

“Once you can accept the universe as matter expanding into nothing that is something, wearing stripes with plaid comes easy.” -- Albert Einstein

An acceptance of greater ideas, be them someone else's or one's own (if one can truly believe that their own ideas are “great”) leads to a better understanding of the world around oneself, and those who inhabit it. This is not to say that the belief in a single great opinion or theory on any subject will create perfect oneness with the world as a whole, but rather that the acceptance of an idea (or the acceptance of several ideas) that are not completely orthodox opens an individual up to criticism from many, and therefore makes one wary of judging those with opposite or altered theories. Knowing that one's beliefs are not held as the standard, and perhaps not even thought of by the multitudes makes an individual feel unique, and in some aspects, untouchable. Yet at the same time vulnerable, and somewhat cautious to speak of their own thoughts, ideas and beliefs before exploring them further. Indeed, individuals who find themselves unique in belief are explorers of their own minds, searching for new ways to prove or disprove their own theories. Often they are the thinkers, those happy to sit for an hour bus ride and simply stare out the window to ponder.

It is often my own experience that such thinkers, those who travel the roads in their mind unceasingly, are those who seem not to care much for outwards appearances. They are not dressed in an awkward way, but neither are they always the most sharply dressed. Often, that individual staring out into the expanding universe is dressed comfortably, and this is as it should be. After all, who would really want to explore those endless roads of theory wearing something as uncomfortable as that old itchy sweater?

Stefan Phillips, January 29th, 2005