TRIZ and Society: An Alternative Way of Winning Enemies Without Fighting

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1. Feeling of enmity

Feeling of enmity is a common and day-to-day personal problem. We live in family and society. Although we get benefits from our family and society, we are also often hurt by offensive behavior of various members of our family and society, whether they are so-called friends or rivals or enemies. Some of these situations are normalized in due course whereas some other situations lead to bitterness, enmity and hostility for various reasons. This is a problem to all of us although the situation, intensity and magnitude vary from person to person.
1.1 What is the exact problem?
The reason may be anything, whether a person really abuses us or we just feel that a person is hostile and abusive, the situation creates negative results in our mind. We feel angry, irritated, want to respond, fight back or take revenge. The situation leads to mental stress, high blood pressure and other health problems. The impacts are negatively reflected in our day-to-day activities and reduce our productivity. There is a need to solve this problem.

1.2 Ideal final result

⇛ Ideally nobody should behave offensive to anybody.
⇛ If anybody behaves offensive he should face negative consequences.

1.3 The contradiction

If we suppress our anger and don’t fight them back we face depression, frustration and other psychological problems. On the other hand if we express our anger and fight them back then we may land up in bigger fights, we may face or adhere to violence and situation may even go worse. In either case the result is mental stress, high blood pressure, wastage of resources, reduction in productivity and sometimes even risk to life. How to solve this problem?

2. Solutions

TRIZ is so nice to remind us that the problems we face are already faced by many people in the past, and many of them have solved the problem in various different ways. Some people have gone extreme to set up wars on one side or commit suicide on the other, but most people also have managed this problem with some level of success. If we analyze the solutions we can see that they broadly fall into two different categories, viz., fighting solutions and non-fighting solutions. Let’s see some of the examples of these solutions.

2.1 Fighting solutions

⇛ Fight back with those people when such situation arises and try to win over them and teach them a lesson. Problem: Although this will reduce your anger it may create some fresh stress because of the fighting. Besides the opponent may prepare for a bigger fighting in future.
⇛ Create social groups and set other people to fight against your so-called enemies, apply divide and rule principle, create various problems for your so-called enemies to see them suffer in their life. This is the most popular method followed in any society. People create their groups, friend circles, secret groups and fight diplomatically.
Yet another solution is to go to the court of law. **Problem:** many such personal cases are either not taken up by law or difficult to prove. Even if the case bigger and provable, the punishment may be too less or take too long time.

However, these are just examples. There are many other methods of fighting and counter attacks. I will not focus more on those theories and principles in this article.

### 2.2 Non-fighting solutions

There are many non-fighting solutions to manage such problems advocated by many saints and philosophers. All these solutions are created by powerful brains, derived from serious thinking and rich experiences. Some of the known prominent solutions are:

- Emotional detachment - stay emotionally detached to these people and such matters (Principle-2: Taking out).
- Be engaged in some good work- so that you will have no time to think about these matters (Principle-8: Counterweight).
- Earn more money, more power, more status so that most of these enemies will automatically follow or surrender you (Principle-8: Counterweight).
- Pray God- God is almighty and benevolent. He will punish the wicked and solve all your problems (Principle-17: Another Dimension).
- Be good to those people who are cruel to you (the method advocated by Gandhi). Your good behavior will probably make them realize their mistake someday (Principle-13: Other way round).

There are also other methods of anger-control to manage such situations without setting up a fight with the so-called enemy or opponent. All these methods are the outcome of the finest brains of the creation and definitely valuable for the society and mankind.

### 2.3 Solutions compared

Most of us will agree that a non-fighting solution is better than a fighting solution. This is because a fighting solution, when extrapolated, may cause more damage to the world and mankind. Non-fighting solutions, when extrapolated, tends to reduce violence in the world.
3. The Alternative Solution

However, there is one drawback in the above non-fighting solutions. Generally, there is no feeling of our enemy getting punished. Although a higher ego (the rationality within us) is satisfied with such solutions, a lower ego (the animality within us) is not happy to see our enemy moving free or hurting us again.

3.1 The contradiction

We don’t want to set up a fight but we want to see our enemy is punished. We don’t want to kill our enemy by ourselves or by deploying others but we want to see that the enemy is dead. We don’t want to follow any method of violence but we want to see all our enemies dying before us.

3.2 Redefining the problem

The above contradiction sounds unbreakable. Anybody will find it ridiculously impossible to solve such a contradiction. How will the enemy die if nobody kills him? Secondly, neither our enemies are created at one time nor are they gathered in one place so that all of them can die in some kind of accident or natural disaster.

Analysis and Redefining

# What do we want to see? We want to see our enemies get punished.
# What is the ultimate punishment? The ultimate punishment is death.
# How do we feel to be ultimately winning? To see all our enemies suffer and die.

3.3 The Solution is here

You live long- all your enemies will die before you.

Everybody must die in due course of time. When we live long we see people dying when we are alive. The longer we live the higher the chances of seeing the deaths of our enemies. We don’t need to take the law in our hand, nor we need to follow a method of violence, but we can still see all our so-called enemies dying before us.

This is an application of TRIZ Principle-13: Other way round. Instead of cutting short others’ life, you live long, so that others’ life will be shorter in comparison.

4. Conclusion

This method is a mental reconditioning similar to other methods like believing "God will punish the guilty". This, being a non-fighting solution, has no negative effect on the individual or on the society. On the other hand it has many positive effects, such as, when we love to live, we don’t commit self-damage or suicide. Secondly, when we try to live long we actually live long and healthy.
There is another interesting perception in this theory. With the growth in our age, when we actually see many of our enemies dying, the worst cruel egos within us even don’t like to see more deaths. As feeling of enmity is a psychological phenomenon we start feeling pity on our old enemies and don’t see them as enemies any more. Referring to Indian history the cruel king Ashok, after killing a hundred thousand enemy soldiers, turned out to be a Buddhist saint.

This method may not look as ideal as some other non-fighting methods because it involves some elements of mental cruelty although not manifested explicitly. But this method is more effective especially when our painful experience and extreme anger is not satisfied to accept the pure ideologies of excusing or embracing the enemies. Different non-fighting methods may be adapted depending upon our maturity and understanding of the self and the world.

About the author

After working for more than 18 years in various fields of IT in different organizations Umakant is currently carrying out independent research on TRIZ and IT since 2004. He last worked as Director and Chief Technology Officer (2000-2004) in CREAX Information Technologies (Bangalore). Before that he worked as IS/IT manager (1996-2000) for ActionAid India (Bangalore).

Umakant is a Master in Philosophy (MA), Master in Business Administration (MBA), Bachelor in Law and Logic (LLB), Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE+I), Certified Novel Engineer (CNE), Master Certified Novell Engineer (MCNE), Certified Intranet Manager (CIM), Certified Internet Professional (CIP), Certified Software Test Manager (CSTM) and holds many other global IT certifications.