**Prejudice**

It is crucial to ask probing questions not only of the experts but of ourselves. All of us show bias when it comes to what information we take in. We typically focus on anything that agrees with the outcome we want. We need to acknowledge our tendency to incorrectly process challenging news and actively push ourselves to hear the bad as well as the good. When we find data that supports our hopes, we appear to get a dopamine rush similar to the one we get if we eat chocolate, have sex, or fall in love. But it's often information that challenges our existing opinions or wishful desires that yields the greatest insights. *(Noreena Hertz, economist, in The New York Times)*

Nobody outside of a baby carriage or a judge's chamber believes in an unprejudiced point of view. *(Lillian Hellman)*

Every bigot was once a child free of prejudice. *(Sister Mary de Lourdes)*

Prejudices are the chains forged by ignorance to keep men apart. *(Countess of Blessington)*

The contractors and bureaucrats who mismanaged the launch of Obamacare had to know they were in big trouble when the massively complex software crashed during very limited testing. Why did they go ahead with the scheduled launch anyway? For the same reason that House Republicans went ahead with a government shutdown and the threat of debt-ceiling default, even though almost everyone outside their bubble warned them that this strategy was doomed and would backfire. Psychologists call such blinkered thinking "motivated reasoning." Human beings are primarily emotional, not rational, so we engage in "confirmation bias": We start off with what we want to be true, look for evidence that supports our hopes, and screen out that which does not. When she was asked this week why she didn't advise the White House to delay the rollout of the troubled website, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said, "Waiting is not really an option." Neither, apparently, was facing an inconvenient truth. *(James Graff, in The Week magazine, November 1, 2013)*

Prejudice is a disease characterized by hardening of the categories. *(William Arthur Ward, in Quote magazine)*

Bad week for: Black Santas, after a black Albuquerque high school student came to school dressed as Santa, only to be reprimanded by his teacher. "Why are you wearing that? Don't you know Santa Claus is white?" asked the teacher who has been placed on paid leave. *(The Week magazine, December 27, 2013)*

Education is the method whereby one acquires a higher grade of prejudices. *(Laurence J. Peter)*

Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age 18. *(Albert Einstein)*

Black people make up 67 percent of Ferguson, Missouri's population, said the report, but they accounted for a staggering 93 percent of all arrests from 2012 to 2014; blacks were twice as likely to be searched as white citizens, even though blacks were 26 percent less likely to have actual contraband. In 88 percent of cases in which the department used force, it was against African-Americans. *(U.S. Justice Department report, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 20, 2015)*

I hate race discrimination most intensely and in all its manifestations. I have fought it all during my life; I fight it now, and will do so until the end of my days. Even although I now happen to be tried by one whose opinion I hold in high esteem, I detest most violently the set-up that surrounds me here. It makes me feel that I am a black man in a white man's court. This should not be. *(Nelson Mandela, first court statement, 1962)*

The mind of a bigot is like the pupil of the eye. The more light you pour upon it, the more it will contract. *(Oliver Wendell Holmes)*

A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices. *(William James)*

Between 1877 and 1950 almost 4,000 black southerners were lynched, according to a new report by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a human-rights group. That is 700 more than previously reported. *(The Economist)*

Too many of our prejudices are like pyramids upside down. They rest on tiny, trivial incidents, but they spread upward and outward until they fill our minds. *(William McChesney Martin, Jr.)*

**Long ago, humans began labeling and cataloging each other. Eventually, lighter-skinned humans became “whites,” darker-skinned humans became “blacks,” and people with intermediate skin tones became “yellow,” “red-,” and “brown-skinned.” These labels don’t reflect reality faithfully, and if you lined up 1,000 randomly selected people from across the earth, none of them would share exactly the same skin tone. Of course, the continuity of skin tone hasn’t stopped humans from assigning each other to discrete categories like “black” and “white” – categories that have no basis in biology but nonetheless go on to determine the social, political, and economic well-being of their members. These racial labels impose boundaries and categories on an infinitely complex social world, but once in place these boundaries are very difficult to dissolve. People are apt to resolve racial ambiguity by resorting to racial labels. *(Adam Alter, in Drunk Tank Pink, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 10, 2013)***

Nearly half of all Americans say race relations in the country are in bad shape, and three in 10 acknowledge personal feelings of racial prejudice. While 60% of blacks say the election of Barack Obama would help race relations, only 38% of whites hold that view. *(The Washington Post/ABC News, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 4-11, 2008)*

Prejudice is a raft onto which the shipwrecked mind clambers and paddles to safety. *(Ben Hecht, author)*

Prejudices are rarely overcome by argument; not being founded in reason, they cannot be destroyed by logic. *(Tyron Edwards)*

About 8,000 toddlers were suspended from U.S. preschools in 2011--12, and 42 percent were black -- even though black children make up only about 18 percent of children enrolled in preschool programs. *(Politico.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 4, 2014)*

The rule for traveling abroad is to take our common sense with us, and leave our prejudices behind. *(William Hazlitt)*

A prejudice is a vagrant opinion without visible means of support. *(Ambrose Bierce)*

Instead of getting rid of his prejudices, the average person whitewashes them and tries to pass them off as principles. (*American Farm & Home Almanac)*

He flattered himself on being a man without any prejudices, and this pretension itself is a very great prejudice. *(Anatole France)*

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