

Irresponsible

*To be irresponsible is to be unable to answer for your behavior. Such inability can turn on tiny or grand issues. I have a weakness for feta cheese, and I have 'promised' my wife I will not eat it. (Cholesterol issues). But when she goes away for a month, I go shopping and come back with a tiny bit of feta for my salad. Were she to charge me on this one I would have no answer. What if I had **really** abused the same lady, and cooked the books so that she wouldn't know what I had taken from our income for my private account? In short, if I had embezzled? Would that behavior have been more irresponsible than buying the feta? Or is irresponsibility the same, large or small?*

Examples

1 Midlife crises

During my various midlife crises I was irresponsible. I missed appointments, I forgot to pay bills, I ignored my clothing. Did I want to screw up these aspects of my personal life? No. Nor was I trying to attract attention or sympathy, by dysfunctioning socially and personally. My attention was on something else, generally the sex object that seemed to be the point where my desire and my salvation fused. If you cursed at me I didn't hear you. If you docked my pay I moved into a smaller house. Even if you made fun of me I found a place to hide your mockery. My society was asking me for explanations of my behavior, but I was not interested in offering them. I was doing what I thought I wanted to do, and wanted at the least to find out what it was I thought I wanted to do.

2 Struggle against irresponsibility

During the course of the day my wife asks me to do certain things. Today, just before she went shopping, she asked me to call the headquarters of our local pharmacy, to register our new telephone number with them. She had no idea what she was asking, or how it would test me. The phone number of the central office was given to me in capital letters, instead of numbers, and on my tiny cell phone I could not, or did not know how to, convert numbers into letters. I called my local pharmacy again to ask for a numerical number for headquarters. And so on. I could go on. Several more machine based obstacles lay ahead of satisfying my wife's request. Should I have persisted? Or was I right to stop in mid stream, as I did, rather than blowing the afternoon on a quest which if successful would at best have guaranteed a telephone contact in case of losses or discounts?