

## The New Reality

by Anil Shrivastava “Musafir”



My friend, Chris Cross just got fired from his job for being extremely tardy and nonproductive. So, I decided to call him.

Me: “Why did you choose to be tardy every day? Do you suffer from alarm clock dyslexia?”

Chris” “Cuz my body requires that I sleep until 11 in the morning after watching Squid Game on Netflix until 3 am the night before. My body has to heal in order to be productive.”

Me: “I can understand that, but how about the employer's needs and requirements too?”

Chris: “We care enough for the employers. Now, it’s their turn to care for the employees. It’s my life, my body, my universe, after all. Moreover, my government does not require me to do scut work. They send checks to folks like me for being a slacker. I don’t need to work for keeping myself alive anymore. You see why?”

Me: "Did you ever consider watching Squid Game at different hours so that you could reach the pole position in the morning?"

Chris: "What for? I am not a morning person. My employer can't torment my body by requiring me to do a nine-to-five job. My body has to heal to be able to be productive."

Me: "Is that not asking a bit too much from an employer?"

Chris: "Not at all! I believe in work-life balance and so should my employer. They do this in Europe. The Europeans are a happy bunch. They take a siesta between 2 pm and 5 pm every day. Parents are encouraged to keep their children indoors and ball games are strictly off the agenda while the town's inhabitants get their forty winks. In Germany, they spend the entire October celebrating Beerfest. In the Scandinavian countries, the average weekly working hours is 29.2 and the people there are, like, a billion times happier than us. That's the sign of a progressive and caring society."

Me: "So, you think that your boss was unjust in firing you. Right?"

Chris: "Yes, he needs to understand the criticality of individual biology but he is such a freaking idiot that I am expected to work on his terms, whereas, I need to put myself first. After all, I am young with my whole life ahead of me!"

Me: "So, what's the plan now?"

Chris: "Go to my favorite bar; have a beer or two or, maybe four. Like to join me?"

Me: "Sure, but what's the plan for the future? Aren't you gonna find another job?"

Chris: "No! First. I want to wait for the Build Back Better plan to pass. I want to see what

kind of social reform they are going to have in there. Maybe, I'll never have to work again."

Me; "What, if it doesn't pass for some reason?"

Chris: I may have to find a new job then. The new employer will pay me a hefty joining bonus and will bend over backward to keep me happy. Do you know how hard it is to find someone willing to work these days? Moreover, "having a job is cool but it doesn't mean that you got to work also"

Me: "Carpe diem my friend."