

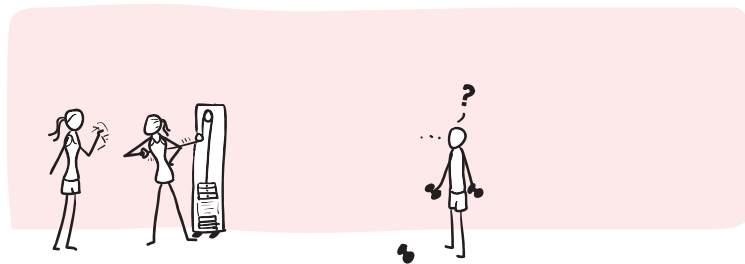
The Art of Communication

Bernhard Langenstein, *Desiderata* (Tredition, 2017), 61–62.

Some time ago, I witnessed a fascinating scene at the gym. Not far from where I was, two young women were working out. I could sense a powerful connection between them, even though they were each using separate machines.

Now curious, and wanting to know why their connection felt so strong, I went over to a machine closer to them. It was only then that I realized what was going on: The two young women were non-verbal—maybe even deaf. They could only communicate by reading or touching one another's lips. I was fascinated, especially by their light, butterfly-like touches. I was spellbound. The two women clearly took immense pleasure in what they were doing, pointing out interesting things in the room to one another.

For a surreal moment, I felt drawn into their universe of silent, tender communication, as if I'd been summoned into their silent, parallel world—before surfacing once again amid the clanking of the exercise equipment. What was it about this world of silent communication that radiated so much peace?



REFLECT

Read the short observation from the gym out loud. Then ask yourselves: Why did these two women understand each other so well?