



– Quotes To Live By –

"All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves."

–Philosopher Blaise Pascal

This is a good thing to remember during those times when it seems as though the lives of others revolve around ways to make you miserable. Ever have one of those moments? We all have from time to time.

The important thing to remember is that deep down inside, no matter what their behavior, every human being on the planet is striving for the same thing: happiness. The hurt we cause one another comes about not because anyone sets out in the morning with the goal of trying to hurt others, but because our varied pursuits of happiness get tangled amongst the goals of others. People rarely have malicious or evil motives in mind as they do the hurtful things they do, even when their actions, from all appearances, are downright nasty.

A thief steals in hopes of obtaining the financial gain he thinks will better his life, not because he's out to hurt those he steals from. A husband who cheats on his wife usually isn't intending to injure his spouse; he's usually struggling with a sense of lost fulfillment in his life. A teen that is openly hostile towards you or others is not doing it because evilness is their goal. That's more of a side effect. They're doing it because putting others down makes them feel a little less crummy about themselves, or because expressing anger alleviates inner pain.

Of course, this doesn't make any of these things right or proper, but knowing the motives behind *why* people do the hurtful things they do can usually make them a little easier to take. When we're hurt, it always feels worse to interpret that hurt as a personal insult or a vendetta against us personally. Such views aren't helpful, and they aren't truthful or accurate. In all the quirky, crazy, strange, good, wonderful, irrational, caring, nasty, hurtful things people do, they all have the same goal in mind: happiness. It's important to remember that their goal is noble, even if their actions are not. Rather than getting hurt and upset, we should try to focus on helping them achieve their happiness in a way that isn't hurtful towards others. Or at least pursue it somewhere far away from us. ;-)