

misconceptions these associations cause. It is not like surgery; something somebody does to me. It is more like education; something I learn to do for myself with somebody else's help. Surely I should be allowed to decide for myself to whom I can best respond as a teacher. I received individual tuition in French years ago from three different people. With one I was involved and interested for the whole lesson, with one I was content to be there, but with the third I was so bored I gave up. All were qualified teachers at a reputable language school, but their personalities were different. My interaction with one was profitable for me, with another useless.

I would never feel competent to choose my own surgeon, and I can accept that there may be grounds for licensing psychoanalysts - at least by their own professional organisations - since the withholding of the analyst's personality would make free choice a difficult process. However most therapy done in this country today is done on a face to face basis, and since the personal interaction is so important in determining progress I claim that I should be allowed a free choice in this area of life.

Moreover I claim far more than the right to choose what is good for me, I claim also the right to choose an incompetent therapist if that is what I want to do. To me one of the most vital and important but difficult ways of valuing human life lies in allowing people to choose what I think is wrong. 'For unto every one that hath shall be given: and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath'. Unless I have the freedom to choose to hide my talent in the earth, there is no value in my choosing to make constructive use of it. I claim the freedom to choose badly; to choose to grow or not to grow; to choose a highly qualified therapist or one with no qualifications at all. And this is not a choice I am prepared to give away to a governmental licensing authority.

Hop, Skip, Jump

it was not that she couldn't do crossword puzzles.
playing with people
was a far, far, easier game.

Wilson Stapleton