

**ISSUE 461**

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## What an Opinion!

Dear Penfabricans,

All of us think highly of ourselves and our own opinions. What we think matters. Our opinion is always **Ichiban**. No other people's opinions come close to ours. Such is our monstrous EGO!

What then is an opinion? After all, Opinion is just a view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on facts or knowledge. How then do we form our own opinion? Most times, we based it on our own inklings, past experiences and accrued knowledge, regardless of whether they are right or wrong. At the same time, some opinions are based on hearsay, especially if the words come from those whom we hold in high esteem. It does not matter right or wrong, but he said so – thus it is enough, no justifications needed. Some of the ways that give rise to opinions are indeed trivial. Let's not get too serious about opinions, yours or mine, ours or others!

All of us do have the right to have an opinion. Nonetheless, this right of forming an opinion does not make the opinion right. Many of our opinions can and most likely will change; sometimes depending on our mood, state or mind or even the time of the day. Therefore, it is alright to not always stick by our opinions or not to have any opinions at all. We also have the right to reconsider and reformulate our opinions from time to time. So, what's your opinion on this? Opinions, please!

Having said that, some people are fickle-minded; they change their opinions ever so often. To each asking, a different opinion comes out without any thought process. They just mutter something out of their mouths as and when they feel like it. Of course, with this kind of people, we do not solicit their opinions as we term them unreliable or uncouth. On the contrary, some people are so serious about their opinions that whatever they opine, they will hold steadfast to it, believing strongly in their own views like the gospel truth. They fight tooth and nail to defend their opinions. Should we harbor contrary opinions, such people become agitated as they could never imagine being wrong.

How then should we treat opinions? Opinions are no more than an expression of feelings of an individual on certain issues. Needless to say, we hope our opinions are

treasured when we are given the opportunity to express them. We ought to be responsible for our opinions and not just blab out some verbal diarrhea. Only voice our opinion on topics that we are comfortable with or on our areas of expertise or speciality. Avoid giving opinions just because we are asked. In order to give sound and reliable opinions, we need to do some research first so that whatever comes out from our mouth is credible.

Dear Penfabricans, if we like our opinions to be honorable and respected, give wise opinions. Otherwise, just hold our horses.

Have a lovely weekend, learn when to open our mouths and when to keep our big gaps shut.

Thank you.

With kind regards,

HSTeh.