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Understanding Harmony in the Family



Every human being is born in a family and is part of a family. The family is the basic unit or building block of human organisation. It provides a base for appreciating, accepting, understanding and practicing to live in relationship and harmony (order).

Feeling of Relationship as the Basis for Harmony in the Family

The harmony in the family has primarily to do with the fulfilment of relationship between one human being and the other human being. In order to fulfil relationship, it is necessary to understand relationship.

Understanding Relationship

We will now explore into the four important aspects of relationship:

1. Relationship is – between one Self (I_1) and another Self (I_2)
2. There are feelings in relationship – in one Self (I_1) for the other Self (I_2)
3. These feelings can be recognised – they are definite
4. The fulfilment of these feelings and their right evaluation lead to mutual happiness

1. Relationship is – between one Self (I_1) and another Self (I_2)

Relationship is already there. We do not have to construct or create relationship. All we need to do is to understand relationship and fulfil it.

Relationship is between one Self and the other Self. It is the Self which is recognizing the relationship, and not the Body. It is the Self which relates to the other, and not the Body.

2. There are feelings in relationship – in one Self (I_1) for the other Self (I_2)

The important issue in human relationship is that of the feelings. We can see that feelings are in the Self, not in the Body. It is the Self which has the feelings and which recognises the feelings. To understand relationship, one has to understand the Self and the naturally acceptable feelings in the Self.

3. These feelings can be recognised – they are definite

These feelings can be recognised, they are definite. There are nine feelings in relationship. These are the feelings which we can understand, which we can ensure within ourselves, which we can share with others and thus ensure mutual fulfilment in relationship. These are the feelings which are naturally acceptable to us in the relationship with the other human being.

Feelings (values) in relationship:

1. Trust (foundation value)
2. Respect
3. Affection
4. Care
5. Guidance
6. Reverence
7. Glory
8. Gratitude
9. Love (complete value)

4. Fulfilment of feelings in relationship and their evaluation leads to mutual happiness

When we have these naturally acceptable feelings in the Self, we share them with the other and when we are both able to evaluate the feelings rightly, it leads to mutual happiness, i.e. the happiness of oneself as well as the happiness of the other.



Appraisal of the Current Status

The problem today is that we assume ourselves to be the Body and we assume the relationship on the basis of the Body (and not the feelings). We, therefore, fail to understand relationship and consequently, we fail to fulfil it, despite all our good intentions. The problems are due to absence of one or more of the right feelings in the Self. And we try to make up this gap by physical facility or by trying to demand these feelings from others, rather than ensuring these feelings in ourselves and sharing it with others.

The Way Ahead

First, we need to rightly recognize the relationship, identify the naturally acceptable feelings in relationship, understand these feelings and ensure that these feelings are there in us. This will ensure happiness in us. Secondly, we have to share these feelings with the other. Because this is naturally acceptable to the other as well, it will lead to happiness in the other also. Thus, it will lead to mutual happiness. And that is how the fulfilment in relationship takes place.

Key Takeaways

Relationship already exists – we don't have to create it; rather we only have to recognise and fulfil it. The family is the basic unit of human-human interaction. The basic issue in family is that of relationship. In relationship, there are nine feelings (values) that can be clearly understood and lived with. There is harmony in the family, mutual happiness in the family, when we understand the feelings and ensure in our living.



'Trust' – the Foundational Value in Relationship

Now we will explore the first feeling, which is the foundational feeling (value) in relationship.

Feeling of Trust

Trust is to be assured that the other intends to make me happy and prosperous.

In order to understand trust, examine these eight statements:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1a. Do I want to make myself happy? | 1b. Am I able to make myself always happy? |
| 2a. Do I want to make the other happy? | 2b. Am I able to make the other always happy? |
| 3a. Does the other want to make himself/herself happy? | 3b. Is the other able to make himself/herself always happy? |
| 4a. Does the other want to make me happy? | 4b. Is the other able to make me always happy? |

Intention (Natural Acceptance)

What is the answer?

