



Why Did the Shirley Temple Doll Become Barbie?



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Shirley Temple with her namesake

The dolls I played with as a little girl looked and dressed like babies and little girls. When I had daughters they also had dolls that looked and dressed like little girls. They played little-girl make-believe games with them and with their friends. In the mid-1950s this changed and, little by little, the Barbie doll took the place of the little-girl dolls so that, by the 1960s, little girls felt like they needed to have a Barbie doll. This meant all of the accessories and clothing and sophistication of a teenager. Instead of little-girl dresses, saddle shoes, and bobby socks, the dolls had glamorous dresses, high heels, and pantyhose.

It seems to me that we are depriving these little girls of their natural transition and growth into puberty. Instead of having tea parties they dress up to go to fancy balls, tennis games, and sophisticated swimming parties. All of this before they are even ready to start thinking about training bras.

We know that in our lives growth and development is a process, and if we force an accelerated growth we can miss an important phase in this process. There is, then, a lack of development of the normal cellular synaptic changes which are essential to grow into solid responsible human beings. I wonder how much damage we have really done to our young women and why in the world we would want to do this anyway. Why do we have beauty contests for little girls? What have we done to the self image of a nine- or ten-year-old girl, who is growing fast, is uncoordinated, and her hair isn't what she wants it to be? She really just wants to be a little girl and be whoever she is. She is trying to find out who that person is. She doesn't

– menstruation, childbirth, and menopause. We in our "wisdom" have taken these three stages of life which are our spiritual heritage and made them diseases which we then try to get rid of. We have forced the little girls into puberty, and then we spend 30 years or more trying to get rid of the menstrual cycle so we are not inconvenienced – or whatever other reason we can come up with. In fact we have called menstruation "the curse" and yet are asking little girls to face this natural process before they are ready to do so. We have made childbearing a disease process which needs to be treated medically, taking away the natural power and beauty in childbirth. And menopause is something we would like to avoid completely. When we are in the final stages of life cycles where we will be able to access deeper wisdom, we try to eliminate that.

Life is a divine gift and the living requires a natural cellular synaptic growth from conception till death. Every stage of this process has its own beauty and rewards. So when we deprive ourselves of the wonder of life, which is not always comfortable, we miss the wonderful beauty and richness of life.

The Cayce readings speak very clearly about these issues:

...various types of dolls that may appeal to the developing in childhood towards motherhood. Few have considered as to the helpfulness dolls have been towards motherhood in any land. Wherever these have been a part of the developing of the children, especially of the young ladies or girls, [they] have made homes where those who never played with them rarely would. (1436-4)

Then, as [to] the development of the mind of