

The Right Thinking!

Dear Penfabricans,

Many of us have preconceived ideas of what's right and what's wrong. Who is right? Who is wrong? Many a time we jump to conclusions when some situations arise. With conventional wisdom and being judgmental, we pronounce our decision and punishment for the occasion and the parties involved in the incident. However, there could be many perspectives and explanations to one single incident. After all, we cannot be a good judge for all occasions. First, we need to ask ourselves whether we have the competence, expertise and background knowledge to weigh in on the incident. Many things are not always what they seem on the surface at first.

Secondly, let us have an open mind. After all, it is said that our minds are like parachutes: they have to be opened in order to be useful. Regrettably, many of us go into conversations or meetings thinking that we are in the right and our ideas and views are superb. By adopting this, "I am always right posture," we will find ourselves getting into disagreements or arguments, and may eventually be left in isolation. Is this the way we wish to carry on with our lives? Who are we to teach the world how and what to think or do? Hence, let us straighten up our thoughts. Let us be open-minded so that we do not miss out the opportunity to hear new ideas, different views and learn new things. Most times, by keeping our big mouths shut, we will be pleasantly surprised to hear or see how others are more thoughtful or even cleverer than us. Seize this golden opportunity to enrich our knowledge and embrace the new information and perspectives.

Most importantly, in any given situation, even when we know that we are right, that our thinking is correct, do shift from just thinking that we are right, to making things right. By so doing, let us see what happens next in such situation. Alternatively, at times, we may become the devil's advocate to put forth contrary opinion and thereby, extracting better ideas from others. It is only through such humble manner that we get to learn what we do not know and enrich our knowledge while pursuing excellence in our daily lives and in our work.

Dear Penfabricans, instead of thinking that we are right, let us make our thinking right by having an open mind and willingness to listen. Let us move from being a talker to a listener and thinker. For this reason, God created us with one mouth but two ears and two eyes. Hear more. See all, and talk only when necessary.

Have a great weekend. Just look, see, listen and be mindful with words.
Thank you.
With kind regards,
HSTeh.