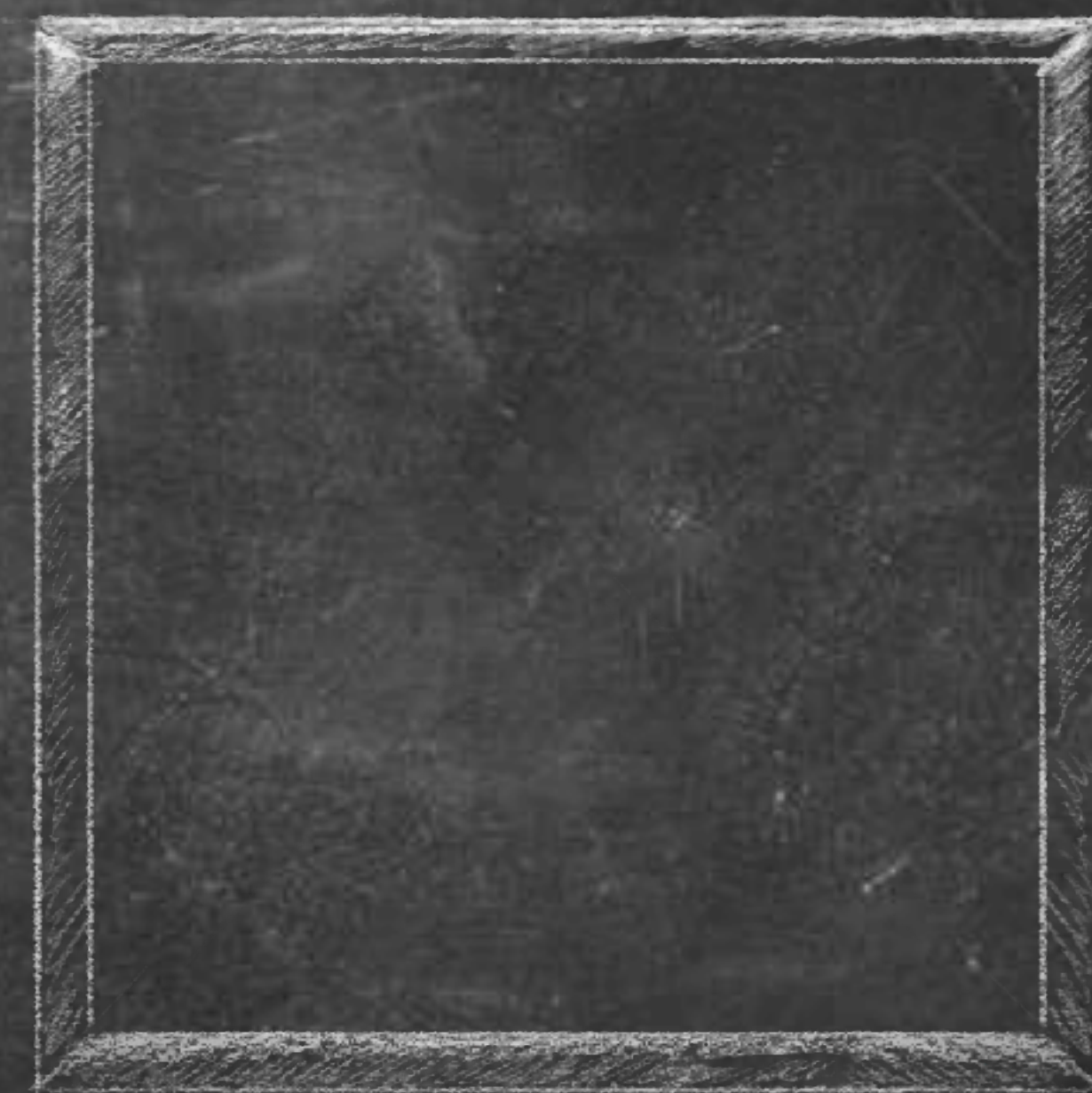


FALL

THE RIVER OF DEATH

FALL

THE RIVER OF DEATH





...the creation waits in eager expectation... for the creation was subjected to frustration... in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay... the whole creation has been groaning... up to the present time... we ourselves, groan inwardly...

