

Shmanners 150: Sir and Ma'am (LIVE!)

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Teresa: So are you ready, Travis?

Travis: Wham, bam, thank you ma'am!

Teresa: That didn't answer my question.

Travis: It's *Shmanners*!

[theme music plays]

[audience cheers]

Travis: The problem is when I pull out your chair, you can't pull out *my* chair. And then how am *I* supposed to sit down!

Teresa: [laughs quietly] Next time, Travis, I'll pull out *your* chair.

Travis: Hello, internet, and Birmingham, Alabama.

[audience cheers]

Travis: I am your husband host, Travis McElroy.

[audience cheers]

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

[audience cheers louder]

Travis: And you are both listening to, and some folks are watching—[quietly] Oh, no. I forgot. Shman—

Teresa: *Shmanners*.

Travis: [simultaneously] *Shmanners*!

[audience laughs]

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: I was so proud of how well I was doing—

Teresa: And then you forgot everything. [laughs]

Travis: —'cause in my head I was celebrating how well I was doing—

Teresa: Uh-huh?

Travis: —that I forgot the name of our show.

Teresa: Everything. Yeah.

Travis: Oh, no.

Teresa: Oh, no.

Travis: What are you gonna do? Hi, everybody!

[audience cheers]

Travis: How many of you this is your first time hearing *Shmanners*?

[audience cheers]

Travis: Alright! So, we are an etiquette podcast, but we're not judgmental.

Audience Member: [unintelligible]

Travis: Um—I know!

[audience laughs]

Travis: We're very nice. And the thing about our show is it's great and you should always listen to it forever.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: But we talk about the history and how it still applies to the modern day, but with no judgment, because if you're really good at etiquette, you don't judge others! You just improve yourself.

Teresa: That's right!

[scattered cheers]

Travis: Um—and so that's what we're working with.

Teresa: Our patron saint, [holding back laughter] Emily Post—

[scattered cheers]

Teresa: —says that you should always lead by example, so we don't critique or correct, we only lead.

Travis: And so here we go. Let us... *lead* you, our flock.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: There's another thing, is we're also a cult.

[audience laughs]

[scattered cheers]

Travis: And we probably should've led with that, but the doors are locked.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Um, we're a very nice cult, though, so if you wanna leave, go ahead!

[audience laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] Hey, so let's talk about our show topic.

Travis: Yes! So, um, it was suggested by a listener named Emily who emailed it to us, and we're going to talk about "sir" and "ma'am," and because we're here in the South, we're talking about "sir" and "ma'am." It seems like a very—oh, I almost said—can I do a southern accent? Am I allowed to do that?

Audience: Yes!

Travis: [exaggerated southern accent] Seems very southern.

[normal voice] [laughs] No! Turns out I cannot.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: [through laughter] You sound like the Colonel from Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Travis: Yes. Well... in many ways, doesn't the Colonel really exemplify southern living?

Teresa: Ehh, I don't know. I'm not sure about that.

Travis: You know, 'cause of the suit? Um, so the thing is—I wanted to lead off by saying, we're gonna talk about sir and ma'am, and they, uh—they originate in a time when people believed that gender was defined by just the two.

Um, and they didn't realize that the expansive universe of the gender encompasses so many different ideas that we can't even begin to comprehend it. Uh, much like the universe itself. Who knows where the edge is? We may never reach it. Who knows?

[audience cheers]

Travis: And so I just wanted to preface that, so that as we talk about these, in no way are we endorsing the idea. But, there's not a lot of history of non-gendered honorifics as we go back through time. So we'll keep kind of referring to sir and ma'am and talk about, like, man and woman, but that's because that's historically messed up, and not because *we're* messed up.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: And not because *you're* messed up.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Because you are perfect just the way you are!

Travis: That is correct.

[audience cheers]

Travis: So anyways, we're talking about sir and ma'am.

Teresa: Yes. Um, so Travis, is this—is that something that your parents taught you to address people as? Sir and ma'am?

Travis: Yeah, I thought that was a thing *everyone* was t—is that not? Were there people here whose parents were like, "Call 'em by their first names!"

Teresa: No, I think that it was more "Miss, Mrs., Mr." people for me. But I was raised in Ohio, so what was it like for you in West Virginia?

Travis: I don't wanna talk about it.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Did—did they say "Yes sir, no sir, yes ma'am, no ma'am?"

