

## **Unfriendly**

*To be unfriendly is to adopt a distant, hostile, or superior attitude toward others in society. Unfriendly is different from reserved or distant, for the unfriendly person is in some sense adversarial to you and cannot exactly be disregarded. If someone is unfriendly to me I struggle to process the attitude, as though it was in itself unnatural, or mistaken. This processing is probably ego driven, in my case, for I don't easily see why someone should be unfriendly to me. I may, of course, easily be missing some behavior, within me, which fully justifies the other person's unfriendly attitude toward me. Even if that attitude is justified, however, it will be hard for me to feel that unfriendliness—toward me or others—is an acceptable attitude.*

### *Examples*

#### **1 An unhappy person**

At the gym I frequently encounter a woman who is one of the track coaches of the college team. She is attractive and slim, athletic, obviously in top shape, and yet her face is a map of discomfort, stress, and denial. One can see that she is unhappy, and that possibly deep confusions and conflicts lie at the root of her unhappiness. Nonetheless, while accepting the likelihood of the above analysis, I am dissatisfied by her refusal to smile at me or even acknowledge my fellow existence as I pass her in the gym. I feel dissatisfied by her unfriendly stance toward me. I should be able to separate my own feeling-needs from her personal problems, but I am not as good as I should be, at doing this. I am the temporary victim of her unhappiness.

#### **2 Another unhappy and unfriendly person**

Others' private problems are frequently at the root of their unfriendly behavior. (Is unfriendliness compatible with happiness, or in fatal conflict with it?) A guy of thirty frequently exercises on the gym treadmill, next to me. He is not handsome, but seriously overweight, rolls of fat pouring from his sides, his butt supersized. He works hard at his morning exercise, but without any apparent effect on his figure. I mention Tom because he is unfriendly to me. He will not speak to me, he will not look at me as we grunt side by side, and when we both leave the gym he will not favor me with a glance. Am I then so handsome and perfected? Does he envy this ancient gent? Or does he dread having exposed his own ineffectual efforts to make himself look like a human being?