-Romans 8:20-23

Something happened to the universe of **life**...

we tipped from the River of **Life**

to the the River of **Death**



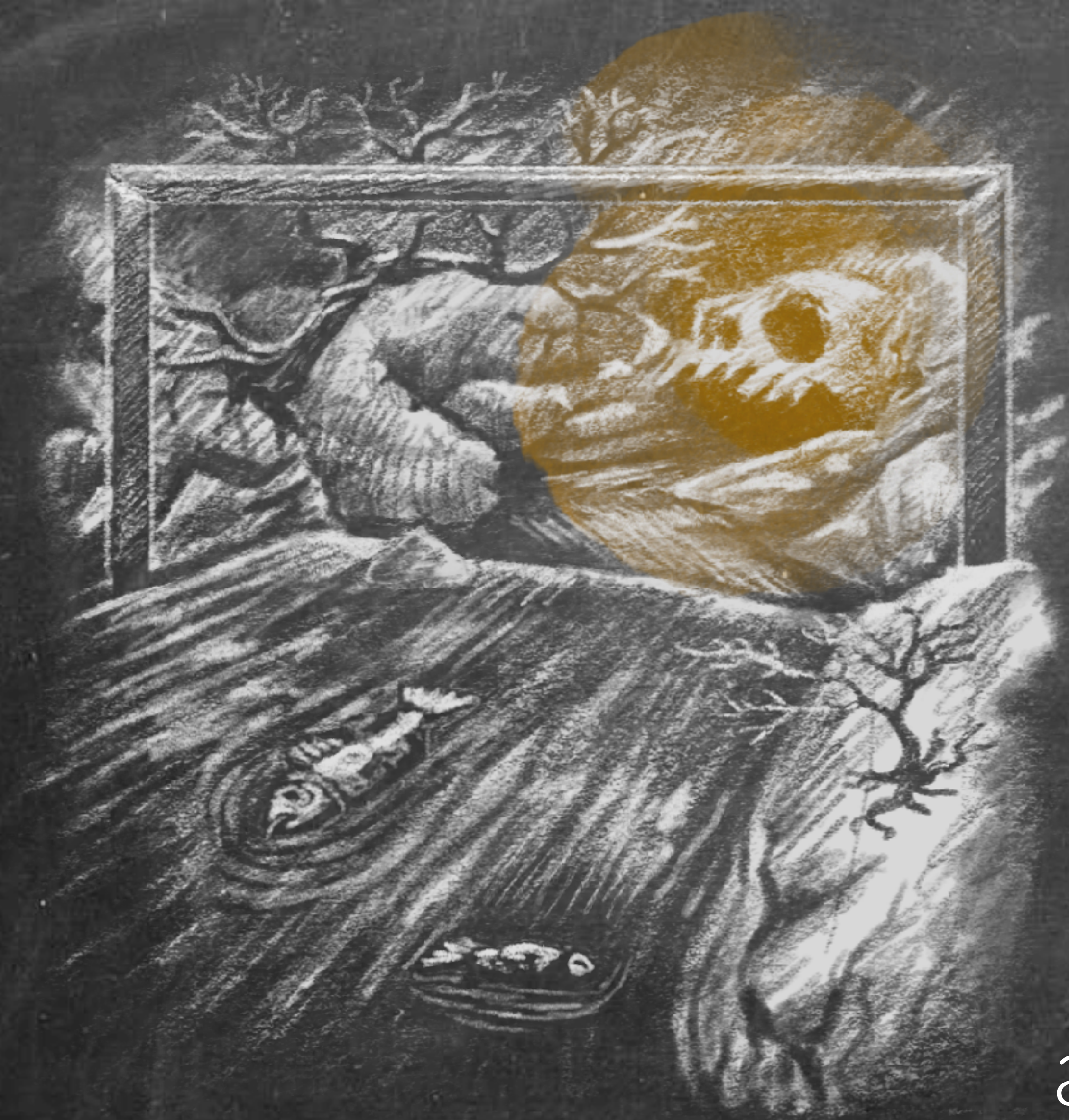
It's more natural to float... to do nothing

to focus on **me** not the cultivating of **others**

abiding without **bearing**

being without **doing**

What happened?



after the **fall**...
not all of the seeds flourish anymore

-Mark 4:1-20

into the flourishing creation stepped a villain...

with a counter-narrative

Jesus described him:

he is a liar and the father of lies.

