



ONE WAY  
ONLY

## 5 Monkeys and a Ladder

I was driving out of a megamall in the city one night. There was a queue of cars exiting and I was in one of the two lanes of cars waiting to get out of the mall's parking lot. Suddenly, one of the two car exit meters stopped working or rather it went on a "pause mode" and one car stalled briefly for two or three minutes. In no time at all, other cars abandoned their queue and began weaving away from the stalled car into the next row.

A minute or two later, the exit meter was working again. Interestingly, there were no cars at that exit by then. More interestingly, other exiting vehicles began queuing in that single lane where all the cars were, including mine. When I finally pulled away from the parking lot, there was still no sign of any cars trying to exit via the lane where the car had briefly stalled.

This "Herd Mentality" reminded me of the five monkeys and a ladder thought experiment. If monkeys could speak, the one getting hit would probably ask: "Why do you guys keep hitting me every time I try to get the banana?" And we would certainly hear the other four monkeys reply with a puzzled look, "It's always been done like this."

Does this ring a bell?

By FC Law

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