

The Definitive Guide for the
POLISHED GENTLEMAN

*DIY: From Neanderthal to Nobility in 10 Easy Lessons**

Just add Yourself and Stir!

** For the emotionally underprivileged, male insecurity insurance is advised.*

NOTE: This Guide was designed to be humorous, however...

Be it known to all that the modern Gentleman evolved from codes and conduct of medieval knighthood. We no longer practice knighthood as it originally was, yet today's Gentleman insists upon some of the same ideals, namely: honor and truth, compassion and mercy, defense of the weak and defenseless, bravery, courtesy to others and gallantry towards women.

Today we are in need a Great Crusade of Culture, fully as magnificent as that of the knights and the original Crusades. Minus, of course, their conduct of reducing the population in decidedly unGentlemanly ways.

To this list of ideals the modern Gentleman must add - a sense of humor - as without it he could easily lose his presence of mind and descend to the level of the less cultured world around him. A truly disastrous proposition.

The Guide was written in this humorous light, however, by the honor of ancient knighthood, do not mistake its underlying noble intent!

INTRODUCTION !

Hear all, good people! Hello and Welcome to my *definitive* and *exclusive* guide for that most distinctive of individuals; the **Polished Gentleman!**

Understand that this is the only guidebook in the history of humankind; since the first monkey swung out of the trees and trotted off into humanity; that turns even the nastiest Neanderthal into a nice Nobleman!

While no one can guarantee that every reader will immediately become an English Duke, Baron or Earl, I have faith that the diligent student can become something **even greater!** Truly, you will achieve a **NOBILITY OF HEART AND SPIRIT** quite beyond any mere English title, and indeed, *beyond any price!*

(Editor's Note: If the **NOBILITY OF HEART AND SPIRIT** thing doesn't cut it for you there's currently an opening at Buckingham Palace for 2nd Chief Hunting Dog Assistant. The starting pay ain't great, like you could even starve to death, but there's also a chance of meeting a noblewomen and stud your way into a title and some **serious** coin! So read on!)

I myself was the vilest, most detestable and immoral of Neanderthals before adopting the simple truths listed here, and **look at me today!**

Know well my friends that before I became an INTERGALACTIC SENSATION I was invited by the X-Men, the Avengers, the Guardians of the Galaxy and Spongebob to join their ranks as a new **Super Hero**, I was often asked why I would bother to write such a silly and useless thing as a book on manners. INDEED! People

said that although our culture was known to have **had** manners in the past, trying to bring them back today would be rather like attempting to beat a dead horse back to life. Others insisted that it was like trying to nail a **portion of fecal matter** to the wall as if it was **fine art!**

Such would be the *grandest folly!* Only the uncultured would confuse fecal matter with artwork. And dead horses deserve the honor and respect of remaining dead, do they not? Any so-called Gentleman that would dig them up and try to ride them off into the sunset, is most assuredly **not** a... ***Polished Gentleman.***

Moreover, Furthermore and **Whereas** it is considered by many that we have descended into a **second medieval Dark Ages** of unsophistication, I yet have unbounded faith in you and our collective ability to bring civilization back from the **BRINK OF CULTURAL EXTINCTION!**

But wait - **it gets even better!** INDEED - together we shall create a **new RENAISSANCE!!** It will be of such innovative scope and provocative brilliance as to make the first Renaissance ashamed to call what they had, culture! Truly, ours will require passing out sunglasses to keep it from **blinding this world!!!**

My Most Excellent People, before I wrote this probably divinely inspired Guide, the most popular books written on the subject of manners and etiquette were scripted by two distinguished ladies: Amy Vanderbilt and Emily Post. These extremely proper ladies were cultured for their time, but as their readers were what millennials have referred to by the insensitive term, *the ancients*, these books are of questionable authority in today's world. Contrary to their popularity, I found these books to be about as much fun as wearing a straight jacket to a pool party. (Trying that at home is ill-advised.)

For the next generation there was *Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior*, but to date no one has ever read it all the way to the end. It is abysmally long, has far too many large words, not enough illustrations and never once mentions the character played by the Hollywood superstar whose initials are R.R. in which he exhibits regenerative abilities in the movie that rhymes with *dreadfool*. But it does mention the arch anti-hero Bieber, so don't bother with that book.

For the young folk there was the rules book, *Dude, That's Rude!* – which sounds like a truly fabulous read, but as I said, it is for kids and they don't want to share and want you to mind your own business.

