

Pisces: Sensitivity

Kim turned off the radio with a snap. "I just can't make myself like that stuff," she complained to her mother. "The kids think I'm some sort of freak, but that music makes me feel jittery and irritated. The louder it is, the more it turns them on and the more it turns *me* off! I must be crazy."

"No, Kim," soothed her mother. "You're not crazy at all. You *are* sensitive, and some of the noise that passes for music these days naturally grates on any really sensitive person. I'm glad you feel that enough to dislike the music."

"But some of the melodies are nice — when you get melodies at all — and sometimes I like the rhythm, too," protested Kim. "What I can't stand is when they play that stuff so *loud*, and all the dissonance you sometimes get. The worst thing is the way some of these people sing. It sounds like *howling*, not music. I don't know how the kids can study with it on. I like music when I study, too, but not that!"

"Does it really bother you that you don't like rock music?" asked Kim's mother.

"Well, yes, it bothers me that I can't enjoy it like the other kids — or maybe that I'm not *like* the other kids," said Kim thoughtfully, "but I guess it doesn't bother me so much that I'd sit around and listen to it anyhow when I don't have to. Sometimes you can't get away from it, though."

"I know," said Mother. "The important thing, though, is that you do feel antagonistic to that music, even if you might not fully understand its danger."

"You've explained the danger to me, Mom, but somehow I still don't quite get it all," said Kim. "Would you mind trying again?"

“Well, honey,” Mother began, “you know that the desire bodies of young people your age are in the process of being developed, and that your minds have not yet matured to the point where they can adequately control your emotions. Rock music, with its dissonance, its noise, its overemphasized and exaggerated rhythms, and the very ugly, sensual vocalizing that is often a part of it, appeals to and strengthens the lowest and most passionate aspects of the desire nature. It excites a person’s basest emotions to an unbelievable degree, and this is of course particularly harmful to you young people whose minds are not yet equipped to control these emotions. You know yourself that it is mostly teenagers who respond to rock music, who go to rock concerts and buy those records. That is because their desire natures are especially receptive to those sounds, and their minds are not yet controlling the base emotions. Most of the rock performers themselves are young. How many rock artists do you know of in their thirties and forties?”

Kim laughed. “None, offhand. And I can’t imagine kids listening to them if there were such people.”

“Of course not. You went to that rock concert last month and didn’t like it. Do you remember what it was besides the music that you didn’t like?” Mother went on.

“It was the way the audience screeched and wailed along with the music, and the way the performers and everyone else were sort of wiggling around. It kind of made me sick.”

“Yes, it is sickening, at least to anyone who has developed — or evolved — far enough to feel instinctively the harmful nature of that music and the bad effect it has on the lower desire nature. All that screeching and wiggling was really the lower, sensual desires of those people being manifested,” said Mother. “You

don't know how glad I am that you are sensitive enough to feel this, and that you're not letting your friends' opinions sway you. Eventually everyone will have developed that sensitivity, but I'm afraid it's going to take a long time."

"Guess you're right," said Kim. "I've tried to tell some of the kids about how I feel, but they just say I'm a square, or that I belong in *your* generation — or even grandmother's! I can't seem to get across to them. Maybe I should quit trying."

"There's not much point in antagonizing your friends," agreed Mother, "if they are not ready to understand your feelings or believe your reasons for them. But it would be so good for them if they *did* understand the disastrous results that their addiction to this kind of music can have. It's no coincidence that rock music is part of the 'drug culture.' The music stimulates low desires, causes them to become powerful enough to take over the personality, and the result cannot help but be drug addiction, crime, delinquency, promiscuity, and much else that is harming young people — and causing them to harm others — these days."

"Well, I'll do what I can," said Kim, "even though there probably won't be too many kids who will listen to me. I'm awfully glad, though, that I don't feel attracted to rock music, even though that does make me 'different'."

"I'm glad, too," said her mother.

Kim turned on the record player and smiled as the strains of a Beethoven composition filled the room.

"What a wonderfully different feeling you get from this kind of music," she sighed happily. "There is a strength in it that gives you a new outlook on life. If more people would listen to it, I'm sure the world would be a happier place."