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ODED 3540  
9/12/13  
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## **My Leadership**

When someone is self-deceived, this person is unable to see that they have a problem. Self-deception is a problem that all people deal with at some point. If not addressed it can damage relationships as well as many other things. Self-deception is a problem within ones self. If a person is told that they have a problem but refuse to believe they are in-fact self-deceived. It's kind of like the saying denial is the first stage. If you truly believe that you don't have a problem but refuse to believe the person that informs you, then you have deceived yourself.

My sister is three years younger than I am. Currently our relationship is great. When we were younger, not so much. We would get into a lot of fights, arguments, and just silly brother sister feuds. A few years back my sister needed some help with schoolwork. I thought to myself it would be great for me as an older brother to help my younger sister, so that's what I tried. Well the technique I used to help her turned out to be not very effective. We started to get into an argument, get angry at each other, and she informed me that I was not helping. She told me that I had a problem of always being mean to her, and asked me to leave. I ended up leaving seeing no reason for her to kick me out. I thought I was being helpful, and by no means did I seem to have a problem, after all wasn't I the one helping her?

Thinking back on this example. I can now see that at this moment I had been self-deceived. Also the last few years my dad and my relationship has been steadily growing. In high school there was a struggle on my part to see him as any other person other than my father, we didn't get along quite well. I think in this situation we were both self deceived. Looking back now, I know I had a problem, and would have never suggested it then. I sense that about my dad as well.

Self-betrayal is ultimately a choice. It is an act contrary to what I feel I should do for another. Self-betrayal in my opinion is a very common occurrence. It can relate to many things. Some examples from my own life include; school work. There have been many occasions in the past few years where I needed to get some important work done in order to free up time to work on something else. After thinking about whether or not I should continue with this work I ultimately decided to not complete the work.

Now knowing that the right and best decision would have been to get an early lead on my work. I self betrayed myself by choosing not to believe it and going against what I knew was right. Another example, this summer, one of the first nights of camp one of my campers became very sick in the middle of the night, and began to throw up. I heard him becoming sick, but was very tired myself, and was sure that another one of the counselors or another camper would help him out. In this moment I was putting my needs for sleep in front of his. I had betrayed my camper and myself. The next morning I felt well rested but felt sick to my stomach knowing that I had not gotten up to help him. A feeling of self-betrayal is not a good feeling.

Collusion is when two or more people are in their boxes toward each other, and are mutually betraying themselves. There is a great possibility that collusion is occurring

amongst groups in our class, I can easily see it happening. When one group member thinks that he is right about a certain situation, when in fact he is wrong they could easily blame it on someone else. Last semester I was in a group with two other members. One of the members was constantly late. I ended up blaming our lack of progress on his lateness. He in turn ended up blaming me for not spending enough time working on the project. Once two parties are mutually blaming each other for their own wrongs is when we have collusion. This is exactly what occurred in our group.

Everyone wants to be liked it's in our nature. But when collusion occurs and two parties are mutually blaming each other there are going to be some hard feelings and one or both parties may feel unwelcome. If at all possible I want to avoid any collusion with group members this semester, so that everything flows evenly. Although I feel that when an issue arises within a group, once the group works through that issue they ultimately end up closer together and possibly more effective. If I do find myself blaming someone else in the group for causing a mistake that I made, I need to step back take a moment to justify how I ended up blaming this person, and apologize.

Specific strategies I can use to avoid collusion might include; work as a team, hear out every one's ideas before shooting them down or choosing one over the other. Give each member of the group an equal chance to share the ideas and justify the meanings.

When we are in the box. We are in the box because of how we view and blame others. The way we view others directly affects how we treat them as people or objects, and also how we tend to blame others. "When we blame, we blame because of ourselves, not because of others." So how do we get out of the box? Is it a conscious choice we make, or a feeling that occurs within us? I think it's a combination of both. If we are in the box towards someone and intuitively trying to get outside of the box towards them, how does this look? I think it starts with a feeling, a want to be outside of the box with this person. Once that feeling arises you have to make a choice whether or not you will follow through with it or not. "In that moment you start to see this person as an actual person, with needs, hopes, and worries as legitimate as your own." This is how you become out of the box towards someone.

In order to accurately assess my relationships with my peers, I feel I need to stop and think about what the relationship is built upon. Do I view this person inside or outside of the box in our relationship? Is this relationship about what they can do for me, or about how we can help each other? How did this relationship begin?

When I was younger I loved visiting my grandparents because of the cool toys or objects that they would have waiting for me. This relationship I had with my grandparents was a total in the box type. I was solely interested in what they could do/provide for me. As time has passed, it is not about what they can do/provide for me. It's about the time I am able to spend with my grandparents, the interesting wisdom, through stories, they choose to share with me. Me seeing them as people who I am genuinely interested in spending time with, instead of grandparents who provide me with cool objects.

This semester I think I will find the conflict resolution style the most challenging. When it comes to conflict no one likes to admit that they were wrong. But I feel that if I were to man up in a situation and express to the group that I was wrong it would mean a lot. It would show to the group that I wanted to resolve the conflict, that I value their

ideas, and that I see them as people not objects. It would also help to build trust and respect within the group.