

“Abdication of Responsibility”

By Jack Muellerleile

Abdication. Strange word, right? Surely not a word we hear every day no matter where we spend our time.

Abdication defined: Giving up or renouncing (authority, duties, a high office, etc.) esp. in a voluntary, public or formal manner; to renounce or relinquish a throne, office, right, power, claim, or responsibility, esp. in a formal manner.

Responsibility. Well, we all sure know what this one means, don't we? In these comments it will be taken to mean '**being responsible**' (i.e. **accountable, reliable, dependable, trustworthy**).

So, when we put the two words together, we can get several meanings, one of which will be commented upon hereafter.

“Abdication of responsibility”, as taken here, shall mean **“Voluntarily giving up ‘being responsible’ in the handling of our affairs”**

OK. When a person abdicates his or her responsibility, it may seem to lighten the load being carried. It may cause the person to feel freer, less entangled in things, less burdened and more able to fully enjoy life. Think back. Wasn't that the way things were in the early “Teen Years”? And didn't we all desire more freedom, more trust from our parents, more choices, not fewer?

So what's different for the grown-ups (a.k.a. adults)? Well, adults are regularly expected to behave responsibly. Otherwise, most folks will have little or nothing to do with them. And life as a 'mini-outcast' in our society is pretty grim. Think about it...irresponsible adults may experience lots of difficulties not usually suffered by those who regularly display responsible behavior, including the following:

- Low paying jobs
- Not much advancement within the employing firm
- Less education
- Low credit scores
- High interest rates
- Big cash down payments
- Poorer neighbors
- Higher crime neighborhoods
- More trouble with / less service from law enforcement personnel

Now most folks don't just wake up one morning and decide to abdicate their responsibilities...voluntarily giving up being responsible in the handling of their affairs. It happens gradually...over a long period of time. In fact, many people

don't even realize they have done this. That's because they repeatedly made choices which took them in irresponsible directions. The more repeatedly those choices were made, the more habit-forming they became. In time, decision-making took no real thought at all. Well-established, habitual reactions to circumstances were fully sufficient to take the person in one familiar direction or another. Choices that inhibit the development of independent, analytical thought or resulting in the diminishment of one's consciousness (anything that clouds the thinking) are ones to be avoided. Examples may include the following:

- Choosing easy, simpleminded classes in school instead of those designed to strengthen your ability to think logically, analytically and independently. Rather, five years of math classes during the four years of secondary school are recommended. Ditto for English classes.
- Excessiveness in consuming alcoholic beverages and / or mind-altering drugs should be avoided.
- Wrong minded friends, especially those who always nag you to 'go along with the crowd' in behavior you are nervous about or reluctant to display.

Now, if you want to go out and act irresponsibly once in a while just to 'get away' from your steady, dependable, trustworthy lifestyle for a bit (take a break from reality), go ahead. But take along a trusted friend or relative as a clear headed observer who can rein you in if you seem to be going overboard in this regard. A better choice may be to read an exciting book or view an exciting film to satisfy your urge to escape reality and fantasize just a bit now and then.

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