

Reflections On Reciprocity - To Last Relationships Have To Be Reciprocal

Sam Harley
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My older brother and I were born a little less than two years apart. What was his was his, and what was mine was ours.

We would often squabble and fuss for the biggest piece of homemade pie. Mom's solution was simple: one cuts, the other chooses. Whoever had the knife suddenly began applying all their geometry and math skills to create two slices, equal down to the last crumb. Ok, altruistic it wasn't, but it cut selfishness by applying reciprocity.

Every major world religion has a version of the Golden Rule, simply "Treat others the way you would like to be treated."

The easiest test of reciprocity is "Now switch positions." Can you move freely between either position?

Back in the 90s I was on a team selling laser photos in wood frames, big ones. When a new shipment came, everyone was happy. Our team leader told everyone to make up their ideal cartload of pictures. When they were finished, he said "Ok, now switch carts with someone else." A good way to check your heart.

Father lived this way. Nick Buscovich told me when he was doing security for Father, one day a Japanese sister called him over urgently. Nick went into Father's apartment, wondering what the emergency was, to

see him crouched over, fixing the toilet. The sister was aghast that Father was doing manual labor himself. Father had no problem putting himself in any position.

One of my favorite testimonies of Father was from Kathy Winings, who was working scraping up old tiles in the derelict opera house at Manhattan Center. She saw a pair of men's shoes out the corner of her eye, and thinking it was a brother, said "You can grab a scraper and work over there." She nearly died when she heard Father say "Ok." He got a scraper and went to work next to her. After trying to disappear into the earth for several minutes, she heard him say "This is like cleaning up your spirit." I'm paraphrasing, but Father had no problem becoming the object.

There is a lot of talk of freedom. Father likened freedom in relationships to a sphere, a ball. It can roll in any direction, as long as all points are connected to the center, which is love. One moment you're on top, then on the side, then the bottom, and it doesn't matter. The Four Position Foundation is also called the 3 Objects Purpose, which means each one takes turns being the subject, and then is the object. With love at the center, everyone's having a blast and no one's insisting on being on the top. We're enjoying being connected to the center.

To last, relationships have to be reciprocal. The oxygen/carbon dioxide cycle is what has kept life on Earth going for hundreds of millions of years. And it works because we're happy to breathe in what plants breathe out, and vice versa. We keep each other going.

Many people are scared by the idea of eternity because they haven't experienced something they'd like to keep doing forever.

Anything built on non-reciprocal relationships will not last. It can't. That's why governments based on forcing people always crumble. Always. If a government's actions are not reciprocal, the system won't last. Political parties endlessly trying to do away with each other never set up lasting regimes.

Even God wants reciprocal relationships. The traditional view is God on a throne up somewhere, joyful, totally content, while we humans slog around in misery here below. A non-reciprocal being. We can try to get ahold of God, but good luck getting a reply, let alone a conversation. True Parents showed us a God, our Heavenly Parents, that wants to live in the world they made but can't. A reciprocal being.

Bottom line: we build a harmonious world with relations where you don't mind changing places with each other. Joyful relations are like a ball, it can roll in any direction, as long as no-one's trying to be the center. Love is at the center.

I'll cut, you choose.