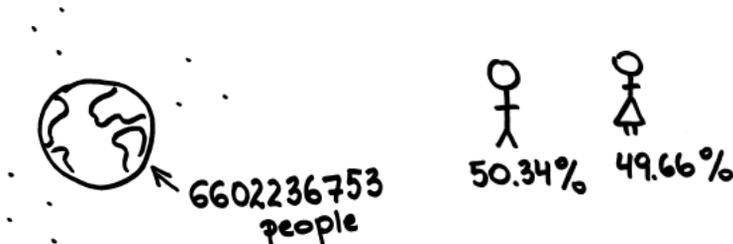


War of the Worlds?

By Evelina Kvartunaite

Do you remember a story about The Little Prince written by French writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry? It's about a boy living on Asteroid B-612 who happens to land on our planet after travelling the universe and talks to the pilot whose plane crashed in the desert.

Whenever I start thinking about complex things like globalisation, politics, multiculturalism or cosmopolitanism, I try to step back a little and remember The Little Prince since I still believe that many things are not as complicated as we tend to believe. Or are they? The Little Prince said that grown-ups like numbers, therefore I will give you some:



and if we trust the meaning of the world cosmopolitan, which comes from the Greek word *kosmopolitês*, meaning a citizen of the world, we are all cosmopolitans. Yet are we? People are not only separated by the oceans and seas but by walls. The scary part to me is that the most of the walls we not only build ourselves but they are in our heads. In January 2002 George W. Bush said, "We have no interest of spreading our culture". Is this the way we build walls around culture? Is it possible to put culture into a box? That's where I would like to remember Mahatma Gandhi's words: "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any way". To me this is very much about being a cosmopolitan, living in this very diverse world and not being scared to lose who you are.

Yet again, it is not quite that simple; to go back to the Little Prince, "That is the hardest thing of all. It is much harder to judge yourself than to judge others. If you succeed in judging yourself, it's because you're truly a wise man". What keeps us from feeling equally interested, aware of the things going on in a different town or different continent? Is the distance really a problem or is it

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Mar.

don't miss!!!

By Heidi Sanchez Llabre

March 7th at 18.00

Bring a dish from home Party
At International School Als,
Vølundsgade 18, Sønderborg

The International Club at Sønderborg cordially invites you to an evening of good company on the 7th march.

Come and join the fun of an evening in the company of your international colleagues.

March 7th at 18.00

Stammtisch
at Café Cuckoo's Nest
(Vestergade 73 5000 Odense C)
A traditional get together where you are invited to have fun and enjoy the company!

March 16th at 17.30

IC monthly event
Multicultural Latin spirit lunch/dinner at Kærnehuset Club (Nedergade 6, Odense C), a magical place to make tasty food and enjoy it with nice people in a familiar atmosphere. (Price is 50kr., you eat as much as you want and the menu will be announced a few days before, but it will be good, for sure!!)

March 30th

Spanish Circle
Visit to Kolding for the Spanish Circle
Historical Spanish- Danish meeting
exhibition



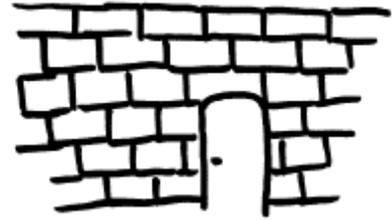
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a mental distance? Where does the community stop and the individual begin? Do we have more communication with all the communication means now available?

“All in all it’s just another brick in the wall.

All in all you’re just another brick in the wall”, sang Pink Floyd years ago. Is it still so I wonder... Talking about globalisation and cosmopolitanism makes me ask, isn’t it just one more kind of culture? Are you able to notice a

paradox that instead of merging the world into one, it splits it into hundreds and thousands of little fragments? Instead of finding similarities people look for differences, more questions. Isn’t it amazing that the more scientific inventions there are, the more misery there is? The bigger our cities, the lonelier people feel? Most of us live in a democracy but how many choices do we have? We’ve got freedom of speech and freedom of choice but do we have freedom? We live in very colourful societies yet we are so scared of forgetting what our colour is... We keep on building the walls and forget to put doors in them.



A contemporary Ghanaian-British philosopher Kwame Anthony Appiah, who also wrote a book called “Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a world of strangers”, said “Cultures are made of continuities and changes, and the identity of a society can survive through these changes. Societies without change aren’t authentic; they’re just dead”. Indeed, it isn’t easy to not get lost among all the questions and possible answers, yet let’s once again go back to The Little Prince who said that, "One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes". Therefore I can only wish we will wake up to brighter days and feel like true citizens of this beautiful bubble called Earth, we won't identify only with the society we live in, nor just with a local group, but with the entire planet. There will be no sides. There will be just all of us.

Sunny side of life



It’s no wonder that people sometimes feel down, upset and lack self confidence. That doesn’t really depend on age, education or your status in society. You can wonder if its a long and grey winter, lack of vitamin C or if there is something else?! Let’s try to look into things that might have an influence...

Very often an inferiority complex becomes a problem when we try to compare ourselves with others – their looks, abilities, achievements. But that is really meaningless as we only think that others have a perfect life. Instead of being ashamed of our imperfections and wanting to walk in other shoes, try to enjoy what you have.

Furthermore, a very important but often forgotten thing is rest. Sometimes lack of rest or sleep can be a reason for dissatisfaction, physical and psychological fatigue and sadness.

Of course, things like money, power, luck or perfect looks are important. That helps in life although in the world of the bold and beautiful those things become exaggerated. Don’t you think they are all

so easy to lose?!
Instead of always being sad for what

you don’t have, enjoy little things, your life in a moment – here and now!

Furthermore, don’t forget to do good. Even small things like letting a mother with a child into the queue in a supermarket or letting an old person sit down in your seat on a bus, etc.

Don’t forget to smile at other people and – no less important – to yourself! You might not notice the difference straight away but you will definitely be more happy about yourself and your life in the days to come! All in all happiness is just an attitude and it’s your own decision whether to notice beautiful things or to be sad about the bad ones.

Keep your feet on the ground but never stop reaching for the stars!