-John 8:44

The Cosmic Battle

truth

vs

lie

life

vs

death

Jesus described him:

He was a **murderer** from the beginning,
he is a liar and the father of lies.

-John 8:44

The Cosmic Battle

truth

vs

lie

life

vs

death

The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**...

...I have come that they may have **life**, and have it **abundantly**.

-John 10:10

the **neon** light

2 Corinthians 2:11

...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his **schemes**...

I realized that I **was** unaware of his schemes

“be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth”

downstream life...



“be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth”

downstream life...

vs

downstream death...



Woe to them!.... hidden reefs in your
love feasts...caring for themselves...

clouds without water...autumn trees
without fruit, **doubly dead, uprooted...**

-Jude 11-12



an isolated life...
(or **distorted** relationships)

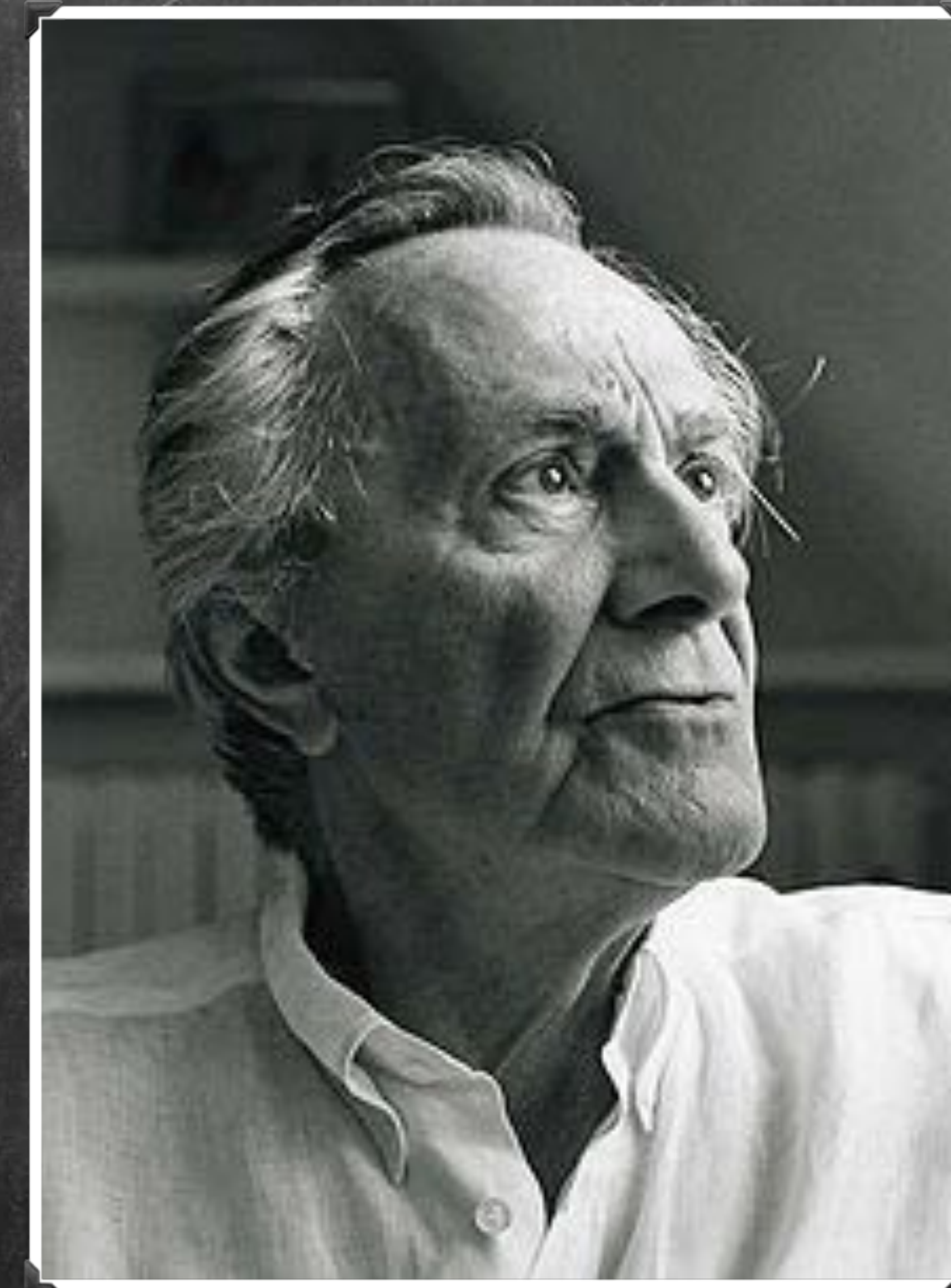
is a fruitless life

Satan's ultimate **scheme**:

