

Are you a fair person? I don't think everyone is. In fact, everyone has prejudices against issues ranging from races and religions to trivial matters like how you feel about certain celebrities and your everyday encounters with certain classmates. It may lead to a question: Am I nuts? Or just too harsh? Should I change my opinions and follow the mass?

Well why bother? We should all be the way we are. Opinions are neither right nor wrong. Uniqueness, is what makes everyone of us irreplaceable in a society that welcomes herd effects.

I am a highly judgmental person. No matter what the topic is: be it the restaurant my friends choose to have lunch in or gender inequality, I voice my not-so-trendy opinions on the issues. However, I am inclined to comment on issues with reserve, like the author of 'The Great Gatsby', from which I found my motto. One of them is 'Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had.' I am honestly, stunned at the very beginning, but it does tell a lot about how one should behave in most social situations and the attitude you should learn from. When we all think we can put ourselves in others' shoes, however, can we really do it? We always say "If I were you," but you would never be me! Without really understanding others, how can we judge someone or something so easily?

That said, the art of 'holding back' is difficult to master.

Reserving all judgements all the time is being politically correct. Yes, you are on the 'moral high ground', but you're going to be seen as the guy who has no personality and deserves all the negligence from the people around you. Simply speaking, you're the most unwelcome person to the party. But, take a step back, do you want to live such a boring life? Of course, there are lots of scenarios in which political correctness is needed, like when you're speaking to the stubborn and hard-necked old people who will promise to give you a good life lesson after you've offended them in some ways. In most cases, political correctness is not preferable, for you are not a robot, but a human being who thinks in his or her unique way.

So how should we voice our opinion on something or someone? We mind our manners!

To not reserve judgement does NOT mean to judge one with no regards to manners. If you find your friend needs some improvements, you must approach that person with a calm, rational manner. Explain to him/her what they're doing wrong. Show them how to do it correctly. By doing this, you not only make sure you don't only HOPE that person to become better, but also help the individual to solve that problem.

On the other hand, if you judge an individual with a hateful approach, you'll only make the matter worse. The individual will not appreciate your comment or help, but rather become aggressive towards you. After a while, you'll only notice that the problem of that individual gets worse, because he/ she doesn't and won't listen to your advice.

Allow me to end my speech with a quote from the Great Gatsby again: "Reserving judgement is a matter of infinite hope." To help solve a problem, or to help a friend improve, we don't just hope that thing or that person to become better with irrational words, angry speeches, or harsh judgements. We help the individual with the problem, and then our hope will become reality.

Thank you.