

The Philosophy Works®
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Social: Need, Desire, Fantasy, & Trust.

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Web Link: <http://ftp.setterholm.com/Friendship/NeedEtc.pdf>

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Are you interested in *peacefully socializing* with more-than-a-few other people to everyone's mutual satisfaction? If so, continue...

Humans have *physical* needs, including, oxygen, water, food, clothing, shelter, & healthcare (which reasonably includes: *not being bullied by other people*).

But what are our *social* needs, if any, & how will be peacefully satisfy them? Where does desire fit into the picture, and how is it peacefully satisfied? And finally: What might be cooler than sex? I recommend the following four viewpoints:

#1. Each of us has ~only one *social need*: to feel accepted by at least some other people. No drama training or speech classes are necessary to accomplish #1, and only a few seconds of "quality time" suffices. About four seconds of peaceful eye contact communicates mutual acceptance. Beyond that, occasional minor physical contact in a non-standard way (e.g. being touch lightly on the arm once every few weeks) suffices to establish & reaffirm friendship. Beyond that: **slight, rare, intentional excursions** beyond social norms (e.g.: "modesty of dress") are well remembered by interested parties (see #2). If a video of your social encounters won't personally embarrass you or offend other people, then you grasp how low-key these social interactions can be.

The annual Oscars Ceremony in Hollywood, California brings together a host of entertainers who are all competing for your \$. Entertainment, as Americans know it, overflows with people who want multitudes of people to "pay for what they have to offer" (which is the essence of being *a star*), often with no concern for whether you and the people around you ever achieve mutual social contentment. If it were otherwise, Hollywood's films would enable you to graduate from dependency upon movies and stars, & live happily ever after. (In our competition-based society – that won't happen; in a society that chooses to focus on cooperation – that transition could yet occur.)

Hence, don't assume that the wellspring of entertainment has been enlightenment. The woman who flashed her breast during a football Superbowl halftime, the highly ritualized prancing and body flaunting of women competing to be the next "Miss Universe", & the Chippendales... are not useful role models for organizing our daily social lives.

#2. Sexual desire is a natural refrain of human thought – a more frequent refrain for guys than gals, but, for most of us, a refrain none-the-less. Desire is a *fact* - not a *need* - nor a choice. Public chastisement of fantasy (e.g. within churches: "sins of thought") has become Hollywood's bread & butter... people pay lots of money to escape.

So, let's peacefully (& almost effortlessly – per #1 paragraph one above) accommodate desire, as follows...

#3. **Guilt-free access to *personal, private fantasy*** offers the ~free, victimless solution to satisfying desires.

Consider the idea cautiously - because all new ideas are risky. There's room for improvement... the questions are: where & how. Meanwhile, recognize that *freedom of thought* excluding *freedom of fantasy* is an oxymoron... and *freedom of speech* (which is somewhat restricted) is a joke-on-us if *freedom of thought* is taboo.

For purposes of this paper, let's define:

“addictions” = personal choices that disrupt social balance.

Will making **personal private fantasy socially acceptable** produce more addiction(s) than we already live with? Given cautious embrace of the idea – I'm guessing not... otherwise, this paper would be unwritten. But I offer no guarantee.

With your fantasy liberated... you're free to think about these questions! Fantasies can be constructive... I'll be delighted if **your ideas** are far more **harmoniously useful** to human life on Earth than mine. Bring them on! Enlighten us all!

Personal fantasy access may decrease the demand for costly, mood-altering, judgment impairing substances such as alcohol & hard drugs.

Watching network television suggests that many Americans are close-to-addicted to being entertained by the portrayal of violence. We have bestowed a sea of imbalances, inequities, and uncertainties (addictions... eh?) upon ourselves as a nation – e.g.: Gridlock in Washington D.C..

There is no more profound form of ignorance than to be unaware that a dimension of experience exists...

#4. *Feeling trusted* and simultaneously, in a low-key way, *feeling desired* can be deeply satisfying.

Actually being trustworthy requires mental concentration, but is do-able. Without a doubt, such experiences (#4's) are high on my list of pure delights... to such an extent that: if I were forced to choose between being trusted and being desired, I would choose being trusted in a heartbeat... because desire waxes and wanes (see #2), whereas trust, once received, tends to endure. A *shared, instructive* definition of **“friendship”**... perhaps one that's better crafted than my version 0.9... will help. Reference:

<http://ftp.setterholm.com/Friendship/Friend09.pdf>

Without rules - there are no scoundrels... but...
without *shared* rules - public honor is simply a cruel joke.

Enjoy!