



Road Rage and Other Rages

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD of “road rage”? This expression is now quite common, especially in countries where most people travel by private car.

A Hong Kong student who studied in the United States told me this story about road rage he had witnessed. A driver was driving his car rather slowly, while the driver behind him was impatient to go faster. The driver of the fast car was eventually able to overtake the slow one in the next traffic lane. In passing the slower car, he aimed his gun at the driver and shot him. A number of similar cases have been reported in the press.

There is now another kind of rage – wrapper rage. What is that? Well, have you ever bought a packet of sweets, nuts, medicine, or anything so tightly wrapped and sealed, that it is almost impossible to open it? Of course these items are sealed for hygienic reasons, or maybe to stop customers opening them at supermarkets. Whatever the reason, it is really annoying to deal with packages that are so difficult to open. Old people especially, because they have not enough strength in their fingers, often need someone to help them to open packets. They feel frustrated and may become angry. That is wrapper rage.

Life is so fast and competitive today that some people do reckless things, such as bumping a slower car, assaulting someone,

losing one’s temper – or even killing someone. What does this indicate? Surely it indicates that some people react too easily to pressures, and get into a rage unreasonably at every small annoyance.

While petty annoyances may make us angry, we should learn to hold our tempers. Maybe we ourselves are doing things that make others angry. The world is progressing in science and technology, and we can expect to find more pressures, and more frustrations that make us impatient about anything that delays us.

It is time for us to slow down a bit and think what life should really be like. We have a little poem in English literature that I think we should keep in mind when we go rushing and pushing. It begins:

“What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?”

The poem encourages us take a little time to calm down sometimes, and enjoy the beauty of nature. A quiet walk with friends or family in a country park may help us do just that.