

DEPARTMENTIO

A learned heteronomous live

by TH.G.

People of today have been trained from their childhood to silently accept a heteronomous live.

Under the influence of the media and some so-called trendsetters, they are used to seek for guidance in every part of their live. What is cool, what is not? What is accepted to do or say? What style should I wear? What music should I hear? What mobile phone do I need to compete?

You can guess, nearly all of these decisions are influenced by external factors and we see a strong trend for mass conformity - you blend in or you stand out, but if you stand out you're on your own.

Whereas the 60ies, 70ies and 80ies brought forth generations of critical self-conscious people, who even put their personal wishes and beliefs against the governments and social order, sometimes to the extreme. Yes, this generations adopted and integrated themselves into society, but when they were on the streets or just dying their hair, wearing provoking clothes, rebelling against their elders, they partly changed the society as well.

The most important thing there is, they developed their own code of conduct and had the opportunity to 'do' / 'change' something.

Today children grow up in a world that controls them from the very start.

TV-Commercials on childrens TV channels tell them what they need to be more cool than others, pokemons or action figures are a more valuable asset than fantasy and imagination when playing childhood games.

Teenagers get a clear statement when TV ads tell them about the social impact of one zit in the morning to boost their revenues. Unfortunately that leaves people with the impression a zit is a stigma that can be better be fixed by a rope on the ceiling than with a sturdy mind and some self-confident appaerance in society - "Yes, it's a zit! So what? You see, your nose is even ugly without a zit..."

I have to be thin, have to compete with the models and stars in the magazines, they are the definition of beauty. Unfortunately they are all fake! They are not as slim as it looks, they have zits as well, they have cellulite, wrinkles and problems like every human being... the rest is photoshop and digital enhancement (If you don't believe just google for "photoshop"+"makeover").

In the end even the so called independent groups, outsiders like Emos, Goths, Tekkers, whatever they call themselves, stick to a dress code and heteronomous code of conduct propelled by magazines and the industry.

Unfortunately, this seems to create a situation where many young people don't have a chance to do what they really want. You pretend to. "I want to have fun, make some party". The question is: do you want to, or your clique? You wear this veeeery tight jeans, which make you look like sausage and fat. Not that you are actually fat after loosing weight to the point where you fit into it and your near to starving at 82 pounds, but you still do not look beautiful in a trouser that was designed for a person 4 figures less than you usually have.

The problem is most of you are so trained to be a fashion victim that you never try to find your own style, that suites you, you just blend in.

By the way, the "good friend" that told you this clothes look beautiful on you...is lying! Accept it! You are a competitor for him / her when it comes to the other gender.

Everybody will not likely have someone near him/herself much better looking, when trying to be noticed by the other sex.

Another effect of this "I do what everybody does", is that you get aggressive. You never get the chance to do what you really want, behave like you want, pair with the partner you really want, take the job you really want. Most of the time first thoughts are about what your frineds will think, what your parents will say, what society would like. It's never about YOU!

Don't tell yourself this isn't making you angry from time to time, when you bought an expensive skirt, because your clique forced you to have one and you look like shit in it, or when you find that you really would have liked to talk to the guy / girl in the disco last night, but you didn't because everybody around made nasty comments about him / her and you didn't dare to stand out and go over to meet him /her.

All this is eating at you and you get angry. Life should be about being happy, doing things you like, trying out without regret...

When the older generations were young there were Outsiders, Freaks, people who never fit in any of the schemes. These people were sometimes Trendsetters, sometimes simple freaks, but what they never were, was conforming!

What is the problem with this? Why is it bad, that you easily adopt to schemes everybody does? Why should I be an outsider when simple sticking to the rules and having fun is so easy?

You get trained to accept whatever you are told without questioning, if the majority does as well, that is why!

Just today a good media is more important in an election than the party platform or the competence of our leaders.

If someone says: "We need to go to war to make this a better place" and all the media says so, as well, you don't ask, you don't argue... you simply accept.