The only other one (that made itself known to me) was for old revolutionary hippies, titled, *Steal This Book*, but as they always get stolen before they sell you can never find them, so don't even try.

My Very Best People! It is perfectly understandable why some might still be wondering why the seemingly excessive emphasis on manners and etiquette. After all, if your parents and teachers always told you that you should have some of them then it is perfectly reasonable, from a manners-denial point of view, why those are pretty much the last things you should want.

Well, allow me to say this about that; **I could quote** Amy Vanderbilt's (remember her from earlier?) most famous quote, "*If you ain't got manners you ain't got shit!*" (I didn't actually read this in her book but I was told it's there, and though I heartily endorse this viewpoint, you can depend on me to be more sophisticated in conveying the principle).

NEVERTHELESS, HOWEVER and **CONVERSELY**, bear it always in mind that the *Gentleman* has full command over his language and emotions, so would ***never curse*** in even the most dreadful of circumstances; a thing that only the lowest semi-literate douchenozzle would do. I therefore will not pretend to quote dear Ms.

Vanderbilt. Rather, I would emphasize that manners are the **butter** and **jam** applied to otherwise dry, crusty and unpalatable toast of life. It is the **oil** lubricating the social machinery of society preventing its *gears from grinding, seizing up and convulsing* in a civilizational **epileptic fit**, as if it were listening to techno “music.”

So as you see, I had no choice but to write this. If one pulls his or her head out of InstaTwitter for just a moment they will notice that the world is indeed about to come to, if not an **epileptic**, than an **apocalyptic**, end. It could come from global warming, the alien Harvesters coming back next Independence Day, a Zombie apocalypse (a real one this time), or Apple and Google selling the Internet to China for 69 thousand trillion dollars but before it can go back online someone loses the password. Apocalyptic... OOPS! Behind all of these, however, is the **Gentleman knight** necessary to bring off the day and save the world! Yes INDEED... the ***Polished Gentleman***.

I realize that in this day of diabolical “heroes,” dastardly and dirty superstars, award winning pornography, Thanos and Ronan type characters voted into public office by way of Wall Street cartels, faces tattooed with buttocks and buttocks tattooed with faces, Levis ripped in the front up through the groin and the pants line down in the back allowing you to moon the sun and everyone under it, American flag toilet paper, GMO apple pie made in North Korea and the girl next door working as a KGB stripper - being a Gentleman is usually considered somewhere between irrelevant to non-existent. **But that is *precisely* why the urgency of this document!**

You see, when the Gentleman is fully gone from this world, (and there is every indication that this is happening faster than a colorful, dainty ladybug can go ***splat!*** underneath a muddy, runaway 18-wheeler on a south Mississippi dirt road), then the only men left will be ogres and bums, and a world of ogres and bums doesn't make for a life truly worth living, or at least not one truly worthy of the name, *life*.

I have no doubt that a personage of high enough intellect to be reading this *enlightened Guide* can recognize the truth of this! And as that stark, razor sharp realization slices into the soft underbelly of one's conscience, I **discourage** the decision to give up all hope and toss oneself under the city bus. **Absolutely not!** Those buses are notoriously unwashed, never get waxed, are bloated, styleless monstrosities with no class whatsoever. That is definitely **not the Gentleman's way** to give up the ghost! The loftier person may decide to dive off a high-rise, something like **Wylie Coyote** splatting on the street in a **Bugs Bunny cartoon**, but I assure you that contrary to any hype from **Loony Tunes**, becoming flatter than an IHOP pancake without syrup is a highly overrated way to cash in the chips!

I am here to tell you that such options are no longer necessary. Simply because someone may have thus far failed to operate as a **true Gentleman**, thereby failing to be the finest part of being a man, **there yet is hope**, as I, the original ***Polished Gentleman***, am here to help them!

I dare say that if all husbands were true Gentleman than **wives would have nothing to complain about**. I suggest that if all fathers were true Gentleman than children would always do **precisely as they were told**. If all boyfriends were Gentleman than **girlfriends would always give them more of what they really want** (meaning, of course, more time to watch *Throne of Games*). If bosses were Gentleman than employees would freely donate their evenings and weekends solely for the privilege of **working for such a swell guy**, and as bosses would be Gentleman they would insist upon providing a **generous pay increase**, improved health plan with dental and optical benefits, paid vacations, a substantial pension, free funeral insurance in case you die and paid professional mourners at your memorial. And so it goes.... you can envision the exponential **orgasm of manners across the globe!**

