

Insecure

To be insecure is to have doubts about how you will perform in this or that situation. One meets people who seem absolutely self-confident. But one suspects, from personal experience, that such people harbor areas of insecurity inside them. Life is a multifaceted challenge, and who of us is able to respond effectively to all its aspects? Do you have areas of insecurity inside you?

Examples

1

When I was still a pre teen, my mother arranged for me to take dancing lessons. Once a week she escorted me to a dance studio downtown, where other boys and girls my age were gathered. We were all dressed in a suitable style. I remember that I wore my first suit, on those occasions, that I had black highly polished shoes, and that I had white gloves, to wear during the dance ritual. The 'ritual' was where my insecurity came through. I was OK in learning the basic dance steps, and even in practice dancing with the teacher and with a couple of the girls. My problems began with the facing lineups. The dozen girls were lined up facing the dozen boys. At a signal from the instructor, each of us boys had to cross the dance floor, go up to whichever of the girls he chose, and formally ask her to dance. There was more, the actual business of taking the girl's arm and escorting her to the floor, but the agony of insecurity, for me, was in *the asking the girl*. Would she refuse? (She probably could not have, but what did I know?) How would I bring myself to mumble the prescribed phrase about *may I have this dance?* I was deeply insecure at that point, unsure if I could forward. I was afraid of being rejected.

2

I have always been insecure about giving advice. By now I have reached a considerable age, am of sound and thoughtful mind, and yet pull back strangely from giving life advice to others, even when I know they are asking for it. This may be simple cowardice, the fear of giving misleading advice, and of being responsible for doing so. But it is more. I rarely have a clear insight into others' minds, let alone into the actions they should take in their lives. To a small extent this under confidence seems to me to reflect a virtue; that I am very reluctant to intrude on the dignity and independence of another person, even when they have temporarily lost the path, and chosen me as their guide.