



Research Foundation for Governance: in India

Bringing Revolution with Small Acts of Kindness

- Amitabh Shah¹

Let's play a fun game. Imagine your favorite movie star who you believe has all the all the riches in the world, all the fame in the world, and of-course all the happiness in the world. Imagine him/her coming out of a Mercedes waving to a crowd of 10,000 avid young fans screaming at the top of their voice – “We Love You, We Love You.” Now slowly put your face on their body and feel all the emotions that they must be feeling, feel the warm breeze blowing, feel the smile on your face, the twinkle in your eye as if you were there, the proud sense of achievement. All these people looking up to you as their ‘Superstar!’ Pay attention to the feelings in your body right now and the chuckle on your face.

Every-time you get caught by a cop and you do not offer him a bribe – Feel that you are that ‘Superstar’ waiving at thousands of your clapping fans.

Every-time you pick up someone's plastic wrapper – Feel that you are that ‘Superstar’ waiving at thousands of your clapping fans.

Every-time you decide to stand in line and not use your connections to jump the line at a job interview, or at the RTO's office – Feel that you are that ‘Superstar’ waiving at thousands of your clapping fans.

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Every-time you decide to smile at a cop, press your grandma's feet, give a sandwich to a child, pay toll for the car behind you, switch off your vehicle at a signal to save energy – Feel that you are that 'Superstar' waiving at thousands of your clapping fans.

Every-time you decide to hold the door for an elderly couple, let someone cross the street, take time to teach your servant's child, buy chocolates for the neighbors kids for no reason – Feel that you are that 'Superstar' waiving at thousands of your clapping fans.

Every-time you decide not to bribe a government official to get work done – Feel that you are that 'Superstar' waiving at thousands of your clapping fans.

Every-time you decide to hug your dad, ask your mom how her day has been, spend time with your annoying relative without complaining, forgive the unforgivable person – Feel that you are that 'Superstar' waiving at thousands of your clapping fans.

As seen in history, all revolutions are a combination of small acts. If we all hold ourselves to the highest standards and truly believe we are 'Superstars' with great power, we can bring hope and change. Obama's campaign was made up of small donations and India's legal and social revolution can be made up of small acts of kindness. While the Superstars at RFGI are doing their part, let us do ours while having fun and growing! ☺