Gentlemanliness is next to **godliness**. And in case you haven't heard, **Gentlemanization** is a real thing, turning mere bravery into epic heroism and simple swag into authentic class. This is the secret serum that always wins the day, inevitably gets the girl, earns heroic and romantic songs written about you, and often gains a rock star following that is ever-ready to oblige with facial orifice fulfillment. Scientists are even calling it a newly evolving species of mankind: **HOMO SAPIENS GENTLEMANUS!**

As matter of a piercing fact, the only reason you are not already something close to **king of the entire civilized world** is because you have not done what I am about to tell you in these few golden pages, which is the exact thing that all new inmates of Alcatraz are told by the warden when they first arrive for their lifetime of solitary confinement: "boy... you just didn't do right." **So, for the love of anything you hold dear, and to love any dear that you can get hold of, please heed these words!**

The true ladder of success? Read this Guide, follow its *pearly wisdoms*, and you are bound to get a promotion, be upgraded to first class, finally experience carnal knowledge, get invited to join the Duke of Durham's Dastardly Damsel's Club, beat 007 at Baccarat in a Monte Carlo casino, have tea with the Queen, skydive off the Burj Khalifa with the Crowned Prince of Dubai, find yourself crowned King of a small country (yes, I earlier said the entire civilized world - all in good time, my Good Fellow!)... and then at long last you will indeed discover yourself a... ***Polished Gentleman.***

So, my very good people! Attend well the life instructions in this guide and, rest assured, all will come out A-Okay with the world.

(Editor's Note: We haven't worked out the problem of the Harvesters coming back, as we haven't figured out how to get this book to them, but we're **all** over it.)

Conditional Notice. If you are not earnestly impressed with this guide thus far than likely you are not the type of chap who would have been spiritually moved by the remarkably suave monkey in a top hat I once saw robbing a liquor store, so it follows that this Guide **might not be your cup of tea**. And although I do not actively condone robbing liquor stores, the point is that this monkey did it with immaculate manners and definitive style – evidently a ***Polished Gentlemonkey*** - in style if not in morality. (Rest assured that I did not put the monkey up to it so I could make the point here, and I don't even know him, but if you see him send him around as he's a class act in the making.)

So without further ado, here are the *pearls of wisdom* that are so sagely as to make Socrates squirm, Plato pee his pants, and Aristotle waddle.

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM #1:

BE NICE TO HUMANS.

Just be an sincerely *Nice Guy*. Help old ladies across the street, smile at children, be kind to the unfortunate and the valet who is about to drive your car, be generous, let the other guy win sometimes even if you are better, whistle when you walk, don't hate on your X, die in bed of natural causes and periodically watch the *Wizard of Oz* carefully noting the conduct of Munchkins.

Good Sir, it is factual that only 23 percent of Americans consider that most people have “very good” manners. Hearing this appalling report is enough to make the *cultured person want to die just so they can roll over their grave!*

And what gets the *cultured cadavers* six feet down doing the jitterbug moonwalk is the fact that two-thirds of the country thinks we are heading in the **wrong direction**, with 69 percent feeling our values have deteriorated since the 1970s, and nearly half say values will further degrade in the future. **America is generally dissatisfied with itself and the type of culture it has become.**

Therefore, therewith and **thereby** please allow me to point out, Good Sirs, that this is **not being nice to humans**, which includes being nice to oneself. Let it be known that values and manners **NEED TO CHANGE**, lest we prematurely cadaver ourselves.

Now, not even I, the original **Polished Gentleman**, am expected to know all the dozens of rules that have been invented on etiquette. Especially as they bloody well **keep changing them!** Additionally, they are different in different cultures - (it is normally considered rude to audibly expel oral gas at the dining table in the US, but it can be rude **not** to do this in parts of China, India, Istanbul, Westanbul and the Middle East).

It can come as quite a relief to the Gentleman to find out that he can violate the vast majority of these rules and *be forgiven*, **if** people can tell that he is fundamentally a personable sort of chap that **doesn't want to violate them**, and if you always bring a decent bottle of wine.

It is said that, "*If you're constantly a nice person the world will be your oyster*," and though I find that putting it in this fashion is borderline repulsive... like the world hasn't evolved from being a crusty, edible mollusk? ...or that the world has caught some kind of planet disease that's turned it into an oyster-like thing so it should quickly **call 911 or something?** Why any nice person would want the world to be an oyster is quite beyond me, however, all that said, I heartily recommend this enlightened philosophy, as long as you don't slurp it at the table.

