

CHAPTER TWO

The Seed of Prejudice

“Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education; they grow there, firm as weeds among stones.”

Charlotte Bronte

Each influence on our judgment can contribute to a unique and, hopefully, wonderful understanding of the world. Not only should we acknowledge that these influences exist, we should actively seek out all they have to offer.

- Parents are extraordinary sources of guidance; we should hear them.
- Religion gives us meaningful traditions; we should experience them.
- Communities surround us with cultural events; we should participate in them.

- School, and our teachers and classmates, shape our early learning; we should embrace them.
- Media provides valuable information resources; we should read, watch and listen to them.

But being aware of the influences on our judgment is only the beginning. We should also be aware that these same influences can deliver negative as well as positive information; information that encourages prejudging can, intentionally or otherwise, slip in with the rest. That means each influence has a chance to plant the seed of prejudice in our minds.

How does this happen?

