

ATTORNEY. An example?

ATTENDANT. Yes.

ATTORNEY. Alright. An Example – of acting in others' best interest. For Example:
Fine: A Loan.

ATTENDANT. A loan. Of...?

ATTORNEY. ...of...of...of. A loan, of: a lawnmower.

ATTENDANT. Alright.

ATTORNEY. ...When...

ATTENDANT. ...Did someone actually loan you a lawnmower?

ATTORNEY. ...did they...

ATTENDANT. ...yes.

ATTORNEY. I'm sure they did. I...

ATTENDANT. ...can you... I don't mean to antagonize you...

ATTORNEY. Go on ...

ATTENDANT. ... but...

ATTORNEY. Did they Loan Me a Lawnmower.

ATTENDANT. Yes.

ATTORNEY. ...in contradistinction to, to...

ATTENDANT. ...to your...

ATTORNEY. ... my, yes, my merely hypothesizing such a loan, as...

ATTENDANT. ... that's right.

ATTORNEY. ... an example of...

ATTENDANT. ... that's right.

ATTORNEY. ... a picturesque example of...

ATTENDANT. ... the "sort" of transaction...

ATTORNEY. ... yes. Yes. Yes. Did someone Loan Me a Lawnmower. (*Pause.*) I am prepared to... I don't know. I don't... wait. I don't know. I am prepared to stipulate,mmm? Whichever you...

ATTENDANT. ... I don't...

ATTORNEY. ... that I did, or didn't...

ATTENDANT. ...didn't ...?

ATTORNEY. Borrow...

ATTENDANT. ...mmm?

ATTORNEY. You see?

ATTENDANT. No.

ATTORNEY. I am prepared... whichever you,... choose. Do you see? Choose. Choose. Mm? I don't remember. (Pause.) I don't remember, if, in, fact,

ATTENDANT. ... but...

ATTORNEY. Yes. Alrig... yes. Fine. Alright. I was lent a lawnmower.

ATTENDANT. You were.

ATTORNEY. Yes.

ATTENDANT. You were?

ATTORNEY. Yes. How about that. In my youth. It seems. I mowed "lawns" with it. Yes I did. I borrowed a neighbor's "lawnmower" on one occasion.

ATTENDANT. Why?

ATTORNEY. Well, it would have been mine was broken...

ATTENDANT. ...mmm...

ATTORNEY. ... and I'm sure that I returned it, in Better Shape—no, I won't be grandiose—in a state as good as that in which I'd found it. And I'll Tell You Why! That man, my Father's Friend, the man next door, from whom I'd borrowed it—isn't it strange what we recur to? As I took it, I told him. "I'll treat it like it was my own." And he said, "No. Treat it as if it's mine." Now: can I think that that comment didn't influence me? Over the Years...? And I cite that Very Fact that it was buried, to support my thesis.

(Pause.)

ATTENDANT. What was buried?

(Pause.)

ATTORNEY. I'm sorry?

ATTENDANT. What was buried? (Pause.) The Lawnmower?

(Pause.)

ATTORNEY. You're joking.

ATTENDANT. What?

ATTORNEY. You're joking.

ATTENDANT. No.

(Pause.)

ATTORNEY. ... was the lawnmower buried?

(Pause.)

ATTENDANT. Yes.

(Pause.)

ATTORNEY. ...you're joking. (Pause.) Who would bury a lawnmower? (Pause.) Do you see my point?

ATTENDANT. Who'd Bury a Lawnmower?

ATTORNEY. Yes.

ATTENDANT. I Don't know. (Pause.) Who would bury a lawnmower?

ATTORNEY. (Pause.) No one I know.

ATTENDANT. But you said that it was buried.

ATTORNEY. ... mm...

ATTENDANT. ... you said...

ATTORNEY. ... I said the comment was buried.

ATTENDANT. ... the comment.

ATTORNEY. Yes.

ATTENDANT. What comment?

ATTORNEY. The "thing" the man said.

ATTENDANT. It was buried.

ATTORNEY. Yes.

ATTENDANT. What do you mean?

