

Death of a marriage



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MARRIAGE “ Lying, marriage teams, and moral relativity” It is very difficult to go through life without lying, as Ericsson proves in her entertaining and informative essay. In this essay, the author examines the different kinds of lies that we tell every day without thinking, including lies of omission and groupthink. In Carter’s essay, the author tackles a similar subject, providing fewer examples and providing more of a philosophical tone about the difference between honesty and integrity. This author reaches the conclusion that having integrity does not necessarily mean being honest, and vice versa. In my life, and specifically in my marriage, I have undergone experiences which support the points of both of these authors. I have lied to protect my partner’s feelings, and we have lied to ourselves together as a team, while thinking that we were being moral. As Ericsson notes, we all lie. It is nearly impossible to get through life without stretching the truth; it is often in our self interest to do so, and we excuse the behavior if it gets us ahead. “ We lie. We all do. We exaggerate, we minimize, we avoid confrontation, we spare people's feelings, we conveniently forget, we keep secrets, we justify lying to the big-guy institutions. Like most people, I indulge in small falsehoods” (Ericsson, 2011). In my marriage, my spouse and I both realize this, and we also realize it about each other. When we fight, we may call each other liars, but on a basic level, we both know that lying is something we also do together. Ericsson describes this act of lying together in social groups, in her essay as groupthink. Groupthink involves subjects of conformity, compliance, obedience, and other relations among groups of people, including how they relate to what could be called the authority of the collective. In our marriage, we have formed a collective with its own authority, and if some truth is unpleasant outside of this authority, it

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often gets ignored. We share a bond of trust and marriage, but we also share the tendency towards forming our own internal team, and manufacturing our own groupthink, which is a type of conformity. Regarding the application of my marriage to the current body of knowledge on group dynamics, group behavior, and conflict that can arise from promotional leadership and groupthink symptoms in group settings, the facts are clear: my spouse and I have ourselves fooled, much as the generals in Ericsson's example of Pearl Harbor had themselves fooled. Our marriage is not ready for a Pearl Harbor. Lying also involves making excuses, and this is something that also happens in my marriage. " Nowadays, here in America, people seem to spend their time thinking of even cleverer ways to avoid their obligations, instead of doing what integrity commands and fulfilling them. And all too often honesty is their excuse" (Carter, 2011). I think that there still exists a gulf between the ethics of the individual and the absolutism of Carter's definitions. But I also think that finding a middle line between these two can help keep a marriage on track, and therefore give the partners in a marriage a better level of ethical as well as moral responsibility and accountability. In my marriage, I find that there is sometimes a gulf about how my spouse and I are feeling about each other, and how we look to other people. This is a complicated issue because of the split between integrity-as-institutional-policy and integrity-as-individual-conscience. In conclusion, my marriage has facets of both essayist's arguments and criticisms of truth and integrity. No one is perfect; we could all use some work. My spouse and I tend to exhibit what Ericsson calls groupthink, because we convince each other that we are right, even when we are wrong. And we can also learn something from Carter, in terms of the difference between honesty and integrity. Overall, a

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sense of balance can at least be sought by a marriage, stressing the importance of integrity as an imperative. REFERENCE Carter, S (2011). The insufficiency of honesty. <http://www.gibbsmagazine.com/Insufficiency%20of%20honesty.htm> Ericsson, S(2011). The ways we lie. <http://restyo.blogspot.com/2009/04/ways-we-lie-essay-by-stephanie-ericsson.html>