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WHAT IS TACT?

TACT comes as much from goodness of heart as from fineness of taste.—Disraeli.

Tact is elusive, very hard to describe — perhaps the schoolboy who said that you don't notice it until you haven't got it would be closer to the point. Tact is a must for everybody who wants to get on in life. Without tact our task in life becomes so much harder. In every walk of life if you are tactful you get on with your job very much quicker and easier; resistance to your requests are going to be minimised and in fact turned into helpful attitudes.

Someone once said: "It's not what you say, but how you say it, which makes all the difference". We must think before we say anything, we must turn over our thoughts to bring them out in a way which to our judgment will encounter the least resistance. This requires a certain amount of fineness of feeling towards others, it brings us into a certain contact with the feeling of the other person.

"Talent is something, but tact is everything. Talent is serious, sober, grave and respectable; tact is all that, and more too. It is not a seventh sense, but is the life of all five. It is the open eye, the quick ear, the judging taste, the keen smell, and the lively touch; it is the interpreter of all riddles, the surmounter of all difficulties, the remover of all obstacles". (W. P. Scargill)

Tact comes easier to the fairer sex than to men, and it is very difficult for men to train themselves to be tactful, because men do consider it sometimes unmanly. However, it is more a must for men than women because women get away with a little untactfulness much easier than men. We must continuously guard against a reputation of untactfulness to travel ahead of us and shut all doors before we are inside.

—W.R.