

Just Think...

3: Dave's cave...or what's fair?

BY ALEX GANLEY

NARRATOR Forty five thousand years ago...
Mankind lived in caves...
We called these men...CAVE MEN...
Because...they lived in caves!

These primitive people had limited vocabularies. They didn't have as many words for things as we have today. Like 'skateboard' and 'iron-monger'. When they needed a new word to describe something they had to invent it.

Another big difference between them then and us now is that there were no shops, restaurants or takeaways. When you got hungry you had to find food, either pick it from a tree or chase it with a spear. If you didn't, then you didn't eat and if you didn't eat you died. It was called 'survival of the fittest'. Those that were strong survived. Those that were not...well, didn't.

Our story begins in those times, when one such Neanderthal, a caveman by the name of Dave, sits in his cave one prehistoric evening when an unexpected visitor drops by...

BRIAN Oh, alright Dave.

DAVE Who's that? Oh, hello Brian. What brings you over this way?

BRIAN Had to leave my cave.

DAVE Oh yeah?

BRIAN Yeah. Mammoths keep on using it as a toilet whenever I'm not there. Smells really bad. I can't stay there anymore.

DAVE Oh?!?

BRIAN Hey. Did you, did you hear about Simon?

DAVE Caveman Simon?

BRIAN Yeah.





DAVE No, what?

BRIAN Got eaten by a sabre-tooth tiger.

DAVE No way! What happened?

BRIAN Well, er, he got eaten by a sabre-tooth tiger.

DAVE Ouch.

BRIAN He just wasn't as fast as the sabre-tooth tiger.

DAVE No, I don't suppose he would be would he.

BRIAN Survival of the fittest and all that.

DAVE What's that?

BRIAN Oh, just something one of the other caveguys was saying. Ever noticed how the fastest and strongest survive? He calls it 'survival of the fittest.' This really is a nice cave, Dave.

DAVE Yes, thanks. I like it. Nice view over the plains. Get to keep an eye out for the bison and such.

BRIAN Oh, yes, wow. That really is a nice view. Yep, I reckon you've convinced me.

DAVE Convinced you? What have I convinced you of?

BRIAN I want it.

DAVE What's that?

BRIAN It's a really nice cave, Dave. I want it.

DAVE Well, thanks. But you can't have it. This is my cave, I live here Brian.

BRIAN Well, you can just have my old one.

DAVE What? I don't want your old cave. You just told me it's cold and smells of mammoth wee. No, I'm happy here with my nice warm one. With the view and such. You really can't just take over to someone's home you know.





BRIAN What? What are you talking about? Course you can.

DAVE No, you can't. It's just not...you know.

BRIAN Just not what?

DAVE It's just not...I don't know what the word is.

BRIAN Ah, c'mon, Dave, you're not going to make me have to hit you over the head with this big mammoth bone now are you?

DAVE Hit me over the head?

BRIAN Come on, Dave. You know this is how we cavemen do things.

DAVE Yeah, I know. It's just very primitive...I don't think it's very...I don't know, I don't know the word.

BRIAN What kind of word is it? Is it a big word?

DAVE I don't think there is a word for it. I'm going to have to invent one. Pilchards? No that's not right.

BRIAN What kind of word you looking for? Is it like a doing word?

DAVE Brian – coming here and taking my cave and threatening to bash me over the head just isn't...F...F...F...

BRIAN 'Potato'! That's a good word.

DAVE That already is a word Brian.

BRIAN Oh yeah. How bout 'parsnips'?

DAVE No, I'm looking for a word that describes something not being... reasonable...not right. Somebody taking something that's yours, well it just isn't...FAIR.

BRIAN Fair? Fair? Ah, you nearly had me there, Dave. There's no such thing as being fair. We're cavemen. And the caveman way is that if you want something someone else has got you go and hit them over the head and take it. Survival of the fittest and all that! I've been bashed over the head millions of times now and it never done me no harm.





- DAVE Well, listen Brian, I've said what I think, I'm not giving you my cave because it just doesn't seem fair.
- BRIAN Now come on, Dave, you can't just go around making words like that up and saying we can't do traditional things we been doing for thousands of years now.
- DAVE Why not?
- BRIAN Well, it just wouldn't be...
- DAVE What? Were you about to say it wouldn't be fair? Ha! You were, weren't you! Hey, what are you doing with that big mammoth bone?
- BRIAN Sorry, Dave, nothing personal. Just that it's the cave man way.

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- NARRATOR And so Dave woke up alone on the hillside with a lump on his head and Brian living in his cave. These were deeply unfair times. No police or teachers to turn to. People took whatever they wanted and fought with whoever disagreed.

Whilst he was sitting there on that flinty hillside one dark, cold night Dave happened to kick two stones together which when they hit one another made sparks. Dave hit them together some more and soon made an important discovery. He discovered fire.

- DAVE Ohh! Oww! Oww! Oww! Hot-hot-hot!
- NARRATOR At first he set fire to his beard.
- DAVE Yeow!
- NARRATOR And burnt his fingers more than a few times.
- DAVE Owowowowowow!
- NARRATOR But after a while, Dave mastered the technique of making fire and mankind entered a new era.



- BRIAN Hey, Dave. That's a nice 'thing' you've got going there. What is it?

- DAVE Oh, all right, Brian. You not seen one of these before? I call it a hot-hot-hot.



