

## EKTIMIS.com Quote of the Month

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**“Respect is like a big elephant in a room; everyone knows it is there, but many do not wish or know how to deal with it.”**

A local Zoo recently welcomed a baby elephant. The local community had waited eagerly for the arrival of the infant mammal—knowing that it would draw large crowds for weeks and months to come. Every morning a team of Zoo keepers would make their way to the area where the calf and the mother lived to perform some routine work. Soon after the daily visits began, the Zoo keepers noticed that the infant mammal would take a position that blocked their access to a specific area. The workers simply moved the calf aside gently and proceeded to perform their routine. This cycle continued for months and the Zoo keepers simply took the whole thing in stride.

However, after two years, the Zoo keepers began having difficulty pushing the young elephant aside—he was no longer a 250 pound baby. He was now much bigger and certainly heavier. By the sixth year the young mammal weighed a ton. The workers knew what to expect on most days, and they occasionally left the young elephant alone and did not bother gaining access to the blocked off area. They began to wonder how long they could go without dealing with this growing problem on their hands.

This story illustrates the concept of respect—in homes, in workplaces, and within relationships. Issues of respect do not emerge overnight; rather, they develop and grow over time. The longer an issue of respect is left unaddressed, the more difficult it will be to resolve. In *The Top Ten Laws of Respect* book series, I help a reader understand the essence and elements of respect—at various levels—enough so that anyone can better understand and deal with issues of respect in their own lives. There are ways to deal with many issues in life—including big elephants in a room!

(Comments are welcome at [ektimis.com](http://ektimis.com) or at my Blog: <http://thetoptenlawsofrespect.wordpress.com>)

### About the Author



Niyi Taiwo is the founder of EKTIMIS and the lead editor for the EKTIMIS eLibrary articles. He is a speaker and the author of several books, including the EKTIMIS Top Ten Laws series. He is a continuous improvement expert with over 21 years of industry experience – operational, management and consulting. He has been studying the topic of respect since 2004. He holds an undergraduate degree from WPI and a master's degree from RPI. He is a diversity consultant, a certified Lean Expert and an ASQ-certified Six Sigma Black Belt.