

Intelligent Behaviour - A Cross Cultural Perspective

A contrast to the western view of intelligent behaviour

An intelligent person does not rush in with quick responses - a sign of the rashness of youth. Instead, clever people prefer to wait, watch carefully, and give a considered response.

The airing of knowledge as demonstrated in answering questions and confident self-expression is deemed to be conceited and inviting the fall that comes after pride.

Intelligence is reflected in silent pondering, careful observation of high-status persons, and in passing unnoticed lest your responses betray your ignorance.

Intelligence is demonstrated by imitating one's masters, learning by rote what one's teachers have said, and by listening to others.

An intelligent person does not start something new until he/she feels sure of having mastered the skill or knowledge. Certainly one does not plunge in and expect to learn from one's own mistakes.

Acknowledgement: "Communicating Across Cultures" A. Hodge, Multicultural Centre, Sydney, 1986.