- BRIAN Hot-hot-hot? Why do you call it that, Dave?
- DAVE Yeah, just be careful. I wouldn't try and pick it up...
- BRIAN Whaaaa! Ow. Ow. Hot-hot-hot!
- DAVE Yeah, see that's why I call it that.
- BRIAN Hot-ot-ot-ot!
- DAVE Yeah, it's really good. Makes you all warm so long as you stay safe enough away from it that you don't burn yourself. The mammoths and sabre-tooth tigers are scared of it so, it's good for keeping them at bay. But this is one of the best things about it...look at that.
- BRIAN What's that, Dave?
- DAVE I call it...a 'baked potato'.
- BRIAN Baked potato?
- DAVE Yeah, it's a potato you put in the hot-hot-hot for a while and when you take it out it tastes a million times better than what they do when they're cold. I just can't eat them cold at all now.
- BRIAN Wow! Can I have one?
- DAVE Er, no.
- BRIAN Why's that then?
- DAVE Well, because you hit me over the head and stole my cave, Brian.
- BRIAN Ah, you're not still going on about things being fair are you? I was only doing what anybody would do.
- DAVE Well, then perhaps that's something we need to deal with, as a people.
- BRIAN Hey, look who's on his way over! Might have known old Nosey-chops would be over to poke his big nose in.
- DAVE Oh, he's so nosey. What's wrong with his foot? Why's he limping?
- BRIAN Fell off a mammoth the other day.





- DAVE Oh.
- NOSEY Hey guys, what's that you've got there?
- DAVE Alright Nosey. It's a hot-hot-hot.
- NOSEY Ooooh.
- BRIAN It's Dave's. Don't touch it's very...
- NOSEY Looks good that. I wouldn't mind one myself. Are you not going to hit him over the head and take it, Brian? Cos if you don't I might go back and get my mammoth bone.
- BRIAN Can't do it, Nosey. You can't just pick it up and take it away. Need Dave to show us how to make our own.
- NOSEY Oh. Well could you make us one of them hot-hot-hots, Dave?
- DAVE I could. But I'm not going to.
- NOSEY Eh? That's a bit...un-friendly.
- BRIAN Not fair is what it is. We should call it Un-fair.
- NOSEY Yeah, it's the opposite of that word you invented. Fair. It's not very fair. It's...unfair.
- DAVE Look. I'm fed up of people stealing things and being rude and hitting one another over the head. We're acting like a bunch of animals and we're not. Cos animals can't make hot-hot-hot, can they? So we must be cleverer than them, right? Well, wrong. Because, at the moment, no-one helps anyone here. Animals at least hunt together in packs and share the spoils. People just do whatever they please. Life's unfair enough as it is, living in caves and having to look out that you don't get eaten by sabre-tooth tigers.
- NOSEY Or fall off woolly mammoths!
- DAVE If we worked more together perhaps one day we'd manage to achieve more than just sitting in damp caves that smell of mammoth wee.



- BRIAN Yes, Dave. You're absolutely right. We need to be a bit more fair towards one another.



- NOSEY Sorry for saying I'd hit you over the head and take your hot-hot-hot, Dave.
- DAVE That's all right, Nosey. Let's just agree to start making some changes around here.
- BRIAN This hot-hot-hot really is amazing isn't it. So bright and warm.
- DAVE Yes, it's almost like you don't even need a cave over your head when you have one of these.
- NOSEY Oh, what's happening to the hot-hot-hot?
- BRIAN Where's it gone?
- DAVE Yeah, it does that when it rains.
- BRIAN Can't see much now.
- DAVE Gone cold again.
- NOSEY Suppose the sabre-tooth tigers won't be scared off any more now that's gone out?
- DAVE I suppose not. If there were any...
- BRIAN Uh oh.

- NARRATOR And so our prehistoric heroes stood there in the darkness whilst the predator circled them. And they debated the virtues of fairness.
- DAVE He sounds big.
- BRIAN He sounds hungry.
- NOSEY What do you think we should do?
- DAVE Think we should probably make a run for it back to Nosey's cave, get some sharp sticks and scare it away.
- BRIAN Well, hang on there a minute, Dave. What's happened to all this fairness you were just going on about?
- DAVE What? What are you talking about?





- BRIAN Nosey here has a dodgy foot from falling off that mammoth.
- DAVE So?
- BRIAN So how's it fair on him if we go running off down the hill and leave him to hobble along till that tiger sees fit to gobble him up?
- NOSEY Don't leave me.
- DAVE So what are you saying?
- BRIAN I'm saying that the likes of us are at an unfair advantage over the likes of Nosey. It would be rather unfair to leg it off and leave him.
- DAVE So what do you suggest, Brian? How can we make this fairer?
- BRIAN Well, maybe you should have to hop away on one leg like Nosey will have to.
- NOSEY Or you could wear a blind fold.
- DAVE I'm not doing that, the tiger will get me for certain. And anyway you're a much faster runner than me, Brian. It would be unfair on me to have to hop if you weren't.
- BRIAN Well, you were such a stickler for fairness just a little while ago. Funny how people change their minds about what's fair when it affects them.
- DAVE Look, I want to be fair about this but I'm afraid sometimes life isn't fair and this might just be one of those times, Nosey.
- NOSEY Oh, charming! Suppose he's going to go on about survival of the fittest now.
- DAVE Well, yes, I mean, it is nature's way of selecting the strongest to survive. And who are we to argue with nature? Maybe you should go and ask the tiger if he'd mind hopping after you or wearing a blind fold to make things a bit more fairer!
- NARRATOR Until Dave came to an abrupt and final conclusion...
- DAVE All right, let's not go on about it any longer. Everyone run for your lives.

ALL Arghh!



THE END