

Arrested Development

This may sound arrogant of me, but I've more than once found myself being puzzled by the words and ideas of people who have no religion, or reject the existence of God, or who find beliefs such as mine (and, thus, any beliefs which are non-materialist) to be odd and - they may imply - not appropriate to people of reason and education.

My own view is that it is such people themselves who are somehow limited, stunted, naïve, and have effectively failed to proceed beyond the very basic and commonplace, they are somehow stuck in the ordinary and everyday, and not able to see beyond their noses to the reason, logic, and fullest nature, of things; ultimate questions, and their answer, have been beyond them. It is as though their development was somehow stopped at some point in early adolescence.

Today, of course, we are used to coming across infantilism in many areas of life, the preponderance of young - and not always so young - people who seem to be stuck in the lifestyle of teenagers, despite being beyond their teens - far beyond, in some cases. Perhaps - some might say - they have *morally* never grown up. For the young, things, today, are very difficult. In the past, most people were forced to grow up very quickly, often by factors which many will applaud the removal of, such as war service, or "having to get married" due to unplanned parenthood (a problem neatly got rid of, today, by the abortion industry and the destruction of marriage by recent governments).

Another cause is the inability of many young people today, despite their best efforts, to acquire the rigid requirements of property ownership and mortgage repayment. Indeed, the absence of such disciplines (indeed, any discipline, in many cases) of necessity removes many if not all life-skills, and the acquisition of abilities which adult life necessitates. Or perhaps people do have these, maybe in rich measure, but are still, somehow, trapped in a view of life which sees everything only in terms of "fulfilment", "self-realisation", or the (very temporary) "satisfaction" that careers, personal relationships, or even "the arts" (and lesser material pleasures) can give. How is it, that for many people, such things can be "enough"? I don't know, and am not required to say how.

Perhaps, in truth, such things are not *really* enough - but they lack the ... maturity? Wisdom? Ability? - to move beyond, as (in my view) religious/theistical people have. Does this sound terribly arrogant?

April 2015