



Through the Looking Glass:

Affirming and Living Our Values

IN A DOMINANCE-OBSSESSED WORLD



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WHY? Why?
WHY? Why?
WHY?

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing is changed until it can be faced.”

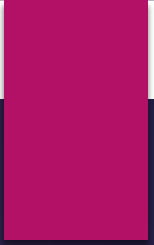
James Baldwin,
I Am Not Your Nigger



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- ▶ *The Chalice and the Blade: Our History and Our Future*
 - ▶ *The Partnership Way: New Tools for Living and Learning, Healing Our Families, Our Communities, and Our World*
 - ▶ *Tomorrow's Children: A Blueprint for Partnership Education in the 21st Century*
 - ▶ *Beyond Capitalism and Socialism: A Partnership Economy*
 - ▶ *Nurturing Our Humanity: How Domination and Partnership Shape Our Brains, Lives, and Future*



“The underlying problem is not men as a sex. The root of the problem lies in a social system . . . in which both men and women are taught to equate true masculinity with violence and dominance and to see men who do not conform to this ideal as ‘too soft’ or ‘effeminate’.”

RIANE EISLER, *THE CHALICE AND THE BLADE*

Sexism is Only Form Dominance Takes

- ▶ **True men are dominant and use violence to maintain that.**
- ▶ **Men and traits associated as masculine are more valuable.**
- ▶ **Domination hierarchies and the entitlement inherent in them are the tap roots of all forms of violence and injustice. (racial, gender, economic injustice, etc.)**

Partnership Societies

- ▶ **Mutual trust and low degree of fear and social violence**
- ▶ **Equal valuing of males and females**
- ▶ **Generally egalitarian social structure; hierarchies of actualization**
- ▶ **Myths and stories honor partnership and present it as normal**

Domination Societies

- ▶ **High degree of fear and violence**
- ▶ **Ranking of male half of humanity over female half**
(& gender non-conforming)
- ▶ **Authoritarian social structure; hierarchies of domination**
- ▶ **Myths and stories idealize domination and violence, and present them as normal**

Dichotomy:
Division into two
especially mutually
exclusive or
contradictory groups
or entities

(Merriam Webster Dictionary)

*“There’s two kinds of
people in the world:*

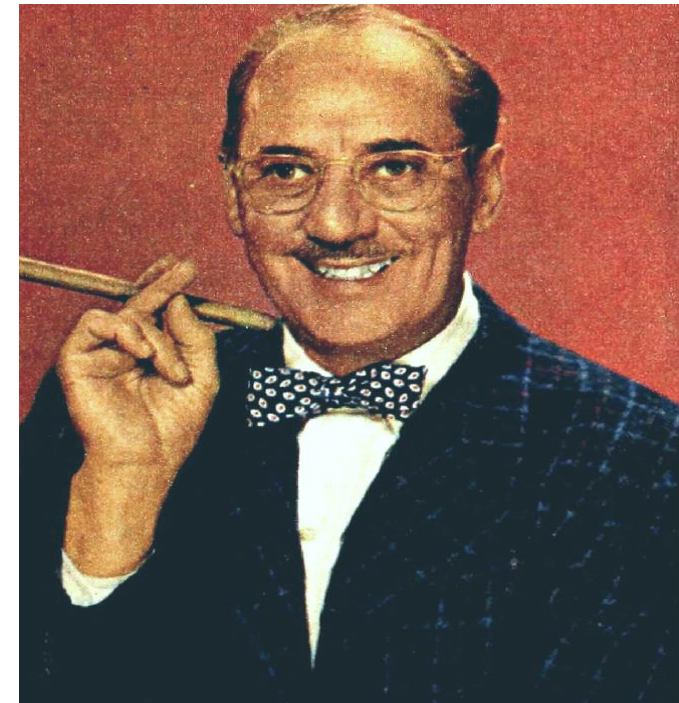
Those who think

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*people can be divided
up into two types, and
those who don’t.*

I don’t!”

Groucho Marx



Dichotomies to Hierarchies

▶ Actualization

Hierarchies help us to organize and be effective.

▶ Domination hierarchies

are dichotomies infused with fear and domination.

“ Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham, Alabama Jail”, April 16, 1963

Domination hierarchies and their inherent entitlement are the tap roots of all violence and injustice.

Why are “we” not living the values from our spiritual traditions?

Jesus/Christianity

Love your neighbor as yourself.

The Beatitudes

Judaism

Thou shalt not:

- Murder
- Steal
- Accuse falsely
- Envy others

Islam

“And spend of our substance in the cause of Allah, and make not your own hands contribute to destruction; but do good; for Allah loveth those who do good.”
(2:195)

Comparison of Assumptions

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Dominator:

- ▶ Power is finite.
- ▶ Power comes from power over others.
- ▶ Differences are threatening.
- ▶ Some people/groups have greater worth.

Partnership:

- ▶ Power is infinite.
- ▶ Power flows both ways.
- ▶ Diversity enriches and strengthens.
- ▶ All have inherent worth.

Much of the conflict in our society comes from the tension between these two sets of assumptions.

Dominator Society Beliefs

- ❖ **Dominance by Some is Normal and Right**
- ❖ **We Lose If We're not in Control**
- ❖ **Might Makes Right**
- ❖ **Anything Different Must Be Bad**
- ❖ **Diverse Viewpoints Aren't Valid**
- ❖ **Problems are Deserved**
- ❖ **We're in Control; We Know Best**

Controlling Partners Beliefs

- ❖ **I'm Entitled; My Needs and Wants Come First**
- ❖ **If I'm not in Control, You're Controlling Me**
- ❖ **My Way is the Right Way and I Must Do Whatever It Takes to Maintain Control**
- ❖ **I'm Okay; You're not Okay if You Differ**
- ❖ **Your Needs/Wants/Feelings/Opinions Aren't Valid**
- ❖ **You Made Me Hurt You**
- ❖ **I Control You Because I Love You**

Doublethink

Doublethink refers to the holding of opposing beliefs without cognitive dissonance.

- **Values of “love your neighbor” coexist with those that permit demonize people.**
- **Victims’ partners espouse loving them while also controlling and abusing them.**
- **We struggle to hold those we’re angry with in the light and see the Christ within them.**

**Eisler says to let our awareness and action
“dance.”**

Sharif Abdullah, *Creating a World that Works For All*

Deep Identity:

*** Race, Ethnicity, and Culture**

*** Class**

*** Language**

*** Gender**

*** Religion**

Dancing into Action

Marianne Williamson Presidential ad:

“You make the reduction of unnecessary human suffering the guiding principle of domestic and international policy – not as charity but as justice, not as a sign of weakness but as a sign of strength.”

Dancing and Dancing

“Trump is a cultural revolutionary, not a policy revolutionary. He operates and is subtly changing America at a much deeper level. He’s operating at the level of dominance and submission, at the level of the person where fear stalks and contempt emerges.”

Marianne Williamson Knows How to Beat Trump: We need an uprising of decency by David Brooks New York Times Opinion Columnist, Aug. 1, 2019

Dancing into Action

Parker Palmer in *Healing the Heart of Democracy*:

“We must be able to say, in unison: It is in the common good to hold our political differences and the conflicts they create in a way that does not unravel the civic community on which democracy depends.”

PEANUTS



Dancing from Our Human Identity to Divine Identity

- Unitarian Universalist Principles
- Prairie's Bond of Union
- Prayer and Meditation
- Inspirational Books/Materials

Challenge: To use the path of your choosing with a person or issue that challenges you during the next week.

