Chapter 10
First Love:
How Conflict Resolution Can Cure Indifference

ABSTRACT

The science of conflict resolution is a good candidate for a new science dedicated to resolving the age-old feud between mankind and nature, an unwarranted feud initiated and perseverated against nature without provocation or retaliation by its domestic partner. Although representative conflict resolution models exist such as ad litem, nature presents a unique problem when it comes to conflict resolution, because (unlike a human child) nature is not meant to "grow up" and become a career-focused, tax-paying citizen. Marriage counseling might work, but the genuine needs of nature cannot be reconciled with the imaginary rights of man, nor his demand to dominate and abuse his partner. A reverence-based biophilic model is needed, wherein true love matters more than the husband's prosperity.

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the authors will form a comparison between the science of conflict resolution and the nature of the current environmental dilemma. The relationship between the planet Earth and the human species is not unlike a monogamous affective contract gone awry. The human species has been unfaithful; the partner has had enough. But all is not lost—in any

relationship, putting the needs of one's partner before one's own needs is an indication of a willingness to make amends. Putting love before ambition, financial prosperity, or global power can work biological miracles previously thought to be extinct. It is time for an unfaithful species (the human species) to recommit its life to the happiness of its first love—the planet Earth. The science of conflict resolution can help point the way, but the non-verbal nature of the injured partner (Nature) makes it difficult to apply verbal solutions to cure a non-verbal problem. However, by promising to put the needs of its Beloved first (this world humans call the Earth), the human species may yet find forgiveness in the eyes of a weeping Nature, and restore happiness to a once-monogamous relationship—lost to rampant egocentrism, financial affairs, and conceptual infidelity.

OVERVIEW OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION/ CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN GENERAL

Misunderstandings, miscommunications, omissions, change, etc. may often lead to disputes among individuals, agencies, organizations, businesses, or nations for personal, emotional, financial and/or political reasons. Conflict resolution or conflict management is often defined as a means by which the parties find a peaceful and (hopefully) mutually satisfying or mutually beneficial solution to their disagreement. Therefore, the goals of an *alternative dispute resolution* process or ADR include (Nagy, 2018):

1. Finding a solution to which all parties can agree as quickly as possible
2. Improving, rather than harming the relationship among all the individuals or members of the groups in conflict
3. Maximizing outcomes by gaining access to resources that would not be available outside of participating in the ADR process
4. Gaining an understanding of the perspective of the opposing party, with particular regard to underlying motivations which may be fueling the conflict
5. Maintaining and improving relationships among the parties to pave the way for smooth partnerships and/or alliances in the future
6. Mitigating the use of resources, such as time, energy, finances, motivation, etc. which are quickly depleted during prolonged and/or escalating disagreements (Nagy, 2018)

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