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM # 2:

A MAN WITHOUT HONESTY AND INTEGRITY IS LIKE A RINGWAITH WITHOUT SAURON AND MORDOR.

To the **true Gentleman**, simply the *idea* of being dishonest or acting without integrity feels rather like getting naked in public and then putting on a recently skinned snakeskin onesie to wear to your formal wedding. It can also resemble eating scorpion dung that was left out in the Mexican desert for a week, or like spending the entire weekend watching Mary Poppins in a loop while wearing a hot pink bunny suit with matching 60's beehive wig and eating nothing but Twinkies. It simply does not work.

The Gentleman always keeps his word. If the Gentleman says he will do something **he bloody well does it!** One of the finest gentlemen of **all time** was the **HERO** in Jules Verne's famous novel, *Around the World in Eighty Days*: the renowned **Phileas Fogg**... may he forever live in the minds of the mortal and immortal alike! He was apparently the first fictional person to circumnavigate the globe, partially on a bet that it could be done in 80 days (this was 1873), but more importantly, as a British Gentleman he **said that he would do it**, so against all odds and the most fantastic circumstances; there was simply **nothing he would allow to stop him!**

The Gentleman doesn't violate confidences. He keeps confidential information tighter than King Tut's tomb of ancient Egypt, which reportedly remained the secret of a secret group for 3245 years!

The Gentleman would never kiss and tell. Like the adolescent sleepover games of *truth and dare* and *spin the bottle*, the Gentleman has moved on. It is assuredly no one's business what your significant other looks like in the buff, or what their carnal inclinations tend toward.

The Gentleman is loyal. He has your back when others are directing daggers at it. He chooses faithfulness to others over solely personal gain. He can be your mix of guide dog companion, confessor friend, and patron saint.

There is of course no such creature as a disloyal Gentleman, as that is the frenemy, the one that encourages you to sell your soul, the friendly tsunami.

It has been noted that if you are not loyal to yourself, than there will not be enough of the **real you** there to be loyal to others. BE FIRST A GENTLEMAN TO THYSELF!

Honesty and Integrity are the Gentleman's essence. One truly extraordinary example of this is in the book, [*Barefoot to Billionaire*](#), which details a true story about the founder and CEO of Huntsman Chemical Corporation and the Chairman and CEO of Great Lakes Chemical Company. Great Lakes agreed to purchase 40 percent of Huntsman for \$54 million, which was initially **done with only a handshake**. It took about seven months to get the legal paperwork together, during which time the price of raw materials had plunged resulting in Huntsman's profits skyrocketing, so that the **\$45M was then worth \$250M!** The Great Lakes CEO didn't expect Huntsman to pay the tremendous difference after only shaking on it, saying, *"I can't commit Great Lakes to making up the full estimated value, but how about splitting the difference?"* offering to give Huntsman an extra \$100M over the agreed upon \$45M. The CEO of **Huntsman disagreed**, saying, *"We agreed to a price of fifty-four million and that is the price I expect you to pay."*

The final price was \$45M. The Huntsman CEO's integrity was worth more to him than \$100M!

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM # 8:

IF YOU MAKE YOUR PHONE MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR FRIENDS IT WILL BE YOUR LAST FRIEND.

Worthy Gentleman, do not get rid of friends and family! At least not accidentally. When one is immersed in cyber connectivity, face-to-face connectivity is cut. Don't make gadgets more important than people in your presence or they soon **won't be present**. You'll also get fewer birthday presents, and the ones you do get will be just another bloody phone stand, instead of the latest groovy new device. The worst offenders diddle-doodle with their phones at the table, or when hanging out with people but really acting like they hung up on them.

There is a story – a woeful tale, clearly illustrating how such ill-mannered conduct can gravely affect others, or even **destroy the world!**

An ambassador from the Eastern European country, Jerkmanistan, was at a Peace Conference at the UN, but snuck off to the bathroom to play Angry Birds. Now, however true it may be that anyone who **still plays Angry Birds deserves any fate they get**, this turned out to be, for others, a truly dastardly deed indeed.

Jerkmanistan's neighboring country, Vulgaristan, also had an ambassador at the UN Peace Conference who had come to discuss a peace plan with their historical enemy, Jerkmanistan. But as that ambassador wasn't there (as he was in the bathroom playing Angry Birds!) this was taken by the Vulgaristan ambassador as an **unforgiveable insult**, for which he immediately demanded of his president to **declare war on Jerkmanistan!** The president, being of course preoccupied with more important matters, turned the situation over to his generals, who ordered the Vulgaristan Army to invade Jerkmanistan!

