

DRIVING HAZARDS IN GREECE

The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis 16 March 2013

Why do Greeks all over the world fight each other? They fight amongst themselves, within their regional communities, In Greece and the Diaspora, politically, in business an online. And yet Greeks unite against a common enemy. How is this so? The following are two typical experiences in Greece that may go some way in explaining the passionate Greeks towards each other.

My wife who is Canadian of Hellenic origins spent most of her summers in Greece and knew her way around Greece and its lovely isles. One when we were holidaying in Greece, we were driving around Athens with me as a passenger. She drove like a bloody maniac through the narrow streets missing the parked cars on the pavements by mere centimetres.

I was freaking out and asked her to be careful. She looked at me and said "What and have an accident" At that moment another driver cut her off and the next thing I knew my wife and this male driver started the biggest argument while the cars were next to each other.

I said bloody shit, I am in a punch up here. I had visions of getting out of the car, and having a one on one punch up with a bloke I did not even know. I had to stand up for the sake of my wife. It was the Australian way of doing things. But to my amazement, no it was over in a flash. Both drivers exchanged insulting remarks about each other and both felt vindicated that their honour had been satisfied and moved off apart from each other.

My wife turns to me and grins saying. "Welcome to Greece Honey" . Here is me, all fired up, an over the top adrenalin running into my veins, visions of fighting and am ready for action. That was my baptism of fire. The passion displayed during those brief moments left me astounded and speechless for the rest of the day.

At another time we were returning to Athens and my wife as usual was driving along the main highway at speeds I must confess beyond what the signs indicated. (On reflection had she be driving in Australia and was caught she would have been fined, lost her licence and possibly have her car impounded for some time.)

In this particular case, we were about two kilometres away from the tolls in the distance , my wife speeding while I am hanging on for dear life, muttering curses on how did I marry someone who was a speed demon behind the wheel, when another car came up beside us heading towards the same toll gate.

I thought geezes, my wife will not let this bloke through when lo and behold another driver whooshed past the both of us and screeched to a halt at the toll gate, followed by the car next us and we then came in third after I raised my voice in sheer terror.

That was it for me, I got out of the car and yelled out and abused both drivers in my best Greek, everything that I could think of under the sun. When I had finished yelling in Greek I reverted to English and let go a number of profanities.

What did the two drivers do. They both looked at me, shrugged their shoulders as if it was nothing paid their tolls and sped off again into the distance like a swirling wind leaving me dumbfounded standing outside the car and the toll attendant looked at me as if I was the lunatic. Sheepishly I went back into the car and said nothing for the rest of the journey. My wife looked at me and grinned. As for me, I just did not know what to say. so I took the easy way out and said nothing



***The Voice from the Pavement** - Peter Adamis is a (not for profit) Journalist/Commentator. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538*