Competence

What is the answer?

The questions 1a to 4a relate to natural acceptance, the intention. Questions 1b to 4b relate to the competence, the ability. By and large, as far as the statements about the intention, i.e. natural acceptance, are concerned, there is a tick mark in 1a, 2a and 3a, and there is a question mark in 4a. When we look at the competence, at the ability, there is a question mark, right from the beginning – there is a question mark on 1b, 2b, 3b; on 4b there is a big question mark.

Evaluating Trust – Between 2 Individuals	
About your Natural Acceptance	About your Ability
1a. I want to make myself happy ✓	1b. I am able to make myself always happy ?
2a. I want to make the other happy ✓	2b. I am able to make the other always happy ?
3a. The other wants to make herself/himself happy ✓	3b. The other is able to make herself/himself always happy ?
4a. The other wants to make me happy ?	4b. The other is able to make me always happy ??
Intention – Natural Acceptance	Competence
What is Naturally Acceptable to You	What You Are (Σ D, T, E)

Distinguishing between Intention and Competence

Now if you try to analyse your own responses, many things will get clarified. You'll find that while evaluating yourself, you evaluate on the basis of your intention (natural acceptance). You think that you are a good person as your intentions are good. On the other hand, when you evaluate the other, you evaluate him on the basis of his/her competence. You find that s(he) is



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not able to make you happy all the time. Many times, or most of the time he ends up making you unhappy. Therefore, you think that the other wants to make you unhappy. You have a doubt on other's intention.

On the basis of lack of competence, we conclude about the lack of intention of the other. When we doubt their intention, instead of accepting the other as a relative, we have a feeling of opposition. This is the common mistake that we make in relationship today.

Now that we have clarity about intention and competence, explore this question:

If you have unconditional, continuous trust on intention, on the natural acceptance of the other and if the other is lacking competence, what will you do?

- Try to improve upon his competence
- Get irritated
- Get angry
- Have a feeling of opposition

The answer is obviously (a). It is a response which indicates trust on intention. All other answers are reactions based on doubt on intention.

Now with these indicators, find out how many people are there in your life on whom you have trust on intention (natural acceptance) which is unconditional and continuous.

Generally, we don't see intention and competence separately. Since competence is generally lacking, the feeling of unconditional acceptance is almost completely missing; rather there is a feeling of opposition. With that, we reinforce wrong assumptions like:

- Strangers can't be trusted (?)
- Trust is developed over a long-time (?)
- Never trust anyone (?)

Trust: To have the clarity that the other intends to make me happy	
About your Natural Acceptance	About your Ability
1a. I want to make myself happy ✓	1b. I am able to make myself always happy ?
2a. I want to make the other happy ✓	2b. I am able to make the other always happy ?
3a. The other wants to make herself/himself happy ✓	3b. The other is able to make herself/himself always happy ?
4a. The other wants to make me happy ✓	4b. The other is able to make me always happy ??
Intention – Natural Acceptance	Competence
What is Naturally Acceptable to You	What You Are (Σ D, T, E)

Thus, if we are able to see intention and competence distinctly, we will be able to place a tick mark in 4a. We will be assured of the intention of the other human being. And with that, we will make a programme of interaction with right evaluation of our competence and their competence (so, this is not 'blind' trust).



