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## Assuming a dialogical attitude

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There are three ways one can engage with another in conversation. One is through debate, where often, the conversation attempts to prove one's point over another.

The second is through discussion, where the conversation can be as impersonal as talking about the state of the economy or what have you.

The third is through dialogue, where the attempt is generative, mutual, respectful and collaborative.

Assuming a dialogical attitude indicates a willingness to enter into a relationship of truthful quality; it cultivates a willingness to listen and be listened to.

Such an intention is more likely to succeed in an encounter that avoids taking an interrogative position, while at the same time, fosters curiosity in the questioning, exploration and recognises the particular quality and keenness to be with the other, in the relationship.

Dialogical communication is direct, not directive; it is in the nature of a true exploration and builds from a position of positive intent, trust, faith in one another's goodness and faith in the process of openness and transparency.

To engage in this way requires both parties in the conversation to allow for space, drop one's defences and acknowledge each other.

As Kahlil Gibran says in his book, *The Prophet*, "The pillars of a temple stand together, yet apart, so must there be space in our togetherness."

Short of this, dialogue can turn into debate or discussion..

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