

Our Addiction to Authenticity

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Protesters at a rally against Trump administration immigration policy in New York City, June 26 2018. (*Brendan Mcdermid/Reuters*) We must stop allowing anger to be its own justification.

We're living in the era of "authenticity."

Once upon a time, human beings strove *not* to be authentic — at least not in public. Self-control was predicated on the idea that our most authentic selves had to be overcome by reason and civility. Sure, you hated Bob from accounting — but you were a better person because you never said so, and you treated Bob decently whenever you saw him. The book of Proverbs suggested, "Fools give vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end." Ecclesiastes recommended, "Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools." And Aristotle suggested that anger, while useful, should only be channeled in service of reason.

To read more, click <https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/07/politics-of-anger-addiction-to-authenticity-must-be-broken/>.