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What is the overall purpose/thesis/point of the chapter/essay/article?

The New York Times article "The Struggles of Rejecting Gender Binary" discusses the challenges of people who identify both as male and female. The article is discussing gender, not so much on who they are attracted to but who they identify as. The purpose of the article is to inform how confusing and painful it can be for people trying to figure out who they are and educate people around them about it while they don't even know yet. It seems to me that is a lifelong journey of self-discovery. The gender binary is something that people are not familiarized with definition yet and the article makes it sound that would be easier to be simply gay or transgender but that are many more things going on in between.

How does the author (or authors) make their point(s)? What do they discuss? What evidence and examples do they give?

The self-hate examples mentioned in the text expose how deep their pain goes. Things like getting a period or looking in the mirror can generate self-loathe and lead to mutilation. Salem mentions that he was bullied so much that his whole life became online, he was living in the metaverse to avoid dealing with people who discriminated against him.

How does the author conceptualize of women? men? gender?

There is physiology and then there is gender. The author conceptualizes Kai's point of view "The contradiction between anatomical irrelevance and anatomical yearning was an existential challenge." It is also mentioned "a surge of nonbinary information, of nuances in gender expression, in the last five years," which to me sounds more like people are having more options to define gender than more people are being born queer. As the author stated it's very hard to measure these things but it's estimated that about 1.4 million people currently identify as transgender in the USA.

What is your personal reaction to the piece? How does it make you feel? To what extent do you agree/disagree and why?

The whole article reminded me of the experience of the main character in "The Danish Girl" where there was so much struggle to find out what was different, the comparative is because at that time people did not know how to deal with transgenders and considered them bizarre and sick so I think something similar is going on with the general public experience towards new fluid gender norms. Also, the Danish girl's character struggled so much dealing with the discovery but it's something impossible to control, people want to know who they are and live their truth. The path in between is much more complicated we can imagine, it's simpler to be born cisgender but we are all here on a different journey of self-discovery with no exact answers given. I feel sad that nonbinary people have to go through such challenges and feel so excluded and alone, no one should hate themselves. Beauty lives in the uniqueness of each being.