Story #5b
Points of View
"The Townspeople"

5. Question everything - modeling learning by deconstruction.
(The Teacher's Bill of Rights)

Al Tomlinson, as mentioned in Story #3 **Intuitive Teaching**, was a mentor to me about half a century ago. He told me the story I'm about to tell you and I've been telling it ever since. It is an exercise in trying to overcome biased points of view. Come with me in your imagination to my classroom in a North Carolina prison and watch me tell it again ...

Here's a great question ... "How can we step outside of a bias of our time, even if a great majority of people have this bias?" For example, right now, there is an "*us and them*" orientation. We seem to be lining up with people who see our point of view and feeling quite opposed to people who have another view. Must we be polarized and decide where we stand when a different point of view is expressed? Instead, could we try - whether we agree or not - to see the other point of view from the other's eyes?

"The Townspeople"

You've heard of Galileo? You know that he is considered by many to be the father of PHYSICS. He said that you need to get *physical evidence* to see if something is scientifically true. The church put him through an inquisition and then, an eventual arrest because they said that that was not how they wanted to see

if something was true. They said, "We don't want to check physical evidence. We don't want to look through your telescope. We don't want to see your measurements. We want to go by what has already been said by Aristotle and written in books. We will go by tradition."

So, you see that Galileo was revolutionary. And everyone brings up this example as something we would never do in our time. Modern people think that now we know better and therefore know something to be true if there is **physical evidence**! Moderns say that this is what science goes by now.

Well ... it depends on your point of view. It's possible that there was a bias to Galileo's time ... but is it possible that there is also a bias to our time? A little-known fact is that it wasn't just the church who was against Galileo. He was giving public lectures to the townspeople, and they didn't want to see his experiments either. It was a bias of their entire time not to look at physical evidence. It wasn't that he was being picked on by administrations, only. It was also the townspeople! Everybody! Their time did not want to hear physical evidence to prove if something was true or not.

What about our time? Do we have biases? Do we have points of view that we cannot fathom - and we think there is an "*us and them*"? And we're right and they're wrong? Oh yeah. Do you know what one of ours is, right in this time - a bias that *we the townspeople* have? We don't want **spiritual evidence** to see if something is true. For instance, if you hear that somebody supposedly knows that it is true that one can hear what the mountain said. There are many spiritual people who would say, "I hear the trees. I hear the rocks. I hear the birds. I am sensing, spiritually, an intuitive thought that is coming to me. And these spiritual people get together and verify with each other if the intuitive thoughts that they independently heard are repeatable across different individuals. They ask each other, "What did you

hear, what did you hear, and what did you hear?" And, when it is repeatable to that group - who is of the bias that you can have *spiritual evidence* of truth - they find truths. But people who are not of a spiritual movement would say, "Oh no, they have no idea what they are talking about. I don't want to hear about their evidence. I don't want to hear that the rocks have consciousness. No, no, no. Don't even show me." And that is just like what happened to Galileo when the townspeople said, "Don't show me *physical evidence*."

So, every time has its bias. If you want to appreciate points of view, you have to walk a mile in the other's shoes - see where they are coming from. And whether you agree or not ... is a whole other point.

So, there is a lesson there. If you want to transform, try to entertain other points of view. Thank you very much. I'll see you in one of those tomorrows.

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