

Know thy Enemy

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This is a story that my father told me about that happened when he was a teenager living and working in New York City around 1940.

My father lived in Queens, New York City and worked at a bank in Manhattan. Each morning he rode the subway and would see many of the same people each trip. One person he often noticed was a well dressed elderly man, obviously very wealthy, reading a communist newspaper. After numerous times observing this and puzzled about this paradox he went over and asked the man why someone of his wealth would be reading a communist newspaper. The old man responded, "Son, know thy enemy."

Over the years I have found this to be excellent advice. Too often people fall into the trap of thinking that their enemy is stupid. The enemy is not stupid but the person thinking that is.