

Garlic and Clementine- A Story of Inclusion

By Maggie French

I came across a picture of a bulb of garlic where a single clove had been removed and a clementine wedge inserted. The caption read, "Not every place you fit in is where you belong." Something poked at me as the clementine wedge fit perfectly yet was out of place. The picture showed something appearing whole ... and something different.

A clove of garlic will always be a clove of garlic. A wedge of clementine will always be a wedge of clementine. Clementine are found in bunches. Garlic, in bulbs. Does that mean they never belong together?

Today's world bombards us with places we could belong. We hear something every moment promoting where we can feel community ... or not. We are pushed into camps based on criteria often difficult to articulate, yet with an undertone that says you might not belong here.

While taking a morning walk, I pondered the continual labeling we encounter which this garlic and clementine conundrum exemplified. Spring cleaning was in full bloom and outside renovations were in process. I passed a home where major landscaping was taking place. I paused and observed how the yard was being transformed; taken down to dirt and rebuilt into something different yet still landscape. That small voice inside said, "It is the construct of the garlic bulb that is the issue!" The thought was clarifying. With a focus on the structure of the garlic bulb, of course a wedge of clementine is out of place. The way the bulb is designed inhibits the clementine's belonging.

In our day-to-day lives we are surrounded by manufactured structures. Work. Community. Associations. Attention on a singular structural style limits. In the case of garlic bulbs, it leaves no possibility for the clementine ever complementing the other cloves. While the clementine fits, it will always be seen as different for the composition, and not belong. Adherence to a model, as created and sustained, results in the prospect of individuals being excluded from and benefiting the organization for irrelevant reasons. When someone new to an organization appears to fit yet is seen as not to belong for some of their tenets, the emphasis is on the person to change, to which the individual would need to alter their base character.

A review of the construct would better serve. Fixation on a specific concept, a nonnegotiable set of specifics that define how someone can be a member, hinders not only a person gaining a

sense of inclusion, it also diminishes the possibilities for the whole. Exploring what that individual brings to the table, opens opportunities not before seen or experienced. A change in perspective can have both garlic and clementine working together.

The issue of inclusion is neither whether you are a garlic clove nor a clementine wedge. The issue lies in the inability to adjust focus and envision a different structure that has them both a part of ... and complementing. The challenge is to question the validity of the foundational precept and explore what the garlic and the clementine can achieve together.

Examining parts in relationship with the whole and the whole in relationship to its parts can result in restructures that become more ... whole.

Roasted Garlic and Clementine Carrots

These Chantenay carrots with a sweet clementine tang are just made for the Christmas table.

Ingredients

2 bulbs garlic

2 clementines

1 kg Chantenay carrots

1 tbsp olive oil

Method



1. Preheat the oven to 200°C, fan 180°C, gas 6. Peel the outer layers from the garlic and place the whole bulbs in a large roasting tin along with the carrots.
2. Halve the clementines and squeeze the juice over the carrots, leaving the clementine halves in the tin as well. Drizzle with the olive oil and season. Roast for 45 minutes, turning the carrots halfway through. Remove from the oven and serve.

Cook's tip: squeeze the softened garlic pulp from the bulbs and mix into soft butter for instant home-made garlic butter.