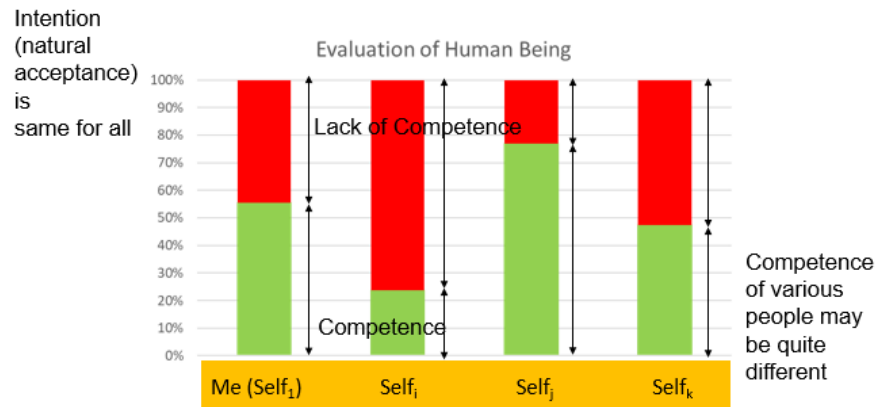
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With the feeling of trust, one is able to see it clearly that the intention is same for all, to be happy and make other happy. The only difference lies in the level of competence.

Trust



Take-away:

Trust on Intention (Natural Acceptance)

I am able to see that

**the other has a natural acceptance (intention) to make me happy
s(he) may or may not have the competence to do so**



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Key Takeaways

Trust is to be assured that the other has a natural acceptance (intention) to make me happy and prosperous. Trust on intention is the foundation of relationship. It is the beginning of mutual development. A common mistake is to evaluate oneself on the basis of one's intention (and conclude that I am good) and the other on the basis of their lack of competence (thus doubt their intention and conclude that the other is bad).



Respect– As the Right Evaluation

Out of the nine feelings in relationship, we tried to understand the feeling of Trust. With trust on intention, the relationship starts. We will now explore the feeling of respect. Let us see, when do we feel respected? How do I respect others?

Feeling of Respect

Respect is right evaluation.

When we are rightly evaluated, we feel respected. When we are not rightly evaluated, we feel disrespected.

Disrespect can take place in three ways:

Over evaluation – evaluating for more than what it is

Under evaluation – evaluating for less than what it is

Otherwise evaluation – evaluating for other than what it is

If we look at our day-to-day behavior, we generally tend to do one of these three – over evaluation, under evaluation or otherwise evaluation. If any of these three takes place, the other person feels uncomfortable, disrespected.

Minimum Content of Respect – The Other is Similar to Me

When we evaluate the human being on the basis of Self, we are able to see that:

1. **Our purpose is the same** – As I have a natural acceptance to live with continuous happiness and prosperity, it is same with the other. So, on the basis of our natural acceptance, we have the same purpose.
2. **Our programme is same** – As my programme to achieve continuous happiness and prosperity is to understand the harmony and live in harmony at all levels of my being (from human being to the entire existence), it is same with the other. In that sense, our programme to fulfil our purpose is also same.
3. **Our potential is same** – As I am endowed with natural acceptance and the activities of desire, thought and expectation are going on continuously in me, it is the same with the other. So, our potential is also same.

Thus, we can see that **the other (Self) is similar to me**. This is the minimum content of respect for a human being.

Disrespect Arising out of Differentiation leading to Discrimination

In general, what we are doing in the name of respect today is differentiating and discriminating.

First set of differentiation is on the basis of body– on the basis of age, gender, race and physical strength. This is based on the gross misunderstanding that human being = Body. The truth is that human being = co-existence of the Self and the Body.

The second set of differentiation is made on the basis of physical facility – on the basis of wealth and post. The gross misunderstanding here is that physical facility = happiness. The truth is that happiness is to be in a state of harmony.

The third basis of differentiation is on the basis of beliefs – on the basis of different isms (thought systems like socialism, capitalism, etc.), different sects, and different sets of information prevalent in

