

The Orange Story: Going Beyond the Win/Win Solution¹

(188 wds = 2 minutes)

Sometimes in the heat of debate, we can only see things in terms of winning or losing. Sometimes we become so attached to our own a solution that we lose our creativity.

Listening to a minority voice may bring to mind a solution we have never even thought about that serves all parties better than a compromise. Practicing consideration and courage helps us seek resolution where everyone wins.

An example of such a win/win solution is the story of two people who wanted a single orange. Recognizing that if one got the whole orange, the other would be unhappy, they agreed to compromise. Each took half of the orange.

One promptly peeled her half, threw the peel away and ate the pulp. The other peeled the half he got, grated the peel for a recipe, and threw away the pulp.

Had they listened more closely to each other, they could have discovered a solution in which each won the whole part of the orange they wanted, and none of it would have been wasted. (Paths to Recovery , pp 278-279)

¹ Paths to Recovery: Al-Anon's Steps, Traditions and Concepts
by [Al-Anon Family Groups](#)