Travis: Yeah, we did that, but that was—it wasn't—I don't think it was as, uh, a strict rule, as much as, like, Mr. and Mrs. and that kind of—and Miss, and that kind of thing.

Teresa: Yeah, yeah. Same for—I mean, my dad was in the military for a very long time—

Travis: And my dad was not.

[audience laughs]

Travis: For a *very* long time.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: And so as an officer, he heard "Sir" all day long from people, so when he came home at night, he did *not* want us to address him as "Sir," 'cause he was used to that kind of militarization where it was, you know, all salutes and everything, and as his children, he didn't want that from us.

Travis: So what'd you call him? You call him Mr. Wellman? [laughs]

Teresa: [muffled laughter] [pauses] "Dad."

Travis: Okay. Big Red?

Teresa: No.

Travis: That is not a nickname that he's ever gone by.

Teresa: No.

Travis: I just—it's a gum? It's a gum, is what that is.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I was about to say I made it up, but I did not.

Teresa: No, it's a gum. So, that wasn't something that I really ever encountered, but it is something that, especially older generations of the South, did certainly teach their children, and because they were taught, and they were taught, and they were taught, all the way back.

But it actually, in the [soft thump] United States—oh my goodness, I just hit the table, I'm sorry. [soft thump]

Travis: So violent.

Teresa: It actually doesn't start in the United States. You know, like a lot of stuff.

Travis: What?! [loudly] *What?! How dare you!*

Teresa: We're not the originators of really anything.

Travis: Except for pizza and Chinese food.

Teresa: No.

[audience laughs]

Travis: I'm gonna get—that's my time, folks! They're givin' me the light!

Teresa: Well, it's debatable. Fortune cookies were born here, but it doesn't matter.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: It doesn't matter. Um, so the earliest iteration that I could find was the Anglo-Saxons. So, the Anglo-Saxons in England often referred to superiors as "my Lord" and "my Lady," as you can hear in any Shakespearean play.

Travis: A lotta "milord"s.

Teresa: Milord, milady.

Travis: Which also sounds like Malort. "Malort?"

Teresa: Which has—

Travis: That's a bad booze that exists in the West. It's terrible, and I will continue my crusade against it, until eventually we have to do a *Shmanners* episode where I apologize.

[audience laughs]

Travis: From my cold, dead hands.

Teresa: So, um—the Anglo-Saxons, you know, in that time period—let's say, like, the 1100s—

Travis: Who even knows? Who even knows when they were there? That's so far before I was born!

Teresa: I mean, people know. People—

Travis: [loudly] Who knows? We could just say "In the year B!" Who knows?

[audience laughs]

Teresa: People. People know. Not—

Travis: History! It's a mystery! That's why they rhyme!

[audience laughs]

Teresa: So the Anglo-Saxons... [laughs quietly] Uh, as a term of respect, usually between peasants and the ruling class, would address people as "my Lord" and "my Lady." Now—

Travis: They would never just say, like, "Tom."

Teresa: Right. Um, so that was English, right? And then in the 12th century, the Normans invaded and everything—

Travis: Steve Norman, Jerry Norman—

[audience laughs]

Travis: —Lisa Norman...

Teresa: No. Try Henry [pronounced 'ahn-ree' with a French accent] Norman.

Travis: Okay, I will!

Teresa: 'Cause they're the French!

Travis: [simultaneously] [rolling rs] Henry [pronounced Frenchly again] Norman.

[audience laughs]

Travis: It doesn't work. [pauses] No, but I—this is a thing, because we often reference the TV show *Supersizers Go...* on here too. It's one of our favorites.

Teresa: It's so good. You guys have to see it.

Travis: And they talk about, with the food, the reason why have two names for so many, like, different meats, is there was the Anglo-Saxon name for it in the field where the workers worked with it—

Teresa: Mm-hmm. Cow.

Travis: —and then there was the Norman or French word for it on the table—

Teresa: Bouef.

Travis: —where the lords and ladies were served. So that's why it's a cow and then it becomes beef, and it's a pig and it becomes pork. And, like—except for chicken, because I don't think that there was a French word for it.

Teresa: I mean, poulet.

Travis: But, like, there isn't a different word between—

Teresa: Poultry.

[pauses]

[audience laughs and applauds]

Travis: [loudly] That's my time, folks! They're givin' me the light! Uh, my wife is much smarter than I am, proved once again.

