

*AN SDL PRESENTATION*

A TRAIN OF THOUGHTS BY

*GEORGE KUKU*

ON

THE SOPHISTICATED  
OF GOOD AND BAD



# THE ESSENCE

- ❖ What is Good, and what is Bad?
- ❖ Why, without thinking culturally or religiously, do we have good and bad?
- ❖ Do we need Good and Bad?
- ❖ Do Narratives need Good and Bad?
- ❖ Are Narratives “Good” when they serve us “PROTAGONISTS” and “ANTAGONISTS” as polar oppositional rivals?
- ❖ Is there more beyond the good and bad Narrative?



# THE BATMAN DILEMMA

## IS BATMAN GOOD?



- A guy dresses in the image of a Bat to fight people who break crime.
- But isn't a Vigilante a vigilante in the eyes of the law?
- Is the war on chaos supposed to be met with equal fists? What then does being better mean?

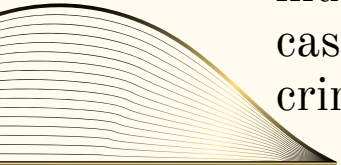
### ★ The Batman Cycle:

Batman shows up in Gotham to fight and stop the criminals of his mythology. But they all wear costumes like him. Can we not say that a cycle of inspiration transpires as the Batsuit (a guy in it) gains victory in his plight, while fighting in that Batsuit? Doesn't the suit bear weight and responsibility? Won't others be inspired to force on their own symbols, whether or not, for justice? What good then comes from Batman if NOT

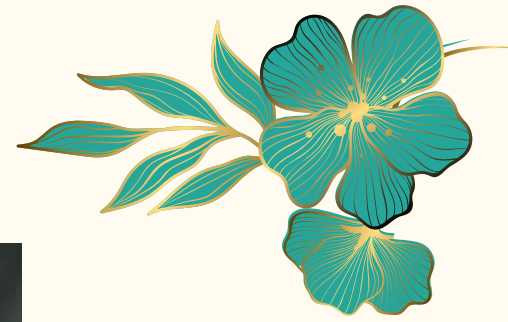
# TEMPORARY VICTORIES



- ❑ Why do we support Batman? And,
- ❑ Why is the image of Batman always the good guy in every narrative you've heard of the character? Can we not see that he is bad?
- ❑ Isn't he a part of the problem? Because if everyone dresses up in a costume, and hides their face, and is sometimes backed up by hereditary wealth, (as in his case), what then is victory for the law if Vigilante is used to combat vigilantic crime and crime in general? Is the law not guiltless and upright?



