

ALWAYS BEING RIGHT

When being correct gets valued above staying connected.

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Forty minutes in, and it stopped being about the dishes at minute five.

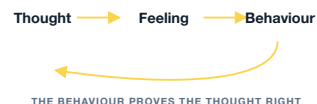
You can win this and still lose the evening.

Do you want to be right here, or do you want to be close?

THE CLINICAL NAME

Always being right

Correctness recruited into the defence of the self. Once the argument is about worth rather than facts, conceding feels like a threat to identity, so evidence stops changing anything. The relational cost accumulates quietly: people stop raising things, and the arguments you win get fewer because the conversations stop.



HOW IT RUNS *A long-running disagreement with your partner*

THE VERDICT

THE NEXT STEP

THOUGHT

"If I concede this, I am admitting I am the problem."

"I could be partly wrong here and still be fine."

FEELING

Braced, adrenalised, unable to let it go.

Uncomfortable, but still in the room with them.

BEHAVIOUR

Re-litigate. Bring receipts. Win. Sleep badly.

"You have a point." Ask what they actually need.

THREE TOOLS

- 1 Name the real stake.** Is this about the facts, or about what being wrong would mean?
- 2 Concede one point genuinely.** Not tactically. Watch what happens to the temperature.
- 3 Ask the better question.** "What do you need?" gets further than "what actually happened?"

A MUSLIM LENS

The argument after the meeting is about the ruling, and somewhere in it, it stopped being about the ruling.

The house in Paradise — It is promised for leaving an argument you could have won.

Kibr is the tell — Rejecting the truth and belittling the person — that is the definition to check yourself against.

Then repair first — Whoever greets first is described as the better of the two. Be that one.

Winning the point and losing the person is not a victory anyone recorded as one.

THIS WEEK In one disagreement, concede a single point you actually believe. Notice what it costs. It is less than you think.

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