destroy relationships

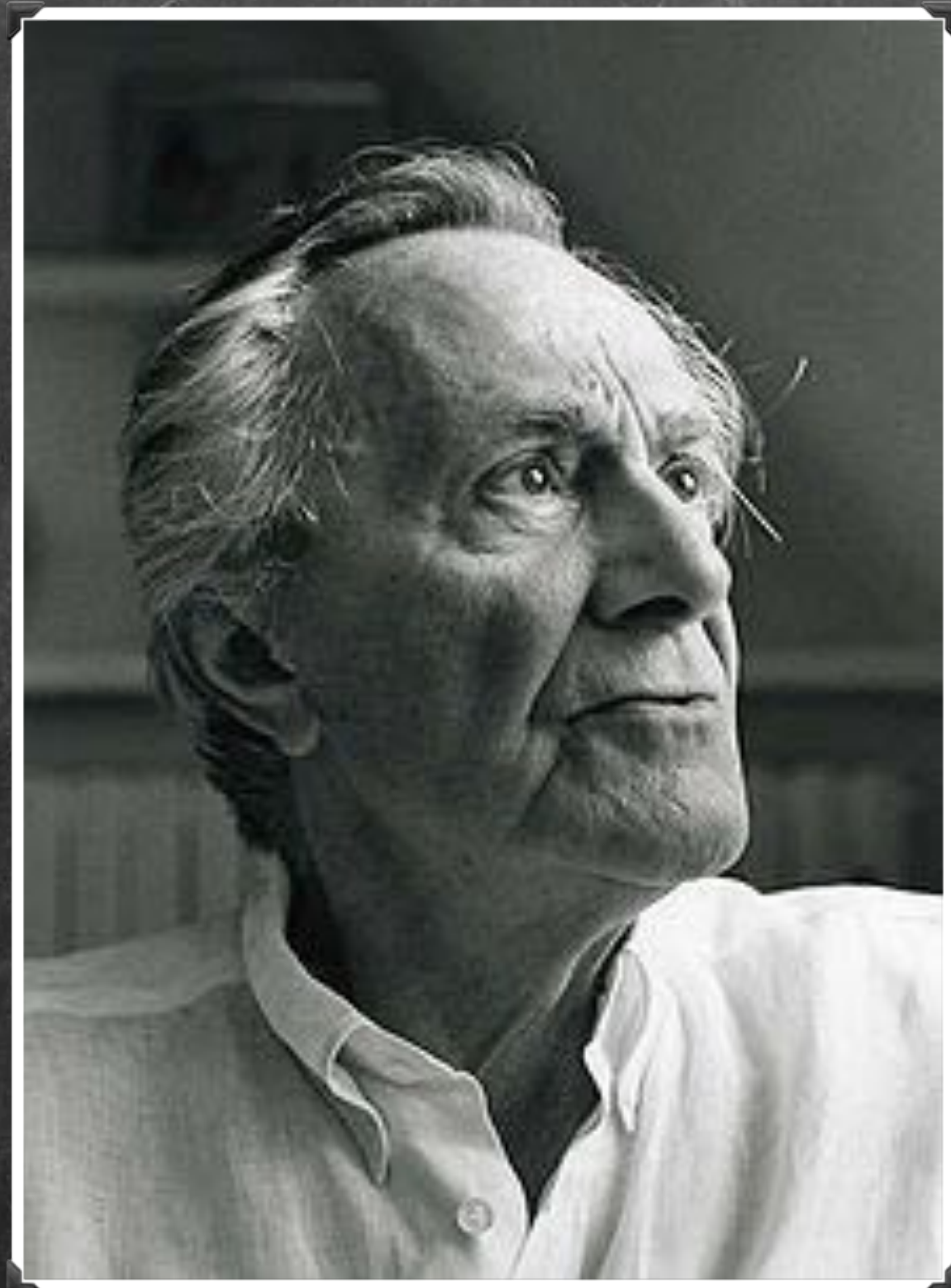
how does he do this?

the worldview battle
&
losing the Meta-Narrative



“Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as incredulity toward meta-narratives.”

