

STORIES OF HUMAN INTEREST - 1



Dr. Rajat had left India soon after his MBBS to pursue higher studies in USA.

He visited his home city Ahmedabad intermittently during the next six years while he was completing his studies abroad. During this period he got married, became a father and somewhat settled in USA. He then took up a job there in a hospital and before joining decided to take a long break at home here with his family.

He loved Ahmedabad and was very happy to be spending time here visiting friends and family, eating at favourite places and taking his wife around the city to show her places of interest. His father offered to hire a driver for him, perhaps thinking that the driving systems in USA are very different from here. Rajat declined the offer of course; after all he had grown up here and was used to driving and knew every lane and by lane that he need to visit.

On the second day itself, when he and his family returned home from an outing, his mother noticed that Rajat's young wife looked rather shaken up. On enquiring he narrated a nasty incident of road rage that they had witnessed but fortunately were not a part of. Rajat was upset as he did not remember the city drivers being so aggressive earlier. He wondered if the angst and frustration was a result of low tolerance thresholds.



What is Road Rage?

According to Wikipedia “**Road rage** (also known as a traffic tantrum) is aggressive or angry behavior by a driver of an automobile or other road vehicle which includes rude gestures, verbal insults, physical threats or dangerous driving methods targeted toward another driver in an effort to intimidate or release frustration. Road rage can lead to altercations, assaults and collisions that result in serious physical injuries or even death. It can be thought of as an extreme case of aggressive driving.”

People learn this behavior from childhood when being driven by parents and adults.

"Road Rage" is uncontrolled anger that results in violence or threatened violence on the road; it is Criminal Behavior.

Road Rage is manifested in several ways, some being of extreme nature. Some common expressions of road rage are:

- Revengeful feeling with menacing looks
- Rude gestures
- Verbal abuse
- Chasing
- Speeding and aggressive acceleration
- Blocking a vehicle and angrily engaging with its driver
- Honking the vehicle's horn or flashing lights excessively
- Deliberately hitting another person, vehicle or object with one's own vehicle
- Hitting a person or vehicle with a weapon other than a vehicle
- Threatening to use a deadly weapon

Have you witnessed, been a victim of or engaged in Road Rage?

You are most welcome to share your views or experiences with SSETU at
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Interesting blogs will be shared on the website.