

# Chronicles of Diversity

*Your leadership weekly*



*A purple starfish, a part of a living natural community.*

## Abstract Fusion

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Hearing, taste, touch, sight, smell, and common are generally known as the five and sixth sense. However the sixth, common sense is not as wide spread as the others. But the lack of common sense may be a greater handicap than the loss of any of the more easily discerned physical senses. The reason for this common sense handicap is suggested in the notion that most people believe they are loaded with this type of reasoning, when in fact they may not be. Furthermore, individuals who lack common sense are not that easy to tell, even if they keep bumping into life's obstacles, or not hearing resounding warnings. They continue their thinking that all people are self destructive.

As I read the report I received on the Kaimaya people of Nepal, the author mentioned how the people only were capable of doing what they were told, and once the task was completed they did nothing until they were given another task by their landlord. While the author of this report stated that this lack of initiative was a great handicap to all forms of community development, perhaps he has been too long in Nepal to make a similar connection with many of the work environments in western culture.

Between this report and some of the conversations I began to have with other people, the concept of common sense seemed to rise to the surface to be further refined in the continuing discussion. The essence of these discussions was that common sense really was an inadequate term, but was the only one that seemed at all to fit the criteria. With common sense in any circumstance, certain people seem to actually thrive and others, without it, continued to be overwhelmed with regret and failure.

There also doesn't seem to be any distinction of religion, education, race, opportunity, class, or other parameters to discern who has common sense, and who may be a few cards short of a full deck in the poker game of life.

Also, a series of questions emerged as to whether common sense was inherited, could be learned, could be taught, could be lost due to neglect, or even could be measured. In that light we determined

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that common sense really had nothing to do, or was unrelated to what is generally referred to as intelligence, as in the classical measurement of IQ.

In the work environment, it was agreed that showing up the boss was not an example of good common sense. In fact, this was a good way to get fired. In that light perhaps the Kaimaya have excellent common sense, in keeping their livelihood even though most perceived it as indentured servitude at best, outright slavery in the worst instances.. Perhaps, what they really need is some problem solving opportunities, that doesn't relate to economic well being, but still produces some awareness of a problem, forcing solutions to be found. The saying that ignorance is bliss, points to a world view that mankind is only a highly evolved animal, and cannot develop in the image of God.

Using a bit of analytical reasoning, which I am now beginning to wonder if it was only a function of my education and had little to do with my inherited personality or other environmental opportunities, I figured out that the first step was a more descriptive term than common sense, to help us figure out what it was were trying to figure out, if we could only figure out where to begin. That figured out beginning point I have termed Abstract Fusion.

There are a number of definitions of abstract, some of them will be somewhat synonymous with the definition we are using, others may be considered antonyms. This makes our usage all the more challenging, hence more appropriate for the processes that provide on going successful adaptation to continually changing circumstances.

Our definition of Abstract Fusion is: The process by which a series of unrelated and incongruous events are synthesized or fused into a workable remedy to some problem faced by the individual, or presented by his environment.

So how many opportunities for Abstract Fusion were you presented with today? How successful were these fusions in making your life and your world a better place? As you consider these tests of your coping skills, are you making any headway towards increasing this skill, or can you see any method in your normal behavior?

Using myself as an example, this Monday I took a load of plants and other stuff to Eastern Washington. In this way, when I return from the church planting trip to Minnesota, I can enjoy these miniature roses while I work on repairing my mothers house in Reardan and keep them alive at the same time.

Since I only take one small prescription pill per day, again I forgot to take my supply along. When we stopped in Issaquah for breakfast, I called the University of Washington Medical Center to see if I could get a refill phoned to a pharmacy in Spokane. It seemed like the common sense thing to do, for returning to Seattle to pick up my pills, would add at least another hour to the trip. I had been there, done that, just the week before.

As we reached the vicinity of Vantage, the nurse returned my call and said, when I get to Spokane, just call again with the phone number of the pharmacy and she will call in my prescription for my heart medication. Cool, when I got to Spokane, I looked up the number and called the nurse again. Then I got out my computer and began writing this message. I decided to write until about 5 PM. This would allow everything to work smoothly with limited stress, after all I was writing an article about common sense, or Abstract Fusion.

