! Such foolish behaviour!” Disheartened, the frogs slowly but surely resigned, save one. This frog kept at it, and even though it took him much effort, he succeeded. Amazed, the others rushed to ask him what his secret was, and how he managed to keep that much focus and ignore the negative jeers of the crowd. To their horror, the frog just smiled and leapt away, ignoring their questions or comments. Eventually, they discovered that the winner frog was actually deaf!*

In conclusion, it is important to take situations as challenges, not as problems. To see a situation as a problem, people tend to give out wrong signals and this in turn leads to more problems. By taking life as a challenge, you have more to gain in terms of information and knowledge. You will also develop the people skills necessary to put you into the class of a winner. Because of these positive traits and abilities, you will find yourself geared towards a winning formula, and in time, more successful, happier and well secured, something you can be definitely sure of in your life.