

# Best Way to Introduce Teachings?

Post by “Daniel Van Orman” of March 7, 2019 at 3:05 PM

The Forgetful Computer

As a computer science major, I understand how difficult interpreting error messages is. For example, my computer once said, "Error: Need more memory".

I replied, "But you remember things just fine! See, you even remember those files I copied over and forgot about fifteen years ago. Besides, the doctor is absolutely sure you don't have memory problems, even to the point where he said to stop calling entirely. The MRI scans did not show anything wrong either. Well, at first, I mean.... Before the magnets kind of, uhm...."

"Error: User incompetence. Need more space."

"You cannot share your room with the other computers? I guess it is a little crowded, with a printer, a router, and two other-"

"Error: User incompetence. Need more virtual space."

"Oh, I get it! You need some fresh air, don't you? Why don't you spend some time outside in the rain? With your pet ram? Before the zoo takes it away?"

"Error: User incompetence."

"You seem to get that error a lot."

Eventually, I solved that error. It took many days and countless hours, but once the AI pointed out the solution the sixth time, I discovered I could gain space by uninstalling the AI - thus solving the problem forever.

It just goes to show you any problem may be solved with thinking and hard work.

Sometimes, solving a problem may require a perspective or skills one does not have. Without that AI, I never would have thought to nor figured out how to uninstall it. Getting help and helping others may make everyone happier.

Other times, a problem simply needs more time and effort - the solution is clear, but one has to apply a strong work ethic to reach it.

If something frequently bothers you in life, whether it be a roommate, a computer complaining of user incompetence, a missing talent, or even yourself, seek to improve the situation.

Although difficult, it will lead to a happier and better life over time.

Sources:

All the grand sources, in short, of human suffering are in a great degree, many of them almost entirely, conquerable by human care and effort; and though their removal is grievously slow-though a long succession of generations will perish in the breach before the conquest is completed

John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism, Chapter 2

The wise man holds that friendship is first brought about due to practical need, just as we sow the earth for crops, but it is formed and maintained by means of a community of life among those who find mutual pleasure in it.

Epicurus, Sayings about the Wise Man, 41

Of our desires some are natural and necessary, others are natural but not necessary; and others are neither natural nor necessary, but are due to groundless opinion.

Epicurus, [Principal Doctrines](#), 29 ; Vatican Sayings, 20

These stories are fairly flexible with doctrine, but get ideas across in a friendly, understandable way.

So, how do you share your personal beliefs with others? If one were to ask or show interest, but not want to spend much time learning Epicureanism, how would you help them? Should we spend time improving our materials or making new ones? Are there materials I am completely overlooking which should be made more noticeable?