

Dichotomy And False Dichotomy

****The rules for debate and discussions are being rejected for quick narratives and memes. Don't follow the mob.**

Webster: The two most commonly used senses of dichotomy are easily (and often) confused.

1. The older one refers to the division of something into two groups that often are mutually exclusive or contradictory (as in “the dichotomy between good and evil”). Like trichotomy (meaning “division into three parts”), this sense denotes separation into different elements, but it adds the connotation of oppositeness.

2. The newer sense of dichotomy denotes a thing that appears to have contradictory qualities, such as a lemonade stand found in a war zone. Dichotomy is frequently found in the company of the word false; a false dichotomy is a kind of fallacy in which one is given only two choices when in fact other options are available.

This newer sense of dichotomy is very important to look at because we always have more choices and there is always another way to look at issues or problems rather than following a group or mob.

We live in a highly polarizing era and depending on our sources of information we can swing to extremes. No one likes stigmas and labels put on them and yet we tend to wear them proudly. Depending on who you talk to a few words can become inflammatory very quickly in a discussion. The rules for debate and discussions are rejected for quick narratives and memes. Most narratives are intended to herd people into ideological groups. When you are in a group or mob you forget about the important issues that you personally want to connect with. As a free thinking society we should be rejecting all memes and labels even the non label labels.

Of course excepting the fact that there are absolutes and universal laws is the first step to having a point of reference to discuss issues. We can't expect a healthy discussion if there is no acknowledgment of truth or lie and light or dark.