

Spring 5-1-2012

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Recommended Citation

Magrini, James (2012) "Redemption Through Philosophy," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 34: No. 2, Article 20.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol34/iss2/20>

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Redemption Through Philosophy

James Magrini

Shattering metaphysical revelations often precede certain mental pathologies, but the following insight into the primordial truth of existence was a supreme moment of philosophical clarity: the *will* is morally reprehensible! Its influence causes great pain and suffering. One ought to do away with it, or transcend it.

Although sentenced to this sterile, white cubicle with bars on the windows, I continue my groundbreaking work in metaphysics. Tom, my former colleague at the university, has long since abandoned such pursuits. A slave to the will, his life has been robbed of significance; driven by the lust for power and prestige, his goal of climbing the academic ladder of promotion has long since eclipsed his once noble aspiration of transcending the bonds of crass materialism through philosophy.

He was beyond redemption, but his daughter was not.

Chloe was the embodiment of innocence. She was the rare exception to the rule of the will expressing itself in the horrors of nature. Although it had not yet manifested its ugly presence, someday, she too would feel its lustful and aggressive pull. It disturbed me to imagine her having to endure such a horrible and pitiless existence in the future.

My research indicates that there are two ways to outstrip the will's nefarious influence: it is possible to overcome the will when, in a saintly manner, compassion for others vanquishes all traces of egoism. When we embrace *altruism* as the ultimate moral principle, we are attuned to directly experience the world's pain and are thereby moved to alleviate the profuse suffering of others. We also transcend the will in *death*. Although the phenomenal-self perishes, death is not the end, for we are so much more than mere physical entities. After death, we exist beyond time and change. We are at peace, as the will no longer dominates...

I saved her. Chloe now walks above the wretched condition of humanity, in death she is at peace. And I too have found philosophical redemption from the penal servitude of willing.

You see I'm an *altruist*, not a murderer.