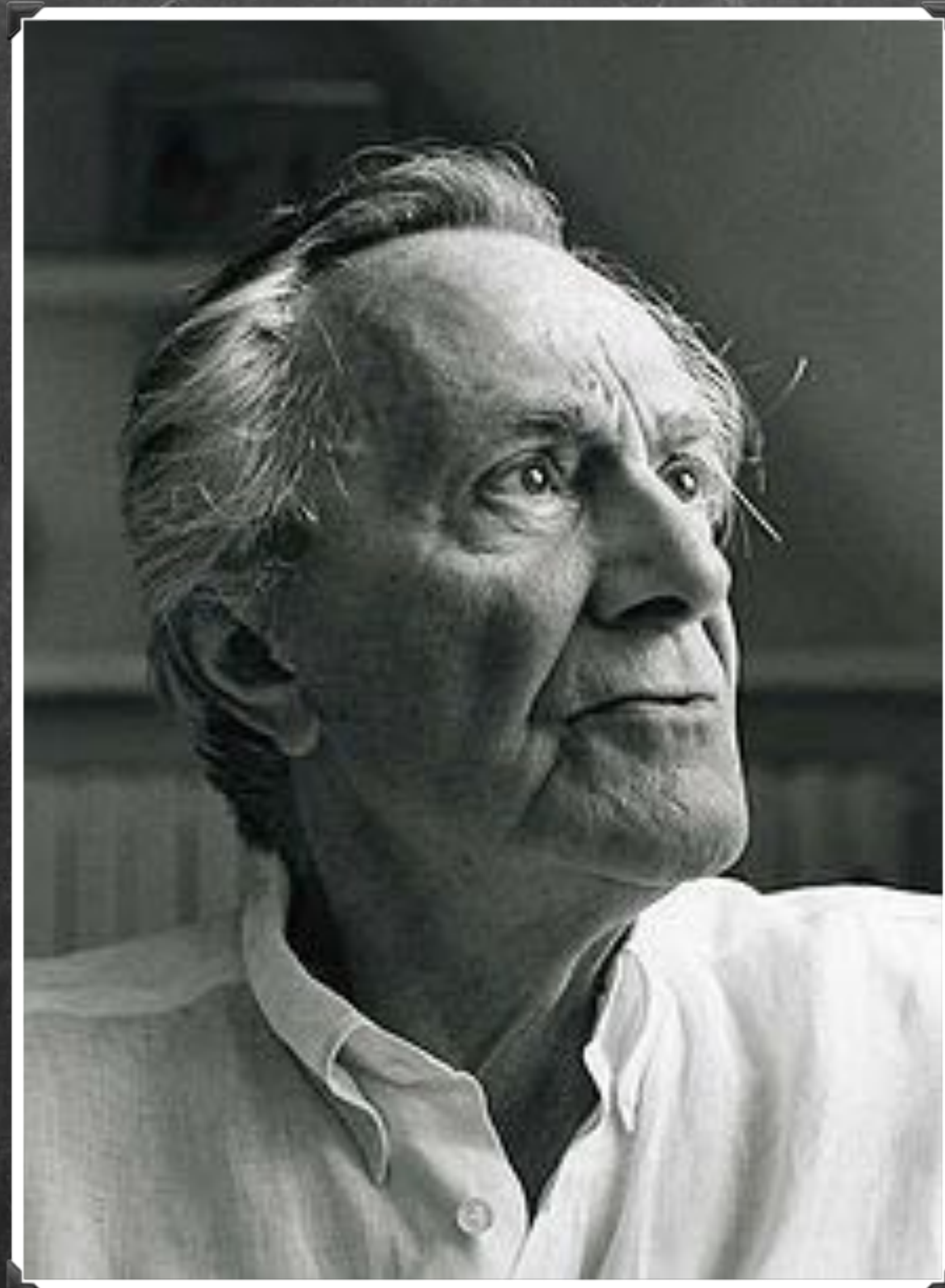
-Francois Lyotard



“Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as incredulity toward meta-narratives.”

