

“The Real Meaning of Nihilism”

Greetings, on one side.

Farewell, on the other.

As for what follows:

The title may suggest I was going to discuss nihilism. Not really. But what I say is from the perspective of somebody who uses nihilism as a cursory outline of the context of my views.

When you study ‘culture’, you are learning of stories. While some may be more accurate, meaningful, and interesting than others, only the ‘hard’ science(‘s’) will give you the practical skills to enact your own story. Whether your story is accurate (to acknowledging scientific reality), meaningful (avoiding feelings of depression or nostalgia), and interesting (valued socially) is not my concern to judge. I cannot judge you for living out life as a loser, or murdering yourself with a drug, or becoming an outstanding success. The line must be drawn somewhere or else one starts becoming overly critical and soon demoralized when advice is not taken seriously - and it won’t. Your advice really is wasted on others. If anything, find an audience of like minded people and lead them. Or else, cultivate your own talent. If you were truly good at what you claim to know, you would not do it for free.

It has been said, by none other than writers, of course, those eternal liars, that humans need fiction. Pure and unaccompanied truth is just too hardcore for us, maybe? No, I do not think so. I think truth is perfectly fine alone. Yet I enjoy fiction. However, realize that fiction is not fictional at all. It does exist, but only as whatever process occurs as your brain imagines it, or as the book of fantasy sits atop the bookseller’s shelf. There is only a natural world, and nothing is above or beyond the natural world, i.e. any supernatural phenomena are not merely *false* but they *do not exist*. It cannot even be true or false because there is nothing to measure. I am not making myself out to be a fideite here (fideism: the doctrine that knowledge depends on faith or revelation). Fideism is basically when somebody believes their opinions matter more than facts, or that their opinions *are* facts. They often refuse to acknowledge what even a small child could, that facts and opinions are very simple concepts and there ought to be no trickery over their definitions or boundaries. It is not just religious people that can be fideites. There are atheists who, ironically, genuinely believe in supernatural phenomenons like ‘karma’ or ‘souls’ or that when they die they will be transported to a dark void where they can not observe anything. Here I will offer quick rebukes in order:

karma: consequences of one's actions are adequately explained by natural phenomena

souls: the brain can be measured in terms of mass, but a soul cannot - where is it?

dark void myth: when you die, it is not that you perceive ‘nothingness’ but that you stop perceiving whatsoever - if your brains splatter on the sidewalk, your dead body is still on the sidewalk, and so are whatever is remaining of ‘you’ i.e. your body. No dark void.