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The Power of Perspective

Brigid M. Crispi

This I believe: the power of perspective is one of the most valuable forces in our lives.

Without different perspectives, every single person would always see exactly the same moment and respond to the circumstances in exactly the same way. This concept is fascinating, frightening, and impossible. What would this life be like? Robotic? Easy? Each person having the same haircut, wearing the same socks, walking in the same direction, hungry for the same meal? The word “interesting” could be permanently erased from all dictionaries or redefined as an illusory concept. It is perspective that makes the world “interesting” and life worth living.

It is also perspective that makes life truly unfair. The concept of fairness is a fantasy. Life cannot be fair as long as we all aim for different targets. And where would we be if life were “fair?” Each of us would be working towards the same goal, and when it was achieved, we would all agree on our next objective.

Life would certainly be quieter and more peaceful without perspective. However, discussion, disagreement, and, ultimately, progress would be lost. There would be no struggle or challenge. We would no longer need or be able to learn from each other.

In our world today, where we are aware of points of view, life is mysterious and challenging. My sister and I always ponder over the idea of our individual interpretation of colors. For all we know, her “orange” may be my “blue”. We both see an “orange sweatshirt”, but the images may be completely different. This is the influence of point of view at work in the visual sense alone. The same type of situations occurs with our other four senses and with abstract ideas as well.

This is the beauty of perspective. It is the potential and inevitability of dispute, discrepancy, creativity, and appreciation.

It’s quite difficult to imagine a world without various perspectives, but in trying to do so, we realize how truly valuable the power of perspective is.