

Judging won't help us

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Judging won't help us. People are the way we are because the habitat makes us this way. Unity among people is bad for business and bad for rulers, so if it's ever going to happen it will be through a creative new paradigm that the current habitat cannot prevent.

Wedging the divide between "right" and "left" further apart is profitable to the print, televised, radio and social media. It's valuable to those in power because a people divided are forever conquered, but it isn't deliberately forced through a conspiracy of the ruling class, it's just allowed to happen naturally, and it proceeds without the rulers actively encouraging it. It happens from the enthusiasm of those participating in the struggle against their brothers and sisters.

There's a healthy and beautiful part of our nature that is made harmful and ugly when we allow it to be inconsistent. Our conscience and original mind see the speck in our brother's eye, but when our brother shows us our mote, he does it with such hostility and judgement that of course we respond defensively. We accuse him of hypocrisy with no sense of irony. We are all very good at noticing when people the other side makes mistakes but we mostly make excuses for our own side if we ever even get past trying to deny the accusations.

Without a social dynamic to support unity, everyone is more of an enemy of those most closely aligned to them. The focusing on individuals is at the heart of this problem. Imagine if Christianity and Islam were both focused not on guaranteeing alignment to specific doctrine but instead on discovering divine truth together - there would be more focus on the agreed tenets of faith and less on the differences. If these churches explored divine truth with humility they'd agree as much as possible and be willing to be proven wrong. Faith demonstrably gets in the way of consensus. You see this if you look and not just in religion. The devotion to a mindset exists in political parties, groups, movements. There is a special use of language to inculcate group members into seeing everything from a rigid perspective that chastises others,

dismisses them as the enemy and seeks not to build on the common ground they share, but to overcome them completely.

Take war. The pacifist left and the isolationist right agree that an escalation of war is a mistake, but they'd both sooner complain about the cost of such a war after it happens than join their ideological enemy to prevent it. It's not because either side are bad people that they don't unite. It's because the structure of identity is tribal, egocentric and religious.

So what is the solution? First of all, commit to never judging anyone ever again. Even if they're pushing for something evil, they're not evil themselves, and nor are they the enemy. They are the prize. You don't have to let them carry on doing what they have done, but you do have to forgive them for having done it, because they evidently don't yet share your knowledge of why it was a mistake.

Second - avoid categorizing people by their opinions, party, religion and anything else, starting with yourself. You're not a 'unificationist', you're a student of unity. You're a student of the teachings of many people including TF, TM, but you're not a sheep. You see value in teachings where they shine a light on truth and not where they don't. You have an understanding of what Jesus said but you're also open to other interpretations because what matters isn't what he said, what matters is the truth he revealed. It doesn't even matter that it was he who revealed it. Who cares whether Buddha or Jesus was the first to show that all sin is caused by ignorance and can be instantly forgiven by someone with understanding?

Third, detach your ego from the truth you know. Do you know something true that others do not know? If others don't know it, you should be prepared to accept that you might be mistaken. Rediscover your truth all over again with someone who has never seen it. To do this you must see the world from the other person's point of view so closely that you are prepared not to find that truth ever again. Have a little faith but not too much. If the thing is really true, your faith that you will find it again will be rewarded, but when you do find it again it won't be your truth any more, it will belong to both of you equally. You won't have won anything. The only person who benefits from this will be the person you showed the light to.

Fourth, look for the truth in the words of those who consider themselves your opponents and build on that. Underlying the most toxic fallacies is a solid truth that has been misunderstood. Consider the racists who say that some people are born more valuable than others - they at least have an idea of value. Their call for diminishing the value of those they consider inferior might look like hatred, but if you see it from their point of view it comes from a place of love for those they consider "their people". They need to be reassured first of all that their people are not threatened, and secondly that they will be happier when they regard the "others" as their people to.

At all times, be aware that time is passing, have a sense of it. Feel the future becoming the past all around you, and then be aware of it happening through you.