

INTJ / ISTJ

The Scientist and the Duty Fulfiller

An Introverted Relationship

Introverted relationships tend to be quiet, with far more going on under the surface than would be apparent to an outside observer. Sometimes this surface breaks and these relationships can explode into furious times of creative activity or passion, when the true thoughts, feelings and needs of partners can express in powerful ways. At rare times this can open a schism which can break a relationship apart, but normally it results in a cathartic re-establishment of balance and a return to quietness, achieved through a mutual work of creative adjustment to each partner's previously private ideas, emotions or personal directions. On the whole, introverted relationships tend to be secure and mutually beneficial where the partners have deep feeling for one another or a shared interest in outcomes. Because of their natural tendency to keep to themselves those things which might create friction in their outer life, introverts of the most diverse character and interests can work well together and easily form harmonious relationships where a common goal or life direction exists.

INTJ-ISTJ Relationship Dynamics

These two rarely have a problem getting down to the nuts and bolts of things both of the world and of themselves. While the ISTJ feels most comfortable when working to a definite system of carefully judged and "correct" ways of doing things, this represents a personal need and does not necessarily include others nor the world in general. Only when related to something of their own life do ISTJ judgments about what is correct become obvious. Unlike the ESTJ, they will not expect others to automatically believe that a certain way of doing things is the only correct way. Their judgments are for themselves and even though they might assume the world would be a better place if things were done their way, they know that they cannot make it so.

This is one reason why the INTJ finds the ISTJ so easy to deal with, for they both have a similar sense of the world and its difficulties, and they both allow each other to be what they are and to work in their own way. It is only when either of these two try to interfere in the methods and self processes of the other

that problems will arise. In a close relationship such things tend to occur almost without thinking, but with these two the process of “banging heads” will begin almost upon meeting, with the result that where there is sufficient common ground, both will reach a position where any conflicts will be quickly worked through and a good working relationship will develop.

The ISTJ way is often careful, sometimes slow at first where details need to be absorbed and considered, whilst the INTJ is likely to overlook the details and just get into it. The ISTJ can have trouble understanding the INTJ “have a go” approach, yet often finds this a great aid to overcoming any doubts about the way a job or situation might be handled. At the same time the INTJ can learn a great deal from the ISTJ, who is always considerably more connected to the immediate requirements of any job or situation and is likely to point out necessary details or those questions that require answering which the INTJ can overlook. As a work team these two make an excellent pair, particularly when seniority or role status does not play a large part, as both types usually feel and work better unsupervised.

This pair can and usually do make excellent friendships, particularly where a common interest draws them together. While each approaches from a different side, both understand and appreciate the “hands on” way of doing things and are likely to be most comfortable together in actively creative situations.

Even conversation for these two is a creative act and this will often reflect the somewhat dark and sarcastic wit of the INTJ married to the down to earth and sometimes bawdy humor of the ISTJ. Both of these types find delight in one on one relationships and are rarely at their best in larger groups. Even their own close relationship can become submerged under such circumstances and replaced by the personas both use to deal with the extraverted world.

The ISTJ does not naturally connect to the INTJ inner world of intuitive ideas and images, but this rarely is a bother to them, preferring as they do to consider the obvious and immediate needs of a situation. The ISTJ has a considerable grounding effect upon the INTJ and in this regard the INTJ often finds his ISTJ companion of more value in difficult situations than any other type.

For instance when emotional difficulties arise, the ISTJ can often point out the basic factors which the INTJ generally overlooks and fails to deal with. By the same token the INTJ has a substantial ability to lift the ISTJ out of their close thinking connection to immediate reality and its problems. Their vision can bring the ISTJ into relationship with possibilities and ways of seeing the world as a wider and far more interconnected reality than is obvious.

At the emotional level this can enable both the ISTJ and the INTJ, each in their own way, to lift each other out of situations that are often little more than worldly entanglements which have become impossible to deal with.

Making it Work

There are very few do's and don'ts for this pair, but there are odd times when a clash of wills or a ill considered word can create strong emotional reactions which can temporarily cool the relationship – sometimes for a long period.

The INTJ needs to remember that the ISTJ has a strong sense of loyalty to those they feel close to, and that these loyalties extend beyond the boundaries of any particular relationship. Therefore it is well for the INTJ not to assume that their own ideas about others are necessarily shared by their ISTJ companion simply because they are close friends or lovers. In this regard it is best the INTJ maintain an open and caring attitude towards the various friends and relatives of the ISTJ, and not immediately assume them to be competitors in affection.

Another problem that can arise is due to the INTJ penchant for quick and assertive judgments based upon their intuitive thinking. These judgments when directed at the ISTJ, particularly when they relate to something the ISTJ is working on or trying to master, will be often taken as reproofs or judgments upon their abilities or personality. INTJ thinking is usually extremely matter of fact, but when expressed often sounds more like an indictment.

In this regard the INTJ needs to allow their thinking to work with the immediate situation and not flow into too many possibilities at once. This allows them to see things as the other does and to maintain a more direct and caring approach to the situation the ISTJ is dealing with.

For the ISTJ there are times when it will seem their INTJ companion is simply on a different wavelength altogether; apparently uninterested in the things which the ISTJ feels are the most important or interesting matters of the moment. Quite commonly the ISTJ will wonder if their partner is not off somewhere in a different world, unrelated to and uncaring of their own world.

