

SELVET THE SELF

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Selvet

Vi lever i en urolig tid. Forleden tænkte jeg over, at det er mennesket som person(lighed), der skaber forvridninger og ufred, selv om vi vel alle egentligt er enige om, at vi skal kunne leve sammen i fordragelighed.

Kunne man forestille sig, at kommende generationer nedjusterer selvets betydning i vores bevidsthed, så vi i stedet for fokuserer på, at vi alle arbejder for vores fælles bedste?

Det kan let misforstås til at være en hver diktators drøm: Hjernevask, så alle oprørere elimineres. Men det kunne jo også være at fjerne ulighed, aggressioner og grådighed for personlig vinding.

Kunne man forestille sig, at kommende generationer langt ude i fremtiden ryster på hovedet ad vores

nuværende liv og levned med fokus på vores eget selv?

Selvet vil nok altid være hos os, hvad enten vi ønsker det eller ej. Men kan vi udskifte selvet permanent? Alle har vi, og kan vi drømme os til en anden selvforståelse for en kort tidsperiode og i drømme, men er der eksempler på, at en person lykkes med f.eks. at tage navneforandring og gå ud i verden med et nyt, selvvalgt selv? - Interessant at jeg intuitivt lige vælger personnavnet, som om det er det, der udgør selve ens selv!

Ingen i vores omgivelser vil tillade det. Vi holdes jo – som filosofen Michel Foucault beskriver det så fint - os selv og andre i fængsel – her i vores eget selv. Er der nogen, der f.eks. er rejst bort, valgt et andet liv,

og så opnået opfattelsen af at have fået et andet selv? Vil vores eget selv acceptere det, eller er vi for evigt taget til fange i det selv, der er blevet skabt til os af omgivelserne og også os selv i løbet af et langt liv?

Det kunne være interessant at gennemføre en proces, hvor en større eller mindre gruppe lader hinandens selv forsvinde for at give plads til et nyt, skal vi sige selvvalgt?

Ugens billeder er fuglene fra min have. Vi har fået vinter og sne. Fuglenes livsbetingelser er vanskelige for øjeblikket, men på foderbrættet kan de få stillet deres appetit med solsikkefrø. Selv om der er mad nok til alle, så er der altid nogle små bæster, der gerrigt jager alle andre væk fra foderbrættet.

The self

We live in turbulent times. The other day, I reflected on the fact that the human being as a person (and personality) creates distortions and unrest, even though we all, in theory, agree that we should be able to live together in harmony.

Could one imagine that future generations might downgrade the significance of the self in our consciousness, so that we focus on working for the common good instead?

This could easily be misunderstood as every dictator's dream: brainwashing to eliminate all rebels. But it could also mean eradicating inequality, aggression, and greed for personal gain.

Could we imagine that future generations, far into the future, would shake their heads at our current way

of life, centred as it is on the self?

The self will always be with us, whether we want it or not. But can we permanently replace the self? We all, at times, dream ourselves into another self-understanding for a brief period or in dreams — but are there examples of someone successfully changing their identity, for example by adopting a new name, and stepping out into the world with a self they have consciously chosen? It is interesting that I instinctively choose my name as if it constitutes the core of oneself!

No one around us would allow it. As the philosopher Michel Foucault so eloquently describes, we hold ourselves — and each other — in prison, here within ourselves. Has anyone ever travelled away, chosen a different life, and thereby achieved

the perception of having acquired a new self? Would our self accept that, or are we forever imprisoned in the self that has been shaped for us by our surroundings and ourselves over a lifetime?

It would be interesting to carry out a process where a larger or smaller group lets each other's selves disappear to make room for a new, self-chosen identity, wouldn't it?

These photos of the week are of the birds in my garden. Winter has come, and with it, snow. The birds' living conditions are currently challenging, but at the feeder, they can satisfy their appetite with sunflower seeds. Yet, despite there being plenty of food for everyone, there are always some little creatures that greedily chase everyone else away from the feeder.



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KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Selvet
Af Keld Jensen

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COLOPHON

Photo of the week: The self
By Keld Jensen

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