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Charles M. Kerper's Abstracts of Presentation for 2010 Hawaii International Conference

I am submitting this as my abstracts for both of my works which were selected by the University of Hawaii for presentation at their 2010 conference. I submitted two works. One titled "Existential Dilemma" and another titled "Ourselves Whom Suffer." Both works were accepted.

["Existential Dilemma"](#) was written as an inner monologue. The individual finds himself in the lull of boredom, or the lull of the "nothing-to-do-ness." He contemplates the frivolity of what others do to consume their time in order to avoid the dilemma of doing nothing. Although he considers much of what people do to be pointless and unnecessary, he comes to realize that the fact that they are doing something distracts them from the existential lull of doing nothing. In the end, he explains that whatever one chooses to do ought to be the most exquisite of endeavors, and not just the average common distractions that many settle for. Another realization is that to best appreciate the necessity of doing something, the individual should be closely familiar with the lull of doing nothing, though spending an excess of time doing nothing does not lead to a happy existence.

["Ourselves Whom Suffer"](#) was written to suggest why humans are attracted to images of others suffering. I use elements of Nietzsche's and Freud's works to support some of my suggestions. The main crux of my paper is that when a person sees another suffer, although he empathizes with the other's unfortunate situation, he also experiences some pleasure. This pleasure is due to his knowing, whether conscious or unconscious, that such a miserable state is possible and a relief that he is not the one experiencing it. This pleasure is found in the relief in knowing that he is not suffering as the other is. I use this theory to explain why humans enjoy such displays as fighting, horror movies, and even suggest how this phenomena lends to the power of the crucifix. Though the observation is simple, unless revealed, the individual may not fully realize this phenomena.

Thank You

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