

Connect: Disconnect

by Manthos Hatzis

Have you ever felt alone? Not in a physical sense, more psychologically rather. It's a strange feeling to behold, surrounded by people yet feeling alone inside. That is the nature of messaging and all online interactions, I believe.

Messaging someone. A recent yet familiar invention, a second nature to some of us. A process so dreadfully desolate seems so ordinary, no one thinks anything of sending a message and yet it holds something so incredibly sorrowful.

The ability to empathize, feel emotions, be human. Nothing like that comes with the anonymity of messaging or the internet in general, you cannot see the other person, their true feelings unbeknownst to you. Sometimes you may feel a click, a connection perhaps but that only stays for a fleeting moment and then, like a candle light, it flickers out. So you are left there, staring at the screen, in awe perhaps? Was the connection real? Is this possible?

Now? Do you feel human yet? Or is it just a substitute? A fake feeling, and yet I fear that this "fake feeling" will one day encompass even the real world. No one will be able to tell real feelings apart, all a jumbled up mess of words and meaningless actions, just another necessary sacrifice in the name of evolution.

In essence you will be alone, no matter who surrounds you, an overly bleak view of the future where no one neither can nor wants to feel anything, just move along and act it out, mindless puppets on strings. So then what does it really mean to be human? Is it to feel something that isn't really there and yet act like it always existed? And to force substitutes where there should really be no substituting? You connect with someone only to then disconnect, whether through the internet or in real life. Staying truly connected is hard enough up

close, now imagine that through a message, something faceless, it doesn't care what you say nor do, it cannot show you signs, you can never be sure. It's just a tool so use it like one, don't lose your humanity trying to connect with something that doesn't concern itself with connections.