

## WHY CAN'T WE AFFORD TO HAVE GOOD MANNERS?

Last Saturday, when I was in Manila, I had an amazing lesson on humility from an Uber driver named Alfred Iwarat.

As we drove from Alabang to Makati, there was a car that suddenly cut into our lane, but he just gave way without getting angry. Then there were pedestrians who ran across our path, but he just stopped to let them pass. Then though the toll booth operator was a bit rude, he was very polite as he paid our fee. He was very pleasant over all. So I said, "Bilib naman ako sa iyo, hindi ka nagagalit o nagre-react. Kung ako pa 'yan..." But as he explained his life principles, I was not only floored, I was humbled.

He told me, "Alam ho ninyo, many people today can afford to buy good cars, good gadgets, good clothes and good food, but can't seem to afford to have good manners. Eh libre naman ho 'yun, di ba?" Aray ko! Para niya akong binatukan, kasi ang sabi ko sa kanya, "Bilib naman ako sa iyo. Kung ako ikaw, nagalit at nainis na ako." I really felt ashamed of myself.

He explained that the reason why he gives way pag may nag-cut sa harap niya is that he does not want to be the cause of traffic should something bad happen. He said he stops for pedestrians, especially those who are running, para hindi sila madapa. Sabi pa niya baka may importanteng pupuntahan kaya tumatakbo. Then he said that whenever he is nice to those who are rude to him, they greet him back with a smile and are more considerate towards him. Everything he told me made sense! I ended up telling myself, Bakit hindi ko iniisip 'yun? Nakakahiya di ba?

Tama siya 'no? Most of us can afford to buy good cars, good clothes and good food, but can't afford to have good manners maski libre naman 'yun. Hmm, kung ganyan ang lahat ng Uber drivers, I will suggest that they open an Uber University, and ako mismo mage-enroll!