ETHICS - OUR WAY OF LIFE

by Ramli Bahari

Scenario one – someone finds a wallet containing a substantial amount of cash by the roadside. The sum is sufficiently tempting to induce the finder's delinquent behavior to commit the 'crime of opportunity'.

Scenario two – the finder succeeds in tracing the owner's whereabouts. In the meantime, until the wallet has been returned, deep in the finder's heart is the horror of being a suspect of retaining a stolen property.

Scenario three - the finder returns the wallet to its rightful owner in a timely manner. A big relief to him when he discovers that the money is for someone in distress. At that point, he knows that he has made a difference in someone's life.

Through my personal experience in handling such unique situations, the common explanation given by these people was simply "It is not my money". That's it.

So what exactly does it further imply? The contention goes beyond the normal logical explanation; it is certainly more than honesty and integrity. It is the reflection of the person's true values, guided by his strong religious convictions to that noble disposition.

Who are these people? In real life, they are just ordinary people who are neither free nor independent of the financial need. But one thing is for sure: they are guided by ethical principal.

In the course of our lives, we will have the opportunity to meet and take great delight in the company of these simple people at one time or another. At the moment of truth, these simple people will continue to do the right and smart thing.

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