

Fortune Flavored

May 25, 2015



The shine of the diamond instantly pulls your eyes in.

Across the room, you see a dazzling lady, her body draped in a fashioned outfit. At the end of her hand, a ringed finger glistens in the light.

"She is amazing!", you hear the person next to you say.

"She is?", you ask the person.

At that point, the stranger rattles off all of the 'instant' visually appealing things about the lady...

- *her hair flows around her shoulders with golden streaks*
- *the face is smooth with skin a baby's bottom would envy*
- *the clothes seem to speak and brag about each curve*

This same scene/reaction happens everyday, across the world, to many people.



In a big city, a fancy car pulls up to a small gas station. The make/model is well known. Easily seen as one of 'those' expensive cars that not many people can afford.

A couple of the station workers scramble and almost step over each other to reach the door. The tinted window slowly comes down, revealing the driver.

"Oh my gosh! Is it really him? I can't believe my eyes.", one of the two shouts to the other.

"I saw the car first! I get to help him.", the other threatens back.

Within the vehicle is John. Back from a 3 month long blockbuster movie-shoot in another country. He has finally made it back to town, got into his car and headed out a long needed 'me' time drive. His cell phone battery has gone dead.

"Excuse me gentlemen, could you tell me where 123 Somewhere Street is? I am supposed to meet a friend there in 5 minutes.", the worldwide known actor asks kindly.

One of the technicians responds...

"Mr. I saw you in the big movie just last month. You were awesome! How did you get yourself to act that way?"

Both workers not hearing the question, asked by the driver, about the house at 123 Somewhere St.

"Thank you, I appreciate that you liked the movie. Now about the address. Could you....", John responds, but, is cut off.

"Oh! oh! oh!, can you do that voice? You know the *grrr*, followed by the famous 'now take that' phrase?", a worker asks.

"No, no, not that one. My favorite is when you said 'now you can take that to the bank!' as you did 'that' to the bad guy.", the other worker adds.



The time ticks by with John trying to be respectful of the workers. Soon, 5 minutes has passed, no directions are given, and a date with his close friend is cut short.

Throughout my experiences in both life, and autobiographies by those 'amazing' people, a pattern of detachment happens frequently between people who shine in the public view, and those admiring the light.

It is true, people within certain roles must tailor themselves to perform the duties. An actor must become the character. A model must look her/his best. A business owner must control, guide, portray a sense of leadership.

Each of these traits and skills are what is required to excel at their position. Some may be born with characteristics that shine from birth, or others may have an inner ability to 'take charge', 'form their body', 'do what is needed to get the job done'. When someone becomes a well recognized name or face, it is not just that they had the birth or inner parts to work with, but, that they took the effort to put themselves out there and become what the public wanted/needed.

Unfortunately, along with these responsibilities is the side effect of being superficially liked by others. That during down-times of wanting to be themselves, they are still evaluated/compared and ultimately treated not for who they are, but, who the others see them as.



However, as many come to find out, their image and light are easily dimmed by public and private opinions if circumstances change. A 'looker' may experience a life changing event (disease, accident, other) that alters their dazzle. A business person may make the wrong financial decision and lose all those years of respect in a single day. Or, an actor being called upon by all of the top talk shows, finds the phone silent if the last couple films flopped at the box office.

The inner human ingredients that cooked what was liked before are still there. It is only the external layers that may change. A face/body may look different after Chemo, a wallet may be thinner from a bad investment, or a name may not be at the top of 'those' charts anymore.

At these times, being the 'flavor of the day' often changes when the appetite of those eating is soured by the look of the meal, instead of what the meal actually contains. And it is also during these moments that both the person changed and those changing their opinions come to realize which connections were superficial, and which are built from the inside out.

When you find yourself drawn to someone, or you find someone being drawn to you, examine at what level the bond exists. One built solely on external factors is just a loose string waiting to fall off.

Having an appetite for someone because of their 'Fortune Flavor' benefits neither. Instead of looking at how attractive the meal looks, take the time to truly look at the dish. Examine the ingredients, ask questions about how it was made, and share your own recipe with the other cook. Both of you will trust and enjoy the stronger long lasting experience.

