JANTELOVEN
The Law of Jante
1. You’re not to think you are anything special.
2. You're not to think you are as good as we are.
3. You're not to think you are smarter than we are.
4. You're not to convince yourself that you are better than we are.
5. You're not to think you know more than we do.
6. You're not to think you are more important than we are.
7. You're not to think you are good at anything.
8. You're not to laugh at us.
9. You're not to think anyone cares about you.
10. You're not to think you can teach us anything.
Unwritten social code
AKSEL SANDEMOSE
*1899 †1965

• Sailor, Teacher, Journalist, and Lumberjack

• Novelist, New Realism

• 1963 nominated for Nobel Prize in Literature

• En flyktning krysser sitt spor (A fugitive crosses his tracks), 1933
Nykøbing Mors
aka Jante
Long ago, but still present? & what do the rules say?
UNIFORMITY
BARRIER TO SUCCESS
EQUALITY
MODESTY
NO RACISM
... anything our race has ever accomplished is because someone chose to not follow those rules

[they are] the very essence of evil
Sandemose, 1936

Laughter and joy are suppressed as signs of pride.

Injustices frequently go uncorrected because rather than speak out against something, the townspeople would remain neutral and uninvolved.
SOME STATISTICS
Community
SOME MORE FACTS

• Progressive income tax

• Child care

• School / University system

• Health System / Welfare system