

Evolution in the Age of Lying

Nobody asked but ...

Yesterday I picked up my two youngest granddaughters after school. We talked over frosty shakes, slushes, and sodas at a local drive-in. At some point, it occurred to me to say, "It must be tough for a young person to grow up in a world that is so full of lying," as though this might be some wisdom available only to an ancient man. I was most happy to hear, in unison, "We know! Right?" Evolution is the friend of the human animal. Today, I am listening to an EVC podcast from Peter Gray. In Dr. Gray's talk, I learned one of the secrets to the discernment that my teenage granddaughters have attained. Survival of the fittest applies.

Children who do not learn, do not survive to have offspring, or their offspring will not have the learning to survive. For ages, children have educated themselves to survive, by learning what to learn. Among other things, smart, competent children develop good BS filters. Even though a child is often taught, in part, by parents, siblings, neighbors, and friends, whose average intelligence brings down the communal average, the child has a built-in BS filter by which to evaluate survival information. The young human needs to know what kind of chaff to separate from the wheat. The young human will thereby develop intelligence above the group average, they will stand on the shoulders of giants who have knowledge made up of the best intelligence from all the resources.

People, who believe in the state, will die out. People, who believe in magic, will die out. People, who heed false scares, will die out. People, who believe in Santa Claus, will wise up.

— Kilgore Forelle