

Ancient Writings on Physiognomy

It is widely accepted today that social environment plays an important role in the development of intelligence. I rally to this opinion. And even more, I believe this influence is clearly visible in the outer appearance of human beings. I suspect a certain physiognomy operating in less obvious ways exists in humans.



The theory is as follows: there are imperfections in our outer appearance. The lower the intelligence ~ the bigger the imperfections; the higher the intelligence ~ the smaller the imperfections. Now, this may be difficult to understand, but in fact, this means that low intelligence is linked with unaesthetic appearance, while high intelligence is linked with noble appearance.

This link becomes obvious with cases of mental retardation: Down Syndrome, Williams Syndrome, DeLange Syndrome are all associated with unpleasant physical appearances. In this case the imperfections become conspicuous physical deformities. The causes of the disorders are very distinct in each case, but the effects are very similar: the lower the intelligence, the more unaesthetic the physiognomy.



There are imperfections (either more obvious or discrete) with healthy people as well. The image sequence below depicts from left to right: the "redneck-hillbilly" typology, the "nerd-geek" typology as well as the retarded typology.



»\$«

I first got the idea of physiognomy by looking at the animal kingdom. Constantly encountering metaphors such as: "they think they're eagles, but they're ducks" "I'd rather die like a lion, than live like a dog" "better an army of sheep lead by a lion, than an army of lions lead by a sheep" etc gradually had me believe in nature warriors have a noble appearance, while cowards have a repulsive appearance. On any country seal there's either a lion or an eagle, and no other type of animal. So I thought if noble appearance is not random in animals, why should it be at random in humans?



Reading the Ecclesiastes phrase "wisdom brightens a man's face and its rough appearance changes" had me even more convinced. It also made me realize I am not the only one whom hath noticed it. I believe that intelligence changes relatively slowly in time, with social environment playing an important role in this progress, and these changes are somehow reflected in our outer appearances.

Along side noble appearance, I suspect sexual dimorphism, baby cuteness and the expression of emotion are also physiognomies. The development of genetics will prove or disprove this point. A recent scientific discovery has shown in fruit flies the same gene, called "doublesex", is responsible for both the body and the behavioural differences. (This discovery could already prove that sexual dimorphism is a physiognomy)

Author: dr. Moleculus Fentosan
flxerisan@yahoo.com