# Think of Donald Trump

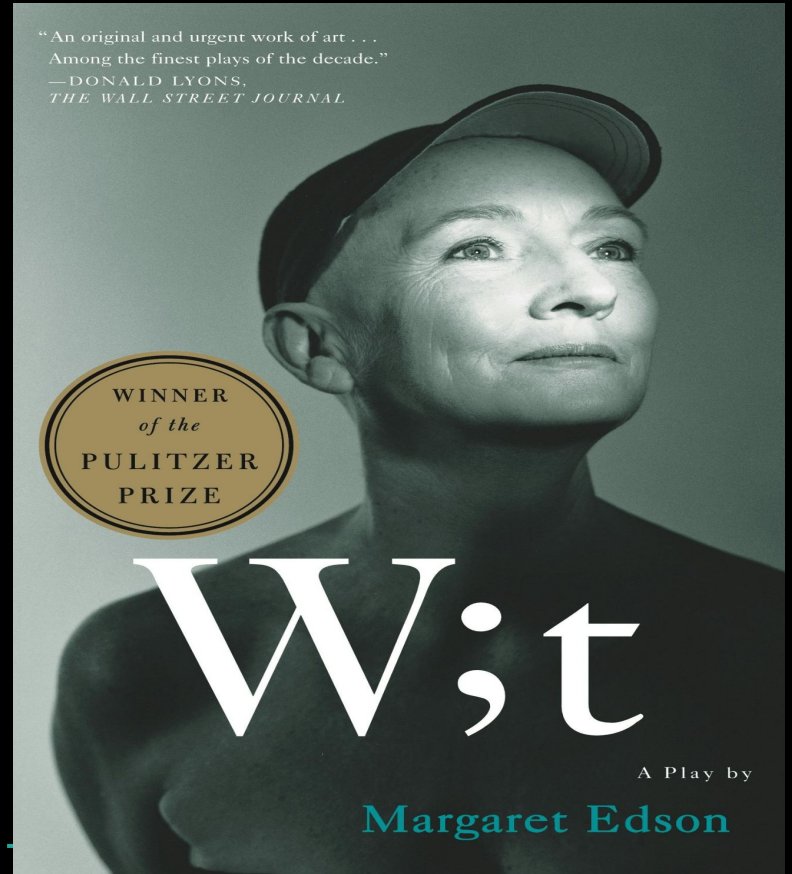


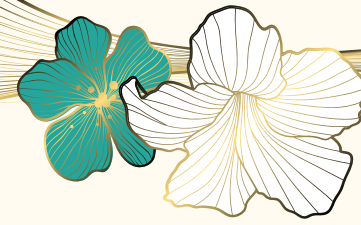
- Is every voter of the 2024 American election as racist, and as carefree for the system of justice as Trump is? The system of political honor if there even is?
- Why then is it the narrative that Trump is bad, and everything about him, including his followers, are bad? Did the world blow up in America?
- No doubt, there are bad things about him, but is it only the bad we should see?

# THE STORY OF WIT

*“If I have given myself to the cycle, then it should not favor me when my time comes to be the thing I have fed on. I shan’t have it otherwise.”*

- A quote by **ME.**





# ON DR.BEARING

- Dr.Bearing lived the life of the scholar, and that particular scene highlighted that she valued human discovery and appreciation for Donne (knowledge) over the humans themselves (her own students)
- Yes, she might have been the victim of a neglectful parent.... Or not?
- But does one bad event justify your life actions? Is that what we (if Dr.Bearing might have done) should hold unto?
- If she had caring parents while still studying Donne, might her life have been different?

## *MORE ON WIT*

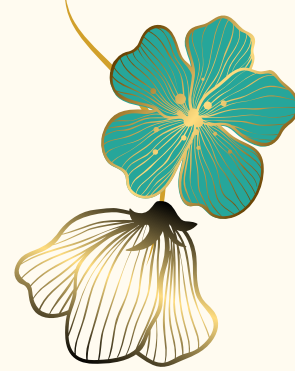
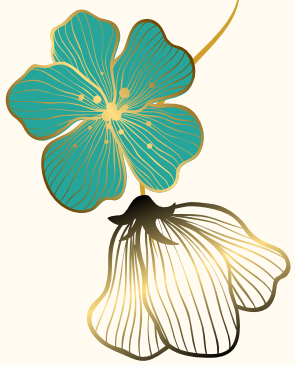
If so, why then should we not judge a Scholar for that matter, and that route, and on that choice which she made?

Is Jason morally wrong for going down something of the same path that she did?

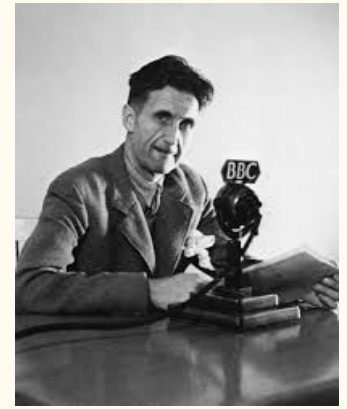
⇒ Yes, but should that be reason why we should understand Dr. Bearing's plight when she is now at the end of the cycle she had once fronted?

It is synonymous with the cycle of youth and age. If you gave nothing to the world while you were young, no love or care to others, why then should the world give that to you in your later ages?

- ❖ If nothing is given, then nothing is returned.



# GEORGE ORWELL's 1984



## Quotes Doublethink as:

“To know and not to know, to be conscious of complete truthfulness while telling carefully constructed lies, to hold simultaneously two opinions which cancelled out, knowing them to be contradictory and believing in both of them, to use logic against logic, to repudiate morality while laying claim to it, to believe that democracy was impossible and that the Party was the guardian of democracy, to forget whatever it was necessary to forget, then to draw it back into memory again at the moment when it was needed, and then promptly to forget it again, and above all, to apply the same process to the process itself —that was the ultimate subtlety: consciously to induce unconsciousness, and then, once again, to become unconscious of the act of hypnosis you had just performed. Even to understand the word —doublethink—involved the use of doublethink”

TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE



# ON 1984 AND ITS RELATIVE ASPECT



Two truths can exist at the same time, it is simply called context. The further and wider your context, the more realer your truth.

$$\textcircled{1} + \textcircled{+} = \textcircled{1}$$



So Doublethink... but now as Double Truths... is knowing that an argument cannot be equated by one context of a situation, and still accepting the world as it is. The truth, therefore, is...  
**A Lack of RUSHED JUDGEMENTS.**



# Now Think of Trump Again

Trump is

1. A Lier,
2. A Narcissist,
3. An Ego-Centrist,
4. A Psychopath

(I took a course to back this all up)

- But also consider some of the things, (not those qualities) that made you vote for him...
- Because you DID Vote for him...







## **YOU voted for him, But...**

- You are distinguished by the condition which grew you up. Thus, you are not your primary enemy if you were to have one,
- But the conditions of your growth, and life experiences are.
  - And there are also plus sides to those conditions, whether we want to accept it or not,
  - Because if we grew up in their situations, we would cling on to what we know as good whether we like it or not. As they did. But in the realm of knowledge, it does not mean that they are RIGHT.

# Now Back To Dr.Bearing

- She was cold, and almost oblivious to human societal living
  - But she studied John Donne, and the Exploration of the Meaning of life
- She was thrilled by the sensation of Donne's life and work

**Consider that before you judge her.**

- I, for one have been like that to. I once studied Donne, and Coleridge, and Milton, and many Philosophers who questioned the meaning of life.
- So I am human in that sense, that I can imagine being her with all the good and bad, and then judge her on it



# SHE IS NOT JUST

BAD

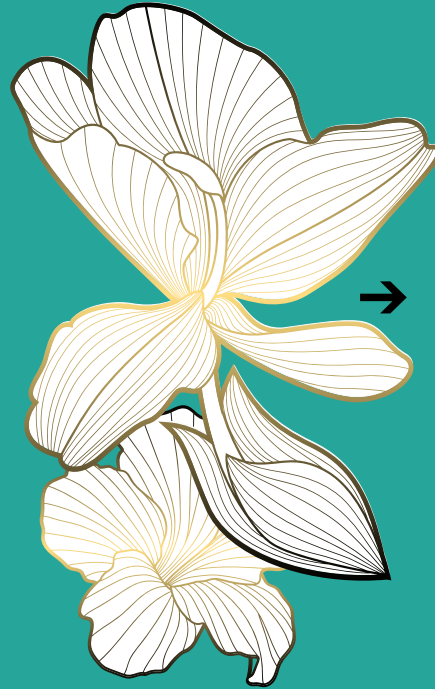
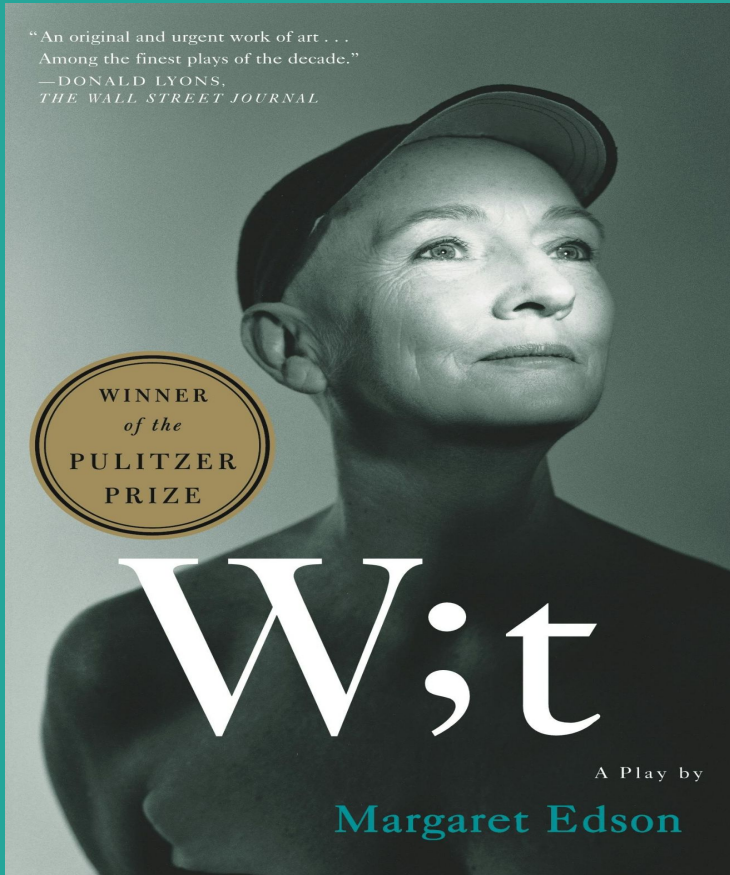
OR

GOOD



➤ Because she shunned her student's emotions,

➤ Because she is an old, lonely, and mistreated woman dying of Cancer.



