

The Evolution of Etiquette Through Dance

I like to believe that humans did not crawl out of the primordial ooze to fight their way to the top of the evolutionary tree. Instead, they danced from one evolutionary and cultural advancement to another. Their feet moved to the rhythm of rain beating against a canopy of leaves. Their arms circled to the sound of wind across the prairie. Taken by the instinctual need to move in celebration of life survived yet another day, they undulated to the beat of their own hearts.

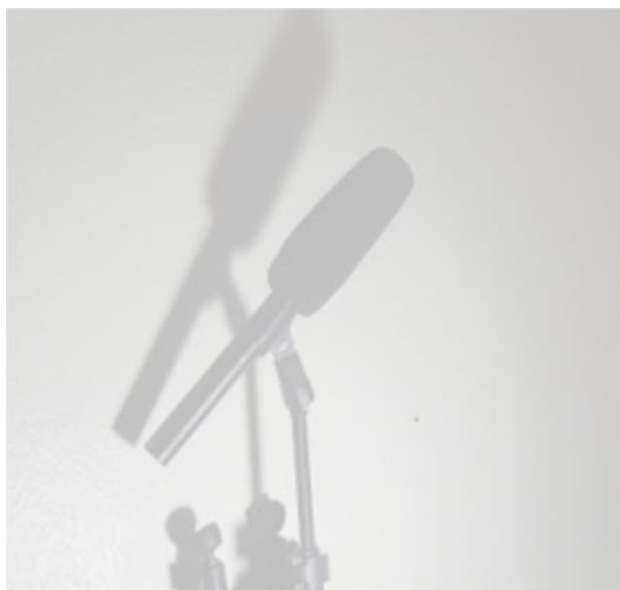
Time passed. Humans evolved. Social orders grew with each new milestone.

Eventually, human clans evolved into civilizations with strict rules about who could do what with whom and at what time and place. One thing did not change: People danced.

Our ancestors danced in ancient rites to prepare for the hunt and the harvest, to celebrate births and deaths, and to ward off disasters. The strict rituals involved in those rites included the wearing of proper attire, the cleansing of the body, and the distinction of whom could be in attendance of the ceremony. Overall, it's not that much different from balls and dance parties over the last few hundred years.

Time passed and societies grew more sophisticated. A group divided into two classes that divided into more classes until everyone had a place and knew well where they belonged. Higher ranking citizens had, by right of divine

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