

The Emperor's New Clothes

In a book entitled "The Modern Temper," the erstwhile literary critic and editor turned philosopher Joseph Wood Krutch depicted the innate need of man (and woman) to find order in a universe that is alien to his (or her) innermost needs. That book was written nearly three quarters of century ago, but its message still rings true.

Apparently, urologists and gynecologists have a similar need; that is why the anatomy and physiology of the lower urinary tract and sphincter mechanism is depicted in such orderly and precise detail in most textbooks. In fact, there are myriad names to describe the structures that suspend, support and operate the lower urinary tract and female pelvic floor. These are not synonyms, but different names to describe different parts of different structures that I, as an experienced surgeon, never see. There are four possibilities to explain this phenomenon: 1. The structures are there, but I don't see them; 2. The structures are there in the gross anatomy lab, but not in live people; 3. They are there in normal people, but not in people who need operations; and 4. They are not there at all and exist only in the minds of those who have an inner need to find them.

These structures are called the vesical neck, internal sphincter, smooth muscle sphincter, external sphincter, striated muscle sphincter, midurethral complex, distal segment, endopelvic fascia, pubocervical ligament, pubourethral ligament, vesicopelvic ligament, urethropelvic ligament, compressor urethra, urethrovaginal sphincter. I don't mean to get too anatomic, but with the exception of the pubourethral ligament, a distinct, dense white structure that attaches the distal urethra to the pubis, I never see any of these structures.

To be sure, there is some tissue that suspends and supports the lower urinary tract and pelvic organs, but it is certainly not a ligament; rather, it is comprised of connective tissue, smooth and perhaps striated muscle and some thin fascia. This tissue, which some of my surgical colleagues refer to as the "good stuff," constitutes the strong tissue found at surgery that is needed for repair of damaged support structures, but it is identified by its palpable tensile strength, not by any anatomic boundaries. Of course there is a sphincter, but I don't know where it begins and where it ends and I don't know what it looks like. I'm not even exactly sure how it works.

Joseph Wood Krutch suggested that such things as humanity, love, justice, fairness, equality and religion are nothing more than inventions of the human mind that seek to find meaning in a world in which we have no special place at all. To find order in such a universe we find order in our own minds and apply that order to what we see. Sometimes the order we see is real. Sometimes it is not. And sometimes, it doesn't matter because the conclusions we draw from (erroneous) beliefs seem to work. Thus, it is possible that operations for stress incontinence are effective even though the principles upon which they are based are faulty.

Einstein saw that the laws of gravity worked just fine on earth, but not so in the rest of the universe. Hence, $E = mc^2$. So, in outer space you can jump off the top of a high building with impunity. Don't try that on the earth.

Jerry G. Blaivas
Editor-in-Chief

“Emperor’s New Clothes” takes over as Brendon begins searching through the white light and fog, only to be dropped through a trap door down into Hell and darkness. Looking for love in “This Is Gospel,” he finds a transformation into a symbol of evil and desire for power. The title of this song is a spin-off of the well-known children’s short tale by Hans Christian Andersen of the same title. The story depicts a ruler who is conned into hiring two “weavers” to craft him invisible clothes. The men tell him that only the intelligent can see the clothes, so when the garments were finished, the emp... The Emperor is enormously vain and likes nothing better than to show off his clothes. Two weavers comes to his court saying that they makes clothes that are like no others - anyone who is simple in the head, or unfit for his job, will not be able to see them. All the courtiers say that the clothes are quite magnificent, and the Emperor plans to wear his new suit for the procession through the centre of the city. The moral of this story rings so very true! What we are doing is totally absurd, but we can't stop because everybody else seems to believe that it's the right thing to do. Yet they can "The Emperor's New Clothes" (Danish: Kejserens nye klæder) is a literary folktale written by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen, about a vain emperor who gets exposed before his subjects. The tale has been translated into over 100 languages. "The Emperor's New Clothes" was first published with "The Little Mermaid" in Copenhagen, by C. A. Reitzel, on 7 April 1837, as the third and final installment of Andersen's Fairy Tales Told for Children. The tale has been adapted to various media, and the story The band's frontman explained to Kerrang!, "It's actually is a lot about that Hans Christian Andersen story, 'The Emperor's New Clothes', but instead of being the dumbfounded, gullible emperor, I actually know what's going down, and I just choose to be naked. There is a lot of that arrogance behind it, and that was a song that I felt I hadn't written in the past." Readers of Rock Sound magazine voted the music video for "Emperor's New Clothes" to be "Video of the Year" in an annual poll in 2015. The clip is a continuation of the music video for the song "This Is Gospel". AZLyrics. The Emperor's New Clothes A translation of Hans Christian Andersen's "Keiserens nye Klæder" by Jean Hersholt. Info & links. Many years ago there was an Emperor so exceedingly fond of new clothes that he spent all his money on being well dressed. He cared nothing about reviewing his soldiers, going to the theatre, or going for a ride in his carriage, except to show off his new clothes. He had a coat for every hour of the day, and instead of saying, as one might, about any other ruler, "The King's in council," here they always said. "The Emperor's in his dressing room." In the great city where h