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Accepting Diversity

People who like to travel around the world or even immigrants who decided to start a new life in another country have noticed that there are cultural differences or traditions that they have not heard anywhere but in that community. And depending on how they respond to these behaviors the locals could point you as a spoiled person or just a clueless guy who is getting used to their social communities’ behaviors. However, as time goes on, foreigners realize that why they are acting the way they are. For example, New York City is the home of many immigrants from all over the world bringing new manners and traditions. There are some neighborhoods that changed so much since immigrants came over. New restaurants, museums, and products have been spreading all over the city. Anyone at some point would encounter or interact with these neighborhoods and it is important to know how to behave and respond to these new experiences.

Diversity is very complicated and even uncomfortable. Because for some people it is very hard to adapt to this new society. There are many cultures and communities that have their own manners that it will take too much time to comprehend. Some people prefer to avoid these problems with the excuse that they have something more important to do. However, the truth is they do not know what to do or manage situations like these. There are many reasons for that. One of these reasons would be the language. Many immigrants come to NYC that do not know how to speak English. Even though, the US government offer programs to help them, it still takes time. As a result, they start making groups with someone from their own culture making it exclusive from other people who try to join in. Once they learn English, they still hang out with people from their own culture because of cultural differences. It is like a soccer match; one group supports the blue team and the other group supports the red team creating an invisible barrier from each other even though they both like soccer. Another reason would be holidays. Most of the immigrants celebrate holidays from their countries in NYC. The most common one is their Independence Day. These situations are very new to people who have lived in their very own way. Now, they have to face these new circumstances, as a result, it becomes very friendly or hostile depending on the person’s personality. Some of them would see it as a noisy party and others as an opportunity to meet new people. Consequently, New York City has become so diverse in the last decades.

There are few tips anyone could do to adapt and accept diversity. The first step to do is to not treat these actions as a bad intentions or rude behavior. Before assuming someone is being rude or disrespectful. You should think about why they would do that. The best thing to do is asking to that person. However, if the situation really seems bad for example, if someone makes a statement that you completely disagree with, so you need to decide how to address the situation before you do anything else. Most of the time they explain their reasoning. You have to remember that they came from different cultures and their reasons or actions worked on their countries or communities, so that is why they behave like that. And the last piece of advice would be: not adapt too much. It is true that you should respect their traditions but they should respect yours too. We should think about what will be the best behavior for any situation. Usually, we do not even know what is morally correct until other people, outside of our group or community, tells us but you do not have to be offended or embarrassed by that, it is more like an opportunity to know each other. As time goes, society will change making new rules or principles. More people are leaning toward science than religion leaving their past behavior and routines.

In my case, I always questioned myself about others’ behavior, most of the time with old people. I know that they might not be open-minded as me. So, what I used to do is to ask them why they act the way they do, and sometimes, it makes so much sense once they fully explained. When I came to the United States, I’ve encountered many people from different religions and cultures. Every one of them with their own way of doing things. And as time passes by, I’ve learned how to manage these situations. To be honest, I’ve enjoyed every culture that I have met. Of course, in beginning it is difficult because like everyone else we have jobs or family to support, therefore, not anyone has time to think about inclusion or diversity. Nevertheless, once those problems are resolved or controlled. It would be advisable to spend some time educating yourself or just simply start a conversation with anyone. Sharing experiences with others is the best way to achieve a solid friendship. It is usually easy for me because I’ve come from another country and I know how hard it is to start everything again. However, some people that did not have to go through these problems, and most of them barely talk about inclusion and diversity. They often find a hard time understanding it because not everyone has the same experiences, not just with people from other countries, also people from other states or even neighborhoods. However, once they decided to step forward and start a conversation. They will realize that most the people are very easygoing.

In conclusion, diversity is very important to understand ourselves because somehow it reveals how you really feel about these new experiences defining what kind of person you are, you could rather fall in love with these traditions or just respect them as a culture. Consequently, it makes you a wiser and open-minded person.