★ She is ALL of those and more.

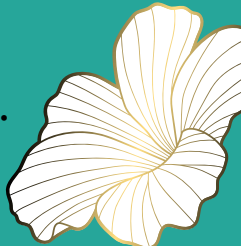


As such, Narratives should be viewed in that aspect as well, without using a limited view, or pre-existing conclusions... or intuitions to judge characters as “good” or “bad”

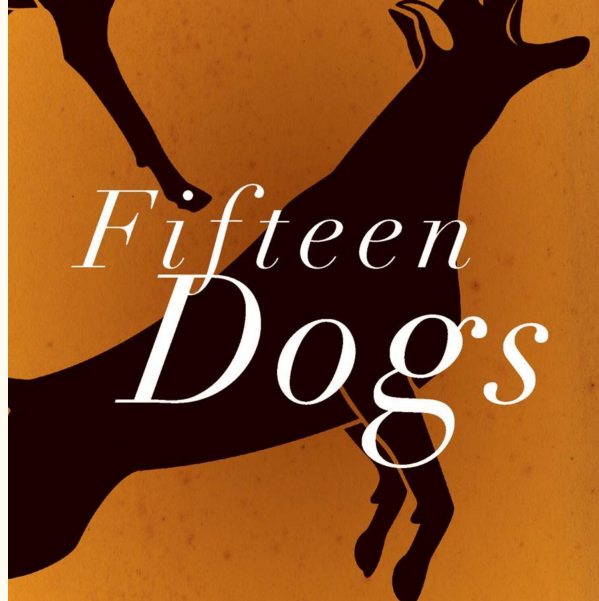


And neither should the Audience.

SO DEPOLARIZE



# CHAPTER 2: MORALITY OF HUMANITY TO GODITY



Who are your Protagonists  
and Antagonists of *Fifteen  
Dogs* by Alexei

What Dogs

Or Gods did you favor, like,  
or need it

Or Didn't?

# Mine Was Alexei Himself, For He Was Both Hero And Villain,



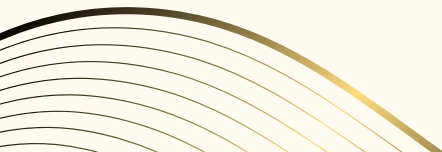
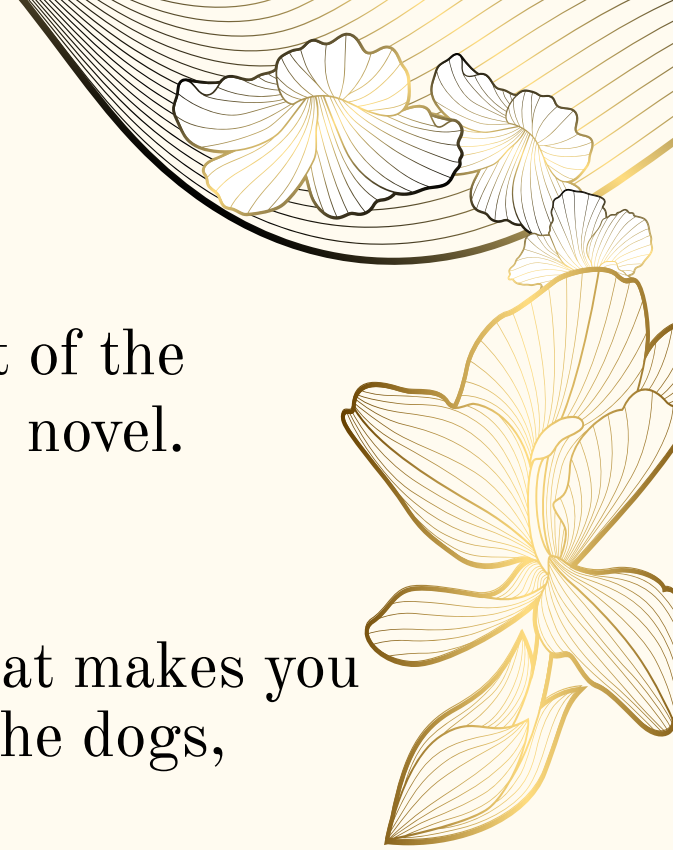
1. protag, and
  2. antag
- onist of the novel.