Teresa: Hair toss. Hair toss. [through laughter] No, my hair doesn't move. It's hairsprayed, you guys!

[audience laughs]

Travis: So you were saying, my love?

Teresa: So I was saying—so the Norman conquest of England really shook things up, and like you said, the upper reigning class, even their names changed. So if you had a Norman lord, they might become a Duke, which is French. For a Norman lady, which would be a Duchess, which is French. And really, the language of this class became French.

So, where you have "Milord" you now have "Monsieur," and where you have "Milady" you now have "Madame." Um, and so this is how you—

Travis: I should be making jokes now, but I just really enjoy listening to my wife pronounce words.

[audience cheers]

Travis: It's just really cool.

Teresa: Sometimes it's good and sometimes [through laughter] it's *really* bad, you guys.

Travis: But it's always fun. And that's like marriage, if you really think about it.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Oh, boy. So... Monsieur, Madame—

Travis: We got 25 minutes to kill, my love. I need to make some jokes over here!

Teresa: Uh...

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Go ahead and make 'em! But I'm—

Travis: Sometimes I just make faces, too.

Teresa: —I'm gonna keep truckin'.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Just keep on goin'.

Travis: And that's kind of like marriage, if you think about it!

Teresa: [laughs]

[audience laughs and cheers]

Teresa: Oh... I need a drink.

[audience laughs]

Travis: That's fair! And you know, [through laughter] that's kind of like marriage!

[audience laughs and cheers]

Teresa: So, Monsieur, Madame, all of these things became the way that you addressed a superior, and there were a lot of superiors, because the royalty was expanding, at this point, because the Normans came in and said, "We're the upper class now, yo!" And everybody else was lower class.

Travis: Sounds right. Sounds like a quote.

Teresa: Sounds like a quote. Um, and so it became the way that one would distinguish your class, the language you spoke. So the peasants and the serfs would speak English, although they had to address people in French. Um, you know, 'cause they had to report to them. And then the upper class would speak French, for a very long time.

Travis: So how—how did we get from there to "sir" and "ma'am?"

Teresa: Okay. So, the way that we got back to English is when the Normans, or the French, became enemies again.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Teresa: Uh, they were driven out of England, and so in... let's see... 1250?

Travis: Sure. *You* don't know.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Ish. [pauses] I do know.

Travis: No, not them! I'm saying *they* don't know. You can say whatever you want.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: "When they were driven in 2012."

[audience laughs]

Travis: You don't know.

Teresa: So, what happened is when the Normans became a—were no longer part of the ruling class, the shift went back to English, because of the, you know, being patriotic, right? So you wanna show love for your Mother England instead of France.

So then, we had to take these words that everybody knew already and incorporate them back in. So instead of going backwards, we just take *these* words and we make them *new* words, so we get "sir" from "monsieur," or also there's some debate that it might come from "sire," but...

Travis: Somewhere in there.

Teresa: Somewhere in there.

Travis: One word became another.

Teresa: One word became another, and then the same thing with "madame." The "d" got completely dropped, so you go "Ma'am."

Travis: [softly] Ohh.

Teresa: Yeah! And so, this is where these words come from, but the idea of the status relation starts to diminish, because, like, if you go to England now you wouldn't call anybody ma'am but the Queen. She's [English accent] "ma'am."

Travis: And maybe not even then. If you're me.

[audience laughs]

Travis: I would say, "Liz."

[audience laughs]

Teresa: No... you wouldn't.

Travis: Because I'm, uhh, from the US of A.

Teresa: You would—you would not. You would not say that.

Travis: And as we talked about on a previous episode of *Shmanners*, I don't have to, like, bow to her or anything. That's true. If you—re—isn't that right? Like, if you're—if you're a US diplomat, you don't gotta bow to anybody. Yeah! It's still messed up, and I'm still bothered by it.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: They—the US diplomatic relations are very strict about how US diplomats don't acknowledge kings and queens by bowing, although—

Travis: What's up?

Teresa: —although a head nod is acceptable.

Travis: 'Cause we're jerks. [snorts]

[audience laughs]

Travis: [loudly] I don't acknowledge you! But thank you so much for not attacking us.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: So, uh, it became less and less about social status as it did become more about, um, age and deference. So, your elders.

Travis: And also, I would say, *perceived* status—

Teresa: Absolutely.