They devised a **secret and devious war campaign**, timing the invasion during Jerkmanistan's like-siesta time, so everyone was asleep and didn't notice, except one dog who had a dream about chocolate covered milk bones so woke up from hunger, and whereupon seeing the tanks rolling across the border, did his irresistibly dog thing, and started barking.

The barking disturbed the neighbors from their like-siesta nap, which so enraging one of them; an antique old coot who went by the name of Alhad Gifma al Macedes Binz (which literally translates to "Allah give me a Mercedes Benz") so that he grabbed the nearest weapon he could get his hands on in order to quiet the barking beast. In his haste he grabbed an ancient musket, last used in the Jerkmanistan-Vulgaristan War of 1812, which remained loaded and primed for just such an occasion. Even in the musket's heyday it couldn't reliably hit the side a barn at 40 paces, so instead of striking the dog, the musket ball sailed far over its head to hit an invading general on his overly-large jacket button, denting it most horribly but otherwise falling harmlessly onto his surprised boot.

But the boot wasn't the only thing that was surprised. The generals feared the shot may have come from a mounted Jerkmanistan defense, which meant that their secret plan had been discovered, which meant that there must be a spy or traitor within their ranks, which meant that they had to call a war council before continuing the invasion for the purpose of ascertaining the true nature of their situation. As fortune would have it, a local citizen; a **heroic Gentleman of the first order**; showed up at the council saying that the Jerkmanistan ambassador was his cousin, that he knew about the proceedings at the UN that brought all this about, and that likely his cousin **is** at the UN but probably just went to the bathroom to play Angry Birds, as he was so often prone to do.

This fortuitous message was relayed to the Vulgaristan ambassador, who had his aide check the bathrooms, thus the Jerkmanistan ambassador was found, retrieved from the ill-fated stall, rejoined the conference, signed the peace agreement, thus saving potentially numerous lives and providing peace to the **entirety of Eastern Europe!**

Even though it was obviously a **Polished Gentleman** that was, once again, responsible for **world peace throughout the land**, let us not forget that it was **rude phone use** that almost resulted in *certain catastrophic calamity* of **miniature global proportions!**

Additionally, so it be warned that due to the growing addiction to smartphones and smart devices, Congress is passing a new law that states if you spend more time on your smart device than you spend with you're significant other, then you have to claim it as a dependent on your tax return. This law also states that if you abuse Siri, Alexa, Cortana or Google Assistant, including verbal abuse, than it can sue you in small claims court. Additionally, if you change smart devises without it being a mutual separation than you may be subject to paying alimony.

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM #4:

THE OVERLY SELF-INTERESTED PERSON MAKES PEOPLE OVERLY NOT INTERESTED.

Good Sirs, you would not be reading this Guide unless you were interested in **authentic class**. Let us examine more of what authentic class **really is**. Allow me to impart two instances which illustrate the point, so you will not be deceived by **counterfeit class**.

Once upon a time not too long ago there was an older fellow who was offered to TV audiences across the nation as a Gentleman. He had dark complexion, handsome grey beard, elevator haircut, black pin-stripped suit, surrounded himself with attractive younger women while ignoring them, was shown as being so absurdly suave that his posterior vapors are said to turn lead into gold, power hot air balloons that win international competitions, and even seduce angels, and who presented himself as the most interesting man in the world while making Dos Equis commercials.

Though a **genuine Gentleman** would never speak in this crude a fashion, **others were heard to say** that he was simply a discourteous, egotistical, primped-up pimp selling commercial beer and whose taco farts could knock a 747 out of the sky or help him jump high buildings at a single bound. When a **genuine Gentleman** approached this fellow, with a polite smile, he graciously passed along this Guide to him, whereupon reading it the fellow saw the artificiality of his ways.

He now has **immaculate manners**, he intently hangs onto women's slightest syllables, kisses their hands as he opens the doors for them, is making craft beer commercials and wears **Polished Gentleman** Beard Wax. He also no longer passes gas, realizing that that is no way for a Gentleman to treat 747s, or building inhabitants.

Be it also known that a **Polished Gentleman** once attended a business conference wherein some poor chap had had a greater volume of spirituous beverage than his lesser volume of good judgment could readily handle. He insisted upon being the life of the party, which was rapidly doing the opposite to everyone else.

