# You are not responsible for anyone… it is not your task to change someone else’s mind. Raj

You must remember this statement, “a mind that’s changed against its will, is of the same opinion still.” That is an unalterable fact. It is not your task to change someone else’s mind. It’s only your task to present the information that allows that other one to change his or her mind, when that one arrives at a point of willingness to do it.

I’m going to take a moment to discuss Love. And I’m going to define love as the willingness to recognize that which is Real in each and everything. Real, with a capital “R.” The willingness to recognize that which is Real, with a capital “R,” in each and everything. And of course, the necessity is to start with the closest thing, which is you.

Now, if you are going to be willing to recognize that which is Real—Divinely Real, flawlessly Real, the Presence of the Movement of God, or of the Life Principle, whatever you wish to call it—then you are going to honor yourself and act with integrity, as I have also discussed this morning. And you will look at your fellow man, whether it is a mate, or whether it is children, or a parent, and you will recognize that which is essentially Real in them, whether they seem to be expressing it or not. And when they are not expressing it, you will not stand in support of that expression. Now, that’s a negative way of putting it, that’s the negative approach.

The positive approach is, that in recognizing what is true of them you are able to give—in the case of the children, and in the case of a mate or anyone else—positive reinforcement of their capacity to be living without being in a state of reaction to life, but rather have a curiosity and an expectation that what will happen will identify fulfillment of purpose. I know that there are times when there is no way you can embrace what I have just said with any sense of reason at all. But the fact is, that if you are able to be in any circumstance whatsoever, and have a willingness to say, “the way I am experiencing it, does not represent the truth of it,” then it becomes reasonable to have a desire to know what the truth of it is. And when I say that, I mean, what is God’s truth of it, what is the Reality going on here that seems so utterly distorted?

That curiosity to see beyond the way it appears, is the willingness to recognize that which is Real. In your willingness to perceive beyond the appearances, you align yourself with truth, the conditioning that blocks it is temporarily weakened, because you are not responding to it, and the penetration of truth can occur. And you are able then to express those ideas which illuminate what could be called the solution to the problem, that everyone really is wanting to experience, because no one likes the distress of their ignorance, and you become a transformational presence.

And so, with your children you have the constant opportunity—when they are feeling bound, limited and frustrated to reflect back to them without reaction, that they are the Presence of Intelligence, because that’s what God is—you don’t have to say that, but you can reflect back to them that they are the expression of Intelligence, that everything about their life—if they will take a half way reasonable look at it—will confirm to them that it is life affirming, and that it tends to function in an orderly manner naturally.   As you express these ideas, they begin to approach their limits, in the way I have suggested that all of you approach yours, with more curiosity and more confidence that there is a life affirming and fulfillment identifying, likely result to it. And they will then begin to move more gracefully through their life. Why? Because you have reflected back to them something of what they truly are, rather than the helpless little physical organism that it looks to them like they are, that has all kinds of limitations.

So you see, love—the willingness to recognize that which is Real in each and everything—not only doesn’t join with, doesn’t join in agreement with someone who is expressing their ignorance, it also has the capacity of inspiring an awareness of what is Real about them.

Now, this can get tricky, because you could come to the conclusion that I am talking out of both sides of my mouth, because now it sounds as though perhaps you might really be able to become responsible for someone else’s growth or salvation. You must remember this statement, “a mind that’s changed against its will, is of the same opinion still.” That is an unalterable fact. It is not your task to change someone else’s mind. It’s only your task to present the information that allows that other one to change his or her mind, when that one arrives at a point of willingness to do it.

And the sooner all of you recognize this, the sooner each of you will become self-responsible. And the sooner everyone else in your life will be put in a position of being self-responsible for themselves, which is the healthiest thing that could happen. Because when you withdraw from the game of control and manipulation, even for the great benefit of others, it means the others who have played the other half of the game, and have kept you busy being responsible, have the opportunity to become self-responsible and experience the joy and the freedom of it. And so, your withdrawal from the game is a blessing for everyone. If you stop taking care of someone else, as though they were unable to take care of themselves without your beneficent presence, they will feel that you have suddenly gained confidence in them. And you will be surprised to find out how quickly they become confident.

Everyone at one time or another asks, in the middle of a crisis, why does God let this happen? Why doesn’t Jesus, in all of the power of his Sonship, wave his hand and wipe this out? I have told you this answer, “a mind that’s changed against its will, is of the same opinion still.” And all of you are experiencing exactly what you are choosing to experience, either by insisting upon remaining ignorant of your birthright, or out of fear of a sense of overwhelming responsibility if you did acknowledge your birthright.

The one thing I cannot do and the one thing God cannot do, is change your mind against your will. And I do not labor under the misapprehension that somehow I ought to be able to do that, and therefore, I do not suffer a sense of inadequacy, when you ask for help, but insist upon your problem. Because you say that what the answer is, is not reasonable. It boggles your mind. It is too far out, or it is too simple.

What am I saying? I am trying to convey to you, join me. Treat your children, treat your mates, treat those in your experience the way I treat you. Don’t take on a false sense of responsibility for them, and then frustrate yourself to the point of exhaustion when everything you do, accomplishes nothing. Recognize that just as it is with you, no one else is going to change their mind until they find their own reason for doing it. And then to the best of your ability, provide the inspiration or the information or the insight that helps allow for that shift of consciousness to occur, and leave the rest with them. As I said, that will be experienced by them as a vote of confidence in them.

Yes, yes, yes, there will be some diehards who will insist in reinstating the game, and not letting it go, and trying to hold you to your part of the role as the manipulator, the one who cajoles them into acquiescence. And if you withdraw, they may get really angry with you for not being there to play the game. But those are the diehards.

The majority of those you deal with, will feel your behavior as a vote of confidence in their ability, and they will take hold of the situation competently in the way that they could have all along, except that you had this little dance going on of manipulator and manipulated. And you got to the point where you danced the dance so well that you forgot that it was, I’m going to say, immoral to play those roles, and you both got into an involvement in whether the dance was a waltz, and how well and how gracefully did you do the dance, when you shouldn’t have even been out on the floor.

I cannot become responsible for you, and you cannot become responsible for each other. But you can become so congruent with yourself, with who you Divinely Are, that you practice love, you recognize that which is Real in you. You have the experience of God with you, as the very Presence of you. And that illumines for you the fact that if it’s true for scroungy little you, it must be true for your scroungy little neighbor. And all of a sudden everyone who wasn’t special is the Presence of God, except it’s not an intellectual grasp of that fact, it’s an experiential one. And then you begin to treat them as though that’s true, which means you stop trying to take care of them. And because you aren’t trying to take care of them, they don’t have to protect themselves against your beneficent care. And they relax and communion begins to occur, and unity, and harmony, and fulfillment that’s really felt.

I cannot stress this strongly enough this weekend, your divinity is to be found in your humanity. And that which is spiritually ultimately true, will be found in your simple common sense. Everybody is looking everywhere except the place where it is present to be found, which is right here and right where you are.

~excerpt from A Gathering with Raj, Dublin, Ireland 1992​

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