Travis: 'Cause I would say, like, my years of working in retail, there was lots of sirs and ma'ams in there, and—

Teresa: Mm-hmm, and in other service industries. Like at the restaurant we went to today, we were all addressed as sir and ma'am, and that didn't seem strange to me, because I feel like that happens kind of everywhere.

Travis: I think it would actually be way stranger if they addressed me as "Travis."

[audience laughs]

Travis: And what would *you* like, *Travis*?

[audience laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Uh—but then if they continue to address everyone at the table as "Travis," it would get *less* weird.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Less, yeah. That'd be less.

Travis: Wait. Would that be *more* weird or less weird? And like, "What about you, Travis? And you, Travis? What can I get for the two little Travises?"

[audience laughs]

Travis: It's like the worst episode of *Black Mirror*.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: What's that show about?

Travis: Just the—a waiter that calls everyone Travis.

Teresa: Oh, is that—

Travis: It's not a good episode, but sometimes you need some filler in the season, you know? "So I gotta pitch for ya. It's a bad waiter!"

Teresa: So—

Travis: "And! Oooh, and, uh—and it's a robot!" [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Go ahead and finish.

Travis: "[simultaneously] But you don't find out about that til the end!"

Teresa: Uh-huh.

Travis: "And *his* name is Travis!"

[audience laughs]

Travis: "And we're livin' in a universe where everyone's named Robert! *That's* why it's weird."

[audience laughs]

Travis: [imitates taking a drag from a cigarette?]

Teresa: Don't quit your day job, okay? Thanks.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: I need that money.

Travis: [loudly] This *is* my day job! Oh, nooo!

Teresa: I know! [laughs] Don't write for TV. You're really bad at it. [laughs]

Travis: That's why we didn't get a second season of *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*.

Teresa: Aww.

[audience groans]

Travis: That's not why.

[audience laughs]

Travis: It's because Griffin died.

[audience laughs]

Travis: We've invested a lot of money in a CGI Griffin. You won't even be able to tell the difference.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: And... winding it back to our show now, please. So—

Travis: What's best is there's no monitor—okay, listen.

Teresa: Okay. Wait—

Travis: There's no monitor downstairs, so Griffin has no idea I'm t—

Teresa: [holding back laughter] I've completely lost control of this podcast.

Travis: Okay. We can keep moving forward, but you all know.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Which is kind of like—

Travis: I'll do *this* at one point—

Teresa: —kind of like my life at this point. [through laughter] Completely lost control.

Travis: Okay. Okay.

Teresa: Alright.

Travis: So *what* about respect?

Teresa: Yes.

[audience laughs]

Teresa: [laughs] I can't get any—

Travis: I love you. I love you so much.

Teresa: I can't get—got no respect.

Travis: I love you very much.

Teresa: I love you too.

Travis: I apologize for everything.

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Not just tonight.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Everything I've ever done.

Teresa: In perpetuity.

Travis: Yes. Reaching back and forward throughout all of time. Oh God! This mic is on!

Teresa: Okay.

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hi, everybody! Thank you so much. This is Travis. We're here live in New Orleans! Well, recorded live. And you're listening to our Birmingham, Alabama show, and thank you so much, and we're so excited to tell you about some of our sponsors this week.

Teresa: *Shmanners* is supported in part by Zola. Zola takes the stress out of wedding planning with free wedding websites, your dream wedding registry, affordable save-the-dates and invitations, and easy-to-use planning tools! They have over a hundred beautiful wedding website designs to choose from that will fit any couple's style. The Zola store has the wild—[laughs] widest selection of gifts, and the wildest! [laughs]

Travis: And the wildest. Oh, you'll never *believe* these styles.

Teresa: At all different price points, so there's something for every guest to have! We love how there is the pay what you can splitting of different registry items. We think that that's such a great idea. You can go in together on a bigger gift than you thought that you could otherwise.

We also really love that they have a honeymoon option. I think that's great. Give the gift of experiences. Um, and the fact that you can send gifts directly to wherever the couple is going, or where they currently live! They've got all kinds of great options. So you can start your free wedding website, and also get \$50 off your registry on Zola when you go to zola.com/shmanners.

Travis: Hey. We're sponsored by Squarespace. And you know what Squarespace is really good for? Building websites. You know what it's *specifically* good for? Building websites dedicated to your dog. So you can go to buttercupisaverygoodgirl.com to see the website that we built for our *good* girl, Buttercup.

