



It's not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

Audre Lorde
(1934 - 1992)
Writer

We seek out differences all day long. We cheer at sports stars with skills different from our own; we scroll social media hungry to see what different things others are doing. But when differences present themselves to us, we sometimes struggle to have the same enthusiasm.

We reclaim wonder by celebrating the gifts of differences.

With differences, we celebrate the liberating power of humility. We cannot, and we need not, know everything. Surrounded by diversity at work or in our communities, we face the redeeming truth that others hold knowledge that we do not. A gift of differences is that responsibility is shared – that since we each hold different abilities, solving challenges is the obligation of all. We need not carry the illusion that we either could, or must, “go it alone.”

In differences, we celebrate the breadth of sensory pleasure. We live in bodies able to experience our environment through senses. The presence of differences provides abundant tastes, sights, and sounds for us to savor. We can be almost endlessly thrilled with novel art, distinct flavors, and curious explorations of the creation that surrounds us. We flourish in a realm of variety.

Through differences, we celebrate the joy of discovery. A central gift of differences is that, together, our many perspectives show us a more complete picture of our world. Based on our distinct life experiences, identities, and formed values, we each hold a unique view of life. By greeting differences as an opportunity for discovery, we have the option of continuous growth.

With differences, our life expands in awe and appreciation.

What is a difference I will celebrate today? Where can I discover something new in our diverse world?