

Freedom in the modern world. Autor: Aniela Kirszling.

Are you able to drop everything at this particular moment and leave? Do you do what you love as your daily basics? Do you consider yourself a happy man? Well, everyone around us seems to repeat over and over again "You have a choice", "You're in charge of your own destiny", "You have the power to change your life". We consider freedom as not being a slave in the full meaning of this world. We hear it everywhere - in the Bible, in the law books, on the TV, in the history classes. Not only that, we should be grateful, that we have an ability to decide a bare minimum about our lives. But yet, we still need to fight for our rights. We still don't feel happy or powerful. We're stuck in jobs we don't want to perform, we're limited by the law, we cannot afford a life we want, we have families, friends, animals to take care of, our duties, deadlines, bills, schools. So the question is: are we able to do things we want anytime we want? If the answer is no - are we truly free?

From my own experience, I met two kinds of people. One of them are more optimistic. Do what you love and if you can't, do everything to achieve that. Follow your dreams. But how many people have you met, who do what they actually love? Where is the rest? Here we can hear the other half: do what makes you money and leave the passion for after-hours. We can clearly see a disagreement on this matter. There also exist a money element. Living is quite expensive on it's own. Without money we can't survive, without job there's no money, so we need to find a job. But how big is the probability of finding one, that will be our passion? And what about our commitments to people we love? We can't abandon them. We are obliged to take care of them, support them, help them, be for them. Should we be selfish? Or is it just a system that traps us in dead ends?

I'm also wondering about the morality as the social construct. I mean, we are all different. Our minds are different. Yet, we have devised on ourselves some social values, which separate broadly understood good and evil. If we steal something, even if we're poor, we still go to prison. If we kill a man, there is going to be a punishment. There is even an abortion law that prohibits decisions about our own bodies. We make choices, but they're socially unacceptable and have imposed consequences. For us they can be good, because of our morality or having no other way. So is that a freedom, when we have so many things forbidden?

Of course there's a lot of people who saw this problem in the society. They try to break out from those circles of everyday life, more or less succesfully. Buddihsts say, to be free, we need to give up on material matters and focus on what inside. We can't be free in the outside world, so we can be minded-free instead. But on the other hand, is it a solution for everyone? For example, a mother of three little

children, who works in a big city, being tired 24/7? There are of course coaches, therapists and people who practise mindfulness. There are some people who enjoy a barefoot lifestyle with guitar in their hands and need nothing more. I'm just afraid, that in this modern world, can occur a new phenomenon of slavery: consumerism, politics and our own sacrifice. As a young person, I'm terrified that I may not be able to have a chance to do what I want and love. Is there a possibility to be forced to fight for my survival, which will depend on luck and having contacts? Or maybe it's just a question of a mind-set and possibility of everything if I deeply want it and work hard enough to achieve it? Will my life matter anyway? As the the Pink Floyd used to sing: "All in all, we're just another brick in the wall".