

Hello Andromeda!

Tone is often lost in written words, so I hope there will be no confusion or doubt of my sincerity when I say THANK YOU so much for your transcriptions and your thoughtful comments that accompanied them. Again, I could not be more earnest when I say, you are the reason I continue to write and post here. People who send genuine, thoughtful, honest, and open-hearted comments... people who engage with good faith and constructive criticism... people like you make it worth the many cold, dry months of wondering whether anyone even sees these posts, let alone cares.

I'll send two replies, though they'll overlap no doubt. The pieces you transcribed and commented on were ones I knew very well may strike a chord with some and a nerve with others. My intent is never to offend (ok, let's be honest... rarely to offend). But I never hope to upset anyone just gratuitously, at least, and I know some of my thoughts on these subjects may rub some folks wrong. I'd hoped for reactions like yours from those who disagree or see things from another perspective.

It's often hard for me to tell just what a commenter is commenting on, because I don't usually have a copy to refer to and I only get the first few lines from BTB with the comments, but I know this one dealt with gender identities to some extent and I think that's what you were referring to in terms of disagreeing. (Yuck-ugly sentence! Sorry, this is a one-take deal, no drafts.) I wish you'd said more about those disagreements, and about your experience. I have one very good... make that two very good friends who identify primarily as non-binary, and although I think I "get it", I may just be wrong, too. As I understand it, if "non-binary" was understood and accepted when I was in high school, I'd probably have claimed the label myself. Further, I understand it not to be a "label" at all really, but... sheesh... a "way of being"? That sounds so artificial. Honestly, this could easily get into the depths of a Foucaultian analysis of power discourses and all that; ~~into~~ questions like "is homosexuality 'made up', and if so, when and why, and also, ~~the~~ hub?" (lol). FYI, I lean toward the thinking that things like homosexuality, or more specifically, "the homosexual," ARE "made up", that they are products of the urge toward social control... in a nutshell, I just second what Foucault said on the subject... even the bits I don't really understand. Kinda sad, eh? :)

I guess what I'm trying to say is, I suspect I'd agree with most everything you might say on the subject, even insofar as those things may be a critique of what I already said. What's that saying about "consistency being the hobgoblin of little minds"? Lol. The one

area I'd bet we stay at odds on might be the use of the word "they" for one person. Sorry, and certainly no offence intended, but I really hate that one. Just before the ~~use of "she"~~ ^{singular "they"} apparently won the culture war hands down, I was a strong (and probably obnoxious) advocate of finding a ~~true~~ ^{truly} new pronoun. I'm all for the "Ze"s and such, except none that I've heard so far seem good enough (i.e. not simply silly). Personally, I'd roll with literally any consensus choice OTHER than retreading an already common and readily understood word like "they".

So, I'm curious — and I'm at a disadvantage cuz I really don't have a copy of my post to comb through and try to figure it out better for myself — what else did you find objectionable, particularly as a non-binary person yourself? I write the things I write not to preach or just hear (see) myself talk, but because I'm dying for dialogue about these things and just about anything else. Echo chambers don't interest me, though I get the same satisfaction from ~~social~~ ^{social} and intellectual circle-jerks that most anyone would, human nature and all that. I'm also not fond of dogmatic rounds of alternating verbal pummellings, as so many disagreements often degrade into. Not above it, I'm afraid, but it's not my first love either. If you actually see this (so few commenters ever do, with the long delays and lack of notification), I'd sure love to hear more from you.

Also, thank you for the compliments. We all need some reassurance at times, no? And in this situation (engagement), that's infinitely more true. A kind word about my writing inside the context of a deeper criticism of my thinking is even sweeter, just because I know I can take it at full value. Thanks. ☺

One more reply ^{coming,} if I've left myself anything to say.

—Dymitri.

P.S. — Oh yes! The "typo". Yep, that was intentional. Feel free to leave the "sic", as it adds emphasis to the job, IMO. ~~Not~~ Not sure if I wrote "persecutors" or "prostitutors" in place of "prosecutors", but I use both often enough. Like a heretic in Torquemada's tombs spitting vainly at his torturers. Sometimes the only ^{for the powerless} ~~salve~~ ^{is} the ability to be a tiny bit nasty, right?