ATTORNEY. ... it... I forgot about it

ATTENDANT. Yes. I'm sorry. I've forgotten it, too. Could you...

ATTORNEY. He Said "treat it As If It Were Mine".

ATTENDANT. Yes. Yes. Yes. I'm... he lent you the lawnmower, and you said...

ATTORNEY. I said I'd treat it as if it were my own.

ATTENDANT. Yes.

ATTORNEY. And he said: "No. No. Treat it as if it were mine." (Pause.) "Mine", meaning "his".

ATTENDANT. It was his, though. (Pause.) It was his... wasn't it?

ATTORNEY. Yes.

ATTENDANT. Alright. Yes. Alright. So. I see. He meant "Treat it With the Respect Which It Deserves."

ATTORNEY. Yes.

ATTENDANT. He said that.

ATTORNEY. Yes.

ATTENDANT. .. You forgot it.

ATTORNEY. No. Not then. MMM? I forgot it subsequently. I didn't forget it. I suppressed it. Mmm? As in hydraulics where the very act of the suppression causes it to rise, with greater force. You see? In my subconscious.

ATTENDANT. You, you , you found it profound that he asked you to treat his lawnmower with respect?

(Pause.)

ATTORNEY. I had mouthed a platitude...

ATTENDANT. ... mmm?

ATTORNEY. And he suggested, though wit, that that which, to my infant mind, was meaningful, might be discarded in favor of a more mature philosophy.

ATTENDANT. He was suggesting that you treated your own gardening tools less-than-well? (Pause.) Was he?

ATTORNEY. Well, he may have been.

ATTENDANT. How did that make you feel?

ATTORNEY. I don't remember.

ATTENDANT. Can it have made you "proud"?

ATTORNEY. No, I can't think so, though...

ATTENDANT. ... or "Happy".

ATTORNEY. I... no, no, no, no, I see your point.

ATTENDANT. Perhaps it enraged you?

ATTORNEY. Yes. Yes. I see where you're...

ATTENDANT. ... and that is why you suppress it.

ATTORNEY. ...mmm.

ATTENDANT. ... and your whole business life has been the effort to repay that man for your humiliation.

ATTORNEY. Heh heh.

(Pause.)

ATTENDANT. Maybe you did bury the lawnmower.

ATTORNEY. "Maybe" I did, yes. But I didn't.

ATTENDANT. Why did you, alright, then, why did you say "maybe I did"?

ATTORNEY. I was agreeing with you.

ATTENDANT. Yes, but why...

ATTORNEY. ... I was agreeing with you... it's a "debating" device, if you will. To agree to the lesser... Abraham Lincoln did it. Cicero did it. To grant that which can not be successfully disputed, thereby gaining credibility, for those few objections one may fruitfully make.

ATTENDANT. Why could it not be successfully disputed?

ATTORNEY. Why, why could what not?

ATTENDANT. That you had buried the...

ATTORNEY. ... is that, now, is that what we were...

ATTENDANT. ... yes.

ATTORNEY. Refresh me.

ATTENDANT. I said “Maybe you buried the lawnmower”, and you said how you’d grant me that, as it could not be successfully disputed.

(Pause.)

ATTORNEY. Well, It could not.

ATTENDANT. Why?

ATTORNEY. ... because, because... How...

ATTENDANT. You could have said, “No, I didn’t.”

ATTORNEY. How would I prove it?

ATTENDANT. Are you suggesting that that which cannot be documented must be abjured?

(Pause.)

ATTORNEY. Can’t we drop it?

ATTENDANT. If you wish.

ATTORNEY. Thank you.

ATTENDANT. ... through you’re the one that brought it up.

ATTORNEY. I’m aware of that.

ATTENDANT. ...n’I must suppose you raised it for a reason.

ATTORNEY. Yes, ah, well, no, there’s no such thing as “Randomness”, that the thing...?

ATTENDANT. How would I know? (Pause.) Hm. You were saying?

ATTORNEY. I’m sorry. Is there someone else I would talk to?

ATTENDANT. No.