Now:

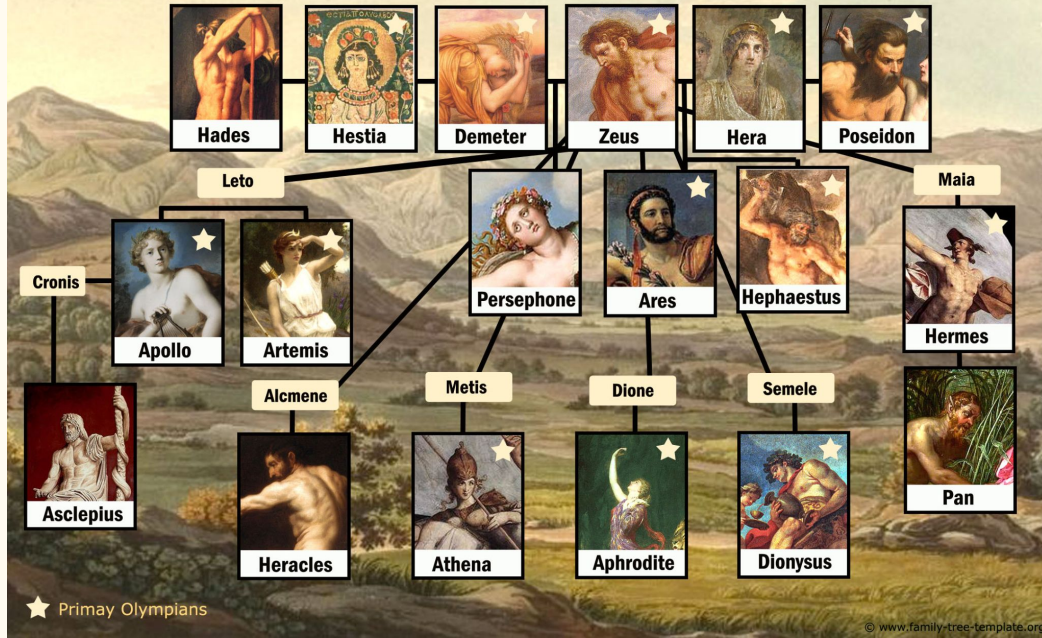
A. Think of everything that makes you human, and give it to the dogs,

**THEN...**

B. Think of everything human and watch it be given to the dogs,



# Greek Olympian Gods Family Tree



→ By Gods.

- ❖ Gods live in Mythology, and in today's world, are not real....
- ❖ But what happens when we make them for the purpose of a story as Alexei does?



**THE GREEK MYTH LINEAGE OF GODS**

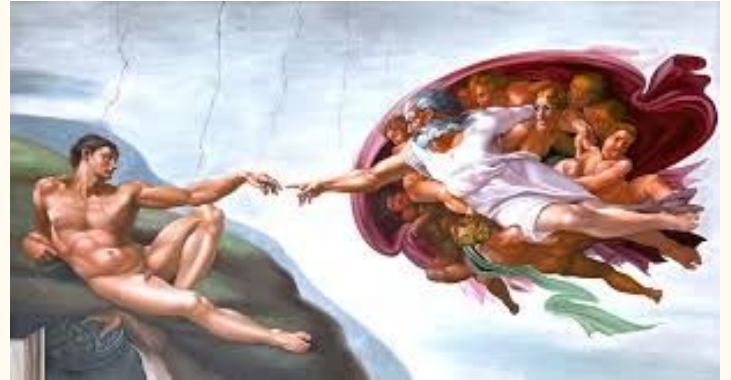
# Aspirations = Anthropomorphism

- ★ Anthropomorphism believes that gods are reflections of humans. So imagine that.
- ★ That every god you know, of every religion and every belief, is an aspiration of what humans thought as a supreme being. Or their aspirations...



