

SURELY YOU'RE JOKING, MR. FEYNMAN! BY RICHARD FEYNMAN



In his book "Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!" Richard Feynman seems to depict his odd side of life among his peers due to his perception. He was actually curious about the global issues that happen within his environment and the impacts that people around him engage in. The book demonstrates the how Feynman thought about his immediate environment, depicting his compulsive character to offer solution to a number of puzzles in his immediate environment. The book also shows his proactive malice, impatience, hypocrisy, and pretension.

As a physician, Feynman contributed to the scientific body of knowledge by doing what typical scientists do not carry out. In this book, he played Bongos and marched when the Samba bas was played during carnival which took place in Rio de Janeiro. He also established a holding gallery for the artists so that they could display their drawings. In the entire book, Feynman's curiosity becomes evident since he wanted to discover most of the things that happen around him. This exploration led him to various unprecedented situations.

The book indicates that he believes this would improve the reputation of the artists and most of their products become accessible to potential viewers. This was beyond the expectations of many scientists and artists in Las Vegas. As depicted in the book,

Feynman also spends his time examining isolated external experience and learning how to conduct safe-cracking as a way of improving innovation.

Feynman concentrates in all these things to improve his field of interest which was particle physics and its contribution to society. He uses scientific methodology and perception to examine the surrounding where he lives. At a young age, he starts his exploration by fixing broken radios since he had physics knowledge. He is actually enthusiastic about it that he set a small lab where he does all the activities in the house. Having a domestic lab was very important because the young physician did not have enough capital to set the same facility outside. The book indicates that lab composed of wooden box used in packing that acts as a shelf.

He did not stop at his initial domestic lab, but shows interest of improving it by anticipating that he would add a lamp bank within the laboratory. He intends to use the lamps to provide additional light that would facilitate the work. This shows the extent to which Feynman was enthusiastic about developing his physics skills at an early stage. In addition, he makes the connections of the bulbs and switch systems alone without involving an expert as a way of making sure that he gets them right individually. Even though he employed tricks in his adventurous activities, some of them created certain problems. For example, in his experiment to connect bulbs in the house, the system busts and sets fires, though he was able to put it off before the parents could notice. The book shows that this does not discourage him, but gives him the determination to identify the mistakes that results to that and seek means of

avoiding a repeat of the incident.

Feynman then started repairing radios. His radio experiment succeeds and it eventually picks up some of the local channels that people can listen to. He does not stop here, but joins the audience in making observations about its success and anticipated improvement. This shows his level of creativity and determination to achieve his desires. He actually became proficient and even started repairing broken radios for his clients within the area, some even called him. He always plots whatever he can achieve and this is one principle of success that the book indicates. After succeeding in the radio experiment, he started working on a burglar alarm for their house. To him, the innovation was merely a simple connection of a bell to a battery that makes it ring. This connection was done at his bedroom door, where if one opens the door, it completes the connection circuit thereby making the alarm ring. This makes him notice that there is a stranger in his room. Indeed, this is one of his creative works that he engages in at his prime ages.

Furthermore, Feynman makes all attempts to remain modest in his environment, make observations and articulates them in a humorous way to impress his audience. The book shows that he is very enthusiastic about his life as opposed to being remorseful towards his colleagues at work, specifically the government officers. He rather helps a situation than stare at a messy situation like other people do. This is useful and contributes to his success in the activities that he does. The book also indicates his struggle with the university bureaucracy. The university has issues with integral designs which are virtually lacking according to the author. He indicates that most of the subjects taught at the university are

mostly theoretical.

In the book, Feynman is portrayed as a good physician, but poor in sports. This is depicted on his encounter with tennis game. In his actual comical mood, he is actually afraid of playing the tennis ball, neither does he know where the ball should land. Ideally, the book demonstrates that someone may not be given multiple talents, but may have an area of specialization where he explores and does best. Feynman's creativity was in the line of physics at his initial stages since he specialized in this field.

Although Feynman was a physics maniac, he seems to engage in other activities which are equally useful and fascinating to society, but had limited concentration in physics. He also concentrated in addressing his interpersonal issues. Regarding his relationships, he indicates that he married thrice due to a number of issues that he encountered in those relationships. He had issues with most women hence could not settle in marriage, sometimes he assumes ladies as he walks along the way. Although this seems to be abnormal, he does it intentionally and as a show of adherence to natural science than social science. Whether one calls it prejudice or not, Feynman's relationship with women did not remain usual even in his marriage. In this book, this aspect is depicted in the number of marriages that he had.

In his activities, he has different encounters with government authorities, which affected the smooth operations of his business. Government authority sometimes imposes rules that do not favor business activities. He also gave rounded monetary figure to the government every time he had an engagement with their program.

In one of his responses to the government activities, he accepted to offer a speech for a state program that was scientific oriented, but interestingly under condition. In his usual amusing character, he did not want to append his signature on the paperwork because they were going to exceed thirteen times as the regulations governing the program required. He does not indicate the rationale for putting such demand, neither what he fears in signing as many times as the paperwork requires. It becomes interesting that once he has appended the 13th signature, he does not sign another one even if it was for taking money. He actually rejects the money because the 14th signature is needed while the government insists that he must be paid. In the book, this episode is comical for someone who wants to discover Feynman's character.