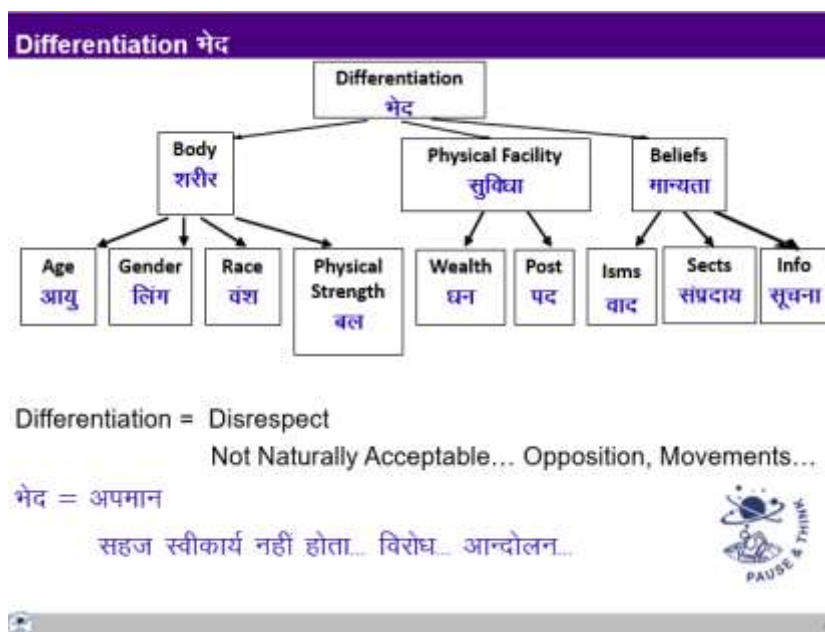


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the society. This is founded on the misunderstanding that if the pre-conditioning of the other matches with mine, then the other is respectable, otherwise not. The truth is that pre-conditioning and right understanding are two different things.



All this differentiation ultimately leads to discrimination, which is disrespect because it is not naturally acceptable.

Complete Content of Respect – We are Complementary to Each Other

At the level of the Self, only the competence could be different. Competence means how much of the potential of the Self has been realized. One Self may have realized more of its potential, while another may have realized less of its potential.

This difference in competence is to be complementary to each other (not to discriminate and exploit each other).

The complete content of respect is to be able to see that **‘the other is similar to me and we are complementary’**.

Defining one’s complementarity:

- If the other has more understanding, is more responsible than me, I’m committed to understand from the other
- If I have more understanding than the other, I’m more responsible than the other. I live with responsibility with the other, unconditionally, unperturbed by the behaviour of the other. I am committed to facilitate the understanding in the other, once the other is assured in relationship and not before that

The complete content of respect is

- **The other is similar to me in terms of purpose, programme and potential and**
- **We are complementary to each other in terms of competence**



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Respect: Right Evaluation – on the basis of the Self

1. Purpose – Our purpose (Natural Acceptance) is same
2. Program – Our program is same
3. Potential – Our potential is same

The Other is Similar to Me

4. Competence – On the basis of right evaluation of our mutual competence, I recognise our complementarity and fulfill it:

If the other has more understanding, is more responsible than me

- I am committed to understand from the other

If I have more understanding, I am more responsible than the other

1. I live with responsibility with the other, unconditionally, unperturbed by the behaviour of the other
2. I am committed to facilitate understanding in the other (once the other is assured in relationship, and not before that)

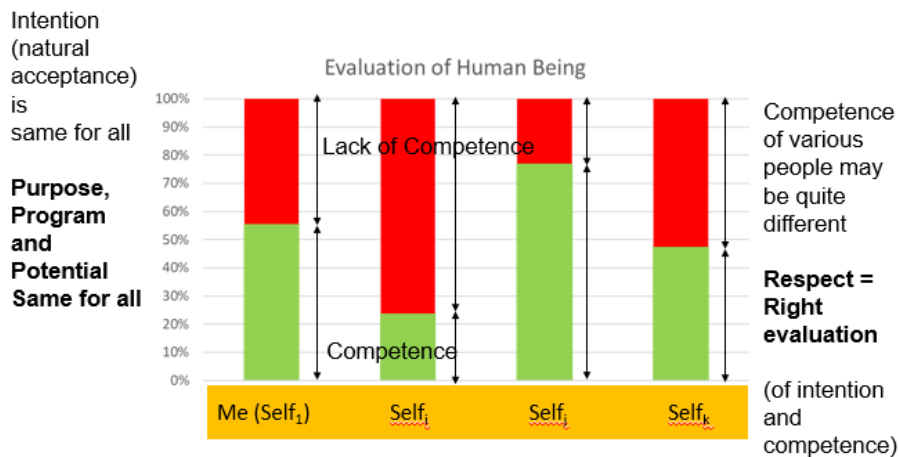
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COMPLETE CONTENT of RESPECT

