

Day 25

## ***Uplifting Lift***

Sometimes we are awed at what certain languages could do to lighten-up one's day, one's life.

A teenage boy ate breakfast with his mom and dad one morning. It was one of those ordinary meals where dad did all the talking. For whatever reasons, the boy very seldom opened his mouth. For a long while that condition had become a real challenge to his parents. It however took a simple story told by dad to break the ice.

*An Asian and a westerner took the lift from a high floor of a very tall building. Since they were strangers to each other, silence prevailed in the lift for a relatively long period of time. Obviously language also was a barrier to both. The Asian was a self-made millionaire; however he did not invest in learning to speak English at all.*

*As the lift passed the floor almost midway, it stopped. The door opened. Then, suddenly, by coincidence the Asian recognized a friend in the hallway. And before the Asian man inside the lift could say a word, his*  
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*friend smiled at him and asked this question in their vernacular: “Bababa ba?” Hearing this, the westerner’s eyes widened in utter surprise. Is this man kidding or what? How in the world could a language use a single syllable a few times be able to form a sentence? Weird.*

*The western man thought the Asian was a deaf-mute or perhaps retarded. That’s why he could only make a monosyllabic sound. But wait till he hears the response of the other Asian he was with inside the lift. The latter smiled and gestured his finger pointing downward. The western guy got the shock out of his early morning riddle when he heard the answer: “Bababa!”*

*The man stepped inside the lift with a smile and a handshake with his friend while the Caucasian’s jaw fell to the floor. The friends started talking in a funny language that sounded more like a rap rendition from Jamaica without the musical accompaniment. The accent surrendered to what would have been cries from the Spanish inquisition.*

A very loud laugh burst suddenly from the teenage boy at the breakfast table. He was holding back his torso trying to control his boisterous pleasure. The father’s chin had to be picked up from the table top in amazement. He never thought that this joke would bring delight in the kid. Once after a long, long time, dad finally got a heart-warming reaction from his

beloved but normally snobbish son. Then, the mother, the father, and the boy continued laughing forever more.

Dad would not ever forget this one early morning when his son generously reacted to his call for emotional connection. He will long remember this moment, this precious instance when he used the least expected approach to reach out to the boy's heart.

What a simple and yet uplifting story. So, for those out there who couldn't get their loved ones to respond well to the usual long talk, try using some lift language. It might just be the one that would uplift your subdued loneliness or even hopelessness.

## **STUDY GUIDE**

### **Uplifting Lift**

1. Describe the feelings of the father with his teenage son concerning communication.
2. How does the boy's silence affect his relationship with his parents?
3. Comment on the significance of the lift story to the father-son relationship.

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4. What similar ways could you think of in order to break the ice in a cold human relationship?
5. Reflect or relate your own experiences regarding difficulties in communication with people—your loved ones and your peers.
6. What could you do to improve communication lines? To mend broken relationships? To feel secure about relationships? Take time to reflect and explore the various cases you experience as regards this issue in your daily life and how to address such issue.
7. In a few words or statements, summarize the lesson in this essay?