

Belief and Laws: an incomplete and utterly unsatisfying anecdote about the things we choose to believe and how they govern our lives: a story about the air we breathe

Hand me that glass of water. Good, now sit there and let me tell you a story. Very well. It all began with how it ended. Meaning the end of this story is much like how it starts: arbitrary, missing pieces, little to no context, and completely unsatisfying. In fact, I'm not even sure why I'm telling you this story at all. You want me to stay? Well, if you insist.

I have lived many lives. Which is an odd thing to say considering your understanding of what a "life" is; as if you can single one out. I believe we used to think life was empirical, experiential, and pragmatic. Am I correct? I believe I remember that these "bodies" as you call them were quite utilitarian. By the way, I'm trying very hard to use the vocabulary of *your* time, forgive me, it's been some...time.

I'm also a bit distracted here. You see, as I look at you, you appear to be something else entirely different from the human race I was born into. What was different? Your eyes! Those colors did not exist during the time of what I call my "natural life". What does that mean? All that is, is a cap at an even 100 years, it makes the math easier.

I also want you to know that I'm going to use your systems of binaries, and a few other concepts that you might be familiar with. Well, I should say that you are familiar with the *look* and *feel* of them, the *words* may seem new. But I assure you, they were the best that your minds could do. I don't mean to imply that you are some kind of inferior, primitive being. I just mean to say that you lack the depth and width of experience that accompanies exploring potentials. Coming from A Long Way Off, as I have, I have the gift of hindsight. You're welcome.

Yes, well, where should we start? Well, I had this one ugly encounter with a particularly unpleasant situation. He called himself, the High Inquisitor.

"I am the High Inquisitor. I will be properly presiding over these potentially perplexing proceedings."

He was a pompous ass.

"Now, I hear that you are here to face the charges that have brought you here. Is that accurate?"

You see?

"Good. Now, let us discuss the charges leveled against you. Primarily you are formally charged by The Council of Law and Proper Procedures in the Service of Serving Society, to be engaged in what is considered Improper Impulse. Now for those in the crowd who are unfamiliar with the definition of Improper Impulse, see page 567, paragraph 6, bullet point 9 in your book and follow the citation to footnote 87 where you will clearly see stated the qualifications of Improper Impulse. Our task here today is to decide if what you have done qualifies as Improper Impulse, and if so, what is to be done."

Basically, from what I can remember of page 567, paragraph whatever, is that I did not adhere to societal expectations. You see, there were a very many rules and laws and regulations that governed our lives. You'll see what I mean if I just continue with the story.

"Now, let us review your actions and behaviors and habits over the previous past days. You have been assigned to the Waste Level, the lowest level. You have worked on that level specifically for, Some Time Now. This is generally acceptable, nothing of great notice here. But *here* is where we get into our predicament. You have expressed to your camp leaders that you quote, "enjoy your work and do not wish to move up levels." While it is

admirable that you find enjoyment in your work, it is not in our Script to avoid Upward Mobility. Our Script clearly states on page 234, paragraph 18, subsection 6, line 2 "ALL MUST DESIRE NOTHING MORE THAN TO MOVE UPWARD IN LEVEL THROUGH CLOSE ADHERENCE AND IMMACULATE PERFORMANCE OF THE SCRIPT".

I FORGOT TO MENTION – sorry about all caps – the world I’m describing here is not like yours. The entire world is a giant building, an actual constructed thing. It’s literally like a country, but bigger, and a building. Imagine a house to big you can’t even imagine it. This is bigger. If you were to look at it from the outside, although no body has, you would notice something unnoticeable, there are no doors. This constructed country was built entirely from the inside. This place has floors and sections and dimensions so abstract and confounding that no one has developed a complete map. No one has been outside of The Building. Well, not strictly no one. Just no one official.

Crazy right?! No body is, was, or will be old enough to remember what it was like before it was built. It’s as if it always existed, and this left a huge impression on its inhabitants. This cannot be understated. It caused them to believe that everything produced by this place, like that Script I mentioned, wielded the authority of eternity, destiny.

