

Waiting

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Abstract: *This article is about how people would respond, if they have to 'wait' for something or somebody and how they spend the time in waiting. 'Waiting' may be expected or unexpected. The concept of 'waiting' is, maybe, a less preferable topic for a serious researcher. As for my knowledge is concerned, a few articles or papers on this topic have been published so far. I have been observing people who get tensed, get irritated or get angry while waiting for. These scenes have prompted me to do some research work on this topic. In this article, I try to present the workings of the minds of people while they wait for. Wonderful, beautiful, astonishing, and very grave findings have been found when I meet and ask different people about their reactions to 'waiting'.*

Keywords: *Waiting, Dual functions of 'Waiting', Outcomes of 'Waiting', Positive outcomes, Negative outcomes, Other outcomes, Manage 'waiting' well, Waiting at Home for Somebody, Waiting at Home for Something, Waiting at Workplace, Waiting at Other Place, Waiting for Something Which Will Take a Long Time*

I. Introduction:

“Life is a matter of waiting for the right moment to act”

-Paulo Coelho

‘Waiting’ means a ‘time gap’ between expected time and happening time. There is no specific time span for ‘waiting’. It may last for a fraction of second to those who watch a hundred meter running race. It’s a life time waiting for a scientist to invent something.

‘Waiting’ is an inevitable thing in human life. Everybody has to wait for something or somebody innumerable times during his/ her life course. ‘Waiting’ is a very common practice. It is a routine or daily activity. Everybody has to wait for something or somebody for at least once a day. There are two dimension of waiting; we wait for something or we are being waited.’ Though no one wants to wait for or to be waited for, none can avoid it.

‘Waiting’ can be an intentional or unintentional, accidental or planned one. People wait for on their own accord or they may be waited for by other people.

There is no specific time span for the process of ‘waiting’. It may be the shortest or the longest process. It may last for fraction of seconds for instance, one has to wait for two or three seconds to login an E-mail or a face book etc. It may last for ages; waiting for Lord Jesus’ rebirth is long waiting that lasts for two thousand and more years.

While waiting for somebody or for something, different kinds of feelings and thoughts arise in human mind. They may be either productive or unproductive. They may be advantageous or disadvantageous to humankind.

People also become introspective, while they are waiting for; they examine and analyze their attitude towards an issue they involved, their deeds, their response to a specific context, their behaviour in a particular situation, they try to justify their behavior or response in a situation, they think of the ways to behave in a better way etc.

An interesting aspect of ‘waiting’ is that the waiting people forget the real, actual thing for what they are waiting. People generally feel waiting is longer than it actually is and people become very vexed with this feeling. People feel like this when they don’t have anything to do than merely waiting for. People become blank minded and they will be in a state of chaos. Only sensible people overcome this state and are in position to decide what to do. The rest will spend the waiting time blaming themselves and others.

Dual functions of ‘Waiting’:

‘Waiting’ is a two dimensional process as it, very typically, justifies the two contradictory truths: ‘**Haste makes waste.**’ and ‘**Delay is the enemy of progress.**’ It is a known fact that we lose opportunities or things because of waiting. Things become worse because of being waited or being kept waiting. On the other hand, by waiting, we can/ may avoid a great deal of loss. Psychologists and personality development trainers often suggest us to wait for a while and think before talking to the people with whom we are angry. ‘Wait and see’, they say, ‘is the best policy.’ People generally wait for the right moment or auspicious time to start doing things. Sometimes people wait for things till they come on their own course. We will see the two contradictory outcomes of ‘waiting’ in the later part of this paper.

When people have to wait all alone, it will be harder to spend time. Waiting to become something is an exciting one for those who are waiting for meeting their favorite personalities or much waiting thing. If the waiting is for right action, people will be fearless and exciting. If the waiting is for doing wrong things, people will be tensed and the waiting will become unbearable.

While waiting, people weigh the possibilities or impossibilities like 'whether the other person turns up or not, thing will arrive or not. People treat and deal with 'waiting' in different ways. Their response and attitude towards 'waiting' are unique in many ways. Some people utilize the time while waiting. Some enjoy it. Some take it for granted. Some hate it.

Some of the possible ways of human beings think are discussed here. People become worried, furious while they have to wait for something or somebody. People do different things such as merely biting their finger nails or blaming the people who have made them waiting or cursing their own fate. If the 'waiting' lasts for such a long time, sensible people plan to utilize or enjoy themselves the time in waiting by painting a picture, writing a beautiful poetry, doing something useful to mankind or at least for them.

'Waiting' seems differently. As has been discussed above, the nature and result of 'waiting' vary from one perception to another point of view. It depends upon the people and ability to deal with 'waiting.'

'Waiting' is painful and is hell; people spend sleepless nights, and days while waiting for something. People become impatience and do unwanted things and get into troubles. The pessimist people get worried or disappointed by thinking of the disadvantages or financial loss that the much awaiting thing would bring to them or how they will get disappointed or despised by others.