ISTJ reflections usually circle about the real world and its immediate problems or fascinations, but whilst the INTJ might be involved with the same world, they could be thinking about or imaging a complex of ideas totally unrelated to what they are seeing or hearing. The ISTJ needs to understand that this natural behavior of the INTJ has no bearing upon their feelings or how they deal with

the world as it appears. The INTJ is most put out when his abstractedness is assumed by others to indicate an uncaring attitude. Indeed, the INTJ is one of the most emotionally vulnerable of all the types, but their way of showing this will be seen in subtle things, in acts, behaviors or the occasional word which says volumes to those who understand.

Feeling and Emotional Issues

Just as ISTJ thinking can sometimes be irrationally connected to the objective world through an internal process not obvious to others, so too can INTJ thinking often be connected to an internal realm of ideas and imagery whose patterns and logic only they truly understand. The differences between the internal natures of such thinking are often not visible, and quite often either one of these types can assume wrongly that the other is seeing things in the same way they do.

It is only when a situation demands actions or words that this assumption is laid bare and seen to be the creator of misunderstanding between these types. Putting the real world necessities of a situation together is usually just the final detail for an INTJ, who will quite often work through an entire set of variable ideas and possibilities whilst a problem or need is being mooted. By contrast, the ISTJ likes to analyze, to move things about in their mind, to test the possibilities of each set of concrete notions.

This methodical analysis often leaves the INTJ completely cold, for they have already discounted many of the possibilities as either unnecessary or simply unacceptable. This can create tension with the ISTJ when it seems to them that the INTJ is merely waving away their ideas in favor of an egocentric view of their own. INTJ people often forget the need to relate their thinking to the concrete world for the sake of others, and this quite often results in their judgments being seen by others as decrees or absolute pronouncements.

Indeed, in a way they can be – but their expression without the necessary reasoning upon which they are based makes them appear to be ad hoc or sometimes confronting and assertive. To feeling types such ways are indeed confronting, but the ISTJ has no real problem with this; their problem lies in the fact that if they have no way of following the reasoning of the INTJ, or if this reasoning is not related to their own way of dealing with the world, the ISTJ can feel that they are simply not being heard, or that their usually very carefully worked out ideas and plans are being considered to be beside the point or invalid.

At such times, feelings can become aroused, and as neither has a great capacity to handle emotional tension within themselves, the negative energy produced can rise like wall of brooding silence between to two.

Keeping it Together

INTJ suggestions:

1. Remember the details, the real world intricacies and the scientific facts of things cannot change just because you have a idea or vision which demands recognition. Your partner needs to realize this idea through concrete values and logic – try to express things in this manner and allow yourself to be subject to the real and the concrete in life. In the details might lie the real validation of your ideas and the true connection between yourself and your partner.
2. Listen carefully and follow the reasoning paths of your partner. Don't be so quick to try and jump past their analytical position just because you see a light beyond or a direction they haven't realized or come to. It might be they already have such things in mind, but they need to be careful to explain the path that leads to such an idea for themselves, to find it is logically valid and not just a leap of faith. The ISTJ will not jump off the ground or attempt to fly.
3. Make some serious room for the careful analysis and discussion of those emotive areas of life both of you are uncomfortable with. Make it obvious that you are open to such conversations and not scared to open yourself to the negative and difficult parts of relationship. Always be willing to explain your own emotional limitations and allow for those of your partner as well.
4. ISTJ people don't need the kind of constant recognition and validation that you do. They are grounded and self directing. What they do need is clarity, reasonableness and verbal input. They are not mind readers. Remember this when you find yourself doing the usual silent living of your life – that your partner has no idea of the world you feel and see and live within. Make it known to them, make it real.

ISTJ suggestions:

1. Be prepared to allow for jumps, weirdness, and strange associations in your relationship and in your discussions. The logic is their, but it isn't necessarily linear and sometimes it needs calling back into the fold. Allow your partner to express in the way they see fit and listen, listen,

listen. Then you can carefully analyze and remark – or you can posit possibilities which arise from your understanding which might be suitable to both of you. Remember, just getting your INTJ partner to express their ideas is a significant gain – don't drown them with minutiae or pull them back to earth with an uncaring shrug while they are being themselves. Think about what they say and do – try to find the connections which might make their ideas come true in reality. Of all the people in their life, you have the most power to make things happen for them.

2. You have things you want to do and explore for yourself. These things are not necessarily the most interesting things your partner would like to do or discuss. Do not narrow your life for the sake of your partner, but try to locate the areas of cross interest, show them the paths you wish to take, and allow them to find their own fascinations within these. Be prepared to add to your itinerary of life, be prepared to be involved in the wonder of your partner's own quest for understanding and vision. You may find questions you had not considered and possibilities you had not considered. All such things can add to your own vision of life.
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4. INTJ people don't always want to be bogged down in details. They like to explore the wide open images, spaces and times of life – even if such things are seemingly only coming from their own mind. They don't need or want to be driven out into the world on a quest for some small proof that things are just how they ought to be. They will get their in their own way. Be willing to let their dreams and images filter down into the concrete – aid such things if possible, and never allow their judgments to disturb your own status quo. Do your own thing, but remember, even though this could be an INTJ motto, if they are your close partner, never hide that thing from them. Include them in everything and even though they may seem disinterested at times there will be others when they will surprise you with an insight or suggestion.

The Key

As in all things, love is the key to relationship. In a pair of male friends, the ISTJ might find this expression somewhat difficult, but the INTJ will not. If there is a true balance to be found in any relationship, it is via the path of love first; that connection between all people which at the deepest level undercuts the differences between them. Try always to discover this level in the things which connect you to your partner and work from this. In this way you will short circuit most of the difficulties of life and also discover the paths which lead directly to dynamic and positive connection.