

shit.

At first I really wanted to write this article. The subject of shit always comes up in conversations. I figured there must be something very important about it. Now, I am scared. Scared because society has deemed shit taboo. What kind of person will my friends think I am if I like shit? I really don't know. But I think they may think that I am a vermin, a rat, a not nice person, a dirty person. No lover will ever stay with me long after they find out. Worse, I might want to go further than just writing or enjoying the natural process that shit is a part of. I might change. Being a Jew, I am sure that shit is not kosher, that you would not eat it on Passover. Secondly, what does my even writing about shit have to do with a newspaper on anarchism?

Shitting is an action which produces shit. I love to shit, to feel shit coming out of my asshole, and to feel the relief after having taken a desperately needed shit. Shit is a lot like the texture of clay sometimes, or mud, or soup. The act of shitting is an extremely natural and necessary function, part of the biology and experience of being human. So why do we speak of it in hushed tones in public? Why is shit one of the most preferred curse words, and why can't we say it on the radio or T.V.?

I haven't talked to many people seriously about this, the topic being so dirty, so I can't give an analytical cross-cultural look at how shit is thought about in cultures other than my own. And in reality I really only know the thoughts of myself and a few friends on this issue. More facts: little babies play with their shit, and seem to have a good time with it; toilet training is one of the most grueling tasks that parents must go through; after 30 years of marriage, my father still berates my mother that if she had toilet trained me, my brother and my sister well, or right, or with more discipline and efficiency, that we would have turned out to be successful; my successful father hates to use public restrooms or even talk about "going to the bathroom".

S. Freud talked a lot about toilet training and the anal stage, and the phrase for overly-neat people became "anal retentive". Supposedly, anal retentive types were taught how to shit very cleanly, and with coercion, and are disturbed and even fearful of anything dirty.

Shit is free and the majority of the public has no use for it other than as fertilizer. It is waste, and waste is gotten rid of. Shitting is one of the actions that everyone does, no matter what

their social class, upbringing, or I.Q. Shitting has become a private act, done behind closed doors, and also one in which the shitter is exposed with their pants or skirts down, and is thus vulnerable.



A couple of points for anarchists to consider are: who made talking about our body and its functions (including shitting) immoral and taboo? Who has alienated us from our own bodies and why? Why is it that it seems that the wealthier a person is, the more business-like a person is, then the more CLEAN-cut, well-groomed, impeccably-appearing, well-mannered, and totally inoffensive they are? Their breath is fresh, their clothes are well-pressed and smell good, their face is either perfectly shaven or with a manicured mustache and beard, or they wear make-up to color the face and cover blemishes. The business image is one which sells well, one in which the salesperson does not have to apologize for smelling human, because he/she smells like the deodorant they used that morning. Shit, and the image of shit, can be seen as the opposite of the non-human business image, and thus deserves a looking into.

What makes talking about shit personal, too personal to be discussed in public? What makes talking about shit in public so humorous? I think that one factor in the debasing of bodily functions has come from our renowned Judeo-Christian heritage. Especially in Christianity, the body is looked upon as filthy, and what is taught is to strive for the spiritual -- pure, other-worldly, not of the body. Just as with masturbation, the church and synagogue have decried getting pleasure from shitting as evil, stupid, selfish, and immoral. In fact, morality has long been used by society to keep people (the lower and middle classes) in line, making them passive accepters of what the rulers have said are right and wrong. To throw away morality is the first step in creating a new world where we can look at each other as free humans, where no one can dictate rules to anyone else.