

# CHAPTER 8

## *Viewpoints*

In the next chapter, we discuss the relationship repair action, but before doing so we should first consider the role that viewpoints play in all our relationships with other people.

From the moment of conception onwards, our environment moulds us. Our environment influences our individual view of life, to the extent that on almost every subject you care to choose, you will find people with differing viewpoints. People's life experiences, how their siblings, parents, schoolmates and teachers treated them, how they are treated in the work place, what they have read and what they have studied mould their viewpoints. Some people have loving parents, some have abusive parents, some are over-indulged

and others deprived. Each individual views life in his or her own, unique manner, and responds differently in a unique manner, melded by the kaleidoscope of personal experience.

Every area of life produces different viewpoints, perhaps the best examples of which are the political and religious arenas. Therein, heated arguments are commonplace, with the antagonists forcefully expressing their own 'rightness', and invariably having no effect on the opinions of others. Politics and religion are behind most wars, both past and present.

We are all the product of our environment. If you talk to anyone with strong views about what they are doing, for example a social worker or a missionary, and ask what motivates them, or what influenced their choice of occupation, they will invariably relate certain experiences as having affected them greatly. These experiences were often deciding factors in their vocational decisions.

The frequently used expression 'Your attitude to life is colored by your experiences' is not only very true, but also very appropriate, and in fact was the genus of what follows.

As a hypothetical example, imagine four people wearing four different colors of tinted glasses to represent their experiences in life – one red, one green, one blue and one orange. There is a plaque on the wall and each person is asked its color. One sees it as red, one as blue, one as green and one as orange, and each *knows* he or she is right. Similarly, four people

having a discussion about a particular subject may all have different and strongly held viewpoints, and each person may be convinced that he or she is right. Their experiences in life tell them they are right.

Therein lies the genius of every argument you have ever had: *you knew you were right!* Unfortunately, *the other person also knew they were right!* Each individual sees his or her own truth! If you can make this concept your own – in other words, accept the ‘truth’ of it for yourself, not just because of what you have just read – you will never again engage in the most fruitless of activities, arguing; debate maybe, but arguments never.

If people cannot accept the viewpoints expounded by others, the reason lies within their own negative identities. Accepting does not mean agreement; it simply means acknowledging to oneself that someone else sees things differently.

The quickest way to stop an argument is to say, ‘You are right of course!’ You will have some interesting responses! But by repeating, ‘Yes, you are right of course,’ all arguments will peter out, as your opponents will think you agree with them, that their viewpoint is the correct one, and there is nothing to argue about. All that your protagonists are doing is asserting that *they are right!* Of course, they are implying that you are wrong, but you know you are right so don’t worry about it! Although this advice is given with tongue in cheek, it is the reality, for you have not changed your mind, any more than they have. Please note that I have

not suggested you add 'I am wrong', for that would be ridiculous. You, and the other person, are entitled to your own rightness!

That response may seem a little unreal, but simply ceasing to push your own viewpoint will result in the argument petering out. Duplicating the above is a major leap in understanding not only others, but also you and life in general.

Many years ago, whilst lecturing on the subject of viewpoints, I started with the phrase, 'The only truth is what is true for you.' In other words, 'If it is true for you, then that is the truth.' But further enlightenment has since shown me that although from a pragmatic point of view the phrase is correct, truth goes much deeper than that. This is easily demonstrated by having those four individuals remove their hypothetical glasses – to reveal that the plaque is white after all. They will certainly not argue now as to its color!

This raises a very important concept: 'Truth is what it is... not what you think it is,' or, as a friend of mine once said, '...not what you would like it to be.'

There is no doubt that everyone has a unique impression of everything they view, be it inanimate or animate, and that of course includes other people, and it is the view of others that is so pertinent in relationships. To elaborate on this, in a class of, for example, 30 children, each child has a unique view of the teacher. All the children will see some traits that are similar to what the others see, but no two children will see all the same traits. They may, for instance, all

agree that the teacher is grumpy, but if each child were to describe the teacher truthfully, there would be some discrepancies in every case.

It is worthwhile examining this point from a materialistic aspect. The word 'viewpoint' means 'point from which to view'. If two people are sitting apart and a book is placed between them, with the cover facing one of them, the back of the book must be facing the other, so each must see the same book differently. One person can describe the back but not the front, and vice versa. Two different viewpoints of the same book! Put a third person to one side, and this person will have a third view of the same book. It is obvious that each sees the book differently; they have different viewpoints, because they are using different points from which to view the book.

The same applies, but to a lesser extent, if you line 20 people up in a row and put an object in front of them. The people on each end will have markedly different physical points of view when compared with each other, but people's viewpoints will gradually become more similar as we move towards the centre of the row. Very importantly, even the two people rubbing shoulders in the middle will have slightly different viewpoints, although it may appear that their viewpoints are the same.

It is impossible for two people, two objects, or two pieces of matter, to occupy the same space at the same moment in time. It is obvious that one has to move to make room for the other. They both exist, but in

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different places, occupying different spaces, in any one moment in time. This is material-universe logic in full cry.

What happens, however, if you apply energy-universe logic to the same circumstance, and replace the two people with their true selves, their invisible energy component, detached from a body, and then ask, 'Is it possible for the two of them to occupy simultaneously the same *point from which to view?*' On the face of it, the answer is 'Yes,' because there is no material component involved, but if that were to be achieved, a remarkable thing would happen.

Imagine two energy units viewing something from different positions, and then answer this question: 'How many viewpoints are there?' The answer is, of course, 'Two.' Now, remembering that energy takes up no space, have one of those energy units move towards the other and occupy exactly the same viewpoint. Now answer this question: 'How many points from which to view (viewpoints) are there?' There is only one answer: 'One viewpoint.' Two viewpoints have become one: one has disappeared as the second moved into its viewing point!

Once again, material-universe logic does not apply in the energy universe. In the energy universe there is no matter, therefore there is no impediment to occupying the same *point from which to view.*

From this flows a question: are they as one, or has one disappeared? Whether you consider that they are as one or that one has disappeared is the philosophical

question you are left with, and I will not attempt to answer that question for you. However, I will add that from a pragmatic aspect the only truth is what is true for you, but is that the real truth? Whatever the answer, it puts a new complexion on affinity, and on the ultimate degree of affinity, namely *love*.

Love is an extremely high state of affinity! Affinity is defined as the attraction one has for another, and is even used in that context in chemistry. The degree that one loves another is the degree of affinity one feels for another. When two people are said to be 'in love', there is a desire for each to share with the other and to be as close as possible with the other. Each is strongly attracted by the other.

Affinity is an energy-universe phenomenon – not to be confused with sex, which is a material-universe phenomenon. The ultimate in sharing and being close is to occupy the same viewpoint, the same space; to be as one. This is what lovers do – they share their bodies.

The purpose of sex is not to create pleasure. Its purpose, no matter how pleasurable it can be, is the procreation of the species, driven by the paramount urge of survival. No matter what activities are carried out under the sexual drive, its fundamental purpose is survival. When sex is aligned with love, you have a truly wonderful relationship – as perfect a union between the two universes as is possible.

The next chapter deals with resolving relationship problems that result from differing viewpoints.