

The Big Think: *Alone Together*

Selected quotations from Sherry Turkle's book (emphasis added)

"These days, insecure in our relationships and anxious about intimacy, **we look to technology** for ways to be in relationships and protect ourselves from them at the same time" (xii).

"...**we seem** determined to give human qualities to objects and **content to treat each other as things**" (xiv).

"...we are changed as **technology offers us substitutes for connecting** with each other face-to-face. We are offered robots and a whole world of machine-mediated relationships on network devices" (11).

"But if you're spending three, four, or five hours a day in an online game or virtual world ... **there's got to be someplace you're not**" (12).

"It is easy to become so immersed in technology that **we ignore what we know about life**" (101).

"With it," he said, referring to his collection of connectivity devices, "it's not just that I remember people or know more. I feel invincible, sociable, better prepared. I am naked without it. **With it, I am a better person**" (152).

"...there is the risk that **we come to see others as objects to be accessed**—and only for the parts we find useful, comforting, or amusing" (154).

"**What is a place** if those who are physically present have their attention on the absent?" (155-156).

"Today, our machine dream is to **never be alone** but **always in control**" (157).

"Mobile technology has made each of us **'pauseable'**" (161).

"The self that treats **a person as a thing** is vulnerable to seeing itself as one" (168).

"Now, technology makes it easy to express emotions while they are being formed. It supports an emotional style in which **feelings are not fully experienced until they are communicated**" (175).

"Twenty years ago, as a practicing clinical psychologist, if I had met a college junior who called her mother fifteen times a day, checking in about what shoes to buy and what dress to wear, extolling a new kind of decaffeinated tea, and complaining about the difficulty of a physics problem set, I would have thought her behavior problematic. I would have encouraged her to explore **difficulties with separation**. I would have assumed that these had to be addressed for her to proceed to successful adulthood. But these days, a college student who texts home fifteen times a day is not unusual" (178).

"**We fill our days with ongoing connection**, denying ourselves time to think and dream" (203).

"You come to enjoy the feeling of **never having to be alone**" (243).

"...when you depend on a computer to remember the past, you focus on whatever past is kept on the computer. And **you learn to favor whatever past is easiest to find**" (301).