-Francois Lyotard

“A meta-narrative is any ‘large story’ that pretends to give an all-encompassing explanation of anything, especially an overarching story of history and life in an attempt to legitimize some version of truth.”



“Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as incredulity toward meta-narratives.”

-Francois Lyotard

Losing the Meta-Narrative

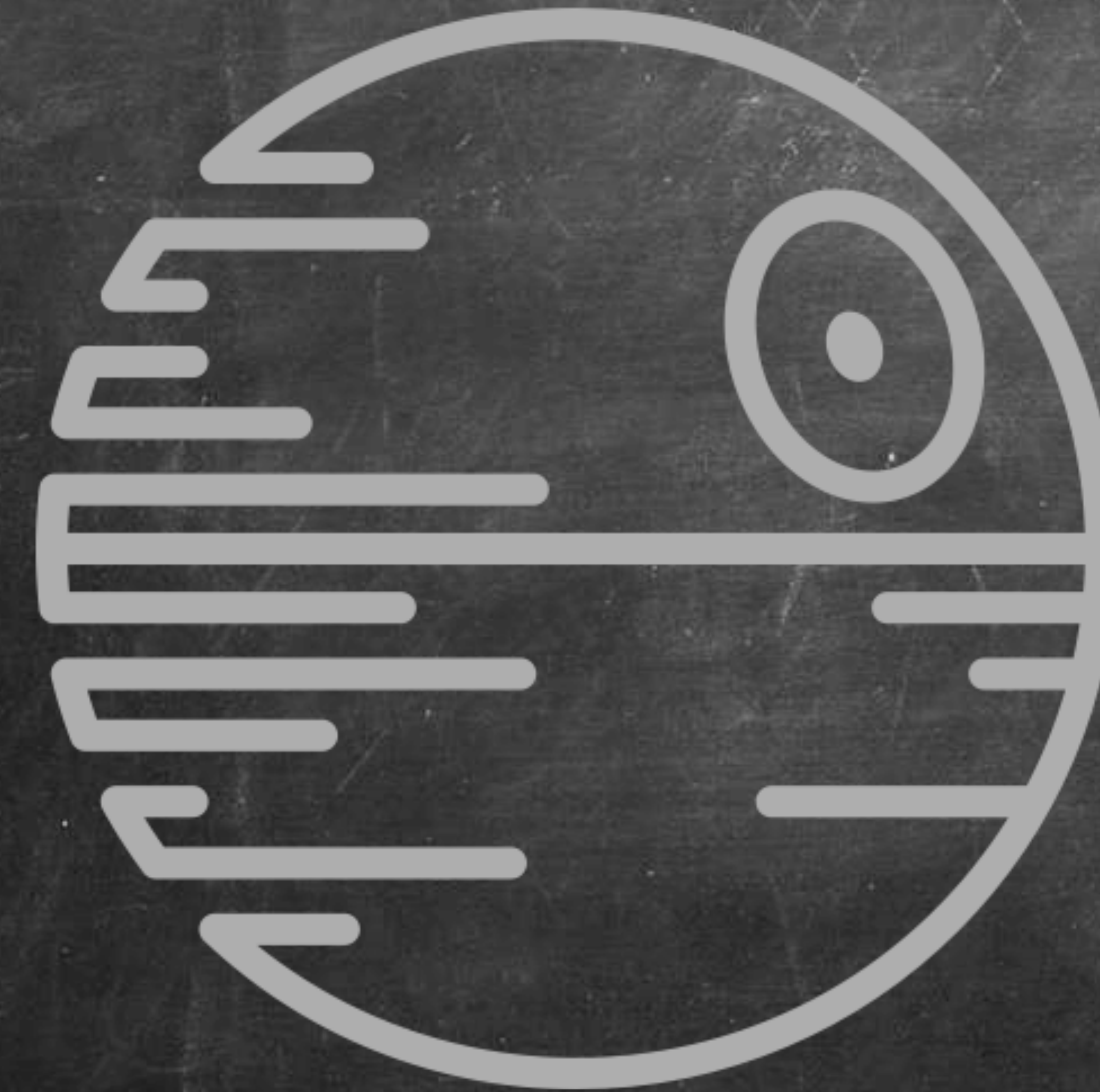
Losing the Meta-Narrative

Consequences

1. It's all about me and my script

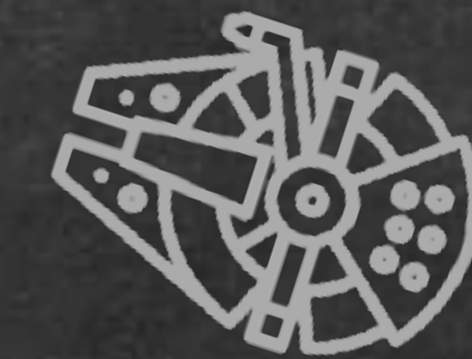
death star lie

it's all about me...my narrative...my script



“We’re caught in the tractor beam kid, it’s pulling us in.”

-Han Solo



death star lie

it's all about me...my narrative...my script

The promise: if you can get your script fulfilled...

you'll have **significance**, pleasure, joy, peace, happiness, contentment, satisfaction, "feel good"

The Tantalizing promise
thwarted: foiled (curses, foiled again!)

The reality: we are constantly thwarted...



death star lie

