

A counterproposal to the Divine Principle

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May 20, 2018



This is going to be long and some of you will surely say, "oh no, there she goes again" but I can't help it - I'm fascinated by these ideas as a counterproposal to the DP.

God took a giant risk, that by placing us in the physical realm with earthly bodies, we would not initially recognize our spiritual purpose and being.

Our physicality is not very different from the animal nature, where the primary purpose is to survive; defend our physical existence, fight if we must to do so, eat, have sex, seeking pleasure and avoiding pain.

Physicality, by the virtue of its very nature to preserve, defend and protect the self, will always resist spiritual growth - which always involves the

discomfort of going beyond our comfort zone, taking risks, entering unknown territory, and sacrificing the self for others.

DP teaches that to "fulfill the first blessing" we must unite mind and body, thus implying that while immature, mind and body are not united. This is not due to a "fall" but rather to the different agendas (focus) of the physical body and the spirit.

God's assignment, for us, is to qualify as humans (as opposed to being just animals) by learning, when it's appropriate, to override our inherent animal instincts: fear, self-preservation, immediate gratification, etc and to prioritize spiritual growth.

What's the point of becoming "good" in a world where everything is already "good"? What is the accomplishment in that? But sharing of yourself with others when your ego resists, or starting a new endeavor when your physical self only wants to stop you from taking potentially dangerous risks, now that, is an accomplishment that makes us grow.

And, please note, that this is NOT an argument that says "we need evil in order to appreciate good", since the resistance of physicality against spiritual growth is not itself evil - the physical self is only doing its job: protecting the self from potential danger and pain.

Humans are story tellers by nature and personify all the different aspects of human nature in the form of characters in fairy tales, legends and myth. It only makes sense to me that the resistance of physicality against our highest, divine purpose, would be characterized as "the devil".

Especially because evil is the byproduct and outcome resulting from making choices based on over-identifying with and prioritizing the physical self at the expense of exclusion of the divine and spiritual

purpose. In other words; evil is the result of choices made that are not aligned with truth, meaning: choices made from a level of ignorance and not yet being able to see from God's viewpoint (maturity).

DP premise is that "the fall" caused the failure to see from God's viewpoint. My belief is the other way around: it's because we are unable to see from God's viewpoint that we stumble and fall.

"Most of us have two lives. The life we live, and the unloved life within us. Between the two stands Resistance.

Have you ever brought home a treadmill and let it gather dust in the attic? Ever quit a diet, a course of yoga, a meditation practice? Have you ever bailed out on a call to embark upon a spiritual practice, dedicate yourself to a humanitarian calling, commit your life to the service of others? Have you ever wanted to be a mother, a doctor, an advocate for the weak and helpless; to run for office, crusade for the planet, campaign for world peace, or to preserve the environment?

Late at night have you experienced a vision of the person you might become, the work you could accomplish, the realized being you were meant to be? Are you a writer who doesn't write, a painter who doesn't paint, an entrepreneur who never starts a venture? Then you know what Resistance is.

Resistance is the root of more unhappiness than poverty, disease, and erectile dysfunction. To yield to Resistance deforms our spirit. It stunts us and makes us less than we were born to be.

Resistance will tell you anything to keep you from doing your work. It will perjure, fabricate, falsify; seduce, bully, cajole. Resistance is protean. It will assume any form, if that's what it takes to deceive you. It will reason with you like a lawyer or jam a nine-millimeter in your face like a stickup man. Resistance has no conscience. It will pledge anything to get a deal, then double-cross you as soon as your back is turned. If you take Resistance at its word, you deserve everything you get. Resistance is always lying and full of shit."

- Steven Pressfield in The War of Art

The whole book (from which I quoted) explains all this brilliantly. I highly recommend it.

In conclusion, another quote, by Leonard Bernstein

"I believe in the potential of people. I cannot rest passively with those who give up in the name of 'human nature'. Human nature is only animal nature if it is obliged to remain static. Without growth, without metamorphosis, there is no godhead. If we believe that man can never achieve a society without wars, then we are condemned to wars forever. This is the easy way. But the laborious, loving way, the way of dignity and divinity, presupposes a belief in people and in their capacity to change, grow, communicate and love."