

Responsibility for the Future – 2008

Molly: *It seems like today, one of the biggest issues in the media is the environment. And ... I know, I kind of get the impression that our generation is having to compensate for the mistakes of our parents' generation, what do you think?*

Peter: I just think it's sort of ... sort of a new trend that, one's supposed to think about the environment and all that. I don't think it's that important actually, I mean ... Things haven't changed that much the last ten years, I mean ... People are still driving their cars. I drive my car, I mean ... I don't care that much.

Molly: *I disagree with you. I think that, you know, we should take responsibility for future generations, and for our planet. It is the only planet we have, after all.*

Thomas: Yeah, we have. But we're only supposed to be here for, like, seventy-eight years, I mean.

Molly: *As individuals, but the human race should hopefully be here a lot longer, but it doesn't really look that way.*

Thomas: Well, yeah, but I mean, I don't have any children, so. I'm very happy with my lifestyle, actually. I wouldn't trade in my car for taking a tram, or a train to work. I don't really see why it's supposed to be my responsibility, to be honest.

Molly: *Well, I think that's the main problem today, because you have to really change people's mentalities before you can make big changes.*

Peter: All right Molly, since you're so environmentally friendly, I mean, what do you do? I mean, what do you sacrifice? What do you do in your holidays, for instance, if you don't travel, or ...?

Molly: *The next holiday, this summer, I'm actually going to London so, I will be taking a plane. But I think. I don't know. I'm a city person anyway. So, I think I can avoid ever having to drive a car for the rest of my life.*

Peter: Now with the whole invasion of Iraq, the prices of oil have risen greatly, and so, right now it's actually cheaper in some places to drive cars, which are fueled with alternative energy. It's not that there needs to be a huge change in the way you live, just a little one by everyone rather than a huge change by some.

Molly: Yeah.

Peter: Therefore, sometimes maybe instead of taking a car to work, you could take the train if it's a warm day, or instead of going to the gym you could bike to work.

Molly: *Yeah, well, I agree. Like, when I, like, buy stuff at the store, for example, I often don't ... I just say I don't want a plastic bag. Pollution.*

Peter: I just don't really see that something small like I could do anyway makes that much of a difference that it's any point really, I mean I've heard that it's the cows farting away and causing all this pollution.

Molly: *Okay, well, in that case you can stop eating meat or beef. Would you be willing to do that?*

Peter: No, I don't think so. I enjoy hamburgers.

Molly: *Thomas, how conscious are you of being environmentally friendly on an average day?*

Thomas: I take the tram to school every day, or the bus. So, I don't drive my own car.

Molly: *Yeah, well you have a choice there.*

Thomas: Yeah, my parents don't drive me into school. But ... So, I take public transport every day which is good.

Molly: *What else do you do, in terms of, like, do you try to save light when you're home or do you have lamps on in rooms that you are not even in? Do you leave the television on when you're not watching it?*

I know, for example, I know my brother here, insists on showering every evening for about half an hour, which is completely ridiculous. Yeah. What about you?

Thomas: Well, when it comes to the matter of lighting, if I leave my room then I'll tend to turn the light off unless I forget, and if I'm not watching TV, I'll turn it off. When it comes to the issue of showering, I'm a big fan of showers.

I take one every night and every morning. So, I really couldn't give that up. So, I don't do much when it comes to conserving water, I suppose.

Molly: *Do you ever think about that, Peter, when you are showering?*

Peter: I don't really think about the amount of water that I'm spending, but I do re-circulate.

Molly: *Okay, like paper and stuff?*

Peter: Yeah, yeah. And ... I try to turn the light off when I'm not at home.

Molly: Yeah

Peter: The rest of what I said before and about driving my car and doing what I like, I feel is my right as a human being.