The Other is Similar to Me. We are complementary to each other

Thus, respect is right evaluation (of intention and competence on the basis of Self). We are similar at the level of purpose, programme and potential and we are complementary at the level of competence.

Disrespect arises out of over-evaluation, under-evaluation or otherwise-evaluation; and also, out of differentiation leading to discrimination on the basis of body, physical facility or beliefs. Small incidents of disrespect can have long-lasting consequences – from not speaking to each other, to opposition, break in relationship, divorce, fights and even war.

Right Evaluation



Take-away:

The feeling of Complementarity

The Other is Similar to Me. We are complementary to each other

With the feeling of complementarity, other feelings naturally follow



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With the complete understanding of respect, we can see for every individual on the earth that we all are the same in terms of intention, program and potential. The only difference may lie in the level of competence. I may be having higher level of competence in relation to one, but may be having lower level of competence in relation to another. With this evaluation, one can work out the program to be complimentary to the other.



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All the specific characteristics at the level of Body, physical facility, belief etc. can be used to express that complementarity.

e.g. a person with greater physical strength do the heavy work

e.g. a person at a higher post can work for the development of more people and so on

Key Takeaways

Respect is right evaluation at the level of the Self. The complete content of respect is to see that the other is similar to me in terms of purpose, programme and potential; and we are complementary to each other in terms of competence.

Over evaluation, under/otherwise evaluation and discrimination are disrespect.



Other Naturally Acceptable Feelings in Relationship

In the previous three lectures, we explored the feelings of trust and respect. Now, we will discuss other feelings, and understand our participation in the family.

3. Affection

Affection is the feeling of being related to the other.

Affection is the feeling of acceptance for the other as one's relative. Lack of affection is seen in the form of opposition, jealousy, etc. The feelings of trust and respect are essential to have the feeling of affection. When we have the feelings of trust, we feel related to the other; otherwise we may feel opposed to the other.

4. Care

Care is the feeling of responsibility and commitment for nurturing and protection of the Body of my relative.

With the feeling of affection, one naturally takes the responsibility for development of the relative – both at the level of Self as well as at the level of Body. Being responsible to the Body of one's relative is Care.

5. Guidance

Guidance is the feeling of responsibility and commitment for development of Self by ensuring the right understanding and right feeling in the Self of my relative.

Being responsible to the Self of my relative is Guidance.

Generally, our focus is mostly on care because we have come to assume that human being is Body. We are not even aware of the Self. Therefore, we are not aware that we have to take care of the Self as well.

6. Reverence

Reverence is the feeling of acceptance for excellence.

Excellence is to be in a state of continuous happiness with the completeness of understanding of harmony and living in harmony at all levels. Once we achieve excellence, it continues. Excellence is something definite, something absolute.

Effort for Excellence	Effort for Competition
The other is like me	Not other – only me
We are complementary	I am different/more than the other
Feelings are based on right understanding (definite, unchanging)	Feelings are based on preconditioning (indefinite, keeps changing)
Unconditional relationship	Conditional relationship
Nurtures others	May nurture or exploit others
Helps the other to come to his level	Stops the other to come to his level - effort to accentuate the difference, to dominate, manipulate, exploit
Absolute (definite completion point)	Relative (no definite completion point)

There is a basic difference between working for excellence and competition. If you have achieved excellence, you would naturally make effort for helping others to achieve excellence. On the other hand, in competition, we not only do not help rather we hinder the other to reach to our level.



