"How can I become an asshole?" - Surprisingly good top answer from Quora

29 upvotes | 24 January, 2014 | by InscrutablePUA

---

http://www.quora.com/Life-Advice/How-can-I-become-an-asshole

"Sometimes, the only antidote for incompetent assholes (which 90+ percent of top business executives are, because U.S. careerist business culture is narcissistic but thoroughly mediocre, emasculated, and anti-intellectual) is a competent asshole."

Another great quote: "Counterintuitive truth about business: being well-liked is completely optional; having high status is mandatory. Never lower your status to be better-liked."

Comments

unsungman • 16 points • 24 January, 2014 02:41 AM **[recovered]**

Interesting. IMO most of the time the "competent assholes" aren't really bad people. Imagine being a boss and knowing how to get shit done yet you're surrounded by people who:

A) Don't want to get shit done. B) Don't know how to get shit done. C) Need a pat on the back for getting even the slightest shit done.

It can be frustrating for someone truly competent to be boondoggled and stifled. Hence why they tend to have that "asshole" vibe.

Also, semi related:

http://www.ribbonfarm.com/2009/10/07/the-gervais-principle-or-the-office-according-to-the-office/

Saw this on TRP somewhere and bookmarked it. Great read.

In any case, people searching for stuff like "how to be an asshole" is a red flag that there are "try hards" in the making. Nothing worse than a dude actually trying to "become an asshole." That's the type of cat who actually thinks he's the shit with his new "asshole persona" and when he leaves everyone laughs their ass off and mocks him.

Being more assertive, being able to say no, tactfully calling out bullshit...those things aren't asshole by nature. Just things most assholes usually do well by nature.

Nothing wrong with trying to learn how to do any of the above but everything wrong with actually "trying" to be an asshole.

> thecajunone • 3 points • 24 January, 2014 12:50 PM
>
> Fuck... This is how I feel about most people I know.
>
> .

[deleted] • 5 points • 24 January, 2014 08:43 AM

What does it mean that US business culture is emasculated? I always considered the US strangely very masculine in this regard: it seems many US businessmen come from a football, athletics, or military background. We in the EU tend to have bookish business people, academic, intellectual types.

Emasculated and anti-intellectual sounds weird in one sentence. Usually it is intellectual men who are emasculated, and your avearge big brawny linebacker marine is not too intellectual.

Because you either spend your life growing up reading books or going out there and kicking ass, usually not the both.

> bad_pattern • 1 point • 24 January, 2014 08:51 PM
>
> deathly scared of being labelled a witch, I mean politically incorrect is what the emasculated refers to here.
>
> .

[deleted] • 3 points • 24 January, 2014 08:48 AM

I am more used to the EU business culture but I don't understand this at all. It sounds like as if a US business is a social place, not a workplace, where popularity rank like that in fucking high school is king.

I mean this is basically the same kind of advice like with social stuff, like in politics or whatever, it does not sound like an advice where people actually work.

I am used to workplaces that are about working. Heads down, everybody beating the computer, not chatting, not

knowing anything about each other.

I think size matters. When you work for firms with a headcount between 3 and 100 it is more like a working place, while a bigger business may be more social.

.

redpillbanana • 7 points • 24 January, 2014 05:35 AM*

> Never lower your status to be better-liked.

There's a universal truth here. When you trade a core pillar of your character and self-worth (status, dignity, honor) for external value (money, sex, position, popularity), you eventually lose both.

For me, this is a key tenet of Red Pill thinking.

[deleted] • 4 points • 24 January, 2014 08:50 AM

Are you sure? Too big a status difference just scares people. There is a value in Big Boss sometimes coming down from the castle and having a lunch with employees and chatting in really equal style terms about kids and sports. People become more loyal when seeing that they are not being looked down upon, and being less scared.

redpillbanana • 4 points • 24 January, 2014 09:24 AM

Interesting point!

I don't think that a big boss going to have lunch with his employees is giving up status - in fact, magnanimity is part of being high-status.

An example of giving up status: letting the employees get away with laziness (e.g. taking long lunch breaks, leaving early, not hitting deadlines) so that they'll like you more.

[deleted] • 2 points • 24 January, 2014 09:39 AM

OK, so status != sitting on the high horse.

I think what you are driving at is that people often test if they can get away with being disrespectful, it's like a game...

redpillbanana • 2 points • 24 January, 2014 09:50 AM

Yes, I believe that is true. Shit-tests come from everyone, not just women.

.

Kiyanavasala • 3 points • 24 January, 2014 09:38 AM

I disagree. From my own experiences of the higher-ups deigning to grace us mere mortals with their presence--when they bother to show up to promised meetings they themselves arranged--the overriding feeling amongst us plebs is negative.

We know it's because they're trying to play the "good boss" card, and we instantly associate their visit with the ever-looming restructures, redundancies and attempts at outsourcing and privatisation that they're constantly trying to shit on us with.

Ciphermind • 2 points • 24 January, 2014 03:19 PM

Then your bosses weren't doing it right. Some people have the kind of presence where it works.

.

InscrutablePUA[S] • 1 point • 24 January, 2014 09:51 PM

I think it has more to do with not compromising your ideals and integrity for the sake of being more agreeable.

pro_skub • 1 point • 24 January, 2014 07:18 PM*

Not bad. More insightful however was a scientific study I saw linked in reddit a few months ago. It explained why some people who are arrogant and selfish can ultimately obtain resources from others. I remember it because it reminded me so much of my machiavellic boss at that time. There were three main characteristics of the "highly successful douchebag". One of them was to be open, extroverted. I can't remember more, but I'll update if I can find it again.

EDIT: can't find the thread in my saved links, weird since I would normally have saved it. Pity.

> InscrutablePUA[S] • 1 point • 24 January, 2014 08:27 PM
>
> would be good if you could find it!

>> pro_skub • 2 points • 24 January, 2014 09:19 PM*
>>
>> I tried a bit harder this time, et voilà:
>>
>> http://www.southalabama.edu/psychology/Faculty_Jonason_files/JonasonLiTeicher.pdf
>>
>> Relevant exceprt:
>>
>> "Exploitation is likely a difficult and risky strategy that often results in failure because people tend to be guarded against exploitation and are inclined to retaliate against it. Thus, we hypothesize that a specific set of personality traits may be required to persistently pursue a highly selfish agenda. **High levels of extraversion, openness, and self-esteem, coupled with low levels of conscientiousness and anxiety** may better suit an agentic person who repeatedly attempts to extract resources from conspecifics."
>>
>> So you can afford to be a douchebag only if you have: High levels of extraversion, openness, and self-esteem and low levels of conscientiousness and anxiety
>>
>> Bottom line of the article:
>>
>> There are two successful ways to function in society and they are orthogonal: one is being the traditional good, altruistic person, the other is as described in the paragraph above.
>>
>> Bottom line of my comment:
>>
>> You can be a douche and successful, but being a douche is not enough.
>>
>> I would also argue that more and more people nowadays don't see being a good person as viable strategy anymore. The corporate world environment, tough job market, decline in overall quality of life and happiness in the last decades have turned society into the ideal breeding ground for psychopaths. Today just being a decent person pays little.

>>> InscrutablePUA[S] • 1 point • 24 January, 2014 09:53 PM
>>>
>>> Great, thanks. The last bit is, I think, pretty true and makes me sad. I'd like to believe there's justice in the world and evil is punished but I see too many counter examples all the time. I wonder what has really changed so that psychopathic traits have become the norm for success. Globalization? Feminism somehow? Rapid technological change leading to the breakdown of the societal fabric?