

SPARK 100

(Matrix Code: **SPARK100.00** for StartOver.xyz game.)

DISTINCTION: The idea of incompatible evolution is a fallacy.

NOTES: Twenty or thirty years ago the concept of shared personal development as an important ingredient to satisfaction with your partner was far down the list, far below financial stability, children, a nice house and ski holidays. These days the list seems to have inverted itself. The cause of this change may not be due to conscious choice so much as to growing needs for you as a human being to expand your mental agility and use innovation soft skills in your daily lives. Until you are comfortable or even enthusiastic about authentic personal development, you will be handicapped when it comes to proactively participating in the rapid evolution of modern conditions.

Since personal development is not yet a central pillar of western culture, your understanding of some of the dynamics involved may be immature, perhaps even naïve, and so problems can arise. A bit of serious introspection can make a significant improvement. This SPARK intends to take you on that journey.

First, a person such as yourself, taking time to read these pages for example, may be quite enthusiastic about the possibility of self-development. Second, you might also imagine that to bring self-development into your life your partner should be at the same level of development as you, and also have an equivalent enthusiasm for doing evolutionary experiments. The third part of this misery-making formula is noticing that your partner would rather sit on the couch and watch television. Gossiping about the neighbors or kicking around a soccer ball is far more attractive to them than deepening your relationship together. At this point the whole scenario around development devolves into an insoluble paradox with you as the victim of the joke. You tearfully conclude that, since you cannot develop together, you cannot develop at all.

Somewhere this fallacy of “incompatible evolution” got its beginnings. “When my development is not synchronized with my partner’s development then we are incompatible and cannot develop...” Where do ideas like that come from? Think about it: this harmonious vision that we imagine as ideal or conclude is necessary may actually be impossible! It is arguably *never* the case that two people are at the same stage in their development or that they have the same degree of enthusiasm for evolutionary experiments, *ever, even for a moment*. We are human beings, living organisms. We have the possibility of being reborn into a new experience of life with every breath. Stability and orderliness are nowhere in the picture. Requiring that you be at the same level of *anything* with your partner is nearly ridiculous.

EXPERIMENTS:

SPARK100.01 This will be an experiment in simply changing your mind. *Before* you start the experiment you have the old image that you and your partner should be at the same level of development and should have the same spark of excitement about learning and trying new things. *After* the experiment you have the new image that the idea just mentioned is a child’s fantasy. Two adults are never at the same level of

development. Enthusiasm fluctuates from moment to moment – it comes and goes, ebbs and flows, is sometimes contagious and sometimes not. Development happens independent of compatibility.

The following experiment takes three seconds to do. The instructions are exact: change your mind from the old image to the new image. Tell me when you're done.

When the dust settles you live in a new situation. In your new situation, what is possible?

Here you are, SPARK in hand, excited almost to the point of percolation. And over there your partner reads the newspaper, fools around on the computer or screams at the kids. The question arises, "How do I develop myself in this situation?"

The answer to that question now may be different from what you thought the answer to that question was before you did the experiment and changed your mind that partners need to be at the same level of development. The answer about how to use these SPARKs, for example, for self-development even in your particular situation is the same procedure for how to use these SPARKs in *every* quality of relationship: *You* read the SPARKs and *you* practice the experiments. *You* have fun. *You* try your best and crash and burn, pick yourself up and try again. Play around. Stretch beyond your limits. These experiments open fabulous new universes of perception and experience – *your* perception and *your* experience. Do it because you want to. Your partner will do whatever they will do, *as always*. Sure, you can invite them to play along with you. Either they will or they won't. But the moment you expect anything from your partner the possibility of authentic relationship is killed, because what you then have is your expectation *instead* of the relationship.

Even if your partner is thoroughly antagonistic to creating an extraordinary life and profound intimacy, this *never had nor ever will have* any impact on you creating an extraordinary life and profound intimacy. Only one person decides what *you* learn about and explore, and it is not your partner. No matter if you take huge risks in being vulnerable and communicative and every effort you make with your partner seems to explode in your face, *no effort is wasted*. Your matrix builds regardless of your apparent lack of success. In personal development experiments it does not matter whether you succeed or fail. What matters is that you keep trying.

One thing I have been learning about is having faith. One thing I find worthy of great respect and faith is evolution. Your actual circumstances turn out to be irrelevant. What matters is your relationship to those circumstances. You can have faith in evolution happening *whatever* your circumstances.

There are no failed relationships, because in every relationship evolution is happening. Even if you live in total denial of what is really going on in your relationship something is cooking in you and sooner or later it will come to the surface for your benefit. So relax about your partner, and keep making efforts; learn what you can learn. As a side experiment to your other experimenting, do whatever you can to accept things as they are – accept things that are deep within yourself and accept things that are completely outside of yourself. Accepting is not about being

abused. Neither is accepting an endurance contest. To accept means to receive. In the moment you accept things as they are, those things gain the freedom to suddenly change.

Continue the side experiment with your changed mind accepting your partner as they are and accepting yourself as an experimenter, flip back to a previous SPARK and do or re-do an experiment that you would like play with further.