

The Habit

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“You’re an addict George,” voiced a concerned Henry, “You need help.”

“I can handle it HH, I can stop at any time. I...”

“George let me help you, can’t you see what this is doing to you?”

“I’m in control damn it!” GG vibrated. “It’s my existence, and I will go where I want, and do what I want.

“Jesus, George, you’re not going back for more...”

“Maybe! Man Henry, you are such a hypocrite. You’ve never even tried it.”

“Because it only takes one time to make you an addict. But you can’t see that because you’re hooked.”

GG threw his arms up in frustration like a man cursing God for making his friend such a prude. “I’m going,” he said turning towards the gate, “Feel like joining me?”

“You’re sick man, real sick, I can’t let you go back there,” HH said, moving in front of GG, blocking his way to the gate.

“You didn’t answer me, do you want to go?” GG teased. “Do you want to try it?”

“Knock it off man!” Henry pushed. “I don’t do that stuff, It’s stupid man!”

“How would you know, you’ve never even tried it.” GG rolled, “I’ll bet you’re afraid you’ll like it.”

“You wish...Don’t be stupid.” HH looked around nervously. “Come on let’s get out of here, let’s go home.”

“You’re afraid!” GG laughed, as he moved up next to the gate, “You’re afraid of this, you’re afraid of the gate, you’re afraid of what you might find on the other side...Aren’t ya buddy?”

“Yes...I am afraid, I don’t want to become like you addicted to...to that.”

“You can’t even say it. Jesus you are such a wimp. Stay here then, you big baby, you probably couldn’t handle it anyway!”

“George, I can’t let you go back there.” Henry flickered desperately. “There are people that can help you, there are programs that can help you.”

"The only programs I'm interested in are *The Simpsons* and *Twin Peaks*. I've gotta see if blank really blanked blank."

HH drew a blank.

"You are so out of it, Henry. You're the only guy I know who isn't doing it." GG gave him a disappointed look.

"Fuck you! I'm just trying to help you, you brainwashedson-of-a-bitch." HH calmed down. "Listen George I really don't want to try it, all I want to do is help you get off the habit. To help you get better."

"Give me a break!" GG laughed, "You don't have a clue, do you?"

"All I know is what I see on the news about it," Henry protested. "Thousands upon thousands hooked on it. Coming back out from one fix, and then going right back in for another. Millions burned out, destroyed, confused by it. They come out of it but they're so messed up afterwards that they don't know where to go or what to do. They wind up hanging out in the lower districts and never coming back."

"They're called rings," GG added.

"Yah, that's right, the lower ring districts," said Henry remembering.

"Just avoid the rings man. Just come with me for the ride. Come on man, it'll be great," GG begged.

"I told you man, I don't want to." HH said nervously. "Please stop asking me man."

"You won't be disappointed!" GG promised. "It will simply blow your mind. It is the single most unique experience in existence!"

"I don't want my mind blown. I don't want anything to do with it," HH pleaded. "I don't care how good it makes you feel. It's dangerous."

"Yah, I know, and that's what makes it so fun," George said, inching his friend ever closer to the gate.

"Uhhh George...I really don't think this is a good idea."

"What? Peer pressure?" Asked GG. "Sure it is, people have been using it for eons. It's simply the best way to get your friends to do things against their will."

"No, not that. It's this whole...business," HH said in mild expectational terror. "I mean it doesn't hurt, does it?"

"Yah, sometimes it hurts like hell. But most of the time it feels really good."

"Oh what the hell, I'll try it once," Gave in HH, "and then we will quit together. Deal?"

GG thought it over. "Sure; deal, but only if you want to quit."

"Ohhhhhh shhhhhhhhhhhiiiiiiiiiiiiit!" HH screamed as they both hurled themselves into the swirling gateway. They soon became separated as they both chose different paths to follow. As HH made his final selection on the destiny chart, the bottom dropped out of his universe, and he suddenly became heavy. It seemed as if all of the physical matter in the universe was suddenly his, falling into an infinite space. This was the totally finite pathway down the endless tube of the etheric, into the destiny of your choice (or, as we call it, the T.F.P.D.T.E.T.O.T.E.I.T.D.O.Y.C.). When he reached terminal velocity, the journey came to an abrupt halt, as Mrs. Samuel J. Smith gave birth to a 7 1/2 pound baby that her husband had the insight to call Charles.

Charles had a happy childhood in the totalitarian dictatorship of his pompous, bigot, asshole father's loving home. As he grew up he learned never to go against the rules of society, to become a willing puppet of their manipulation and their belief systems. He found a well paying job that completely restricted his use of independent thought and used up most of his energy and free time. He then got married and had some children, making sure to make the same mistakes with them as his father had made with him. Then, to wrap it all up, he grew old and feeble, lost his pension, got sick, and spent the last two months of his life with tubes up his nose and needles in his arms. Then he died.

As Henry returned from the gateway, his friend was there to greet him. "So how was it, first timer?" said George.

"THAT WAS GREAT" HH said. "GOD, I WAS SUCH AN ASSHOLE!"

"Didn't I tell ya?"

"Why didn't I remember anything? I mean, Jesus, if I would've had just an instant of self realization, I could've done so much more."

"Oh, didn't you know the brain's hemispheric oscillation prevents any type of recall? That's what it was designed for; that's what makes it so much fun...the limitation." GG smiled. "As you experiment you'll find lifestyles you like better than others, but they're all fun...So, do you still want to 'rehabilitate' me?"

"No way!" Said HH, as he moved towards the Time Space Illusion Gateway. "Let's go again, only this time lets go be in a war and get blown up."

"Ooooo, that really hurts; I wanna be nuked if anything, or maybe get my brains blown out."

“Hey, I’ve got it, let’s be on opposing sides and kill each other!” said HH.

“Do you know how hard it would be to plan that? Hey, I’ve got it, let me try to mug you and then you kill me.”

“What about me? Don’t I get to die? I say we do the war thing.”

“Ok, but we’ll have to decide how you’re going to get your hands on a nuke while were in line.” And with that, GG and HH moved thru the gateway, on their way to mainstream yet another fix in a never ending addiction to the bizarre phenomenon known only as life on the planet Earth.