### **Book Reviews**

"The Art of Successful Relationship is an easy, insightful read that helps readers understand the actions of the oppressor in relationships, yet provides readers with useful strategies and affirmations to transform ourselves and create the relationships we desire. I recommend this book to everyone who wants to have successful relationships."

—Ann Davis, Ph.D. Alliant International University

"This book is a must to read by those coping with difficult relationships and those in the helping profession."

-Kenneth Harper, Ph.D.

"This book offers a good practical guide in addressing a serious topic."

—Steve R. Brown, Attorney at Law.

# The Art of Successful Relationships

The Prince or The Predator

Georgina Ramirez, M.A.

#### SECOND EDITION

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### INTRODUCTION

Why do we get hurt and at times betrayed by the ones we trust and love the most? Why are we still exhibiting this harmful behavior after thousands of years of praying, meditating, building churches, and achieving scientific and technological advances in our civilized culture?

Like many others, I am still puzzled by these questions. However, looking for scientific answers to explain the origin of this behavior is not the intent of this book. There are too many gaps in our knowledge and the history of mankind to absolutely determine the roots of this behavior. Since the history of our past is still in fragments, and the secrets of our brain are still yet to be found, this writer will not attempt to discuss or establish its origin, but to strengthen individuals to transform and create successful relationships.

In this book, I use the term "predator" as a metaphor to represent manipulative and/or abusive behavior. A predator is an individual who seduces and later abuses the well-being of others. He seeks to pleasure himself as he totally disregards the needs and desires of his prey. He leaves his victim confused and exhausted, while he himself grows stronger and satisfied. It is the desire of the oppressor to achieve full and absolute control as his survival depends on the complete submission and emotional destruction of his victim. His dominant power and control is often justified as appropriate and necessary.

This emotional and psychological abuse is usually denied, overlooked, and frequently perceived as not important, yet it is extremely detrimental to the human mind.

It is my aim to increase awareness of the harmful effects and specific ways of this manipulative behavior, and to offer effective and practical tools to help those who might be, or have been, victimized by the oppressor whether in their personal relationships, business, or professional lives. I wish to help them identify and recognize its seductive ways, as well as to give them the tools to learn how to successfully deal and cope with the oppressor. In addition, and equally important, is to help identify the common traits of victims—the beliefs and characteristics that makes them become an easy prey, and how to change and empower them in overcoming these traits.

In business and in my professional experience as a psychotherapist, I have found that the power of the oppressor is often mystifying and misunderstood by the victim and the oppressor himself. You will find that the oppressor has a false identity and a root core belief that once understood, it will unlock a powerful force within the prey. This will not only open the gate to gracefully defeat this opponent, but also gives the power to lead the way.

Finally, in chapters three and four I present the solution to being seduced and manipulated by having and practicing a strong spiritual and moral core. When one develops such a strong center, one is not swayed by the constant seduction of the oppressor, whether manifested by an individual, group, or culture and thus not being put into the position of being victimized by those who would take advantage of us.

Furthermore, by tapping into this new awareness, the

reader will be placed in a position of true power where the possibilities of absolute fulfillment in life are endless and only limited by his or her own decisions.

May this book bring more light and understanding by helping individuals succeed in their true and transcendental work by becoming the true force behind the fine and divine wheel of creation.

# The Art of Successful Relationships