Just look at the Children’s Text Book, it plainly states, "THE MOST INDISPUTABLE, ABSOLUTE RESOLUTE, ENTIRELY UNTTERLY AGREED UPON AND BELIEVED UPON, SCIENTIFICALLY SCRUTINIZED, WELL KNOWN COMMON SENSE FACT OF LIFE IS, THIS IS HOW THINGS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AND WILL ALWAYS BE." I mean there were pictures of cute puppies and kittens surrounding that statement, but come on! That’s some heavy propaganda! I guess they were desperate to be able to rely on things.

It's also very critical to know that this authority was so strongly embedded in the minds of Society that the structure of the building was taken as guidance to structure Society. Not that these people's minds were a blank slate! Far from it. They inherited what you might call, a Value System. And this Value System was mapped onto this unmappable structure. The primary result was simply that the lower levels were valued less than the upper levels. It sounds like a cliché at this point doesn't it? Well, I'm not saying they were the most creative bunch...

Should we get back to our antagonist? Where was I? Oh right, the High Inquisitor was on some kind of a tirade about social responsibility.

"Do you see business men wanting to stay in their cubicles for life? No. Do you ever hear about doctors that find their duties endlessly enjoyable? No. Do you see where I'm going with this? Yes? It is all well and good to be okay with your level. It's even desirable to excel at your duties. It is *not* okay to genuinely enjoy your duties as *you* do. It is not in accordance with the Script to refuse Leveling Up, as I have stated before. Society expects all of us to Level Up, at our own pace and according to our abilities of course. Society depends on this upward movement, or what we know as Upward Mobility."

"Why is this important? Because there needs to be order! We are all blessed with guidance from our Script and it is dangerous to deviate from the Script. How would Society be like if we all made up our own Scripts as we wanted? To put it simply, you represent something dangerous to Society."

Okay, so what's the big deal? This person likes what they do, so what? Well, the issue is that the charge was in combination with a violation of the mechanism of Upward Mobility. Meaning, they were fucking up the process dammit!

So far, we've only learned that Upward Mobility is something highly mandated by Society. But how does it work? How does one move upward-ly? Well, we're about to find out.

"As is the regular custom of our governance, we have conducted a Random Audit of your life. I see that you've only purchased the minimum amount of Romance in the past six months, which is very Peculiar. What have you not purchased more than what is expected? You're not interested?! How could...why you...what the..."

"Now you listen very carefully. You can get away with your *desire* to stay at your Level without much fuss from the courts. That's fine. But when you show such extreme disregard to the Script as refusing interest in Romance, that's when we have to take things more seriously. I am reviewing the Script for your Level and I can see that it has been optimized for Reproduction. I need not inform you about the dangerously low levels of workers and high Turn-Up from your Level. I'm sure you feel that burden. And since you *desire* to remain at your level, why wouldn't you do what you can, and WHAT IS SCRIPTED FOR YOU, to ensure Prosperity of your Level and Society?"

Let me make this very clear. Expectations are more than that to these people. Expectations are literally how you operate. You follow the Script because "it knows what's best to insure the longevity of Society". There was no "I" like you prefer to refer to yourselves these days. The individual has no say, they simply execute the Script.

What you can do as a pseudo individual is become incredibly fluent in your Scripts. Doing this moves you Up, literally, in they're world. *That's* how it's done. *That's* how and why people move up in that world. You are supposed to want to do well by Society. Performing your Script perfectly is the best way to do well and move up levels. These Scripts are all based in what Society needs, aka, reproduction and something to satisfy their sexual/relational desires. Yes yes, I know they're assuming that everyone actually wants to have sex, but is that really the most important ground to stake your flag in? I mean, they're whole world exists inside a building the size of a planet!

So where were we? Right! So I was in quite a pickle. And long story short, I escaped because I didn't want anything to do with that hell-scape anymore! How did I do it? Well, that's an entirely different, more interesting story that I'm not going to excite you with now.