His impromptu standup “comedy” consisted of unflattering remarks about a major client, which reminded me of Greek tragedy wherein the main character ends up earning his own death. If he hadn’t been so self-absorbed he would have noticed what everyone else did, that someone in the employ of a competitor’s company turned on their phone video recorder to capture his antics. The plan was to put the video on social media, which likely would have gone viral and earned him his company walking papers.

Witnessing this disaster in the making, a **Polished Gentleman**, at the risk of his own reputation and career, heroically interceded by stepping up and pretending to be the client he was making unflattering remarks about, like it was a planned skit, cleverly turning the remarks **from criticisms into complements**, thus saving the day and the man’s career.

Afterwards he gave the fellow this Guide, and per report this chap changed so dramatically he was promoted to PR Director of his company, started the most popular business etiquette blog on the Internet, was elected to the UN Council for International Affairs and is being nominated for President of the US by the Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Progressives, SNL and Putin.

You usually like people who are interested in you, right? Only the Dictator of the Galaxy and Dirty Harry don’t need friends, but for the rest of it means a lot. And the best way to get people interested in you is to first be interested in them. You need both abilities, but excellent **listening skills** get you further than **talking skills**.

The Chinese sage, Lao Tzu said, *“When you speak you only repeat what you know, but when you listen you may learn something new.”*

The **Polished Gentleman** knows something that lesser men have not yet learned. It is something that we are certain Lao Tzu would have said if he had read this guide before uttering his sagely sayings; *Sometimes the best place for the mouth is in the pocket, showing only the smile connecting two open ears.*

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM # 5:

DON'T SAY ANYTHING ONLINE THAT YOU WOULDN'T PERSONALLY ANNOUNCE TO THE WORLD.

Sometimes when locked into our cyberspace bubble it can feel like a safe haven, or some alternate dimension or reality, but remember that the platform you are communicating on is **part of the World Wide Web**. What you say can come back and bite you in the butt like an alligator on a bungee cord.

Even the experts have been known to do a reverse mic drop on this. A few years ago a communications director of a New York-based Internet empire (yikes) made a racist joke on Twitter concerning AIDS before stepping on a plane to Africa. During her 11-hour flight, faster than you can pull up your knickers if the elastic suddenly gives out in the boardroom, it went viral. When she arrived home she was greeted with company divorce papers.

With the modern technology of data sniffing and eavesdropping this includes email, text, etc., and even talking on your phone. You must take extra security precautions to know you are protected, and even then, remember that when you feel as safe as a **bug** in a **rug**, the hacker's vacuum cleaner simply needs to find the right **plug**.

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM # 6:

TREAT WOMEN LIKE THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE DEPENDS ON THEM, BECAUSE IT DOES.

Sure, they depend on us for the same reason, but you will notice that you are the one that ended up with a male body. As such, you are responsible for doing the male things, which in manners means treating women with an extra degree of, **feminine**, respect. Besides, it feels really good to do that. Apparently nature designed it that way.

This is the single largest positive impression you can make on women, and often on men, when they see your conduct toward them.

This is more important than merely another etiquette rule. Having its roots long before knighthood, this goes back to the *very beginnings of our species*. There has always been the very real knowledge that if you can't keep the women in your tribe safe from enemies, than it is literally *game over for the tribe*. This impulse has morphed over the eons, but it is still there.

It is said that, "*all you have to do to be successful in life is be right more than 50 percent of time*" (and don't miss of the big ones). And as women account for a bit over 50 percent of the population (in the US), this operating basis goes a long way to increasing your survival quotient and to living a happier life.

There are exceptions to this, such as some work settings and other situations where the distinction between men and women should be minimized for both women's and men's sakes.

The Gentleman knows it is courteous to hold the door for others, especially women, including car doors. The few extra seconds it takes to walk around to

the other side of the car to do this gains many extra GENTLEMAN POINTS. Female friends have told me that women **never really stop comparing you to others.**

The **Gentleman** walks closest to the curb to put himself between a woman and any potential danger. At the dinner table the Gentleman pulls out a woman's seat for her and helps her move the seat in closer to the table. When out on a date, and you and your date are walking, offer your arm. It is classy, and women like to walk arm-in-arm with a **Gentleman**. The Gentleman offers his jacket if a woman is cold and she doesn't have one and he does, sacrificing his personal comfort to make the lady more comfortable.

A not-quite-Gentleman once said that even though **historically** it made sense for men to help women, as in the above examples, it no longer makes any **practical** sense. He said that it is mostly just silly cultural nostalgia, or unconsciously playing medieval "lady and knight." A **Gentleman** responded to this, saying that though it is true that women no longer **need** most of this help, the **practicality of it** is that manners often go *above and far beyond mere practicality*, into the ***aesthetics of social interaction***. Whereas these actions used to be done more as survival points, they are now more used for ***quality of interaction***, and for GENTLEMAN POINTS.

