



Session 21 – Speeding

The story I'm about to tell you is about a speed fine that I'm going to link to, a quality that I find one of the most important in life. The quality will be told at the end. First of all, let me tell you the story, and I very much hope that you enjoy the angle and will understand why I'm telling it to you from this point of view.

A few weeks ago, I passed my motorbike test and I was as happy as a sand boy. The examination said to me, 'Young lady, you have passed!' and off I went back home, told my partner. Yes, I did it. Immediately got on the telephone to the Town hall, that's what you do in Holland if you get your driving license, because you have to ask for a different type of driver's license. And they told me I'd have to wait seven to 10 days before it would come. And I said to them, 'Oh, is there any opportunity to make that quicker?' And they said, 'Yes, you can ask for an urgent request and get it done within one or two days.' I said, 'wonderful, when can I have that appointment?' And they said, you can come in 3 days time. And I said, 'oh, 3 days time. Is there no opportunity earlier to come?' And they said, 'Well, madam, you're lucky there's been a cancellation within one and a half hours, if you're here, we can do it for you.'

I looked at my watch and I started making the calculation in my mind. I thought, yes, I can do that. I said, I'll be there. And he said, Madam, you have to be on time. I said, Yeah, I understand. Put down the phone, started ringing all of the shops in the area where I could get my picture taken, you know, one like that because you needed that to get your license. Found a shop that would take me within 25 minutes. Jumped in the car. I thought, I'm going to make it and I'll have 10 minutes to spare.

A couple of minutes from where I live, there's quite a wide road and I put my foot down. I thought, oh I was so happy, you know, those moments and accelerated. And suddenly there was a policeman right in the middle of the road. I had to go to the side and it was a very young man, very strict. But I realized what was happening. It was my adrenaline from passing the test and everything. So I had a little smile on my face, not rudely. And I said, Officer, I'm so sorry. He said strictly, 'Oh, Madam'.

Fortunately, there was an older officer there and he came to the car very calmly. The strictness was gone. And he said, 'Madam, why are you smiling?' And I said, 'Well, can I tell you a quick story?' And he said, 'Sure'. I said 'do either of you have your motor bike, driver's license?' And the older one said, 'yes, I do'. I said, 'Well, then you're really going to understand this.' And I told him my story and I said, you know, that feeling 'wham, wham' and you're all happy. He said, 'Yeah, I know that feeling.' I said, 'But it wasn't very wise at all. I was doing it in the car and also I wanted to get to the town hall in time.' We all started laughing and I said to the older officer, 'Is there any way that I could get around this fine?' And he said, 'Madam, I don't think so, but I'd

give it a try and write a letter. You might be lucky!' So I thanked him and I said, 'I'll be on my way and I assure you I'll keep to the speed limit.' I never go over the speed limit, guys. It was just one of those moments of unawareness, lacking awareness. So off I went I kept to the speed limit. I managed to get to the photo shop in time with two minutes to spare. I was at the town hall and I got my driving license.

And this just goes to show that gratitude is so important. What was I so thankful for? By getting that fine it made me aware that I was not aware, that I was too much in the adrenaline and that would have been incredibly dangerous if I would do things like that on the motorbike. And I saw it as a moment to remind myself, Jackie, you're a very fortunate woman with all of the things you were allowed to do with your life but you must be respectful and you must keep to the rules. They're not made for nothing and you must keep yourself safe. Going over a speed limit like that is very foolish.

I was so grateful. It's probably going to cost me a lot of money. But when life deals you cards, that's what we're talking about. You read everywhere that you should be grateful. You know, all of the exercises about going to bed and being grateful for all of the things that you have. But when the tough stuff comes, I would also like to invite you to be grateful, because very often those are the moments that we learn the most when we think that something actually quite horrible or mean or unfair happens, we learn the most.

Be grateful no matter what universe deals you and always remember to learn from what has come on your path and therefore to show some beautiful gratitude.