

Vocab

Selfishness - Only Self Love

Literally - It actually happened that way.

Metaphorically - It happened to kinda be that way.

I don't know how to write this following essay.

These binary emotions are extremely easy for me to feel while at the same time extremely difficult to express.

One could argue that selfish people would of course find it easy to draw a conclusion on no other proof but themselves, their credentials, or (as the greeks would say) their ethos. That is, I'm saying I have authority to write about Selfishness and Selflessness because it's me.

But I argue otherwise.

Yes I am selfish, but I am also selfless.

Is it bad to feel those emotions easily but not know how to express them when one is not feeling them?

Not at all.

It is not a characteristic of selfishness (extreme self love) to say you are right because it is you, in this case. However, I agree that that is a characteristic of selfishness a lot of the times.

For me, to describe anything outside my current emotion is very difficult. Yes, I do need to be in the moment to describe the moment.

Because I have to live in the moment to express the current emotion, it is not my fault that I come up without an answer on how to describe them when I am not experiencing them.

But I will try.

The first step is to live selfishly.

The next step is to write about it.

BONUS BONUS POINTS: WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO WRITING WELL? WHAT CAN BE SAID OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED THE CURRENT EMOTION OF THE SITUATION BUT CAN LIVE THROUGH IT? DO THOSE PEOPLE FEEL ANYTHING? WHAT IF THEY WERE TO LIVE THROUGH CREATING A SITUATION IN THEIR MIND THAT EXPRESSED SUCH EMOTIONS? WOULD THEY DRAW ON HISTORY OR CREATIVITY OR BOTH TO FEEL THAT EMOTION (HINT: THINK ABOUT THE GIVING TREE AND HOW YOU

CAN SAY YOU KNOW WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO LIVE SELFISHLY OR SELFLESSLY WITHOUT ACTUALLY EXPERIENCING WHAT THOSE CHARACTERS HAVE LITERALLY)?

BONUS POINT: IS IT EASIER TO ANSWER “HOW DOES THE GIVING TREE RELATE TO YOUR LIFE?” IN A LITERAL OR METAPHORICAL SENSE? HOW DO GREAT WRITERS LIVE THROUGH EMOTIONS IN ORDER TO WRITE WELL, LITERALLY, METAPHORICALLY, BOTH, OR IT DEPENDS? WHY?

Here is my explanation of how minds work:

There is a bedroom with no doors, but has many lights. The person inside it has to be the one to turn on the lights, the lights automatically turn off after a second of the lights being on. If one so chooses, they can manually turn on the lights whenever they please and as often as they like. The size of this room has no definite boundaries. Its walls get bigger and smaller all the time and have many pictures and televisions on them. The room's lights are everywhere. There is no way to cast a shadow. All one must do is look while they turn the lights on and one can choose a way to live just by explaining what they see. Even if the lights are off, there are still pictures on the walls, it's just a lot harder for the person to explain what they are not seeing but nevertheless it can be done. Whether they choose to live with the light on or don't choose to live with the light on, they are living in both cases. Occasionally, the imagination will be the real thing. Nevertheless, explaining pictures or videos in terms of reality are occurring in either person and both are living.

Just recently I talked with someone about what is 50 divided by 6. They said it is 8.25 and I said it is 8.33, repeating the three. His explanation was that if 6 times 8 is 48 then we need to express what must come after the decimal that comes after 8. He thought that because 8 got him to a multiple of 6, 48, that the difference of 50 and 48, 2, must be the remainder that is explained away in the decimal by being equal to a fraction of 8. He told me to believe in him because it's him and that he was a pipefitter who used math all the time in the past. In reality, it is 6 that must be fractionized into 2 to get our answer, 8.33, with three repeating. That was my belief that I learned from applying his understanding of math while using the right look at a picture.

In both people, the light was on at all times. They both saw math and knew how to use some parts of it, even if they don't know all parts of math.

But, what happens when one's light is off? They use what has existed or is existing on those walls to guess at an answer with or without memory of what they looked or look like.

Consider this:

“How do pigs fly?” asked the girl to the guy who never considered that picture before.

“Well, they would have to get wings first.”

“Aren’t you paying attention?”

“What?” asked the guy confusingly.

“You are the flying pig.”

“How? It’s me we are talking about here. How can I be wrong?”

“You are trying to believe in something ridiculous as if it can have a constrained system of reasoning which leads to justifying something ridiculous and believing it to exist. I don’t care if wings and pigs are real... no pig has ever had wings that could make them fly nor can pizza be expanded three times its size in a microwave in a minute!”

I’d argue that a true genius lives with the lights constantly off. If one can guess at something they’ve never seen before and come up with an answer that is correct in reality, then they know because they know.

A true genius doesn’t have their light on all the time, they just need to know because they know. More importantly, they need to know themselves.

How selfish is that?

Literally, I said earlier that saying you’re right on account of you is a very selfish thing.

How did I get here?

Aren’t I trying to explain how I am justified in explaining selfishness on grounds outside knowing simply because it is me?

What I did was actively and passively choose examples I subconsciously and consciously thought reflected selfishness. Sure, I reflected that selfishness is about saying you know because you know. It’s literally the most selfish thing one can do. What I did do, however, was paint you a picture two times. I used creativity and history to create examples old and new.

I want people to understand what a passive life is. It is not caring about the pictures around you. You know what they are, and are choosing to create your own.

Notice how much easier it is to create something new when the lights are off? When they are on, it is so much easier to create something already created.

If you do not read books, consider yourself awesome on some accounts. At the very least, you have created something that came right out of a book at least one time and likely many times.

Trust me, our lives are entangled in the many ideas that come from books. It is not a challenge to create something in your life that resembles an idea from a book, but it is a challenge to identify what you are resembling since that requires memory or knowledge of that thing you are resembling.

So, if you don't read books don't feel bad, feel awesome. You can become just by yourself, which is an awesome thing. So many of us are too busy looking at pictures that we can't create them.

How do you know if your light is off? Well, you often get the wrong answer and may not actually know what these pictures and videos are like. In other words, getting the right answers while the light is off is incredibly difficult and true geniuses are rare. However, we can all become one. By being yourself and creating by yourself, you can become one. How weird it truly is that all we ever see of ourselves is our arms, legs, and the point of our noses. To know oneself is to be comfortable living while the lights are off.

In my math example, the someone's light was on, but he couldn't see the picture well. Yet he was nevertheless confident in his answer. His love for his math skills was large. My light, which represents my willingness to engage with the environment, was on and I saw the picture well. My love for my math skills were secondary to his explanation. It was the case that I allowed him to explain first, and myself second. His way was selfish and my way was selfless. Also, neither one of us lived passively. If we did then we both would've gotten the right answer for the right reasons intuitively. I do not know myself well enough to incorporate math into my identity. My life was reliant on his explanation to know the answer. I just happened to memorize that $\frac{2}{6}$ is .33, three repeating.

In either example, two people existed. Therefore, they are both capable of knowing. Sometimes it's reality and other times it is not. It doesn't matter if the light is on or off for one to have reality. What does matter is that because we exist we must still be people and we are living.

Selfish people just know it is important to know yourself, or, at least, pretend to know yourself.

But, what about selfless people?

What do they know?

In all honesty, I do not know much about selflessness. I think individuality is achieved when one is justifiably selfish for all the right reasons. So, just wait until I live it for me to write about it.

Until then,

Adam Reider

