

Deference vs. Difference

Differences
often degenerate
into opposition;
they should, however,
encourage deference.

Differences propose
options and alternatives;
deference considers
their merit and worth.

Differences
are often regarded as
strange and suspect;
deference, however,
looks upon them as
valuable and complementary.

Difference, of course,
without substance
can be confrontational,
and deference
without discernment
is irresponsible.

Fear of difference
is changed by deference
into trust.

What difference views
as a danger
is considered by deference
as an opportunity.

Therefore,
to avoid a life
of insipid sameness
and static stagnation,
and to achieve a society
of coherence and harmony
duly defer to the different,
because **deference**
makes a big difference!

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