it's all about me...my narrative...my script

The promise: if you can get your script fulfilled...

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The reality: we are constantly thwarted...

and subject then to a host of negative (unfruitful/dead) emotions and attitudes

The reality: we are constantly thwarted...
and subject then to a host of negative
(unfruitful/dead) emotions and attitudes

anger complaining disappointment
impatient discouragement
despair depression
hopeless bitterness
blame victimism skepticism
worry apathy



Ralph Maclean
Canadian Royal Rifles





“They are still in prison, still POWs after all these years”





Caught up in
glory of the
Meta-Narrative

“Would you do
it all again?”



“Yes, for you.”

Losing the Meta-Narrative

Consequences

1. It's all about me and my script
- 2. Isolation and loss of relationships**

I know something about you!

You're trying to manipulate me to
enhance your own story...

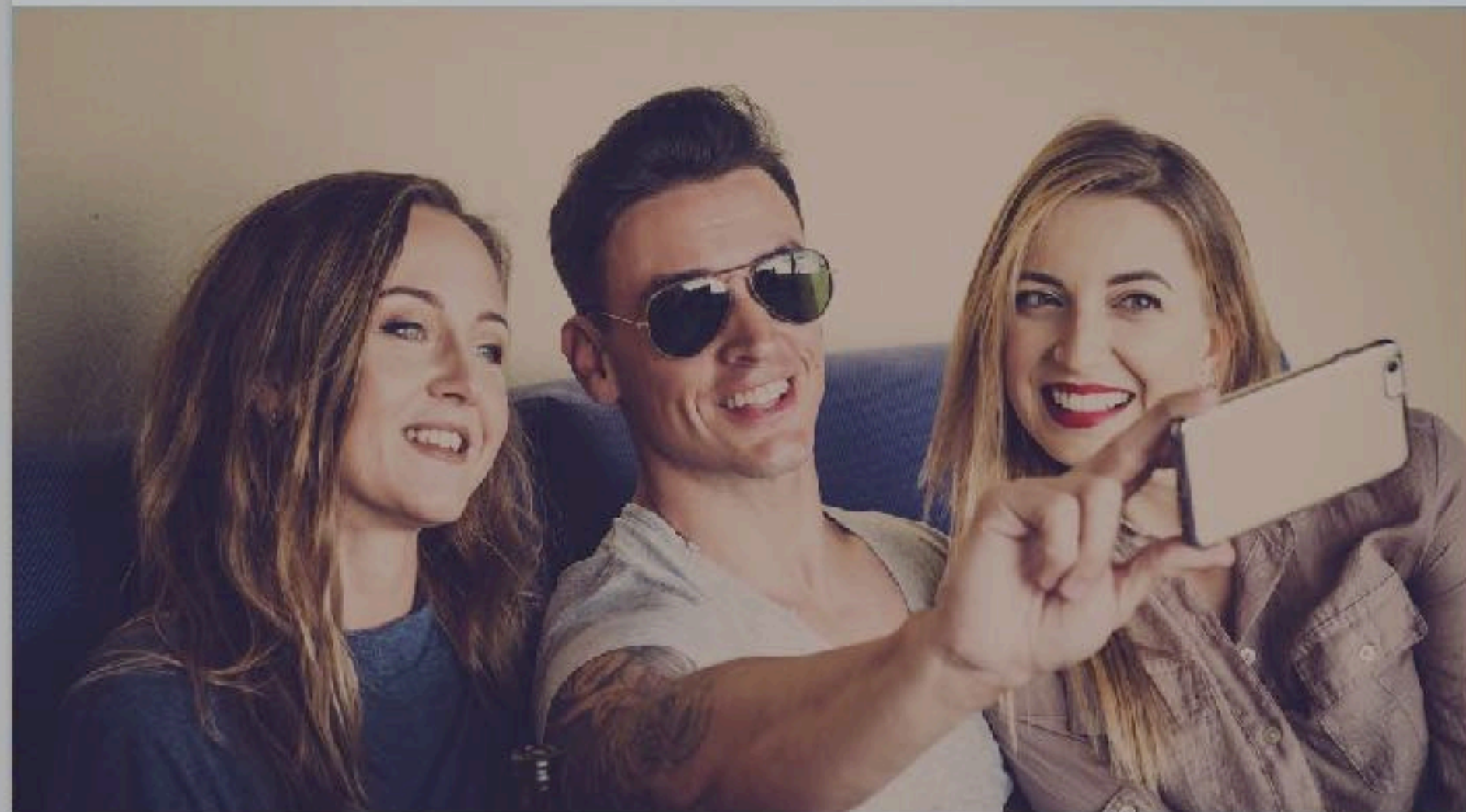
Because I'm trying to manipulate you
to enhance my story



