

Life Is Mixture Of Good, Bad

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Sooner or later, if a man lives long enough and is wise enough, he discovers that life is a mixture of good and bad days, of victory and defeat, of friends and enemies, of give and take.

He learns that it doesn't pay to be a sensitive soul . . . that he should let some things go over his head . . . that he should consider the source of others . . . that if he takes everything personally he'll soon be so bitter no one will even want to taste of him.

HE LEARNS that all men have burnt toast for breakfast now and then . . . that bosses have a way of being unjust . . . that wives often misunderstand . . . and that even God is sometimes silent. But to take the other fellow's grouch seriously is the worst mistake a person can make.

There is a distinct art in learning to get along with other people. One thing to be learned is the necessity of returning good for evil. This past week I received a particularly toxiferous, malevolent letter from a

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newspaper columnist who was taking issue with something I'd written. Instead of doing what I wanted to do, which was write him a nasty letter back in return, I wrote wishing him a Merry Christmas and enclosed an old Irish blessing. He may grind it into the floor with his heel, but it made me feel good to do it.

In learning the art of getting along consider the other fellow. One of my favorite stories has to do with two psychiatrists who rode the same elevator every morning to their offices. One got off on the 7th floor and the other on the 9th. The one who got off first invariably turned around and spit on his colleague. The other would calmly wipe his face and suit and get off two floors later.

ONE MORNING the elevator operator could stand it no longer. As the door was closing on the 7th floor he said, "For heaven's sake, Doctor, why does he do that?"

The psychiatrist replied. "Oh I don't know, that's his problem."

One of the most difficult things in life is learning to take criticism. If handed correctly it can be the finest thing that happens to you.