7. Glory

Glory is the feeling of acceptance for those who have made effort for excellence.

For all those people whom we call great people, when we accept the effort made for excellence by them, to whatever extent they are able to achieve it, we naturally have a feeling of glory for them.

8. Gratitude

Gratitude is the feeling of acceptance for those who have made the effort for my excellence.

In our life, there may be so many people who have been of help to us in the process of understanding harmony and living in harmony. So, we have this feeling of gratitude for them. Gratitude is a significant feeling in the development of relationship.

9. Love

Love is the feeling of being related to everyone, to all. It starts from affection, which we have already explored. If this feeling expands to many and ultimately to all, it is the feeling of love. So, we begin with the feeling of affection, and complete it with the feeling of love. That is why, Love is called complete value.

Love is the feeling of being related to all.

Love is expressed in the form of compassion. The feeling of love is for all and it is expressed to whosoever comes in contact.

Distinguishing Between Love and Infatuation

The feeling of love is not something which is based on sensation. If there is a feeling on the basis of sensation, this is the case of infatuation where the sensual pleasure becomes the major goal. Infatuation is conditional – it may last only as long as you are able to get the sensation or you have hope of getting happiness through sensation. It is very temporary; it does not last for long. Once the effect wears off, then the long-term issues of feelings become prominent.

Right Feeling – within Myself or from the Other?

With this background, we can ask ourselves which can have continuity:

- Right feeling in myself or
- Getting right feeling from the other

The answer is quite obvious that there can be continuity of right feeling, if it is from within and based on right understanding. But generally, we do keep making effort for getting right feeling from the other in continuity.

Role of Physical Facility in Fulfilment of Relationship

You can now see that physical facility has a limited role to play in the fulfilment of the feeling in human-human relationship. To fulfil the feeling of care, physical facility is certainly required. For other than the feeling of care, physical facility only has a symbolic role to play.

Response and Reaction in Behaviour

An important implication of understanding relationship, particularly trust on intention, is the clarity about problems in living in reaction and the possibility of living with response. With response, your conduct is definite while with reaction, the conduct is indefinite.

My Participation (Value) in Family

My participation (value) vis-à-vis my family is to ensure harmony in the family, ensure mutual happiness, ensure justice in the family by way of:

- Ensuring right feelings (trust, respect, affection, care, guidance, reverence, glory, gratitude and love) in myself – this leads to my happiness.



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- Expressing (sharing) these feelings with the other. When the other is able to make the right evaluation of these feelings, it leads to his/her happiness, thus leading to mutual happiness. My participation is to be of help to the other in their self-evolution, self-development.

With this preparation in the family, I have the ability to participate meaningfully in the larger society – in the neighbourhood, in the community and so on.

Justice in Relationship

With the above discussion, justice can be understood.

Justice is the recognition, fulfilment and evaluation of human-human relationship, leading to mutual happiness.

To expand it a bit:

- Recognition of relationship means recognizing the naturally acceptable feelings in relationship rightly.
- Fulfilment of relationship means
 - Ensuring the naturally acceptable feelings in oneself.
 - Living with responsibility with the other with these feelings, forming the basis of relationship. This makes the other comfortable and assured.
 - Making effort for mutual development, i.e. development of one's own competence and being of help to the other in developing their competence.
- Evaluation means verifying that I have the right feeling, I am able to express it properly, the right feeling has reached to the other and the other is able to identify it as the right feeling.

When the recognition, fulfilment and evaluation are right from my side, I feel happy. When the other is able to evaluate the expression of my feeling rightly, then (s)he also feels happy. Developing this competence may take time.

Justice is desirable in the family and beyond the family, all the way to the world family.

Key Takeaways

The other feelings in relationship include affection, care, guidance, reverence, glory, gratitude and love. Love is the feeling of acceptance of all; it is the complete value. Justice is ensuring these feelings in oneself and expressing them to the other, leading to mutual happiness. Justice begins from family and extends to the world family, leading to undivided society.

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