When I got to the pharmacy a little after five, I ask if they had received a call from the University of Washington with a prescription for my medication. Sure enough there it was, except it was for the medication I took in the hospital not the one I am now taking, or hoped to take that evening. To make this two hour ordeal short, after a number of calls by the pharmacy staff to page a proper doctor, the pharmacy just sold me a couple of pills, basically out of the kindness of their heart. Looks as if my Abstract Fusion missed at least one significant step.

Let's see, next time I will make sure the nurse will call with the right prescription. No, I will not worry about forgetting my medication because I will put a couple of tablets in all my vehicles and in my toiletry bag. That's a better idea. Of course, the appropriate thing would not be to forget my medicine in the first place. That sure is a novel thought, probably impossible, but still a great idea. I think I will recommend it to all my friends.

I have always prided myself with my common sense. It is sure a good thing before this episode started I changed the definition. But seriously, Abstract Fusion, or a portion of it, is learning from your mistakes. Two weeks in a row I forgot my medication, perhaps I can get it right for the church planting trip.

Athletic skill is learned by practice and more practice. Could it be that “He who makes the most mistakes (and learns from them) wins in the Abstract Fusion game? In order for this line of reasoning to be successful, first of all you must be trying something in which you might fail, perhaps more than you succeed, like shooting baskets, or hitting a baseball, except transferred to real life, not just a game. Then you must be able to adjust your shot, or your swing to get the job done. Many people are unwilling or unable to live with that level of perceived insecurity, even if the results lead to deeper and a more secure reality.

As these discussions about people with common sense, or Abstract Fusion continued, a common thread seemed to immerge. Abstract Fusion people tended to be less self absorbed than those who just didn’t have it. To coin another general rule, Abstract Fusion people live, others hibernate in themselves.

This must mean that to the extent that we can develop Abstract Fusion, it must be done in reality, with real life episodes. It is not a product of our imagination, while that creative influence at times might be beneficial, it must relate to some fusion application to be a true Abstract Fusion.

With some thoughts on developing Abstract Fusion in the Kaimaya people and others who may need it, even in this country, athletic training especially in sports that require instantaneous responses like basketball and soccer, might be a good training activity.

The thoughts of most people after a number of years of being three deep on the position chart on a softball team with two extra players, is to see if God might have a better idea. This God who created the universe, created the six senses we have been talking about in this article. But just to turn to a God that our intuition tells us is out there is not enough. Common sense, or Abstract Fusion must be supplemented with specific knowledge of the God who made the rules in the first place. Our common sense tells us that all roads, or there are many ways, to find God and to achieve His ultimate Abstract Fusion. But there is only one way.

That path is known as the Gospel. Mankind is separated from God by our sin, which is why we need common sense, or why we lost our common sense in the first place. That restoration process is a legal proceeding, any warm fuzzies must come later. In that legal proceeding, one member of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ asks His Father to become the propitiation for our sins, and to take the punishment that our sins deserve on Himself and die in our stead.

God the Father accepts this atoning sacrifice, and through the Father’s love for His Son and for all mankind, resurrects Jesus from the dead, by the third member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Thus conquering man’s greatest enemy, death. Once raised from the dead Jesus becomes our advocate with the Father and petitions Him, “I ask You my Father, through Your mercy and love to forgive all their sins and bring them ultimately into eternal life that now only We enjoy. Also adopt them as My brothers and sisters.”

The Father accepts this argument and not only removes our sins, sets aside forever our death sentence, but also signs our adoption papers, making us sons and daughters of the Eternal God. The only stipulation is that we human beings must accept this adoption through faith alone in the finished work of Christ.

This proceeding makes no common sense, but it is truth. And truth over rides our common sense every time. Common sense is what the church and many preachers have used for centuries to dilute, or water down, this ultimate message of Good News. This appeal to our common sense understanding, by dumbing it down to the common, has caused untold, needless, suffering throughout the world. In the ultimate sense, this is the cause of the Kaimaya people’s slavery three generations ago.

The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ separates our common sense from Abstract Fusion. Ultimately it takes this free gift of the Good News of God, to discern the difference between common sense and Abstract Fusion. May that gift be treasured afresh by you and yours.