ON THE BENEFIT OF SLEEPING IN: AN EXERCISE IN EPISTEMOLOGICAL IRONY

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Hemingway, an expert on human fallibility of various kinds, might have taken a recent *New York Times*'s (and other new media) report as an example of such fallibility. It happened in the 2014 running of the bulls in Pamplona. Along with several others, Bill Hillmann, co-author (with Alexander Fiske-Harrison) of *Fiesta: How to survive the Bulls at Pamplona* was gored in the leg after he fell while running. Hemingway's grandson, John Hemingway was there but did not run with the bulls. This prompted Fiske-Harrison to say, "He slept in, which shows a high level of wisdom."

Fiske-Harrison goes on to say that running with the bulls is more dangerous today than in past years. This is due largely to the greater number of people showing up but also by their violation of Rule No 1: show respect for other runners by not pushing or blocking them. Hillmann claims he fell because he was pushed from behind. Videos, ubiquitous on the internet, show him being gored and later, in pain and disbelief, carried on a stretcher from the field of action.

Hemingway, as I suggested earlier, might have taken the incident with as just another example of a salient feature of the human condition—a disconnect between expectation and execution due to a disregard (or ignorance of?) present and emerging conditions. Such a mind-set can be characterized in this context as failure to assess present day risks in running with the bulls coupled with ignorance of past injuries there—even deaths.
Fiesta: How to Survive the Bulls of Pamplona, the reader will recall, is essentially about how to eliminate the variables that condition, or cause, goring: for example, stay clear of other runners, avoid shoving others, position yourself on the blind side of the bull (typically, to the side and back of the animal), employ the proper footwear and above all, don't drink and run.

Or, better yet, eliminate the ruling variable by sleeping in.

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