«It’s not about the nail»

Response essay

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Recently I’ve watched a Youtube video called «It’s not about the nail» which made me think a lot about misunderstanding in peoples relationships.

In this short sketch, there is a face-to-face interaction where a woman is complaining to her boyfriend that something is wrong with her. She says that there’s a pressure that she can literally feel in her head. The ironic part is that she actually has a nail stuck in her forehead. The man is trying to help her to rectify the situation and offers her to take the nail out. At this moment we can see the issue of misunderstanding when she says «Its not about the nail». The boyfriend thinks that the nail is the main problem of her pain and is trying to convince her of fixing it while the girl just wants him to listen to her.

At first sight, this story seems to be about the «male vs. female brain» but I don't think that I want to understand it that way. I accept that women sometimes need more empathy and men need solutions. That’s why from the male point of view, women are sometimes seen as over-emotional and unreasonable creatures.

The woman is positioned as «unreasonable» here too while the man is a kind of a victim of the situation, but if you think about it, the man is the reckless one because he chooses not to listen to his girlfriend’s feelings and needs and focuses all his attention on the nail. He doesn't care about her opinion, he only thinks of how right he is. That isn't the right way to respond because you can’t help and support the person you love if you look at the situation only from your point of view.

In conclusion, I think that no matter what gender you are you can learn from this video. Sometimes, someone just wants to be sure that they aren't crazy, and that it's okay to feel the way they do and just to spare tension. In other cases they just have to stop complaining and start solving the problem. Knowing what to do in these both situations is a key to a healthy mature relationship.