WHAT THEY DID  
ASPIRE TO BE

WHAT THEY ASPIRED TO BE





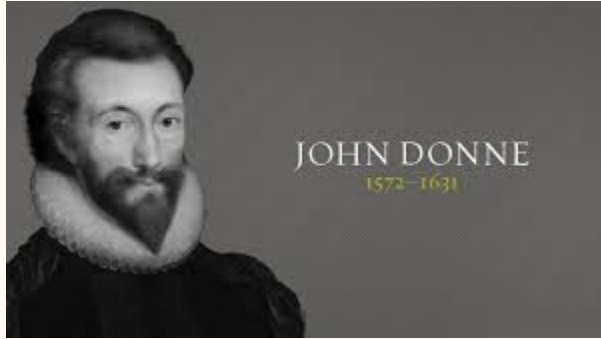
# IMMORTALITY

Every God you've known is Immortal in some way or form. They are eternal...



Thus, if our Gods are our aspirations and inspiration, do we aspire to become Immortal?  
To cheat death?

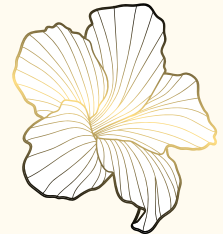
# Death do not be Proud




*“Though, some have called him mighty and deadly”*

A character like Batman doesn't kill. Most narratives, the polarized figure of the “Good Guy” (Protagonist) tend to venerate death in some way, especially in narratives about humans. All human characters as a matter of that fact.

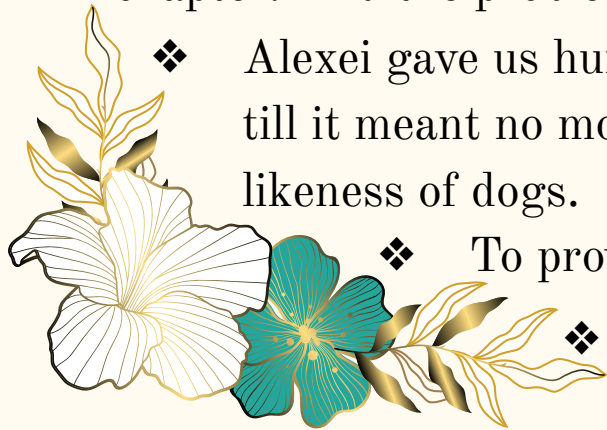
- ❑ But does *Fifteen Dogs* have that same veneration? That ending that respects death?





DID WE FORM NARRATIVES TO ESCAPE  
THE UGLINESS OF REALITY THAT OUR  
LIVES END IN UNHAPPY DEATHS?

- ❖ No. As a matter of fact, *Fifteen Dogs* is literally a hunt for Death. The novel only ends with the death of all Fifteen dogs, and even moreso, with the conversation of the gods on their deaths. Each dogs death isn't seen as an ending of some sort, a closed chapter. And the problem is that it isn't dogs that are dying...
- ❖ Alexei gave us humans in the form of dogs, (human knowledge), and killed them till it meant no more. Thus, we watched humans (of all kinds) die, but in the likeness of dogs.
- ❖ To prove that knowledge does indeed give us an end of unhappiness?
- ❖ Is that why we formed Narratives in the first place?



# BECAUSE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF GODS...



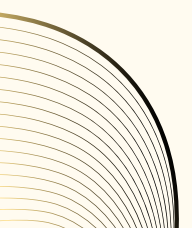
Did We Watch Ourselves Die.



❖ And Without Major Input From Us In The Novel.

❖ We Watched Humans Die From Our Aspiration Positions.

★ And What Do We Learn From It?



