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Trust

Trust, is the oldest and the most important human behavior in the society, because trust is the fundament of human societies. No matter big or small, from tiny organizations to huge countries, trust took part in every single human relationships. Without trust, it is almost important to work together and form relationships.

Let us start from the simplest relationship: friend. On the other hand, to be more accurate, one to one relationship, including lover, partner or friend. Any relationship between two human beings. Because if you want to work with someone you do not know, the first thing you want to do is to know this person as much as you can, to protect yourself and to make sure the work can be done. Actually, to protect yourself may not be included, sometimes the work you want to finish will oppose the target of protect yourself, which is also called self-sacrifice, so the make sure the work can be done is the most important target of learning others. Once you know or you think you know someone clearly, you will be able to decide whether this person can be trusted or not. Assume that all the information you have is the thing that this person told you (I will explain why we assume this later). It is important to make sure this person is telling the truth, in another way to say it, can be trusted. Since this is the first step of any kind of cooperation, trust has become a significant step when we are making new connections with others.

Now I think we are all very clear about why we need trust in one to one relationships, now let us talk about it even further, like the question: why all the information you have in making one to one relationship is the thing that your partner told you. You may want to say it will be much easier to compare the thing this person (person1) told us to the thing this person told other people (person2) and see if they are the same. However, can you really do that? Think about it more carefully, how can you know if person2 is telling the truth? Can you see the real problem now? We can only trust ourselves from the very beginning.

Why is that? Most people did not realize that because most of people grew up normally, they have parents, they have friends, and they already have someone to trust before they know what trust is. Therefore, our problem here magically disappeared. This problem only appears on people who grew up alone in the real life, people who do not have parents, do not have friends. Now this is the worst thing, because they do not know whom can they trust, it is easy to let them think everyone on the world is lying to them, including this world itself. They are the people who are excluded from the society. Society is actually a chain of trust, because I trust you, so I trust the person you trust, and the person the person you trust trust. Just because trust can be pass around through these chains, we can form larger and larger communities, more and more complex relationships. Large-scale cooperation made human different from other species, and behind it, is trust.

Trust made us great and made us special from wild animals, does not means that other animals can trust each other, but only us, human sapiens, can have a trust chain in this fantastic scale, only us, can work with someone we even haven’t known before by promise. The cheapest thing in the world, the most expensive thing in human society.

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