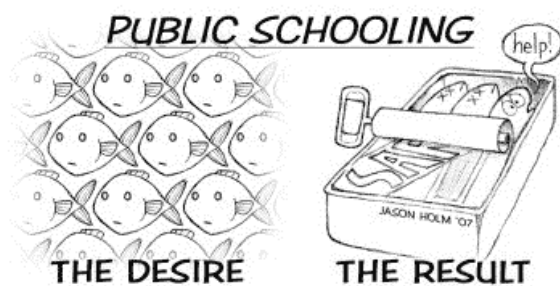
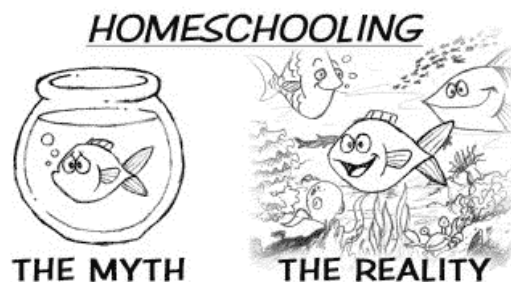


Personocratia's Path

HOME SCHOOLING AND APPRENTICESHIP

As we have seen in the last issue of Dialogue, it is difficult to do worse than kindergartens and schools when educating one's child. Even the best alternative schools are caught in the vice of government monopoly. The best solution still remains homeschooling.

Millions of parents across the world have opted for homeschooling and most are not registered teachers. Some researchers have concluded that homeschooled kids are five to ten years ahead of schooled ones and they succeed as well in later life. The most common fear is that such children will become asocial. Such is not the case. They meet other homeschoolers, schooled kids (evenings, weekends, holidays, team sports), and other adults (family, neighbours, museums, libraries, markets, and so on).



In so-called democratic countries, parents can opt for the education of their choice for their children. Even if most parents and school administrators are not aware of this, charters and constitutions guarantee this right. In most countries, schooling is not compulsory, but education is. The school authorities are held responsible for checking that the education being received by each child is adequate. In Quebec, they are required to do so for all children between 5 and 16 years of age. This can vary from one State or province to another. It is best for future homeschooling parents to do some research and contact homeschooling associations before meeting with school authorities and proposing arrangements that will allow the latter to fulfil their mandate.

Obviously, the elite see in an unfavourable light the fact that a child may escape their programming. That is why the media demonize homeschooling and go as far as linking it with cults. For example, in France, MIVILUDES checked 1,119 homeschooled families in 2006. Yet, only 23 were later ordered to send their children to a recognized school.

Homeschooling parents associations have sprouted up in many countries. These parents study the law and meet to share information. They organize social or educational days for kids and parents. They attend conferences where specialists offer lectures on related subject.

Once parents and children have opted for homeschooling, the solutions are unlimited. The worst that can happen is for the authorities to force a child to attend school. However, this kid may decide not to obey their orders. If she refuses to collaborate and she is strong enough to remain calm and resolute under their skilful threats, what can they do against such determination? Nothing!

The main problem with homeschooling is not to show kids how to read, write, and count, but to solve the following problem: what to do with teenagers? These are ready to explore the world with more than maps and books. Homeschooled teens need to find master craftsmen or other inspiring adults to whom they can offer time and energy in exchange for information and skill learning. They become apprentices and choose an adoptive parent-teacher from whom to learn. This type of exchange can last a day, a week, or several months. Payment to the apprentice or the master is possible.

The WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) is a well-known apprenticeship program found in 52 countries. "Wwoofers" are housed and fed in exchange for volunteer work. Often, they "wwoof" to learn something new – language, culture, construction, gardening, alternative medicine, trade – and to live a new lifestyle for a while.

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