'Waiting' is an excitement one for those who wait for and anticipate a good news or thing to be arrived. While waiting, people enjoy themselves a great deal of pleasure by imagining the positive sides of the things. They imagine only how much advantage they get from the awaiting thing and how best they can use the thing for their advantage.

People become fanciful while waiting. If they become fanciful, they will give a free access to their hidden feelings and thoughts. Their feelings wear wings and soar high like anything. They imagine things fancifully and by their imagination, they will carry into a land of dreams where they (can) do all the impossible things which they cannot in the real life.

The responsible and sensible people spend the waiting time by thinking deeply about reforming society; road safety, sanitary facilities, medical facilities by analyzing and rationalizing different behaviours, by examining one's role in an incident critically, and they think how it would be if one behaves in different way, about government policies, about the responsibilities of citizens etc.

'Waiting' is one sort of testing time of 'belief or disbelief', 'trust or mistrust.' Let us consider a few incidents.

A lover waiting for his beloved's arrival worries a lot whether she keeps her promise or not. He alerts himself for any slightest sound comes from in the surroundings. He contemplates lots of things of a blend of fear, annoying, and pleasant feelings. When he thinks positively, he recollects all the sweet memories shared with his beloved but abruptly he jumps to negative thinking.

When he doubts, whether he believes that his beloved would give him a hand and he recollects all the misgivings of his beloved. He starts contemplating the doubtful suggestions given by elders, friend, the members of his family about the possibility of the success of their love. He starts to get tensed, worried, but all of sudden he calms down himself and comforts himself by recollecting a promising incident of the past taken places between his beloved and himself which.

In a temple, a devotee, waiting for his turn to pray to God, worries about his sandals left on the steps. He is dubious whether he will see them again or not. Another waiting devotee, who is a pessimist, thinks of going and worshipping another God in another temple.

Among the visitors who are kept waiting at a government office, a young man starts blaming the system, finding faults with system and people and tries to give suggestions to set right the system. A church father opens the bible and recites the lines to the listeners there. An old man takes this as a great opportunity starts narrating his autobiography to the horrifying listeners. A widow worries whether her pension will be granted or not.

'Waiting in a traffic jam' is one of the most irritating things of 'waiting'. While waiting in traffic, majority of people become impatient, sometimes irrational, and start blaming the fellow travelers, the system, the government, and finally themselves. A very interesting thing takes place while waiting in traffic is that people who are patient one day and become impatient another day.

Outcomes of 'Waiting'

There are conspicuous positive and negative outcomes of the process of 'waiting.' The outcomes may be either good or bad to human beings. People's capability of treating or dealing with 'waiting' decides whether the outcomes are advantageous or disadvantageous. If people can manage 'waiting' well, the outcomes of 'waiting' are positive and profitable. If people cannot manage 'waiting' well, the outcomes are negative and they are both harmful and disastrous.

II. Positive Outcomes:

“Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.”

-Abraham Lincoln

Tolerance:

‘Waiting’ enriches enduring power in people. It enhances the much needed quality of ‘patience.’ Those, who learn to manage waiting profitably, will be tension free forever. If people are sensible enough to learn things from their experience, ‘Waiting’ enables them to become patient enough in their lives.

Comprehensiveness:

Comprehensiveness is one of the very important and profitable outcomes of ‘waiting’. It brings a lot of change in a man’s attitude; while waiting, people become contemplative of their strengths and weaknesses. During the waiting time before starting a task, people realize the practicality of doing the task and they search for alternative possibilities of accomplishing the task. ‘Waiting’ gives scope to contemplate and the contemplation enhances the comprehensiveness in people.

‘Waiting’ is pleasure for those who can manage it successfully. For example those, who can manage ‘waiting’ well, can think of the possible positive aspects of the awaiting thing. The learned and matured people gain more knowledge through their quiet advantageous contemplation while waiting for something.

III. Negative Outcomes:

“Waiting turns men into bears in a barn, and women into cats in a sack”

-Robert Jordan

‘Waiting’ causes for raising anger, vexation, anxiety, impatience, irritation, tension, nervous etc. Impatience drives people crazy and violent. People become imbalance of emotions, unable to control of self, unable to subdue their own impulses.

Anger:

The first and foremost outcome of ‘waiting’ is anger which is a self destructive emotion. If people are kept waiting for no fault of theirs, it is real hard for them to wait and they become anger. It leads people irrational and causes for mental imbalance. The waiting people start blaming themselves or others for their being waited for. Anger is one of the major reasons for a man’s downfall. When people are incapable of managing anger, they cannot win the hearts of other people and they cannot make other people do things since they lose their dignity and respect.

Vexation:

Vexation is another immediate reaction from people who are kept waiting. It is one of the negative emotions that people should not possess. People cannot concentrate their mind on anything. It leaves no chance for people to be cool-headed and thus, they take improper decisions.

Anxiety:

The waiting people become anxious and they worry excessively about things or persons that may turn up or not. The unwanted thoughts and notions bother them and they do not stay them steady. A sense of pessimism creeps into their mind.

