

“Tell me where is fancy bred, Or in the heart or in the head?” William Shakespeare wonders in *The Merchant of Venice*. “How begot, how nourished?” He then answers his own question: “It is engender’d in the eyes, With gazing fed.” Yeah, well, Shakespeare, writing in the days before daily showers, must have been keeping the pungent truth to himself. The eyes may be the windows to the soul, but smell might be the doorway.

Swiss researchers recently published a report in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London* that tested the role male body odor has in female mate choice. Perhaps just as important, the researchers finally found a place in science for the T-shirt—as something other than the standard uniform of the graduate student.

In a smelly nutshell, male volunteers slept in T-shirts for two nights. Female volunteers then sniffed the repositories of chemical emissions, after which they rated the odoriferous shirts for pleasantness and sexiness. All this might be the modus operandi for some low-tech dating service had not the researchers bothered to tissue-type their subjects to determine their major histocompatibility complexes, or MHCs, a crucial part of the immune system.

Studies with mice have revealed a preference for mates that have differing MHCs—presumably because offspring will have a wider array of immune options to draw on if their parents’ MHCs are not alike. The T-shirt study showed the same: females rated as more alluring the smells from those T-shirts that had been worn by men whose MHCs differed most from their own. Such smells reminded females of their own mates or ex-mates twice as often as did smells of men whose MHCs were similar to their own.

The Swiss study also indicated a potentially disturbing side effect of the contraceptive pill. Females on the pill preferred males of similar MHCs. (This phenomenon may be a result of the pill’s physiological mimicry of pregnancy: pregnant mice prefer to nest with MHC-similar individuals, most likely supportive relatives, not the unrelated scoundrels who got them into the situation.) A woman who chooses her husband while on the pill, stays on the pill through the first few years of marriage, then goes off the pill may suddenly wonder who the stinker in bed with her is.

*Steve Mirsky, Scientific American, November 1995*

**1 What does the writer suggest about T-shirts in the second paragraph?**

- A They usually do not smell very nice
- B They have not been used for research purposes before
- C They are worn far too long by students
- D They would have seemed very odd in Shakespeare's days

**2 Why does the writer refer to "some low-tech dating service"?**

- A He is sceptical about some of the data collected by the researchers
- B He thinks this interesting study has proved very inexpensive
- C He finds the study amusing but rather pointless
- D He is reminded of organizations which match men and women

**3 How does the writer explain the fact that men and women with differing MHCs are attracted to each other?**

- A Differing MHCs indicate that their personalities are better matched
- B The MHCs of females are usually different from those of males
- C It is easy to identify MHCs which differ from your own
- D Couples with differing MHCs are more likely to have healthier children

**4 What is the writer's conclusion about women taking contraceptive pills?**

When choosing a partner, they...

- A may make a biological mistake
- B choose him from a very restricted group
- C deliberately take a great risk
- D intuitively do the right thing

**5 Why is Shakespeare quoted in the opening paragraph?**

- A In Shakespeare's days looks were less important for people falling in love
- B Shakespeare suggested that a strong smell may repel people who like the look of each other
- C Shakespeare does not seem to have believed that smell is important when people fall in love
- D Shakespeare seems to have predicted the results of the Swiss researchers

# The Roots of Alienation

*A review of a book written by Gerald Butt*

Without ever becoming tiresome, this book appeals to the humanity of the non-Arab reader to see the Arabs as people and not as the massed ranks of an alien horde preparing to mount the barricades outside the city gates. Yet it might still fail in its task, such are the impersonal forces at work in the world.

Gerald Butt, who has reported extensively for the BBC in the Middle East, says that the Arabs are 'helpless onlookers' as their ruling elites think only of their own survival and receive help from Western powers mindful only of short-term interests in the region.

Given the geographical extent of the Arab world and the variety of its peoples and ruling regimes, the theory can be only a tenuous one but that does not reduce the value of Butt's contribution. Enriched by his experience of many years in the Middle East, this rightful representative of European humanism in the region shares with us snippets from hundreds of interviews to reveal the depth of alienation between the Arabs and the West.

He makes clear that suspicion and misapprehension go back to the time of the Crusades—in fact, to the sectarian aggressiveness of the first Muslims in the 7th century. The alienation between the two worlds has widened in more recent centuries as the West has largely abandoned its originally Middle Eastern, Judaeo-Christian dogmas to enter a new, scientific-democratic age. In reaction, religiosity has become more intense in the

Islamic world, a calculated declaration of differences.

