

FOUNDATIONS FOR DIALOGUE

from Paulo Freire

“If it is in speaking their word that people, by naming the world, transform it, dialogue imposes itself as the way by which they achieve significance as human beings.

Dialogue is thus an existential necessity.”

If I do not love the world -- if I do not love life -- if I do not love people -- I cannot enter into dialogue.

“The naming of the world, which is an act of creation and re-creation, is not possible if it is not infused with love. **Love is at the same time the foundation of dialogue and dialogue itself.**”



LOVE

HUMILITY



Dialogue cannot exist without humility.

“How can I dialogue if I always project ignorance onto others and never perceive my own? **At the point of encounter there are neither utter ignoramuses nor perfect sages; there are only people who are attempting, together, to learn more than they now know.**”

Dialogue requires an intense faith in humankind.

“. . . faith in their power to make and remake, to create and re-create, **faith in their vocation to be more fully human.** Without this faith in people, dialogue is a farce which inevitably degenerates into paternalistic manipulation.”



FAITH

HOPE



Dialogue cannot be carried on in a climate of hopelessness.

“**Hopelessness is a form of silence, of denying the world and fleeing from it.** If the dialoguers expect nothing to come of their efforts, their encounter will be empty and sterile, bureaucratic and tedious.”

Only dialogue, which requires critical thinking, is also capable of generating critical thinking.

“For the naive thinker, the important thing is accommodation to this normalized ‘today.’ For the critic, **the important thing is the continuing transformation of reality, in behalf of the continuing humanization of man.**”



CRITICAL
THINKING

All of the above text is drawn from Chapter 3 of *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Freire (1970).