But you know what? Maybe you have beautiful art you wanna showcase, or a store where you wanna sell your things, or maybe you just wanna, like, start a blog and write about your opinions of things!

Well, Squarespace is built for that, and they have beautiful, customizable templates, so it's going to look like an amazing design no matter what you choose. And they have a new way to buy domains and choose from over 200 extensions, and analytics that help you grow in real time, and a 24/7, award-winning

customer support. And not only that, go on YouTube and search whatever you wanna do plus "Squarespace," and you'll find something to help you out.

So, make it stand out. Stand out with a beautiful website from Squarespace. Check out [Squarespace.com/shmanners](https://www.squarespace.com/shmanners) for a free trial, and when you're ready to launch, use the offer code "shmanners" to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

And now, back to the rest of the show!

James: [exaggerated laughter]

Nnekay: What're you laughin' at, James?

James: Nnekay! [laughs] I'm laughin' at you! [laughs]

Nnekay: What?

James: And me, too!

Nnekay: Huh?!

James: Our podcast, *Minority Korner*, silly!

Nnekay: Ohhh, the one where we talk about topics that cover the queer community, race, feminism, and good old pop culture?

James: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, yep, that's it! Oh girl, we are so funny! [laughs] Tee hee hee hee! I was just thinkin' about something we did. [laughs]

Nnekay: Wait, wait, wait. Are you listening to *me*? Or... [echoing distorted voice] Me?

James: Both.

Nnekay: *Minority Korner*.

James: Every Friday!

[music plays]

Speaker One: Not all heroes wear capes. Some heroes watch war movies and then review them.

Speaker Two: [wheezes]

Speaker One: [laughs quietly]

Speaker Two: *Friendly Fire* is a war movie podcast for people who don't necessarily like war movies, although it does not exclude people who love war movies.

Speaker Three: I'll have you know that I *am* wearing a cape, my cape is just made of sound-deadening material from an audio recording studio.

Speaker One: [laughs] It's a really great show. John's daughter doesn't like it because we sometimes say swear words on it, but almost everybody else that has ever listened to it has enjoyed the program.

Speaker Three: Download and subscribe to *Friendly Fire*, wherever you get your podcasts.

Speaker One: To the victor... go the spoiler alerts.

[music plays]

Teresa: So, less about social status, more about the idea of respect. Um, and so it's—it's a strange thing where the culture in the southern United States, where the addressing of people is still very prevalent of "sir" and "ma'am," when you travel to other places you find that people think about it as "If I'm *old*, you call me 'sir.' If I'm *old*, you call me 'ma'am.'"

And so it actually is kind of—it feels almost like one could take offense. Like, "Don't call me 'ma'am'! I'm not even 30 years old!"

Travis: I would say, if, like, an 18 year old called me, like, "sir," it would—nah, it'd be great. That'd be cool. I'd be like, "Yes. Kneel."

[audience laughs]

Travis: And then I would knight them. No, but I will say, this is the thing that I kinda can't get over sometimes about language when we talk about etiquette, of, like, I think about the kind of trope of somebody in a TV show or movie or somebody saying like, "Yeah, dude!" or whatever, and be like, "You call me 'sir.'"

And, like, they're both made up words. Like, one is not inherently something, and the other isn't. Like... do you think that there will come a point in, like, 300 years where it's like, "[gruff] You call me 'dude.'"

[audience laughs]

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And like, someone would be really upset that they addressed them as, like, b—boozle, or whatever. And it's like—

Teresa: Bro.

Travis: "[gruff voice] You don't call me 'boozle,' you call me 'dude'! I am your superior officer! You say, 'Yeah, dude!'"

[audience laughs]

Teresa: Language is constantly evolving, and so I really wouldn't be surprised! Especially as we get this kind of global community with television and streaming media. I mean, even the news, like—regional accents are disappearing, colloquialisms are disappearing, we're all kind of homogenizing because we have so much more access to the world than we used to.

Travis: Which is good and bad, because I think that that way new ideas can evolve a lot faster and, like, people can be educated a lot quicker about changing norms, but I also think that it means that we lose a lot of what might be a defining aspect of, like, a culture or an area, even. Of saying, like, "Oh, yeah, I read—" anyways, this is just a conversation Teresa and I will have forever.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I don't know that this is interesting for any of you. But something to think—

[scattered cheers]

Travis: —yeah? Okay, great.

