

DEAR DAVE,

You and your music have had an immense positive impact on my life, and in a very special way. I am going to tell you my story to make you aware of how you have affected me and to possibly help you understand yourself a little better. I also have a few questions for you.

The questions:

-Do you have any idea why you are the way you are?

-Why do you make music? You obviously have a very strong motivation for doing so, and it isn't popularity.

-why so isolated

-how do you deal with...

My story:

I was born in 1993 with a brain disease that causes chronic anhedonia and mental suffering, difficulty attaching to others, and fatigue. The disease is caused by chronic infection with bacteria of the genus Bartonella, which is found in apparently healthy people in many parts of the world. As a result, my experience of life is extremely different from that of most people. I had no idea there was anything abnormal about me until, at the age of 21, I discovered written and video interviews with you from the 1980s in which you described personal feelings, experiences, and a lifestyle which were almost identical to mine, down to very specific details. I had managed to suppress my awareness of how different I was until I saw you describe it explicitly in words. I didn't feel alone anymore, but I also realized that I had a serious problem. Shortly before that, I had discovered your music and that of Japan and found that it affected me in a unique way, which I will explain later.

Discovering your interviews and music changed my life beyond recognition. It not only started me on the road towards identifying and treating my lifelong illnesses, but also eliminated almost all my emotional problems for years and changed my understanding of humanity. Finding one human being (you) to whom I could relate somehow got around my brain disease and gave me the only taste I have ever had of normal emotions, happiness, enjoyment of life, and love and sympathy for all human beings, including myself. I would possibly not be alive today if not for you, because I have had to endure extreme chronic illness and suffering since 2016 and one of the only things that enabled me to cope with it was my memory of this time in my life. As a result of this experience, my ability to have relationships with people improved greatly, I was instantly cured of my asexuality and began seeking romantic relationships with males (almost always feminine guys with long hair) and I developed a unique understanding of the way in which men love women. I plan on using this knowledge to improve relations between the sexes in the future.

For context: I am an artist and a college graduate with majors in physics, mathematics and astrophysics. I began my PhD degree in physics but had to leave in 2018 because of severe illness caused by a second chronic infection, Babesiosis, which I acquired from a tick bite at age 10. I am now recovering with long-term antibiotic therapy and hope to resume my studies soon. I'm also an artist; I draw and paint, and I write science fiction.

These are the primary things I feel I have in common with you based on what I have read in your interviews (please correct me if anything on this list is inaccurate or no longer applicable):

- 1) You do not enjoy things the way most people do, such as socializing or games or entertainment, and particularly not sex. This is what I refer to as anhedonia. However, you laugh easily.
- 2) Your brain torments you constantly and the only way to deal with it is distraction, especially with preferred activities such as reading, creating music and art, or traveling to interesting places.
- 3) Being around people (except for immediate family members) is draining and even painful, especially in public places, at a party, or when performing on stage. You feel like you are under scrutiny and are assaulted by negative thoughts and feelings about yourself for no reason.
- 4) You are so self-critical that for the most part, nothing other people say or think about you can hurt you as much as what you think about yourself. You hated seeing photos of yourself and felt like you looked pathetic.
- 6) The world seemed ugly to you when you were growing up, and the only way for you to find beauty was through art, especially creating the art you personally needed.
- 7) You feel that your work either "does its job or falls short" and you have little interest in work you did in the past.
- 8) You briefly considered that you might be homosexual because you weren't strongly attracted to the opposite sex.
- 9) You don't identify strongly with your own sex and have some qualities of the opposite sex.
- 10) You fit some of the criteria for schizoid personality disorder.

-explain about how his music affects you and what you think is special about it. I found you from Russell Mills and Plight and Premonition. My favorites are GTP, Riverman and Gone to Earth.

\\- I have intense physical and mental reactions to seeing pics of you

\\I can still activate this fantasy at times, but only when I see pictures of you (i have 3000 of them)

\\-I share quite a few interests/viewpoints with you (philosophy, metaphysics, art, intellectual stuff, foreign cultures, hatred of america's foreign policy, etc.)

-Intense love of feminine men

\\Fun coincidences: My father was born the same year as you, 2.5 months later; he has two daughters who are almost the same ages as yours and no other children, and my mother's name is Isabel. I am very close to my father and he has a few things in common with you (not any of the above).

Thank you for your candidness in your interviews and writing, for creating the music you needed regardless of others' opinions, and for being yourself.

Valerie Lindner

REFERENCES: