

## RESPECTING PERSONAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

'Diversity: the art of thinking independently together'. This line is worth a thousand words. It speaks for itself. Often while we come across new people, new acquaintances and come to know their ideologies, we find ourselves a bit puzzled with our own self and sometimes even disillusioned. What is it that makes us feel like that? It is the diversity, the variation in our perceptions about life and even the simplest things which are a part of human life. But at some point of life we have to understand and accept that we all are different from each other. This way our life becomes easy and happiness pours in. We learn, and more importantly grow as a persona when we know this about human nature. On a broader front, when we look around ourselves, we see people reflecting different cultures who might speak different language, have their own mythological beliefs, celebrate different festivals and differ from us in a million other ways. Our opinions might not be same as theirs but we need to understand that they deserve as much respect and compassion as we want. People who are underprivileged, who are not as much educated and resourceful as we are need to be especially respected, taken care of and helped for the sake of humanity. We need to give up our self-seeking attitude and encourage them to stand up for themselves to stop suffering silently.

by providing them all sorts of opportunities and considering them as important as we are. One other important aspect to this is being self-satisfied and self-assured of who we are and what we do. We need not pretend to be someone else and be untruthful to ourselves to impress the other person. It is very important that we don't forget who we are and stick to our real self as in that way, nobody would ever be able to question us. If we want to be respected by other, we need to respect ourselves first. Besides all of us are entitled to the right of being recognized for what we are and noone ~~can~~ can deny us of that. Also, we need to lessen the amount of aggression we have inbuilt just because others are better or worse than us. For that, we need to seriously unlearn terms like 'inferior' or 'superior' and strive towards befriending other people by giving them the space to have their individuality. We don't have to merge our personality with theirs but just give them and ourselves the chance to know them better. Cultural peace is very important to maintain the rich heritage and what we need to focus on is the uniqueness in different people's religious and cultural beliefs as at the end of the day, all of us are the part of same mission - to be happy and spread happiness.

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