

Dress Code / Clothes make the man

By Amit Shoham

I don't get dressed, I get dressed up. Every combination of shirt and pants not only has a matching pair of shoes, but also a name. Sometimes I am an "artist going to his studio" and others I am "a nerd with a sense of humor," "the really cool guy inside me," or "an American jailbird, circa 1950."

I do not always start to get dressed with a title, but always finish with one, always leave the house in the guise of an imaginary someone. "I am the invented character playing out his name." This is a favorite ritual game that regularly serves as a test of both textile and textual skills, and when I fail in my choice of clothes and their coordination, as usually happens, lose my patience and want only to put something on and go out, at least I find comfort in the name I give to my multiple, variegated failures. Thus I have a name for my most common look - "man without a name."

An unusual event, in which the character turned on the actor, occurred one night three years ago, when my girlfriend's waters broke. During the frenzied preparations for the trip to the hospital, she suddenly noticed me standing staring into the closet. It was three o'clock in the morning. "What are you doing?" she asked. "What does one wear for a birth?" I replied. That was the only time I had ever got stuck in the middle of the game. I had never before dressed up as a daddy.

A friend who had not been in Israel for a number of years was apprised of these things when he came here for a visit and asked to borrow a pair of pants and a shirt for some event. He peeked into the closet and looked impressed.

"You must cross some sort of line when you start wearing designer clothes," he said.

"Yes, you cross the line from ugly clothes to beautiful clothes," I replied.

"But your clothes were never ugly. I always thought they looked great and was jealous. They just weren't 'designer.'"

"You're right," I said. "But I started to run out of ideas for costumes." I explained what I meant, and he said, "I wonder why you have to define it like that. Your clothes are the utmost you. Anyone who knows you knows that, and here you say that they are simply not you. You wear them and pretend that you are someone else. What's wrong with being yourself in front of the mirror?"

"It's a bit like opening a Pandora's box," said I.

"I don't understand why you do it. Why do you need such a masquerade game? In the end it is you wearing the clothes anyway, and they are identified with you. No one has any idea what character you are wearing. Why bother with it?"

"I'll tell you why. People think getting dressed is a form of narcissism, that someone who loves to get dressed is doing so through self-love. This is obviously true about quite a few people, all the exhibitionist types, but in my case nothing could be farther from the truth. If you ask me, any love of clothes begins with loathing of the body. Clothes are a masking agent. That's why I prefer to wear clothes along with a character."

Code- קוד	Frenzied- משוגעות, אחוזות טירוף
Combination- קומבינציה	Preparations- הכנות
(סיומת tion מתחלפת בעברית בסיומת "ציה")	
Matching- תואם	Hospital- בית חולים
Pair- זוג	Suddenly- לפתע, פתאום
Nerd- חנון, יורם	Noticed- הבחנתי
Sense of humor- חוש הומור	Staring- בוהה
Jailbird- אסיר	Birth- לידה
Circa- בערך, לערך	Apprised- מודע
Title- תואר, כותרת	Borrow- לשאול
Guise- מעטה, מסווה, לבוש	Peeked- הציץ
Imaginary- דמיוני	Impressed- מורשם
Invented- מומצא	Cross- לחצות
(ed מעידה לא רק על עבר אלא גם על "סביל")	
Character- דמות (גם קו אופי או תו מאפיין)	Sort- מין, סוג של...
Favorite- מועדף	Designer- מעצבים
Ritual – טקס, ריטואל	Jealous- קנאי, מקנא
Regularly- באופן רגיל	Ideas- רעיונות
Serves- משרת	Costumes- (גם תחפושות)
Textile- טקסטיל, בד	Explained- הסברתי
Textual- טקסטואלי, שקשור בטקסט	Define- להגדיר
Skills- יכולות, כשרונות	Utmost- הכי, מיטב היכולת
Coordination- התאמה, קואורדינציה	Pretend- מעמיד פנים
Patience- סבלנות	Mirror- מראה, אספקלריה
Comfort- נחמה (גם נוחות)	Pandora's box- תיבת פנדורה, צרות רבות
Multiple- מרובה, מוכפל	מהמיתולוגיה היוונית, מסופר על תיבה שניתנה
Variegated- מגוון	מהאלים והייתה מלאה בצרות ומחלואי העולם.
Failures- כשלונות	Masquerade- נשף מסכות
Thus- קרי	Identified- מזוהים
Common- נפוץ, שכיח (גם עממי/ציבורי/המוני...)	Form- צורה
Unusual- לא רגיל, יוצא דופן	Narcissism- נרקסיזם, אהבה עצמית מופרזת
Event- מאורע	הסיפור על נרקיס מגיע גם כן מהמיתולוגיה היוונית, על
Occurred- אירע, התרחש	עלם שהיה מאוהב בעצמו והיה מביט בבואתו בנהר,
Obviously- בודאי, ללא ספק, בבירור	עד שהאלים הענישו אותו והפכו אותו לפרח נרקיס.
Exhibitionist- אקסהיביציוניסטים, רהבתנים	Loathing- מתעב
	Masking- ממסכים, מסווים

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קטע אקטואליה באדיבות המהדורה האנגלית של עיתון "הארץ"

Types- טיפוסים

Agent- סוכן

Farther- יותר רחוק