

## On online suicide

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Some days the drugs don't work, the sky is clouded over, the car has a flat tire, the newspaper was left out in the rain, and it looks like there really isn't much of a need to go on living. In Japan this is becoming a more common occurrence among the population, and so the pioneers of our age have come up with the perfect solution for shuffling loose the mortal coil: online suicide help.

Meeting someone on the net and then getting together for drinks and arsenic almost sounds like Internet dating met with the Final Solution. At first the idea seems cold and distant, perhaps robbing death of its seriousness. But it serves a noble end, for it provides the whining masses with the perfect forum for finding that special someone to die with. No longer shall people suffer the painful lust for suicide alone, for now they can flock to a website and find like-minded individuals.

The format of an online forum provides these people not only with a way to find the great egress, but also to do so in a manner that most suits their interests. A quick search of all postings can yield just the kind of partner you want to form a suicide pact with. Looking to die in a car of carbon monoxide poisoning? Not a problem. How about really kicking off with style, and finding a whole orgy of people with which to construct a fatal bukkake sequence?

Aside from the obvious jokes that can be made about this practice, there is actually some redeeming quality to it. Online suicide matching allows people to fulfill a desire they have. To fulfill a desire is really the reason people live; we go about our days in the hopes that we can achieve a particular goal. If someone's goal is merely to die, then our assistance in this goal is the most liberal thing that can be possible.

As we are a liberal society, and since we readily consume many aspects of Japanese culture already, as well as many other notable cultures, it only makes sense to consume another cultural good that will benefit our liberal ideals. The idea of our accepting online suicide websites may at first seem strange, but so did the concept of safe injection sites. A safe injection site benefits drug addicts, and society as a whole, by preventing the spread of disease and drug related crime. A ready forum for suicide assistance is merely an extension of such thinking, by providing a safe way for suicides to meet as well as a way for them to do it without bothering anyone else.

Embracing this new tradition, therefore, would be more than just helping those in our society with their problems; it would also be a cultural step forward. Accepting a divergent view on suicide different from our traditional values (which frown upon it greatly and go so far as to dictate we will burn in hell for it) is the mark of progress. This practice not only helps recognise a growing social problem, but finds a unique answer to that problem that both benefits society and the individual. It is time for Canada to stand by its claim of multiculturalism and liberal ideology and demonstrate to the world that we do not stand in judgment of differing social trends. We have to embrace difference and encourage free action by allowing people to freely go about killing themselves in whatever manner they wish and with whomever they wish.