

## STICK WITH THE PROBLEMS THAT COUNT

Albert Einstein said that he wasn't smarter than anyone else, he just stuck with problems longer. People—including myself—work so hard to make their craft more difficult than it is. Problems with the work almost always come down to a question of *commitment*. As an actor am I going to stop telling the story as it was written for me because I am bored? Do I stop writing because my work isn't going anywhere recognizable?

The solipsism our society induces within us makes even people-watching seem like an aggravating tedium to most. We can't stay with a thing long enough to allow for surprise. And there always is surprise, if we pay attention long enough.

*I am shocked but not surprised* has been a kind of slogan among my contemporaries over the last half decade. I am sad... not for the state of society but for them. Whoever says this. Because if you are going from shock to shock, you are addicted...continually hunting for the new shock. And the *meh* feeling you project whenever someone asks how you're doing is not an honest response, it is an attempt to connect in the most safe and predictable way you know; a signal to your tribe of floating *meh* people.

But if you are surprised, and the surprise further fuels your curiosity, you are paying attention. Some things just aren't worth the time allotted to you. You and I both know what they are. Pick something worthy. And commit. Stick with the problems that count.

\*\*\*

*Mohammad Shehata's blog.* [mohammadshehata.com](http://mohammadshehata.com)