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Unspoken Rules

When you wake up in the morning, you aren't given a list of everything you must do and every word you have to say. You have what's called, "free will." This is the very thing that fuels democracy, and the very thing that threatens it. Every law or behavior woven into society, you could simply ignore. Sure, you would face repercussions, but that is a decision that is all yours to make. It's a powerful choice, and one that should be made responsively. A top priority for all Americans should be the protection of the future of our country by ensuring the health and education of our nation's children. Another important thing that is relatively simple is that we, as a society, could shift the focus back to the concept of respect; just be respectful. It might be harder than you think, but it's important to try.

Why is free will and impulsivity so dangerous? Imagine you have a budget, or think of the one you do have. Everything you will spend your money on is mapped out, even some extra spending money. Then, your relative or partner buys something way out of the set price. Now, because they didn't think about their decision, you might not be able to make rent or pay utilities. Sure, they are in control of themselves and can make that decision, but because they did, they put someone else in a tough situation. This is also important to think about when voting. Picking the people who are going to run the country is no simple task. If you vote for someone as a joke or just because they are the same party as you, you could be placing someone into an important position that doesn't understand the economy or someone who could easily be lobbied. That is

why it is extremely important to make educated decisions, because, even though you might not hurt yourself, you could hurt others.

On the subject of hurting others, how would you feel if you were forced to do a job that nobody taught you how to do? Like getting a job as a barista, but they never tell you the recipes or how to work the machines. Things would definitely get a little messy. Just like how you wouldn't trust someone without training to do a job, you probably don't want uneducated people making your decisions. That is why the education of our youth is so important. Unfortunately, it's treated as almost a second thought. Schools do require classes like Personal Finance, Government, and Histories, but today's students are taught very little about important skills like writing checks and paying taxes. The kids that don't have guardians to teach them are just thrown into the vast world and are expected to make something of themselves. As well as education, children's mental health should be taken seriously. You probably wouldn't want to hire a lawyer who hates his job, right? If kids grow up burnt out and angry, then that attitude will carry on into their livelihood. This means a future of people who don't care if the economy runs into the ground. I like to think that the people who plant thousands of trees, but will never live to see their true glory, are the type of people who understand the meaning of life.

Respect is an odd thing. It seems so blatantly obvious that you should treat people kindly, but so many people are oblivious to it. They might call themselves a nice person, but will overstep boundaries and are rude to wait-staff. Maybe, they just don't know better, or maybe, emotions are high in the heat of the moment. Something I like to remember in these situations is the twenty-four hour rule. The rule is that, after an altercation, wait a day to discuss it, unless it is a life threatening emergency. This lets you think things through and prevents things that you don't really mean from being said. If everyone took a second to think about something before

they said it, the world would run a lot smoother. Still, there will always be people who don't care and will openly disrespect people, either intentionally or not. When you encounter that someone, you should first try and educate them on why what they did was wrong. If we immediately meet ignorance with anger, it only causes more anger. Plus, at that point, it's hard for the conversation to be very productive. They might realize their mistake and they might not, but at least you tried your best.

The world is full of laws. They serve as the outline for which we live. Aside from those laws are unspoken rules and opinions that are always being spread. It's easy for people to blame their ignorance on their upbringing, but eventually, as a person, the choices you make become your own. It is important to use that free will and educate yourself. The choices you make could butterfly and hurt someone else. You can try and convince yourself that you didn't know any better, but in truth, you made the choice not to think about the consequences. Thinking in the long term is imperative. The world will continue to go on, even after you're gone, so protecting children, the people who will inherit everything, is very important. Turn your thinking to the current world. How can you make the world a better place? It's simple really. Just treat people with respect and respond to ignorance, not with anger, but with a willingness to teach them. I'm not saying these things will make the world perfect because, as a society, I don't believe we could ever reach that. However, if enough people try, we could get a little closer.