

“Anyone can become angry, that is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and the right way this is not easy. ”

*- ARISTOTLE, *The Nicomachean Ethics**

WHEN PASSION OVERWHELM REASON

Situation in which emotions or strong feelings take control, leading to actions or decisions that are not based on logical thinking. This can happen when someone's intense emotions, such as love, anger, or excitement, could affect their ability to think clearly and make sensible decisions.

Short Story:

Fourteen-year-old Matilda Crab-tree was just playing a practical joke on her father: She jumped out of a closet and yelled “Boo!” as her parents came home at one in the morning from visiting friends.

But Bobby Crabtree and his wife thought Matilda was staying with friends that night. Hearing noises as he entered the house. Crabtree reached for his .357 caliber pistol and went into Matilda's bedroom to investigate. When his daughter jumped from the closet, Crabtree shot her in the neck. Matilda Crabtree died twelve hours later.

Our fear comes from evolution and helps us protect our family from danger. This fear made Cab-tree grab his gun and look for what he thought was an intruder in his house. He was so scared that he shot before he realized it was his daughter. This kind of quick reaction is built into us because it used to help our ancestors survive. But in this case, it led to a very sad accident.

While our emotions have been helpful guides throughout evolution, modern civilization changes too quickly for evolution to keep up. To manage this, early societies created rules and ethical codes, like the Ten Commandments and the Code of Hammurabi, to control and regulate emotions. Freud observed how society needs to impose external rules to control people's strong emotions and ensure order and stability. Without these rules, unchecked emotions could lead to chaos and conflict.

Even though society tries to control our emotions, they still often overwhelm our ability to think logically. This happens because our brains are wired based on what helped humans survive over thousands of generations, not just the last few. Evolution takes a long time to change, so even though the world has changed rapidly in recent history, our emotional responses remain largely the same.

Our reactions to personal encounters are influenced not only by rational thinking and our individual experiences but also by our ancient ancestors' ways of responding to similar situations. This means that our emotional responses are sometimes outdated and may lead to tragic outcomes, as seen in the events at the Crab-tree household. In essence, we often face modern challenges with emotions suited to the survival needs of our distant past.

Vocabulary:

Closet : Tall cupboard

Caliber : Internal diameter of a gun barrel

Intruder : Someone who enter a place without permission

Chaos : Confusion

Rational : Logical

Distant : Far away

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