Respect

As a child, I have always learnt that respect is a two-way street, but my parents, well, they had something else to say: that we were spoilt and that we were "बिगड़े साहबजादे." But I think while speaking up for yourself is nice, it would lead to me taking a masterclass in tactical defence if I even muttered about it in my household, so I'll share it with you instead.

But one of the first things that I think about when it comes to respect is that it should be on the basis of your deeds rather than your age. While I am not saying to completely ignore the age factor, I am saying that deeds should matter more than how long you have lived. So, for example, through a survey that I have personally taken in my society, we have found that over 60% of all Indians would come to respect an 80-year-old garbage man more than an award-winning 20-year-old.

And secondly, I also think that it is wrong that some people are just born to be respected, whilst others have to earn the right to be respected. Like, they should be respected right from the start, and you have to earn their… what's that…? How were those rules made? Who made them? That is just not fair. Like, people should be given an equal status to everyone.

And yeah, I know those are just the "rules of the world." I say that those rules wouldn't have been created if they weren't made to break. And yeah, I also know I am not making a whole lot of sense, but that's what it is.

The word respect is a word, or rather, an idea, that is so universally expected that, from my household to the government, everyone follows, everyone abides by the same rule, unimaginably old, that we wouldn't even think twice before mindlessly following it.

Now I know this is a little (or a lot), but that's just my perspective on "respect."

— Atharv Singh

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