

## The Beauty of Being Open-Minded

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We are a mixture of traits. We work to improve, change, and moderate them on a daily basis. We bring certain ones to the spotlight when the situation calls for it, and we pull back at other times. In this way, humanity is fluid. We do, however, become lost in ourselves from time to time. We grow so engrossed in our own little worlds that we forget about the rest of the world. We forget that there are another 7 billion people in this world, each with their own unique personality, experiences, and upbringing. We become the center of our own personal world, and we establish our own set of absolute truths. We establish beliefs and grow adamant about them. Who are we to blame? We have only had one life, one perspective.

The ability to understand someone else's attributes and personality traits is equally as vital as regulating our own. Focusing on improving our ability to connect with others is equally as vital as improving our own abilities. This is where open-mindedness comes into play.

Oxford Dictionary defines 'open-minded' as "willing to listen to, think about, or accept different ideas" (Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com, 2022), while Collins Dictionary defines it as "having a mind receptive to new ideas, arguments" (collinsdictionary.com, 2020). No matter what other dictionaries may define it as, this is what I believe in. Being open-minded is a crucial life skill which helps you flourish in a world defined by numerous cultures and perspectives. Life is not static, but a dynamic process and so you need to be flexible in your outlook to embrace human nature and progress.

Being open-minded does not imply that you must change who you are. Open-mindedness is a level of comprehension which entails maintaining a steady tone and a patient demeanour. It

necessitates asking questions, truly engaging in other people's perspectives, and accepting individuals for who they are, flaws and everything. Open-mindedness does not imply agreement with something; it suggests you are willing to change your own conclusions and consider someone else's in the light of new information and context. On occasion, open-mindedness implies that no final judgement may ever be reached. The beauty of being open-minded is that it allows you to learn and see new things from many new perspectives, transforming you into an authentic citizen of a global world.

If you had the choice to explore only one safe world with clear boundaries and rules, or multiple worlds that challenge your core beliefs, what would you do?

#### Bibliography:

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