Anti-Murphy’s Law—an optimist’s vision

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Let us face it—the world is full of opposites. We have the good and the bad; the ugly and the beautiful. the hot and the cold; the hard and the soft, to name just a few. Incidentally, physicists talk of opposites too. They speak of particles and anti-particles such as electrons-and positrons; protons and anti-protons; neutrinos and anti-neutrinos, and strongly speculate about a universe consisting entirely of anti-particles (anti-matter). Based on this premise, it is but natural that Murphy’s Law would have its counter-part, the Anti-Murphy’s Law.

Murphy’s Law states that if something can go wrong, it most probably will. The reverse or opposite—the Anti-Murphy’s Law—would then have to state that if something can go right, it probably will. The following everyday situations would clearly support the Anti-Murphy’s Law.

- You rush to mail an important letter at the post office to catch the 7 PM pick-up. You are 15 minutes late in arriving at the mail box. But just as you get there, the mail truck pulls in to clear the mail box. You hand your letter to the mail carrier. You feel doubly rewarded: your letter is not only picked up on time and you have witnessed it yourself!

- You have been inviting people over every weekend and are looking for a break. Just then your phone rings. Guess what—you are invited to your dear friend’s house for the weekend.

- Your car needs an oil change very badly and you have been putting it off. You pick up the day’s newspaper and you see three different chain stores offering half-price deals and one of the stores happens to be in your neighborhood.

- You reach the airport in a hurry to meet your friend at the gate. You hardly have any time to look for a parking space. Just then, the car parked in a close by meter pulls out with 1 hour still left.

- It is rush hour at the supermarket. You are in a long line and you are reconciled to a long wait. Suddenly, they open up a new checkout counter and everyone in front of you goes for it and you are the first in line and check out in just five minutes.

- You have seen and admired your favorite suit displayed at the Department Store window for several days and you tell yourself if that goes on sale for even 20 % off, I will buy it. Lo and behold, the next time you pass by the sticker says 50% off.

These are just a few examples. I bet we all can come up with similar instances in support of Anti-Murphy’s Law. Most of us are inclined to attribute these to luck. I call it God’s benevolence.

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