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Honouring commitment

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Our house-help, who I assume we have been respecting as one of us, often takes time off work, for she visits her family in a town to which she makes an overnight journey from where we live and where she works.



Time and again she commits a date for her return, yet every time she delays coming back.

In the spirit of respecting her freedom and choice, we have always enquired about such delays. The reasons are often blaming others for the delay.

I have thought about this sometimes and realise it was also a pattern I have followed for much of my youth, when I would attribute my delay in keeping appointments to situations such as traffic hold-ups and such like, never once admitting that the delay was due to my being lax.

Externalising what is actually my doing apparently gets me off the hook and blame is diverted from me, yet what I think is more significant is my inability to take responsibility for my lack of commitment.

While in an unimportant transaction, such laxity on my part may not affect the outcome, in a crisis when commitment falters it has actually caused trust deficit.

Acknowledging my honesty may thus only happen if I unflinchingly admit my culpability and desist from externalising my action.

A lesson I learnt when I was 'let down' by another.

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