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Keep This Forever

The Difference Between Being a Partner or a Collaborator

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that receives it" —Edith Wharton

I am quite sure you have heard people say to you, "let's be partners." How successful have these partnerships been in your life? An alternative to being "partners" is to be "collaborators." Collaboration is a shift in perspective; it allows for a process in which any two individuals in the universe can find their relationship by "tuning in to" and "being with" rather than "doing things to each other." This framework respects and encourages clear distinctions in our conversations regarding mutual learning, which in turn, can be systemically adjusted and corrected in a beneficial way. This is exemplified by the story of how the Pig and the Chicken were exploring the possibility of forming a partnership to create a ham and egg sandwich. The Chicken had no problem with this proposed partnership; however, the Pig had some strong reservations regarding his personal outcome. When he looked at his dilemma in a larger picture he decided that he desired a more collaborative agreement that would allow for both he and the Chicken to feel comfortable. After expressing his concern, they mutually decided on a final product which was a ham flavored tofu and egg sandwich, now found in your local health food stores.

Lynne McTaggart in her book, "The Field: The Quest for the Secret Force of the Universe", (2008) explains: "At our most elemental, we are not a chemical reaction, but an energetic charge. Human beings and all living things are a coalescence of energy in a field of energy connected to every other thing in the world. This pulsating energy field is the central engine of our being and our consciousness, the alpha and omega of our existence." It makes sense to explore our creative attributes.

A good exercise - to understand how collaboration works- is to close your eyes after rereading and slowly absorbing McTaggart's' quote above. Then, reflect on a dialogue in your life that resulted in a collaborative outcome, and you will be able to see the power of connecting energy. This process can assist you in identifying the qualities that will help result in mutual solutions, as Nora Bateson describes in her book, "Small Arcs of Larger Circles: framing through other patterns," (Triarchy Press, 2017).

When we truly communicate, we must first synchronize and entrain our inner vibrations physically and emotionally. This is the synergy of connecting with nature itself. However, old habits die hard, and individuals and institutions need support, structure and encouragement to freely collaborate. Closing the gap between how you communicate and how you would like to communicate is achieved by adjusting the energy that connects us, which exemplifies the potential of being collaborative, and most importantly, being mutually creative as our friends, the Pig and Chicken demonstrated.

Dr. Kenneth Silvestri

Psychotherapist and Certified Classical Homeopath in private practice in Montclair, NJ and Nyack, NY; Contact 973-214-0540, drkennethsilvestri.com, or drkennethsilvestri@gmail.com