[audience cheers]

Travis: But it is a thing, if you think about, like, how quickly information moves now. And, like, terminology changes, which is great, and people update their concepts on things, which is great, but we lose a lot of the individuality and the things that might make one area special compared to another, where you go through and you're like—think about that—

We travel a lot, and one of the things I've often observed—unless it's a city that's, like, this city has this one really specific element to it that sets it apart from everyone... pretty much everywhere starts to kind of feel like everywhere else. Not in a bad way, like, you feel comfortable there, but—this is—this is my one man show, Travis McElroy—

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: —across the US. [sighs] Hey, thanks. It's great to be here in Birmingham.

[audience cheers]

Teresa: So... as—

Travis: I'm just saying, the more things change—

Teresa: No—let's see—

Travis: —the more they stay the same. Hi! I'm Travis McElroy.

Teresa: [clears throat] So, in our quest for the... for, um, expounding on the etiquette of the way that the world works, which is basically just the way that we interact with each other, we wanna make sure that we take these things and we incorporate and we allow for the way that the regional culture is, but it's how we navigate that culture.

So if someone says "ma'am" to me, because now I know about the culture I'll be like, "Well, they're not calling me an old maid, or.. [grumbles] old."

Travis: You're not an old—no! You're not old! You are young, vibrant!

Teresa: Vibrant.

Travis: Bubbly, I would say.

Teresa: It was not—I can know now that it's not about—it's not the offense that I might take, but it's about the respect that one is given.

Travis: I do think, though, that unlike a lot of topics we talk about on this show, I think that this will be a very dated topic in the near future—

Teresa: Yeah. I agree.

Travis: —because I think both the terms, like we touched on at the beginning of the episode, the terms "sir" and "ma'am" are mostly something that you would use to address someone you do not know with respect.

Teresa: Certainly.

Travis: And it also assumes a gender, which I think is not something we should do moving forward, so I do think it is good—

[scattered cheers]

Travis: —thank you. I do think it's good to know the history of it, right? So we can understand, like, yes, we need to come up with some kind of neutral term that displays, like, respect to someone that you know nothing about, except to say, like, "Yes, whatever," and maybe it's boozle. I don't know. Maybe that's the future. We don't know, we'll get there. "Yeah, dude." Who knows?

But something that doesn't—no, dude's a pretty gendered term. I just—[through laughter] I don't think of it that way. Whoops! See, we all have a lot to learn, but something that we can move—I think that this will be a learning opportunity of, like—so, how do we encapsulate that same idea of respect, and, like, showing someone that we appreciate them and that they deserve to be treated like a human being, without it necessarily being a term that carries with it some gendered connotation that we don't need to use, that's not inherent.

Teresa: And the classification, right? So, I talked about the idea of these words being related to status in the past. Um, about people being one class or another class, and instead find some way to navigate this kind of, um, equal playing field that we're all searching for.

Travis: Yeah. And isn't that life? You know, it's kind of like marriage, when you think about it.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Alright! Well, that's gonna do it for us.

[audience cheers]

Travis: Thank you so much. Uh, if you liked this episode, we've got a ton more, and you can find them all at Maximumfun.org, or you can search for *Shmanners*, S-H-M-A-N-N-E-R-S. We're gonna take a short little intermission here in a second, and then we're gonna be back with *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*. Have you heard of it?

[audience cheers]

Travis: Yeah, okay. Now, while we're gone on intermission, I strongly encourage you to go out and check out the posters for tonight. They are incredible. Um, and grab one of those. Um, they're amazing. And then stick around—let's see. Who else—oh, thanks to Brent "brentalfloss" Black—

Teresa: That's right, for our theme music.

Travis: —for our intro and outro theme song.

Teresa: Which is available as a ringtone where those are sold. Also, thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our beautiful Twitter thumbnail art, and you can follow us on Twitter @shmannerscast. Um, we're always taking topics for episodes. Like we said, Emily, thank you so much. And please do tweet at us with topic suggestions. You can also join our Facebook group. It is completely fan-run, so it's called Shmanners Fanners.

Travis: Right? How cute is that!

Teresa: Uh, and there is a community of like-minded individuals who love to give and get mannerly advice!

Travis: Um, so that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to *Shmanners*...

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it?

[audience cheers]

[theme music plays]

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