

Scorn

To scorn is to view as of no value or importance. To scorn is different from to dislike, to hate, to loathe, or simply to feel superior to. To scorn is to view as negligible, as we might scorn a competitor in a race, whom we feel able to brush off as no competition. We don't simply feel superior to that person, though we do feel that; but to the sense of superiority we add the sense that it is impertinent of our competitor to compete with us.

1

I feel scorn for people who pretend to be something other than what they are. For me, they are fellow human beings attempting to appear more worthy than me, but doing so by presenting deceptive images of themselves. I feel this scorn because the desire for self-inflation is exactly the feeling I need to suppress in myself, when comparing myself to others. It is because I know this temptation, to aggrandize myself at the expense of others, that I, like many of us, have a keen sense for the presence of self-aggrandizement in others. Do we keep one another in check, by our mutual pressures to keep it real?

2

I feel scorn for myself sometimes, although it is different from the scorn I feel for others. I feel scorn for the interior strategies I adopt, in order to assure, and reassure, myself of my reality. One way I pursue this strategy, though not without knowing I am doing it, is by paying considerable attention to my curriculum vitae and my website. I inspect those documents a lot, for no reason other than to be reassured by them that I am still here. Must I not scorn an old gent who has no more confidence than that, in the 'solidity' of his presence?