

Unreasonable – Or Is It Rational – Compensation

By

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After Dr. Kate Thomas' presentation to Chi Epsilon Sigma, there were a number of interesting sidebar conversations and discussions. The most intriguing centered around a comment that Dr. Thomas made earlier—that crossdressing is regarded in most, if not all, western societies as a sign of weakness.

If that is indeed the case, then the question was asked as to what is the relationship between that perception of weakness and the personal behavior of most crossdressers? Namely many crossdressers are or were engaged in occupations with a great deal of risk and stress, occupations many regarded as "macho" such as police, firefighters, military, FBI, etc. Or many crossdressers are also involved with high-risk avocations and hobbies such as being drag car racers, skydivers, motorcyclists, etc.

The logical conclusion drawn by the individual making the initial observation was that crossdressers—realizing that this was regarded as a sign of weakness—attempted to overcompensate for this weakness by engaging in activities at the opposite end of the spectrum—ultra "macho" vocations and avocations. So she asked "Is this conclusion valid?" At first glance it would appear so, but then I began to wonder, using my own experience as the baseline for measurement so to speak. I was drawn to the service academy routine because it seemed to fit my religious principles of making the best of one's talents (plus it was a free education). I only eventually and gradually accepted the service as a career when I found out that FTA really did mean "fun, travel, and adventure." My crossdressing had to be—and was successfully—covered up during those 33 years. So I'm not sure that I selected two years in combat, 33 jumps as a parachutist, and a career in tactical and strategic intelligence as a means of compensating for a "perceived" weakness.

But...as Teyvea in "Fiddler on the Roof" would say...on the other hand maybe my efforts at running, at physical training, and at becoming over committed to too many projects were all done in an effort to escape "that devil at my elbow," or as Paul refers to it, "that thorn in my side." (Ever think of it? Maybe St. Paul was a crossdresser. Recognizing the moods of the times and the tendency to relate crossdressing in Roman and Jewish society with homosexuality in the former and immoral acts in the latter, he could have regarded this never-ceasing desire to be a "thorn in [his] side.") If that was indeed the case, all of those efforts didn't work...as all of us who have been there—from constant prayer through marathon training—the desire is never very far away.

So my original conclusion that my choice of careers was not an over-compensation for my desire to crossdress—and therefore express an acknowledgement of being "weak" has been tempered somewhat by perhaps other things that I did to try and "overcome" this desire. Too bad there isn't a third hand so I could again say "on the other hand."

But I will...on the other hand, what are your experiences and thoughts? Will you spend a few minutes and highlight the following set of questions, copy them to a new page, answer them and then send the responses back to me at beckyxd@hotmail.com? I'll compile the answers I get, stripping any and all possible trace elements in the responses, and provide them to the newsletter for a future article. Go for it!