

TORCHES, TERMITES AND BUTTERFLIES

Dr. Dick Hanson
August 16, 2010

OUR INTENT

- ◉ To share some perspectives on the human condition
- ◉ To show how these perspectives impact your interaction with people
- ◉ To move us all forward in understanding our responsibilities toward people



TORCHES

There are several components worth noting within this metaphor:

1. The light --- light is a symbol for learning --- it is a symbol for enlightenment
2. Torches symbolize passing information from generation to generation
3. Torches are about not what is, or what was, but they are about “what will be”



TERMITES

Termites are insects

What do they do?



TERMITES

Termites are insects

What do they do?

They eat away at wood columns, like in this photo



© RP Lee Termite & Pest Control

TERMITES

Termites are insects

What do they do?

They eat away at wood columns, like in this photo

Here is another example

1. I did not cause the problem, so why should I have to fix it?
2. Do as I say, not as I do - If you cut corners, your children will too. If you lie, they will too.
3. Reject anything that doesn't support your own experiential understanding of the world.
4. Let fear win. Fear is a real, human emotion. It is not okay to give in to fear.

TERMITES, IN THE INTERPERSONAL AND SOCIETAL SENSE

Termites - are conditions, attitudes, states of mind, orientations to the world that systematically destroy people and our society. These termites, when uncontrolled, spell disaster for human beings, their relationships, and the future of civil human interaction.

5. Focus on/depend on past failures and negative events and memories from your past.
6. Money will solve the problem.
7. I have mine and do not owe any time or money or effort to others.
8. There is a quick fix to our problems.
9. There is my way or the highway.

TERMITES, IN THE INTERPERSONAL AND SOCIETAL SENSE

Termites - are conditions, attitudes, states of mind, orientations to the world that systematically destroy people and our society. These termites, when uncontrolled, spell disaster for human beings, their relationships, and the future of civil human interaction.

10. I cannot make a difference.

(You do not need to know the second theory of thermodynamics to make a difference in the life of a human being.

You need only a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.)

TERMITES, IN THE INTERPERSONAL AND SOCIETAL SENSE

Termites - are conditions, attitudes, states of mind, orientations to the world that systematically destroy people and our society. These termites, when uncontrolled, spell disaster for human beings, their relationships, and the future of civil human interaction.

<http://www.duiops.net/seresvivos>



BUTTERFLIES

Fragility



BUTTERFLIES

Uniqueness



BUTTERFLIES

Beauty



AS YOU GO FORWARD

Remember a
Couple Things

FIRST,

- ◉ If there is a person who thinks he knows it all, or a person whose thinking is absolute, which conjures up in my mind words like complete, consummate, entire, full, infinite, be on alert for it is likely an incomplete solution.
- ◉ Exercise caution when confronted with the "complete" answer.
- ◉ Be wary when told "I can fix all your problems."
- ◉ Be cautious of the pitchman, who has the miracle solution.

SECOND,

- “Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired.”
- There are at least two main points here.
 - One idea is that there is much hype about the extraordinary - the biggest, the best, and so on.
 - In relationships, and in your futures, it is much more likely that you will find genuineness in the every day, the common and the ordinary.
 - Life was designed to be lived as a steady engagement, a process over time, not simply a collection of peak experiences.
- Will you be able to love without getting tired?

THIRD,

- “An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”
 - As future leaders, you must negotiate the dialectic between self and other.
 - In the spirit of enthusiastic connectivity to the world, I suggest that there are many invisible people, others, in the world around us.
- As we rise from our individualistic orientation we will learn to engage the other, the one who is different, or homeless, or poor, or sick.
 - The “other” in our society could be your brother or a child or a neighbor.

I BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE THE CAPACITY TO IMAGINE A WORLD IMPROVED THROUGH YOUR SERVICE TO THE OTHER

- ◉ Because you can dream of a place where no one goes hungry,
- ◉ Because each of you if you can take that step into emotional connectivity with the human condition, and
- ◉ Because each of you can imagine a place where justice means action,
 - you will move to solidarity with those who have gone before you, making a positive difference in the world.

A hand holding a paintbrush with a blue handle and white bristles, painting a red surface. The brush is positioned horizontally, and the red paint is being applied to a white background. The text "Create your future" is overlaid on the red area.

Create your future

MAKE IT SO!