Confusion in the Moment of Dialogue

Checklist of patterns of behaviour and attitude inhibiting better dialogue

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Preliminary list

1. Withholding relevant information to preserve advantage
2. Anecdotal distraction to attract attention inappropriately
3. Placement of irrelevant information in support of other agendas
4. Commitments made, possibly only for effect, that are readily forgotten
5. Uncritical belief in the meaningful convergence of the process
6. Inability to interrelate relevant perspectives
7. Time pressure on communication of relevant information
8. Misplaced concreteness obscuring subtler insights
9. Pressure of courtesy, protocol and due recognition -- undermining other content
10. Aesthetic attraction or repulsion inappropriately distorting the exchange
11. Remembrance of the past inhibiting emergence of the new
12. Enthusiastic focus on the new inhibiting ability to remember learnings of the past
13. Expectations of future advantage distorting effective engagement in the process
14. Inability to express meaningfully insights from other disciplines, languages, contexts, or modes of communication
15. Devaluation of subtler insights that briefly emerge, thus favouring dominance of the obvious
16. Inability to achieve reciprocity of pace and timing to ensure mutual entrainment in the dialogue process
17. Failure to appreciate significance carried by the symbolism of the moment
18. Frustration at priority accorded to other necessary perspectives
19. Impatience with the priorities of the moment and doubts regarding the opportunities of the occasion
20. Discouraging others by challenging them and by concealing agreement, when they are in need of reinforcement
21. Concealing disagreement that will determine subsequent action

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Anthony Judge:

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