

Jaywalker – What is the matter with you?

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For some of us walking is part of our lives for various reasons. Despite the controls, so to say, we encounter on the road, we enjoy walking freely and as gracefully as ‘Johnny Walker’. You might wonder why walking has been used for a whisky advertisement. Still more, to your surprise, running is coming into it as well. Take our famous runner Haile Gebreselassie’s entering into a contract to advertise whisky! How is that? Well, life is like that at times! Now, back to our subject of walking controls and one of which is zebra crossing! Yes, that! But this is, of course, without forgetting those other ‘controls’ that make fun of bumping and nudging people. How could we?

As you might already know, zebra crossings are areas where we all have to control our steps, collect ourselves together and focus on the traffic before crossing. However, this doesn’t hold water with jaywalkers. Mind you this is their own doing. Considering their defiance, one thing peculiar about them is their burning desire to continue their free strolling even if that means to the end of the world; or rather since ‘end of the world’ is in terms of time, it might be round and round the world. Are they world explorers? You wonder! No exaggeration. Zebra crossing is no checking area for them. They have chosen that attitude. Worse still, some of these are divers. You can call them that for they just dive into the sea of cars with no checking

whatsoever. In the name of all the traffic rules, is zebra crossing for uncalculated, whimsical diving? Can anyone help here?

The other peculiarity about these divers is they tend to kindle their desire to compete more than ever before now that they are at the zebra zone. Let’s say you love walking. You are not a jaywalker. Why should you? You reach the zebra zone. It is not time to get in there. You halt your happy strolling and stand watchful. And then, there comes the happy jaywalker, looks at you standing watchful, and automatically decides and jumps into the zebra area no matter what! Now, what is that? Is that competition? Oh, really? Jaywalker – Is that so? What is the matter with you?

Moreover, what is weird with some of the jaywalkers is that they totally defy the whole idea of zebra crossing and get engaged in other activities that are absolutely pointless and incomprehensible. These jaywalkers come from the other end of the road, and from there, they seem to whimsically pick someone whom they fix their eyes on. While being in the zebra zone, in stead of looking left and right or instead of crossing quickly, they stare and continue to stare, or rather fix! If at all, that must be the last thing one should dream about doing while being in the zebra area anywhere in the world, let alone in Ethiopia, where drivers are always in haste. Staring and fixing in the

middle of the road, never minding the traffic; what is that?

What about the other jaywalkers who firmly hold the belief that ‘I am busy; I have a very important business’? Think of it, and that important business could be talking over the mobile phone at the top of one’s voice. So, this happy jaywalker with the mobile phone, walks and walks – non-stop, non-checking. There is always never mind the road attitude about them. What is hilarious is that they are noise-proof, these jaywalkers! Sorry for the angry driver who is so impatient to get rid of these nuisances! They are not listening! They are determined not to. Their business is more important. It needs sacrifice, self slaughter, everything – anything. After all, how can they listen when the phone has blocked their hearing potential? Sorry also for the cautions pedestrians who try to awaken the jaywalkers from their distracted walking! ‘Hey, you – there is a car! Watch! Mind your steps’ etc. Poor you, they are not listening! Sad! How is it possible for one to be so disoriented?

The worst jaywalkers are the ones that deliberately abuse the whole purpose of zebra crossing. They know what zebra crossing is intended for but they want to make an exaggerated use of it. In fact, that is a case of abuse. Hence, in the middle of the road, they deliberately slow down and stroll to the point of reaching a standstill. Some even tend to stop and become all chatty! What a pathetic sight! Some sort of investigation is needed to find out and fix what has gone wrong with these people. Yes, for sure, it must be done to find out what has really gone