

HUMANS: THE MOST JUDGEMENTAL BEINGS IN THE WORLD

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In this world, it is unusual to live without being judged; or rather, without being judgemental. We, humans, are number-one fans of humbly sharing our non-asked-nor-useful opinion whenever we have the opportunity. From one moment to another, we become cuisine, language, politics, or medicine gurus —as if so many years of academic training were not necessary. In other words, no matter what complete strangers are doing, we feel totally qualified to propose a better way of doing it. Namely, adding one more egg to a recipe; merely suggesting how the country should be ruled, or even now, you may be considering a better way to explain what I am saying. But are we really qualified?

Certainly, not. The major thought of being allowed to criticise is strengthened by another predominant concept in our race known as the I-am-flawless feeling. Its consequence is that although we may criticise ourselves —since there is still a pinch of humbleness and objectivity in us— we do so in a milder way. This is attributed to the fact that, unlike the case of strangers, we know the background of our actions, and most importantly of our mistakes. This enables us to justify or at least comprehend every little aspect of what we do.

This situation occurs all around the globe; however, last year it was at its peak in Argentina. The combination of two factors increased the non-asked-nor-useful opinion rate exponentially. The first one was the World Cup; wherever you went, you could witness the birth of new technical directors, referees, sports coaches, and the like. At least in my family, it was curious that most of the individuals criticising football tactics are, in fact, terrible players, or at least have never considered football a hobby. Furthermore, these were the moments when subjective personal pronouns turned into my main source of analysis. The interesting conclusion I reached was that whenever Argentinian football players lost or did something wrong, the pronoun “they” predominated when alluding to them. “*They’re* terrible” or “What are *they* doing?” were the current comments. Nevertheless, when there were positive and proud results, “we” came into picture, one could find it in phrases such as “*We’re* the best” or “*We* played superbly”.

The second factor in the rise of arrogant assertiveness was *Big Brother*. In this five-months-long reality show, eighteen participants were cooped up in a highly comfortable house and had to try to get along with each other. One person per week abandoned the programme and the last remaining contestant was the winner. Every moment, every conversation, every single uttered sound was recorded and televised. As days went by, some participants forgot about the cameras and microphones, and shared some controversial thoughts or showed improper behaviour. Once again, the audience did not doubt about sharing their opinions, but this time, they became morality judges. Also, the social media and gossip programmes have lost control criticising and cancelling, not only attitudes and thoughts, but also participants per se. Hypocrisy may be the most accurate word to describe them, since they judged others as if they were flawless. I sometimes wonder what would happen, if we all had cameras and microphones around us 24/7. Were we to be put in this context, we would probably become suspiciously quiet creatures.

Philosophers and peace seekers have often tried to brain-wash society by promoting the very *cliché* slogan, “we are all equal”. And although I do not tolerate trite phrases nor

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the lack of uniqueness, I have to prove them right when it comes to judging. This special ability characterises us all. However, we do not put it into practice for self-assessment, self-reinvention and self-growth, but to humbly share our non-asked-nor-useful opinion about everything; or rather, everyone. In fact, the more distant the relationship, the easier it will be to criticise since there is less knowledge on the reasons behind a stranger's actions. Unquestionably, if the meticulousness used to judge others were used on our own selves, the I-am-flawless feeling would decrease, unlike humbleness which would increase. Nevertheless, that is far from happening since humans are the most judgemental beings in the world.