Impatience:

‘Waiting’ is unbearable because people lack the quality of patience required. ‘Waiting’ kills the patience within a person. The waiting people become impatient and they are always in misconception of things and persons. People with impatience blame themselves and their fate and they are in conception that everything goes away from them. They feel that they are unlucky fellows and they are the only people those are kept waiting for before getting things. It mounts pressure on the workings of minds. They feel stress and they cannot be stable in doing things or they cannot be in good terms with other people. Because of this pressure, people become irrational and they commit mistakes.

Apathy:

People become disinterested in accomplishing the tasks, if they are kept waiting for receiving acceptance from higher authorities.

The negative thoughts which rise while ‘waiting’ for something or somebody compel people to do unnecessary or unwanted things that would bring people a great deal of damage to their personality or financial loss. They may not be regarded as good colleagues at workplace. They can be labeled as arrogant and insensitive people.

Other outcomes:

‘Waiting’ shows immense influence on the workings of human minds; many people change their opinions while waiting before the actual execution of the action. They withdraw from the course of action since they cannot

manage 'waiting' successfully. People withdraw from a very important task because of long waiting before the happening of the actual action.

Sometimes people shift from their passionate profession to a lucrative ones. It happens because they have to wait for a long time before they start their passionate profession and so they start another task, thinking it's only to fill the gap time but, very surprisingly it becomes their main occupation since they find it lucrative and safe to lead life quite happily.

Before the guilt is found, the guilty feels it is unbearable and more panic than the real punishment. Intolerable of the increasing pressure of the waiting, in most of the cases, the guilty people or sometimes the witness of guilty deed, confess the guilt without any external force or enquiry. Some most important, even dangerous, secrets are revealed by people since they cannot wait till the secret is revealed on its own course.

Having been said earlier, 'waiting' has both shades of positive and negative. It depends upon the quantity of prudence, patience and tolerance of people. It depends upon people's capability of managing 'waiting'. 'Waiting' turns a man into a mad one or crazy one. It may turn one into a wise, patient, and learned one. 'Waiting' serves as a transformer of human ideas and thoughts.

IV. Manage 'waiting' well:

"We never live; we are always in the expectation of living"

-Voltaire

Before thinking how to manage 'waiting' well, you have to realize certain important things about 'waiting'. First, 'waiting' is an inevitable thing in every one's life. Second, 'waiting' is not external aspect in the process of accomplishing a task. It is one of the interior part and parcel means to achieve something. You require a large amount of patience to deal with and pass 'waiting' time. Patience is a virtue and it reaps you sweeter results.

Waiting At Home For Somebody:

If you have to wait for somebody at home, you can manage 'waiting' well by arranging things for them. You may spend the time in waiting: by reading your favorite book, an interesting item in news paper, a novel etc. by referring to the albums, by watching your favorite program on the TV, by singing, dancing, by playing with siblings, pet animals.

If time permits, you may wash clothes: clean your system, your room, home, bike, car etc.: you may mend things: do gardening: clear the weed in the garden: set up nursery in order to be engaged during the waiting time. If you are creative enough, you may paint; write something, while waiting for your guest.

Waiting At Home For Something:

If you have to wait for something at home, you can manage 'waiting' well by imagining where the thing should be placed and how it should be used. You may spend the time in waiting by describing the usages of the things to your family members. You may arrange all the necessary electrical supply if the thing is a PC, or LCD player etc.

Waiting At Workplace:

If you have to wait for somebody or something at your workplace, you can manage the time in 'waiting' by browsing net, by checking mails, by downloading pending material. You may check the file concerned once again whether everything is okay or not and get ready all the necessary information, while waiting for the customer. If you think that it is necessary, you may take you colleague's permission to be available while the customer being there. If you are waiting for a letter from other branch or office, you may prepare the necessary matter to give reply soon.

Waiting At Other Place:

If you have to wait somewhere else that is not much familiar to you and the 'waiting' is accidental which lasts for more than half an hour, you can manage it well; by talking to others, time by making phone calls, by chatting with friends through mobile, by taking refreshments, by observing the surroundings etc. If it is possible, you may spend the waiting by shopping, by paying bills etc.

Waiting For Something Which Will Take A Long Time:

In case of the 'waiting' is a prolonged one, you may undertake another task for example you are waiting for the appointment offer from an MNC, you may learn a new computer course or you may do a part job during the 'waiting' time.

There are ways that can make 'waiting' more tolerable; by making fun out of the situation. If the 'waiting' is an anticipated one, you may prepare for it by taking/ keeping books with you.

Personality development trainers advise people to take ten or more heavy breaths before they start an excited action. And they also suggest us to count at least ten numbers before we go to argue with somebody or before taking a decisive decision.

It is wise people's advice not to wait for things to happen but to take the chance command them because time is a 'subtle thief' and flees from people. They say: 'Instead of waiting for life to happen, make it happen. Instead for waiting for a change, create a change'.