

Unappreciativeness

Unappreciativeness is lack of appreciation for what someone does for you. To be unappreciative is to disregard kindness. If my uncle offers me a thousand dollars as a gift, but is in fact doing so to make me his slave-dog, I will be unappreciative. In a slightly different sense, to be unappreciative can mean to be culpably indifferent to a genuine kindness. Seeing that I was out of gas, the guy stopped to help me, and when he learned my situation offered to drive me to the nearest filling station. After he had brought me back to my car, with a jerry can, I paid no more attention to him, but filled her up and hit the road fast.

Examples

1 My parents

I have long been inadequately appreciative of the care my parents devoted to me. It is true that, as the adage says, aging and experience have made me more aware of my parents' sacrifices, but I have not yet reached the filial love they deserve from me. Is it that they were quiet in their parenting, doing their jobs carefully and reliably, and building me a firm twenty year foundation, from which to move on with my life? Do I perhaps resent their calm and routine attentions, which I contrast to the more flamboyant childhoods some of my friends seemed—underline *seemed*—to enjoy? Whatever the case, I should immediately make amends, for my filial failures in appreciation, and glory in the rich protection I was lucky enough to receive, through the stumbling confusions of my first two decades.

2 Inheritance

I am unappreciative, on the whole, of what earlier humans have accomplished on my behalf. Why should I take electricity, sophisticated medical treatment, and great literature for granted? Was I put on earth to inherit these achievements, or did people like me (only greater than me) invent, discover, and create the cultural, material, and social advantages I stepped into at birth? The answer to the last question is *yes*, of course, but what is the key to revving up my level of appreciation? How can I live the awareness of what has been done for me? Am I not wiser just to take what I have inherited, enjoy it, and create what I can myself? Is the advancement of culture and consciousness not its own reward?