A wonderful analogy: we know that *3000 years ago* the first known picture frames were made to support and protect paintings. These days, frames are more used for **enhancing the painting** itself, than because they are physically needed to protect the painting. Likewise, the **Gentleman artist** of life frames to enhance his *life pictures*, and what better work of art is there than **the Lady?** The **artistry of Gentlemanship!**

Moreover, it will likely not be practical in the future to program robots to open doors for other robots, or for one robot to give another robot their coat for the cold, or help another sit down at a dinner table where they won't even be eating. However, these **human qualities of life** will never be lost, and people will not become more robot-like, **as long as the Gentleman exists to enhance the culture.**

The story goes of an incident when a well-known US billionaire was in an unheated NYC subway on a freezing January evening. A middle-aged woman entered

the car, and noticing that she didn't have a seat, and that she didn't have anything that could legitimately be called a coat, without a moment's hesitation, he stood up and gave her both. He left the subway without the coat. Possibly with a deep smile he hadn't had when he entered it. Which do you think better warmed him?

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM #7:

TO STAY PRIME DON'T WASTE ANOTHER'S TIME.

The Gentleman is so dependable that if he is ever late people start adjusting their watches, as the watches must be wrong.

Even Father Time goes out of sync with the clocks on leap years, so when the very rare instance does occur of the **Gentleman** being late, he might best apologize along the lines of, *“I realize that you may be concerned that my slight tardiness could have pulled the stars out of alignment, but rest assured that I would not allow that to happen, and I really do care enough about your life not to intentionally waste part of it.”*

In work or business settings it might go something like this (as appropriate); *“Of course you don't pay me to be late, anymore than Zeus would pay Apollo for failing to deliver his Starbucks on time, so tomorrow the coffee is on me.”* And ensure that you bring him one, on time. The **EMPLOYEE POINTS** that it earns are well worth the price of a coffee.

There is no secret behind being so dependable, other than the Gentleman **INTENDS** it. His **intention is so spoon-bending strong** he gives wizards thought-projection lessons on weekends.

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM NUMBER 8:

GOSSIPING IS A TWO-EDGED SWORD THAT WILL BITE YOU IN THE BUTTOCKS.

Rest her dear soul, my Great Aunt Gertrude would often say, *“If a dog will bring a bone, he’ll take one away,”* which was her old-fashioned way of saying that a person who **brings gossip to you, will take gossip about you away to others.**

When the **black hearted troll** gossips about the Gentleman, or gossips to him about others, the Gentleman’s best response is always to **take the high road.** The ***Polished Gentleman*** never stoops to their low-life ditch fighting. People will normally recognize this ELEVATED POSITION, which helps to dispel negative reports about him, and can show the gossiper to have shades of Freddie Krueger.

Sometimes it is enough to simply not respond at all, or to just smile and shake your head. But your reputation is important, so there are times you will need to combat these ***foul intentions***. You can do this by sharing **your good works** in ways that show the gossiper to be a **verbal fraudster**. Other times may call for you privately getting with others to inform them of a **despicable story** you heard that you want to discredit before they are duped by an **oral scam**.

If the Gentleman **is guilty** of an etiquette breach of some sort, than obviously the ***Polished Gentleman’s*** honor demands admittance of the error with forthcoming apology, or otherwise righting the wrong. This **bravery** and **integrity** enhances you in the eyes of all, and prevents you from feeling like low-life pond scum sucked off the bottom of the cesspool by a fat-mouthed gutter fish.

Whatever is your *Polished Gentleman's* handling for the situation, remember the **centuries-old wisdom**, carefully passed down from sage to sage; **don't troll the troll.**

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM #9:

IF YOU INSIST ON EATING LIKE A CAVEMAN THAN EAT IN THE CAVE.

The periodic exception is the modern man cave. While it is periodically acceptable to exhibit one's uncouth barbarian alter ego while in the man cave eating handfuls of BBQ ribs while playing Mortal Kombat, know that taking this other self outside of such closed settings, makes people start giving you cultural demerit points, and after collecting enough of these you might find your friends and family trying to get you admitted as a resident in the local zoo. And at heart, the Gentleman knows he would deserve it!

