

They were all never-failing sources of aid and comfort when illness or death visited the homes of their neighbors. Of them it could be said: "Religion was the central core and fiber of their lives and the fragrant perfume of their personalities" as well as that "they had wide margins to their lives."

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Gentleman

Howard W. Newman

The gentleman is perhaps among the rarest of present-day animals. It has, because of the ravages of the elements, the predaciousness of such parasites as **Female inhumana**, and the powerful insecticide of satire, been nearly exterminated, extirpated, eradicated, and annihilated. Even its habitat, that imaginary realm wherein the Little Lord Flaunteroys and assorted fairy-book characters flit through the most stilted of social amenities with not a trace of selfishness, egoism, or any other imperfection, has very nearly been destroyed. Thank Heavens!

But the ultimate extinction of this organism is not the problem, as is the problem not the ultimate extinction of this organism. With fear of repetition, it must be stated that the problem is one of taxonomy.

There are, as everyone presumes, two kingdoms used in taxonomy. These are the animal kingdom and the plant kingdom; the former is composed of dependent organisms with well developed powers of locomotion and large, roving eyes, and the latter is composed of independent organisms without brains. Although the classification is a difficult one, the gentleman has been placed in the animal kingdom because of such accessory organs as the heart and the reproductive system of the sexual type.

The phylum to which the gentleman belongs is **Moresata**—not **Moronata** as some authors would have one believe. This word is derived from two ancient Greek words that lose everything in translation. It is agreed by most taxonomists, however, that the members of this phylum possess an innominate structure which enables them to open all kinds of doors, to fall to the rear of a line, to bow and to rise in the presence

of a *Ladyi societae*, and, when necessary, to shed their coats over any open quagmire, thus preventing harm to the dainty, delicate, fragile creatures.

The class to which the gentleman belongs is *Disgustinga* and is characterized by effeminate fastidiousness and ostentatious display of manners and charm in the presence of non-gentlemen or *Male common vulgaris*, and when he is not being observed, by an ostentatious retrogression to a state of bestiality not unlike that displayed by *Male common vulgaris*. This display is also used before the *Ladyi societae* and usually with most encouraging results, since most *Ladyi societae* are infamously poor at making or desiring to make fine distinctions among men.

It is thought that the order to which the gentleman belongs is one which is closely related to those of the dog, the wolf, and the skunk. This, however, is a popular misconception, for the order to which the gentleman belongs is unique, and all dogs, wolves, and skunks will disclaim vehemently any remote genealogical ties with it. This order, *Beauzo*, is characterized by a psychological state wherein the members are devoted to rescuing *Ladyi societae* in distress, righting their wronged honors, and picking up their prostrate forms after fainting spells. It is further characterized by an effluence of polite language that drowns all conversation in a sea of formality.

The family of the gentleman can be either *Nonea* or *Onea*, depending upon the physical attributes of the specimen. This family is the opposite of that to which belongs the *Male common vulgaris*, *Multiwifea*. A member of the family *Onea*, after falling prey to one of the *Ladyi societae*, usually spends the rest of his life in sedentary, but obedient servitude within a stable and almost static habitat.

As to the genus and species of the gentleman, the most common is *Respectus gentlemanus*. It is usually held in esteem by its fellow organisms and contributes to their general welfare in some one or more ways. Although ridiculed, scorned, envied, and ever hated by *Male common vulgaris*, it still maintains a successful existence and what might even be called a life of sensuousness and altruism. However, most taxonomists are in agreement that although *Respectus gentlemanus* is anachronous to our society, it is still a very nice organism to have around—in zoos, museums, taxidermy shops, et cetera.