

# THE PIONEER

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## Worm's eye view

### Sanjay Bose

If you are like me, you are probably also tired of being told of the virtues of being early in the canticle on punctuality and promptitude: "An early bird gets the worm." (No, I am not anxious about the catch, nor do I aspire to fly high.)

But is it not a pity that nobody ever stops and thinks of this from the poor worm's point of view? Had it partied the night before and stayed in late catching up on its beauty sleep instead of getting up bright and early, the poor bird would have to consider changing its menu for breakfast. The worm's troubles, and most of ours, stem from being early.



I for one have decided to turn over a new leaf and to be royally late and lazy from now on. Consider what happened the other day when the head of our department deputed four of us to write four parts of a departmental report.

Since this was before I became the new, improved, and much wiser and tardier Sanjay, I worked hard and diligently and wrote up my part days before the deadline.

I could not wait to show it off to the Head, but when I proudly presented it to him, the first thing he did was complain. His complaint went like this. I was doing a rushed job... it was not up to the standards, etc, etc. And finally, to make me feel guilty, he said he had not expected this from me. He meant to say I had disappointed him. The fact of the matter was I was beginning to feel disappointed in this department head.

I had a tough job ahead of me even after all this. Here I was, having to exert my lungs so as to convince him of the actuality. On being assured that I really had spent hours over the report and that what he was seeing was literally the product of my blood, sweat and tears, he unkindly made me sweat some more by making me write the other portions as well.

I could have avoided all that by handing in my report at the last hour, which is what I plan to do from now on. Just goes to show that being early at work can actually be hazardous for your health. People will either think that you are under-worked or that you do a shoddy job.

I bet all the successful people in the world got to be where they are today by always keeping a stack of work pending with themselves - work that they would savour and cherish and not let go until things gather, as they say a critical mass.

I know that this resolution of mine would come as a shock to my friends. They are known to get nervous and start calling the cops fearing the worst if I do not show up for a meeting on time.

My wife and daughter would breathe a sigh of relief, though. They are still trying to live down the time when I took them to a party too early - one day early, to be precise.

With a big gift in her hands, my wife could not even lie and say that we had just dropped in to see if they needed any help with their party the next day. My brazen attempt at lying my way through by saying that the date set on my watch was wrong did not sound too convincing

either, not even to me.

Instead of digging into a sumptuous meal at our host's expense, we ended up grabbing hamburgers for dinner on the way back. The worst part of this of course was that we had to invest in another gift when we went back for the actual party the next day.

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