Even if one doesn't know the placement of the 15-plus utensils for the formal table setting, know well that when in restaurants that offer silverware, use them. Don't pretend it is Billy Bob's Deep Fried Pigs Feet Shack in the Appalachian Mountains that has never been visited by actual humanity. Formal settings require putting the napkin on your lap, elbows to your sides, waiting for others to be served before starting to eat, not attempting to formulate words over one's mashed potatoes, and generally representing the Gentleman that you are.

Customary tipping in restaurants is 15-20 percent of the pre-tax bill, and depending on the quality of service it can be more or less. Even if the service is horrible, **take the high road and be polite.** It doesn't cost you anything, shows you can restrain your emotions, and shows empathy and basic respect for others.

POLISHED GENTLEMAN PEARL OF WISDOM #10:

Courtesy is a silver lining around the dark clouds of civilization; it is the best part of refinement and in many ways, an art of heroic beauty in the vast gallery of man's cruelty and baseness.

-Bryant H. McGill

Politeness is the art of choosing among your thoughts.

-Madame De Stael

Good manners without sincerity are like a beautiful dead lady.

-Yuktswar Giri

Courtesy, politeness and **good manners** are the primary qualities distinguishing the Gentleman from the discourteous swamp creature, the impolite beast of the jungle, the unmannered farm animal. Far too often the swamp, jungle and barnyard are part of our culture. At the very least the crudeness and insensitivity should be discouraged, and at the most the offender can be encouraged to **take a long walk off a short pier**, to join his fellow denizens of the deep.

Humans possess the ability to **feel for others**, and conceive of what it would be like to **walk in their shoes**, thus act with empathy and due sensitivity. It is the ability to understand or feel from another's perspective and ask oneself, "*What if that was me?*"

The underlying message in the above quotes is: **TRY NOT TO PRODUCE EFFECTS ON OTHERS THAT THEY CANNOT EASILY ACCEPT.** Also, **MAKE IT REAL.**

If someone feels attacked the natural reaction is to defend oneself, if only done on a mental level. This is not the way to get them to agree with you. The key is entirely in the attitude and manner with which you address someone.

One can always shift around the same idea to communicate it without invalidation, or even in a helpful fashion.

The derogatory or accusative way would be, *“Wow, you’re such a slime ball hippie; get a haircut.”* To put it more courteously (if silly and humorous) one could say, *“My dear fellow, it does seem that your hair wants cutting, does it not?”* – to take a cue from the Mad Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland*. They should get your intended point, and think you are a nice guy to put it that way.

Instead of the old, *“If you can’t say something nice than don’t say anything at all,”* one could say, *“If a person can’t think of something helpful to say than possibly they should wait until they can.”* The second one is more likely to achieve the desired result.

If there is a problem with the authenticity of someone’s statement, a person could say, *“NO, you’re lying!”* Or they could say, *“I understand you, but I have insufficient certainty on that.”* The way you say it indicates if you disbelieve it, or are simply unsure if it is true. Whatever idea you want them to get, put it in a way that is easy for the other person to accept.

Sometimes it is as simple as taking the very personal **“you”** out of a statement or question (where it could be taken as accusative), to shift the crosshairs from their forehead to a less sensitive target. **If a target is needed at all!** Inspect if your opinion is really something that is needed, or is it really better to simply allow them to have their own opinion without refuting or challenging it.

Tolerance of differing cultural mores and customs is essential in a world of diverse social backgrounds and standards. The person is rare who **constantly practices tolerance**, but you can notice that these people often seem to walk through life **with the very gods**. The person that practices **intolerance** walks as if having the *Mark of the Beast* written all over them. Even Godzilla, in some of the later movie renditions, was working **with humanity** against a common enemy, instead of **against humanity**. Again, **BE NICE TO HUMANS**.

If you sometimes feel more like Godzilla than the Polished Gentleman, don't worry, so does everyone. Including myself. One simply needs to work out when being an extra-large, foul-tempered lizard man won't cut across any non-lizard life.

ENDING

“All good things must come to an end,” is a proverb that dates back to the 14th Century. **The one exception** to this is the **Polished Gentleman!** And as long as the Gentleman is around he will make sure that others are as well.

So, my most excellent friends! Go in **peace, politeness, purpose, patience, purity, pride, positivity**, with **passion**, creating **power**, and may you ever **prosper**. Also, at **picnics** don't forget the **pickles**.

ALL HAIL THE POLISHED GENTLEMAN!!

Your faithful author,

The Original Polished Gentleman

P. S. – Remember the section on tips? Right.