

Family and Respect

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1 Political Correctness

I define political correctness as oral or written statements, actions, or thoughts, or restrictions on those, that are socially acceptable but contrary to observable evidence. Putting a positive spin or bright face on something is good at many times, but sometimes the real truth of the matter is more beneficial.

This paper attempts to state facts related to the topic at hand without any political correctness or positive spin. I am attempting to get down to the raw facts of the matter without any coloring or upbeat spin.

2 People's Motivation

We are brought up to believe in being honest, helping others, having integrity, etc. Although these often seem contrary to children's natural behavior, we nevertheless work hard to instill these attributes into our children. Although we have varying levels of success, as these children grow old, they also grow increasingly jaded and pessimistic regarding human nature. Eventually, after much real-life experience most come to the conclusion that real life is very different from what we were taught and have striven for much of our lives.

What I have discovered is as follows. Without exception, all animal motivation, including humans, including thoughts, drive, motivation, effort, and movement can be explained by only two factors:

1. power
2. instinct

Power is defined as an exclusively self-serving force to assure ones own existence. The better ones ability to survive the forces of nature the greater ones power.

Of the two, power is, by far, the greater force at work. Power excludes any other person, living thing, or the environment unless, and only to the extent that that other person, living thing, or the environment affects one's power. This exclusion includes other family members. So, while many people perform apparently selfless acts, upon further analysis, it can be seen that somehow those acts benefited the person performing the act.

So, for example, if someone gives charity to a needy person or helps a helpless animal, it may seem that the person performed a selfless, kind act. But the truth is that the person performing the act actually received an increase in power as follows. First, the person has been taught that if you help someone than you are a good person, and good people are liked by others. If you are liked by others, others will be your friend, and as friends, they will help you. Being able to get help from friends increases your ability to survive, your power.

Second, the simple act of helping another provides you with a good feeling because you think of yourself as a good person.

There are many other examples I can give of this. The point is that no animal does things without it somehow helping it's own ability to survive — its own power.

Instinct is the only exception to the power motivation, and is in fact a relatively minor force. Instinct is defined as something one does that doesn't increase ones power. The best example of this is caring for ones children. In general, and in human terms, instinct doesn't extend to much, if anything, else.

3 Family

Natural right is determined by ones physical and mental capability. For example, what gives a tiger the right to eat a chicken's egg? The right is given by the tiger's larger size.

People form an implicit social contract. The social contract reads as follows: I will give up my natural rights to the government if the government agrees to protect me from those stronger than me. This implicit contract has allowed man to flourish.

Given the power motivation, society and life can be and is very hard. One thing that mitigates this hardship is family. Like the implicit social contract, we also have an implicit family contract. The family contract reads as follows: I agree to help you when you are in need without personal gain, and you agree to help me without cost when I am in need.

This family contract is reinforced with family acts such as:

- attending births and funerals
- participating in birthday parties
- gathering during holidays and other times
- attending marriages
- having regular contact and knowing of the other's ups and downs
- offering assistance

Of course just as a social contract is broken when a person violates the law, the family contract is increasingly broken as increasing reinforcement opportunities are ignored. Just as breaking the social contract can be detrimental to one's long term power, such is also the case with breaking of the family contract.

4 Respect

Things with less power than you cannot significantly help or harm you. Things with more power than you can significantly help or harm you and need to be treated in such a manner as to maximize their benefit to you and minimize their harm to you. For example, one might have respect for fire but not a random stone on the ground. Fire itself could be a source of

great harm. But a random stone on the ground offers little threat or benefit. I define respect as treating another *as if* they have greater power than you.

There are three kinds of respect with sub-categories as follows:

1. mutual
2. forced
3. unforced
 - (a) earned
 - (b) unearned

Mutual respect is a respect for ones right to life and their effort to continue living in their own way. Mutual respect should flow equally in both directions. Mutual respect is the only type that operates in both directions. Forced and unforced respect flow in one direction only.

Forced respect is when one is forced to act in a one-way respectful way. Good examples of this is a police officer, a judge, a parent when one is young, or one's boss at work. One is forced to treat the other with respect under the threat of harm.

Unforced respect is another one-way respect performed when one treats another *as if* they have more power (could help or harm you) even if they do not. There are two types of unforced respect: earned and unearned.

Earned respect represents the case when, in the mind of the person giving respect, the person they respect has earned that respect. For example, if the person giving the respect admires the accomplishment of the person they respect, for example if they are a great musician, painter, or athlete. Respect for them is unforced, but the person giving the respect feels they earned that respect. Another example is the case when one person provided great assistance to the other at some time in the past. In this case, the person who provided that assistance would receive the earned respect.

Unearned respect is respect freely given even though the person giving the respect may feel they have insufficient reason to give that respect. Examples of unearned respect includes the following:

- In order not to destroy the growing power of children, an older person will treat the child with a degree of unforced respect.
- As the child grows in physical and mental strength, the parent grows older and diminishes in physical and mental strength. When the child was young, the parent bestowed upon the child a great number of benefits. Lastly, given the increased years of the parent, the parent likely acquired wisdom yet unknown to the child. In recognition of all of these facts, the child will treat the parent with unforced respect.
- For reasons similar to the previous example but to a much lesser extent, the child should treat all older people with unforced respect.
- We treat others who have freely benefited us, or attempted to benefit us, in the past with unforced respect as a token of our appreciation for their assistance.

- We treat others who are in need such as those ill, infirm, those in hospital, or the needy in our society. This last example deserves further explanation as follows.

We treat the infirm with unearned respect for the following reasons:

1. We are so much stronger than them that we need not be in competition with them. There is no point to prove.
2. Their condition is so frail that they require our respect, in part, to survive. We provide this through empathy.
3. Someday we will all be frail. We wish to encourage and support a culture of assisting the needy so that it will be there for us when we are needy — which will come.
4. We gain power through helping others as follows:
 - (a) Others see us helping the needy and want to be there for us
 - (b) We feel good about being a good person¹

¹Actually, this is the same as item (a) because feeling good is just what is experienced when we gain power.