Appearance-Oriented Views

(Original)

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A woman glancing around nervously quickly walks down the street, looking as if she is tracked by someone or something. High laughter and voices ring in the woman's ears.

"Look at her legs; they're like those of an elephant's!"

"Is she a pig?"

The woman's steps become faster as people's eyes gather on her back. At the end, she run towards a building and disappears behind the door. In Korea, life isn't that easy. There are severe appearance-oriented views. This means that people judge others by their looks, and treat people with better looks better than other people. Lookism in Korea means money, power, high class, and many other priorities. So because of this, many people are suffering. Today, I want to talk about a story related to appearance-oriented looks.

When I was young, everything was all bright, full of rainbows and sunshine. Nobody really cared about lookism and just played with each other. As I went on to elementary school, things started to change. My first two years in school was fine, but my happy world shattered like glass when I became third grade. That year, I was in same class with my friend. We played along well, but from someday, she slowly avoided me and went to play with other girls in the class. Later, she avoided me too much, so I asked her what the matter was. She answered coldly, "Don't you know? All our classmates are whispering that you are a freak. I don't want to be a strange person by playing with you. Please don't talk to me anymore." She turned her back towards me and went to play with her new friends. That day, at my house, I looked into the mirror and started to observe my face that never felt wrong to me. Small eyes, big nose, thick lips, dark skin. At that point, I understood why my classmates called me freak. I cried until I had no tears in my eyes, hating myself and my parents who gave me that face.

After that, the remaining 3 years of elementary school were like a hell to me. Everybody whispered to each other in front of me, and called me names. I was a total outsider. When I

moved up to middle school, things got even worse. Even the teachers showed their hates towards me, and treated me like an idiot. That caused me to bury myself into books. I studied, studied and finally became the top student of the school. That didn't support my reputation much, but at least I was honorable to myself. Time passed. One year, two year, three year… I became a high-schooler. I continued studying, and passed the test to go to college. I gave up to hope for people's approval in the college, but I think I still wanted to be loved by others deep in my mind. When my mother recommended me to try plastic surgery before going to college, I was very tempted by it.

After considering it for some time, I decided to go for it. When all the beautiful people are treated well, why can't I just be like them? I had the surgery, and when I took off all the dressing, I couldn't believe it. I was looking fine! When I went to school, everything went crazy. I never received that much hospitality ever in my life. I was so happy about the people around me, but was partly angry and hollow. After doing plastic surgery, everyone treated me well. It was too easy compared to all my hard academic studying.

I want to change this society full of appearance-oriented views like the one I mentioned above. I have no power, no money, and no outstanding talent, but at least I want to try. These days, there are many web-toons online, and I will support them by sharing the good ones on the SNS. I will ask people to take a look at them, or at least to share them. I want to change this society to stop judge people on their looks and to treat all people equally no matter how they look like.