

# Parade's Mend: a Cultural Conundrum and a Code of Conduct

by Alexander Zubatov (August 2013)

I want to start by discussing an old novel and then proceed to discuss an old problem which, more like a fine fix than a fine wine, just keeps on getting worse as it gets older. The old novel, on the other hand, has not lost an iota of its greatness and is, as I hope you will shortly discover, more relevant than it ever was.

*see here*). Flies on the walls of the streets of the ghetto or on Wall Street might be treated to scarily similar streams of street talk rich in puerile profanities. And that same brand of street talk (along, of course, with its concomitant attitudes) is rapidly becoming the lingua franca of the next generation, regardless of economic class, race, gender or country of origin.

One could welcome such developments as sanguine signs that restrictive social barriers are finally coming down, that race and sex and class are no longer as socially salient as they once were, that our society is becoming more socially, if not economically, fluid and integrated at last. One could think such things, however, only if one ignored the glaring fact that the direction of the change is a downward spiral, that if we are becoming more and more alike, it is only because, in the absence of any prevailing social standards to command our respect or even our attention, we are all becoming increasingly more uncouth, uncivil, unmanageable and amoral. What is happening, in short, is not integration but mongrelization.