

ON THE HUMAN LANGUAGE OF GETTING PEOPLE TO DO ANYTHING

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There are all sorts of political theories of authority and power that fill up scrolls and tomes on Earth. Some of them are interesting and comical; others worth thinking about. I will tell you about some of my own theories from just being myself. You see I was one of four siblings and my parents were not exactly stably married. Then there are the extended family, the grandparents and uncles and aunts from both sides. So I am the eldest child of my parents. Now there are some privileges in Bengali society for eldest sons. I did not push too hard on the privileges, partly by nature and partly by wisdom. You see I wanted autonomy, and thought that all adults were reasonable in a sense but total idiots in a deeper sense. And this I never revealed because corporal punishment was quite ubiquitous. And I was internal to a great extent, so I did not really share my convictions that adults are total idiots even with my brother. I always considered adults a bit like giraffes or some sort of other animal, not always on everything but on everything I thought was deep and serious. I would say, "Well now this is really serious. I can't expect these things to be comprehended by *adults* can I now?" Later in life I fell in love with Bill Waterson's Calvin because he has some of this attitude as I did.

Now I was quite aware when I was living in New York that there were certain tasks like laundromat, some dishes, some cleaning the room, and so on would have to be carefully avoided at key points in order to keep my focus on important things I was busy with studying and so on. This is where one learns the art of getting people to do some things and avoiding them.

So for example, whenever you think you have the slight edge and can get your brother to do something, you can say, "So are you going to do that or are you going to just stand around all day." These are not stupid like political decrees. I did not exactly have the political authority to get him to obey a goddam thing. These are much more subtle things where you have to manage exact accounting to produce just enough *guilt* to get someone to do something. And that is much more important for getting people to do anything than being the overlord. You see, nothing is more subtle than getting someone to do something where they could get enraged and beat you up and have no particular reason to obey you and give up their autonomy. And that is what all the kingdoms of Earth were too incompetent to understand, and that is why people enslaved one another for ages. The art of getting someone to do anything without *any obligation at all to respect your demands* is the heart of this whole issue. Now if you cheat and just produce some power structure then you won't learn anything at all about what is really at the essence of human nature.