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The Lamppost Phenomenon

By: Arden French

Have you ever sat down and actually counted your blessings? If you have, I'm sure you would have remembered how lucky you are that lampposts aren't afraid of moths. But, alas, statistics have proven, time and again, that the average person *hasn't* sat down and counted his/her blessings, and 95% of those who have, forgot the obvious moth-lamppost phenomenon.

Have you seen someone try to trick a moth into committing suicide with a cigarette lighter? The moth is drawn to the light and the idea is that the moth will fly into the flame, where it will suffer a terrible, fiery death. I have witnessed a friend's attempt at this apparently simple trick, and I can tell you, the results were disturbing.

You see, what my friend hadn't bargained on was that the moth was infinitely smarter than him. So, the moth flew into his arm, startling him enough to jump back and drop his lighter. Now, I say this is disturbing because one can easily imagine the havoc caused by a lamppost hopping around like an imbecile while trying to extinguish its own light.

Lucky for you, me, them, everybody, lampposts are *not* afraid of moths. This is the only possible conclusion, because clinical tests have proven that, although it was close, my friend is smarter than the average lamppost, so any moth would have to be smarter than said post, and therefore the only other reason why it wouldn't jump is that it has some sort of a bond with the moth. It is possible that lampposts have evolved over the millennia through sort of a Darwinism to not fear moths. One can easily imagine fearful lampposts jumping themselves to exhaustion and death and never living long enough to reproduce while the more courageous posts live long fulfilling post-lives doing post-things and one day settling down and having little lampposts. (Unfortunately, the modern lamppost has evolved to the point where it is so

courageous that it will allow one to drive one's car into it.) However, for some reason, the majority of the scientific community frowns on this theory.

Actually, very little of the scientific community is dedicated to research in the field of postology. ("Postology" comes from the Latin, "post," meaning "stupid," and "ology," meaning "science.") Very few alternative Light-source Altitude Sustaining Systems (LASSs) have been proposed. This is particularly worrisome in light of the recent reports of lampposts running from dogs in Maine and a post being chased to its death by a baboon in the San Diego Zoo. This raises another obvious question: has medicine gone too far? Are the weaker lampposts worth saving, or should we just allow nature to take its course, weeding out the weaker posts and allowing the stronger posts to do their jobs? These are, indeed, heavy issues that must be addressed, before mankind wakes up one morning, only to realize that it's too late, and be knocked unconscious and trampled to death in a lamppost stampede.