

The Other Man's Point of View by Janani Harish

Accomplishment is possible when we move away from our ego

One method of moving away from the ego is to take the other man's point of view

By taking the other's view, we look at ourselves or a situation from his angle

It makes accomplishment possible. It makes us self-aware. It can also be a humbling experience

Mr. Bennet never looks from another's angle. So:

1. He mocks at his wife and stymies all her efforts
2. He laughs at Collins, and encourages Elizabeth to refuse his proposal
3. He teases Jane about her disappointment and jokes about Elizabeth being jilted by Wickham
4. He makes fun of his younger daughters

Had he taken the point of view of:

1. **Mrs. Bennet**, he would have seen that she was so obsessed with her daughters' marriages because of his irresponsible behavior. He refuses to take any effort, so she does what she can and knows. Had she known that he was in charge, she would have been less dominating and annoying. Also, the accomplishments would have happened sooner and more easily. It was her efforts that drove away Bingley, his efforts would not have.
2. **Collins**, he would not have made fun of him and turned him away, thereby losing the estate
3. **Jane**, he would have been more sensitive to her feelings. His mean joke about Wickham jilting his daughter comes true to an extent
4. **Mary**, he would have guided her to become a more sensible person. She would have been less of an embarrassment. And had he remembered her when Collins comes, he could have got her married
5. **Kitty and Lydia**, he would have realized that they were foolish because he had allowed them to become so. Had he not turned a blind eye to Mrs. Bennet spoiling the daughters, Kitty and Lydia would have been a better people. Lydia would not have eloped with Wickham
6. **Charlotte**, he would not have mocked at her engagement, he would have seen that she has accepted Collins' proposal because she believes she doesn't have a choice. He goes on to get a scoundrel for a son-in-law.
7. He would have also seen the truth about himself. He was irresponsible, not playing his role of husband, father and head of the family. He did not save money, control his wife and daughters, or take any effort with their future in mind. He took the easy way out at every turn. This self-awareness itself would have made him, and his situation better.

When we act without thinking about the others' point of view at all, our act is likely to fail. Examples are:

1. Collins' proposal to Elizabeth
2. Darcy's first proposal
3. Caroline's efforts to secure Darcy
4. Lady Catherine's efforts to get her daughter married
5. Wickham's attempts to get rich
6. Elizabeth meets Darcy and his friends often, lives in the same house with him for a few days, but never considers he has a point of view. She misinterprets him totally. Not only does she not see the opportunity for a year, she even makes a mess of it

Taking the other man's point of view leads to success

1. Darcy after the Hunsford proposal looks at himself from Elizabeth's view. He even conceals his role in Lydia's marriage to avoid creating a sense of obligation

2. Mrs. Gardiner restrains herself out of her sensitivity for Elizabeth
3. Jane does it always, and is ultimately rewarded

Instead of waiting for an elopement or an equivalent problem, if we take the other man's point of view in the beginning, we can accomplish easily, without going through problems and disappointments.

The other man's point of view is powerful because it helps us move away from our ego. We can move away by

- Taking the point of view of another person – which is to move from selfishness and self-centeredness to appreciate the egoistic needs of another. Recognizing the importance of another's ego perspective helps destroy our own. Placing the selfish interests of others above our own, taking interest in their interests, helps us outgrow selfishness. We become pleasing to everyone and harmonious in all situations. We give people freedom the way Mr. Bennet did, freedom to grow and express themselves without interference, criticism or conflict.
- Taking the wider view of society which is universal – instead of being lost in our own little personal world of preferences and conveniences, we recognize the demands and requirements of society and life. It makes us more mature and responsible. Such a person can become a leader and accomplish at a high level, like an entrepreneur who perceives a need in the market.
- Taking the view of our soul or psychic being – why did it take birth, what does it seek and aspire for? Our view is egoistic. The view of our psychic is spiritual based on spiritual values of self-giving, goodness, truth, harmony, humility. Taking the soul's point of view enables us to see the soul in other people – and only that – to accept them as they are and worship them as Darcy worshipped Elizabeth and accepted all her words – even her errors and misconceptions – as Divine Truth. When we take our soul's point of view, everyone else is right and everything they do to us is right, is a help to us along our path of spiritual evolution.
- Taking the view of the transcendent Divine – why did the Divine create the universe? What does it seek to accomplish now? How can I truly be in harmony with the Divine Will – Thy Will, not my Will. This viewpoint opens our being for highest spiritual accomplishment. But it is most powerful when it is taken at every moment in relation to every other person and every act.
- Taking Mother's point of view embraces all the above. To constantly remember Her, call Her, aspire only to please Her, makes possible ultimate accomplishment in society, life, inner psychology and spiritual progress.