Islam now becomes even more resentful towards its old Crusader adversary whenever it contemplates the extent to which it has fallen behind in the caravan. Butt predicts that Muslim fundamentalists will eventually take over most of the Arab world and urges that the West come to terms with the reality, though he does not go into details.

His objectivity, however, occasionally deserts him, as is the case with many European writers on Islam, playing into the hands of the fundamentalists. In praising the artistic achievements of Muslims, Butt implies, for example, that the heirs to the pre-Islamic civilisations of Egypt, Babylon and Persia would have had no architecture or literature if they had not been conquered by Muslim Arabs.

As for me, a Kurd from Iran, it is possible to believe that those former civilisations would have continued to produce dazzling art and world-class philosophy if Islam had not suppressed so consistently their sceptics and freethinkers.

The clashing inspirations of Muslim and non-Muslim become clear instantly to the onlooker in the bazaar in Istanbul, let alone on the despairing streets of Gaza. This is a historic burden that is not going to be lifted by the writing of splendid books such as Gerald Butt's, though every little must help.

*Hazhir Teimourian, BBC Worldwide, June 1994*

**6 How does Butt describe the situation of the Arabs?**

- A They are clearly exploited by national and international powers
- B They have reached a point where help from the West can do nothing
- C They are beginning to realize the necessity of democratic reforms
- D They seem to be indifferent to the problems that confront them

**7 What does the reviewer think of Butt's description?**

- A It can be applied to any Arab regime at present
- B It is only a theory and as such it is of little use
- C It is interesting but it may be too general
- D It is interesting but Butt represents the rich world's view

**8 What do Butt's interviews show, according to the reviewer?**

- A How much the Arabs and Westerners have in common
- B How difficult it is for the Arabs and Westerners to understand each other
- C How religion is the most important characteristic of a culture
- D How history can suddenly change the destiny of a culture

**9 What are we told about the relationship between the Arabs and the West?**

- A In the West today there is greater sympathy with Arab culture than before
- B There is hope for better relations since religion is becoming increasingly important in both cultures
- C The contrast between the Arabs and the West has become so great that war seems inevitable
- D The differences are increasing since the two cultures are developing in different directions

**10 What conclusion does the reviewer draw in the last paragraph?**

Butt's book...

- A is likely to bridge the gap between Muslims and other people
- B seems to ignore everyday relations between Muslims and non-Muslims
- C will have very little effect on the relations between Muslims and others
- D will make people realize what a heavy burden Muslims have had to bear

*And here are some shorter texts:*

### ***Saying it with Flowers***

Bronze Age burials containing pollen from an aromatic plant suggest that floral tribute was an ancient custom in Scotland. Recent excavation of five burial sites has corroborated data from two earlier excavations showing that plants were deposited by people, not by natural processes. The discovery of *Filipendula* pollen, probably from the plant meadowsweet, has led Scottish archaeologist Richard Tipping to speculate that the plant may have been used in graveside offerings—in bread, as a flavoring in honey or mead, or as a bouquet or floral covering. Meadowsweet is described in herbal literature as having a pleasant scent. Whether it was used in ancient times to raise the spirit of mourners or to counteract the smell of rotten flesh has remained unclear.

- 11 What conclusion has been drawn from the findings described in the text?**
- A The traces of flowers in the ancient graves are the results of human activity
  - B The burial ceremonies in Scotland during the Bronze Age were performed according to a strict ritual
  - C The people buried in the excavated graves had a high and respected position in society
  - D Pollen is a natural ingredient in the soil found at the excavated sites

### ***Biodiversity***

That biodiversity is valuable enough to pay for itself has long been recognized as a self-evident truth. Roughly half the drugs in clinical use are estimated to derive from nature. The Biodiversity Convention, adopted in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, tried to ensure that profits from such goods return to the place of origin to aid conservation and local communities. Despite some success, that goal remains elusive. Although bioprospectors—those who seek potential products in biota—number in the hundreds, the returns they promise to peoples in developing countries appear highly variable.

- 12 What is suggested in the passage above?**
- A The Biodiversity Convention has proved more effective than was originally believed
  - B Western biochemical companies have difficulties selling their products to the Third World
  - C Biodiversity has helped many developing countries to expand their pharmaceutical industry
  - D Developing countries do not profit from their biodiversity as much as they should

## ***Trygve Lie***

The first Secretary-General of the United Nations was Trygve Lie. His strength reflected the high hopes for the new organization in the aftermath of a devastating war. But Lie's readiness to wade in with his own opinions on any and every world issue had mixed results. In supporting, in vain, Communist China's right to take its seat at the UN after the 1949 Revolution, he was admirably clear-sighted and prepared to stand up to the US. But ultimately his passionate advocacy of the US/UN position in the Korean War won him the enmity of the Soviet Union, which refused to take part in UN activities when he was present, forcing him to resign.

