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An opinion I had to defend against the beliefs of a majority of people

And how it affected my value system

I was in the 10th grade in a high school. After the winter break a new student arrived to our class. His name was Denis, and I knew him from the middle school. He was very smart and talented, but the way he spoke and the lexicon he used were complex. Therefore majority of classmates didn’t understand him and thought that he was arrogant and wanted to show off his intelligence, but I was among those who understood him.

Denis, I and another guy in our class were participating in math Olympiads and were part of the school Olympiad reserve. We had a privilege of not attending some humanity courses; so many people in the class didn’t like that. Since I was friendly with everyone, it didn’t affect me that much. Unfortunately Denis hadn’t had many friends in the class, and wasn’t accepted by the majority of classmates, but I protected him when somebody was gossiping against him and tried to make people accept him. Some people didn’t understand me and were against my attitude to Denis, but I always supported him.

I continued being fellows with him as we were in a middle school. I noticed that when we were studying math among people who attended Olympiad reserve, Denis was more open and social than he was in the regular class room.

I was thinking about why most of the people did not accept him and understood that he had difficulties in socializing. He was afraid that he won’t be understood and accepted, so he created that “professor” persona when he was talking with classmates. He was absolutely normal, good person; he wasn’t making fun of anybody, he disgraced nobody, also he was helpful and humane. But the majority of people couldn’t see those traits under the hood of “professor” that Denis created. Moreover I understood that people were dealing with him in such a way, because they couldn’t see his real personality. But you cannot simply blame or reject a person if he or she is different from you.

After sometime Denis started to make progress in gaining respect and friendship among the classmates. Taking medals in math Olympiads played some part in that, but I’m sure the main reason was that he showed some of his humane qualities like helping people. Eventually people slowly started seeing him not as a professor, but more as a regular classmate, who was joking with others, who sometimes didn’t do homework, mostly in humanities. But it all happened after they had been rejecting him.

Before that incident, in the middle school, I’ve read “To Kill a Mockingbird” of Harper Lee, and I remember Atticus said to Scout, that most people are nice, when you finally see them. After that incident I understood even more that almost anybody could be understood and accepted.