

Ethics and Ethical Behavior

When a person loses everything, his prestige, his dignity and his ego, he or she is more likely to become honest; he would have no reason to hide anything or lie. But when someone develops an ego and seeks more wealth, prestige or power, he is more likely to become a habitual liar; he often feels the need to lie to boast his ego, make more money, or grab more power. Nevertheless, such a person tends usually to do his best to appear as a nice, honest person; as he wants others to think of him. People who lack self confidence are more likely to lie in order to cover up whatever deficiencies they may suffer from. When people get accustomed to behaving in unacceptable ways or to doing things that violate prevailing values and cultural traditions; they often become dishonest and thus untrustworthy. Therefore, people with big egos and others having lust for power and for money are more likely to lie to hide their true intentions.

For example, a prostitute who has stood naked in front of so many men and acknowledges what she does for living has nothing to hide; she has no reason to lie to others. Such a woman is more likely to be better at telling the truth than a well-dressed businessman in pursuit of more money; a politician in pursuit of more power; or a self-styled intellectual promoting his ego. While a prostitute has reason to lie, the others, having gotten addicted to money making or power grabbing or ego inflating, have every reason to lie to get more of whatever they already have. Self-styled Third World intellectuals in particular are usually unable to boast their egos without lying and cheating and making claims they cannot prove; they tend usually to lie not just to others but to themselves as well.

A businessman is usually driven by greed; a politician by lust for power; and a self-styled intellectual by prestige and money; they therefore find themselves working hard not to serve a common good, but to advance their own interests at the expense of the common good.

On the other hand, people who lack the ability to compete with others openly feel that they have a reason to lie, steal, cheat and deceive in order to advance at the expense of others; as a consequence, they are likely to violate every ethical code observed by society. Minorities in general, and Third World communities living in the West in particular tend to lack the knowledge, the proper language skills, and the social and political connections to compete in western societies; and therefore, they tend to lie, cheat, deceive and violate the law and ethical codes of conduct.

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June 24, 2008