### **13 What was Trygve Lie like, according to the text?**

- A He was unable to cooperate with his staff
- B He was a very outspoken person
- C He was governed more by reason than by passion
- D He was a dishonest and self-centred leader

## ***Folklore Echoes***

Folklore is living literature. It echoes the voices and values of past storytellers, of other cultures and other times. And it is alive in the nuances of retellings by new tellers for new audiences. Recording in writing or in print the stories of the oral tradition merits praise for preserving what once was and what might otherwise be lost, but is also cause for regret, for the written form lends an air of permanence and canonicity to a particular telling. In our era of print, in which most folktales are passed on in this relatively fixed form, the medium for interpretation shifts from the word to the availability of differently illustrated editions of one and the same story. These become the "retellings" of our age, similar in function to the infinite variety which characterized the earlier oral tradition.

### **14 What is the writer's main point?**

- A Illustrations can add variety to a story in the way oral tradition once did
- B Oral tradition, illustrations, and printed text can work together to stimulate the imagination of the reader
- C Illustrating a traditional story gives it a relatively fixed form
- D Text illustrations have served a number of different functions throughout history

## ***Bilinguals***

Comparing 10-year-old Canadian children who were equally fluent in both English and French to monolingual controls, Peal and Lambert found that the bilinguals performed better on a variety of verbal and nonverbal intellectual measures. Although Peal and Lambert's research suffered from certain methodological problems, better-designed studies have replicated and extended their findings. Children who are fluent in a second language outperform their monolingual counterparts in analytic reasoning, concept formation, cognitive flexibility, and metalinguistic awareness.

### **15 What are we told here?**

- A Learning to speak two languages may be problematic for many children
- B Peal and Lambert's conclusions are not to be trusted
- C The advantages of bilingualism may have been exaggerated
- D Children who speak two languages do well on intelligence-related tasks

*In the following text there are gaps which indicate that something has been left out. Look at the four alternatives that correspond to each gap and decide which one best fits the gap. Then mark your choice on your answer sheet.*

## **Alcohol in American History**

The young American ship of state floated on a sea of distilled spirits. In the period immediately after the American Revolution, a generally favorable view of alcoholic beverages coincided with rising levels of consumption that far exceeded any in modern times. By the early decades of the 19th century, Americans drank roughly three times as much alcohol as they do in the 1990s.

The country also had its abstemious side. Even as consumption of alcohol was reaching unprecedented levels, an awareness of the ....**16**.... of drink began to emerge, and the first American temperance movement took hold. At its peak in 1855, 13 of 40 states and territories had adopted legal prohibition. By the 1870s, public opinion had turned back, and liquor was flowing freely again; then, around the turn of the century, a movement for abstinence gained steam, culminating in the 13-year experiment of Prohibition that began in 1920.

Over the history of the U.S., popular attitudes and legal responses to the consumption of alcohol and other mood altering substances have oscillated from a peak of disapproval to ....**17**.... and back again in cycles roughly 70 years long. The U.S. continues to swing slowly back and forth between extremes, ....**18**.... other nations appear to have embraced the virtues of moderation.

Furthermore, a phenomenon analogous to political correctness seems to control discourse on alcohol and other "vices". In the end stage of a temperance movement, brewers, distillers, sellers and drinkers all come under harsh attack. When drinking is on the rise and most believe that liquor poses little risk to life and health, temperance advocates are derided as ....**19**....

Citizens may come of age with little knowledge of the contrary experiences of their forebears. Even rigorous studies that contradict current wisdom may be ignored. Thus, data showing both the ....**20**.... and beneficial effects of alcohol appear equally susceptible to suppression, depending on the era.

*David F. Musto, Scientific American, April 1996*

- 16** A dominance  
B benefits  
C dangers  
D use

- 17** A advantage  
B ignorance  
C illegitimacy  
D toleration

- 18** A because  
B whereas  
C until  
D before

- 19** A realists  
B puritanical  
C drunkards  
D unpopular

- 20** A organic  
B chemical  
C damaging  
D positive

***That is the end of the English test. If you have time left, go back and check your answers.***