

How to make Friends or Enemies

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These are two short stories that I have heard. I do not know if they are true. It really does not matter. Both stories have a moral that is worth noting. In both stories I will refer to the protagonist as John although clearly these are two different people. I have always liked these stories.

Making Friends

A small-built man by the name of John was traveling on business and while spending the evening in one town wanted a drink at the bar. This was a rough town and the bar had a number of rough looking patrons. John was concerned that he might become an easy target for verbal and maybe even physical abuse. Then he had an idea. In a loud and as tough a voice that he could muster John called out, "Who thinks they are badest in here?" One big and clearly very tough guy at a table of his friends stands up and with an appearance and a voice of you-are-a-dead-man says, "Me." The bar gets very quiet in anticipation of what is likely to happen. John then calls out, "Bartender! A round of drinks on me for the gentleman and his friends!" With that John bought himself peace for the evening and now can enjoy his drinks without fear.

Making Enemies

John, who is a small-built man but with an oversized attitude took his car into a shop for repairs. The repairs kept taking longer and longer and each day when John called to check on his car he was told that it would take yet another day. John finally got fed up with this routine and storms down to the shop and calls out to all the mechanics, "Whose ass am I going to have to kick to get my Goddamn car fixed?" One very burly mechanic says in a tough voice, "Me." The story can take different routes at this point but in all cases John loses.