

RESPONSIBILITY

My name is Robert, this is my story.

I was the type of child where responsibility, was the other person's job. It was never... is never, and could have never been my responsibility to do anything that I did not want to do.

'It's not my responsibility', was usually the thought in my mind. It was the perfect get-out clause for every bad situation I got myself into. In fact, "it's not my fault," or "it's your job, not mine," were my favourite sayings.

Not taking responsibility for my actions even justified me doing some really stupid things, and made it easy for me to not grow up or be serious about anything I did not want to be serious about.

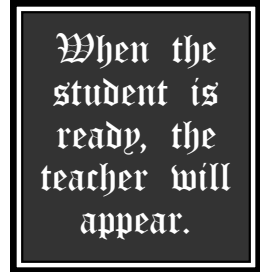
The amount of times I would argue with my parents, teachers and anyone else who tried to tell me off regarding something I had done, or even what I should or should not be doing.

I always managed in my mind at least, to justify why I had or had not done it, even though the people around me were less than convinced.

In my mind it was so and that was all that mattered to me.

My dad, in his efforts to make me think about my actions more would always repeat one of his many sayings to me, “When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.”

I think he meant, when I was ready to grow up and start acting responsibly I would one day see the error of my ways and start to change my irresponsible mindset for the better.



I could never have known how right he was. What's more, I could never have known how my lack of responsibility for such a small thing in my mind could have caused such a horrible set of events to take place.

The Teacher Appears

The day ‘the teacher would appear’ started like any other for me. I woke up late for school, so I had to get up and rush and get my things together. In my rush, I turned my room upside down looking for my course work, which I had not finished yet, but wanted my teacher to go over some things with me.

**This is an excerpt from ‘The Seven Principles of RESPECTisms’.
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