

The Unbearable Lightness of Menial Tasks

By Marcel Kampbell

You wake up in the morning and have a big day ahead. So much to do, so little time. You don't even have time to weigh the long-term effects of what you do. Will it matter in 3 months? Will it still be relevant in a year? Will it impact your day in 5 years?

It's the oldest trick in the book. In the past we were controlled with servitude in fields, a mindless task that required just enough discipline to keep us in check. Today the same can be said about our jobs and menial tasks. Some are lucky I guess, and don't go through groundhog days. They forget the struggle for everyday survival and have time to think. The rest of us are not so lucky and we get sucked into this black hole that is day-to-day necessities.

When you clean shit off the toilet you don't have time to wonder about the human condition, or your human condition for that matter. When you are doing laundry or hanging it, it's the least of your worries whether or not you are pigeonholed in a constructed reality. Piles of dishes have a tendency to force you to do them over and over again. It's just the things you have to do. When your to do list is done you can go to sleep knowing it'll all start again tomorrow.

There's a question we should ask: Do those menial tasks make us less free? Did something happen to people along the way where the world was no longer their oyster, but became a prison of soap and maintenance? Did bars of soap, trap people inside an infinite loop?

Every dish washed clean is an idea in your head that is killed.
Every tile you scrub is a dream that quickly becomes unrealistic.
Maintenance will always kill creation.