

Ethical Dilemma- A Caselet in Behavioural Ethics

Wing Commander

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Kabir and Kamy are course mates. Joined the Air Force the same day. Incidentally they were borne on the same day! Presently are stationed in the same unit. They have undergone the rigorous military training together, and thereafter served in the same or nearby units, having spent nearly eight years together. They have faced and shared similar highs and lows of life and have a healthy interpersonal bond between them.

However, one day, Kabir realises that Kamy has been indulging in minor misuse of office resources. As if this weren't enough, he has also involved his subordinates in his transgressions. While Kabir is certain that he must report Kamy's misdemeanour to his superiors, he feels severely conflicted.

On the one hand, he has to take into consideration a carefully nurtured, eight-year-old friendship, and on the other, the best interests of the Service. Taking either decision has a considerable psychological and personal cost—and it is not quite clear to Kabir as to what he should do.

If he doesn't report his course mate's transgression, he runs the risk of becoming party to it himself, while if he does, he risks losing a meaningful relationship.

Kabir is in a great dilemma. Ethical dilemma.

Kamy has a great reputation in the unit. He is meticulous. Helpful. Mentors his team. Never said no to any challenge or task. CO likes him.

Kabir had, a couple of times, brought this subject and how strongly he feels about it as a wrong doing. Kamy brushed it aside making it light.

The more Kamy took it lightly, the more Kabir took it seriously. Keeping quiet is weighing heavily on Kabir.

Points for Discussion:

1. If you are Kabir, how do you take it further? Justify your strategy.
2. If you are Kamy, how do you justify your actions?