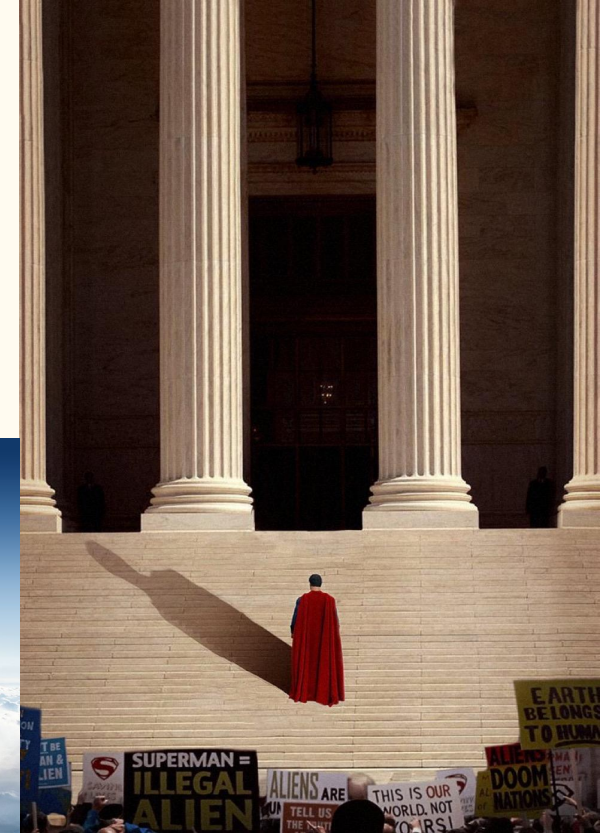
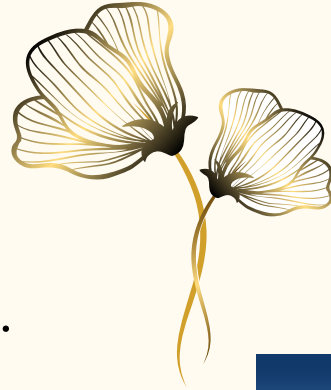
# ON WAR

*THAT HUMAN DEATH (HUMAN INTELLIGENCE AND CONSCIOUSNESS),  
EVEN IF THROUGH DOGS MEANS NOTHING  
IN THE CONTEXT OF MANY.*



# DID WE FORM NARRATIVES TO ESCAPE THE UGLINESS OF REALITY THAT OUR LIVES END IN UNHAPPY DEATHS?

1. It is okay that we are unhappy with life,
2. That life is complicated.
3. That the contexts are too many.
4. That is what life is, that is what life was meant to be.



# AN AFTERMATH

Knowledge did curse us, and  
stand us out from the rest of  
life on earth,

But it is better to know too  
much and barely survive,

*Than to live a life of UNTOTALITY...*

For diamonds are only forged in the heat,  
And I would rather be a knowledgeable diamond

*Than a diamond who lost ITS HEAT.*



# KANT'S LAW



“So act that you use humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, always at the same time as an end, never merely as a means”

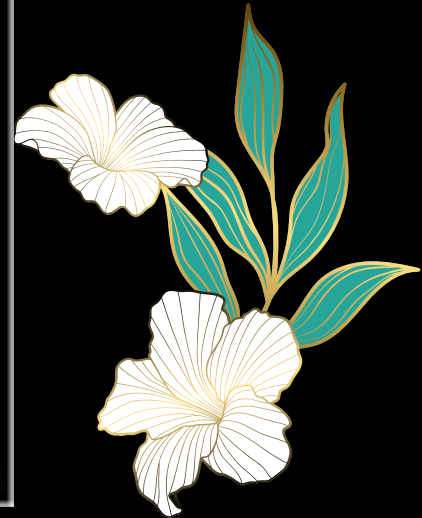
In essence, (MY REPHRASING)

“Do everything to the betterment of humanity, all objective views of life and subjective, no matter how far stretched or away they seem from humanity, should serve humanity, and the humans themselves”

CONCLUSION: Narratives are as prone to polarization as the real world is. Therefore, like Dr.Bearing, make a choice,



→ AND LIVE WITH IT.



# NOTE

CHAPTER TWO IS JUST AN EXAMPLE OF  
CHAPTER ONE...

ON judging characters without seeing them on one side of Polar  
And... FIFTEEN DOGS IS A GREAT GREY NOVEL

A Grey novel by my description is one that doesn't prey off the  
stereotype of GOOD and BAD. (It does a little bit)

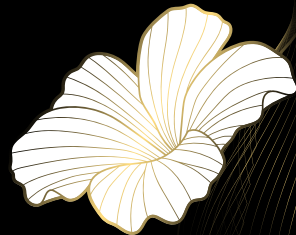
# THANK YOU

# Final Question:

If you were to make a Grey story, what would be your main character's abstract symbolic journey (or the story's quest) as

1. The characters in *Fifteen Gods*, theirs was on a journey to death, a happy or a sad one.
2. Dr. Bearing journey to death, whether with an acceptance of her fate and life or not.

Mine would simply be On my character simply making a choice.



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