

The Difference That Difference Makes

Here's what comes with the territory of being an individual.

What's obvious to you will seem obscure to others.

This can be a source of great irritation and inconvenience in relationships.

It can also be a source of great purpose and power.

The difference is mostly a matter of decision.

In a talk I gave called "Dreams Don't Come True, Decisions Do," I make the following observation:

If everyone was inspired and irked by the same things as you, there wouldn't be much of a need for you.

You can despise the differences that exist between yourself and others OR you can embrace those differences as evidence for the existence of a unique contribution that you're here to make.

When others say "I don't see things the way you do," it might be more of an affirmation than an attack.

Another way to hear such words might be "I don't see things the way you do AND that's exactly why we need someone like you."

I can only imagine how terrible music, art, literature, technology, and commerce would be if everyone was turned off and turned on by the same things as me.

It's a good thing that we live in a world where there are people like you.

I hope you see it that way too.