- Jesse Johnson
- News Feed
- Messenger
- Watch
- Marketplace
- Shortcuts
- Manifold Pictures
- Explore
- Groups
- Pages
- Oculus
- Events
- Fundraisers
- See More...

Jack Smitherson
August 22 at 8:25 PM · 🧑

Just chillin' with my besties 🍷🍷🍷 looking 📱



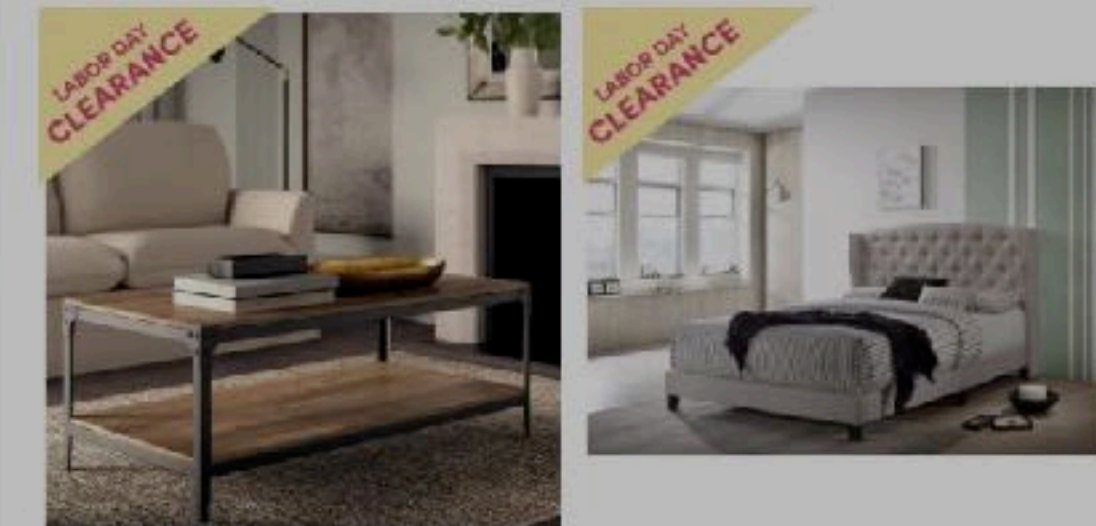
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- Timmy Jones** Make dinner reservations at Trattoria Sostansa (sp?)
Like · Reply · 4d
 - Julliana Smith** Climb the Duomo, see David (gotta see it once), walk around and drink cappuccino, wine and eat gelato. Get the butter chicken at Trattoria Sostanza
Like · Reply · 4d

Kelvin Gemstone's birthday is today
1 event invite

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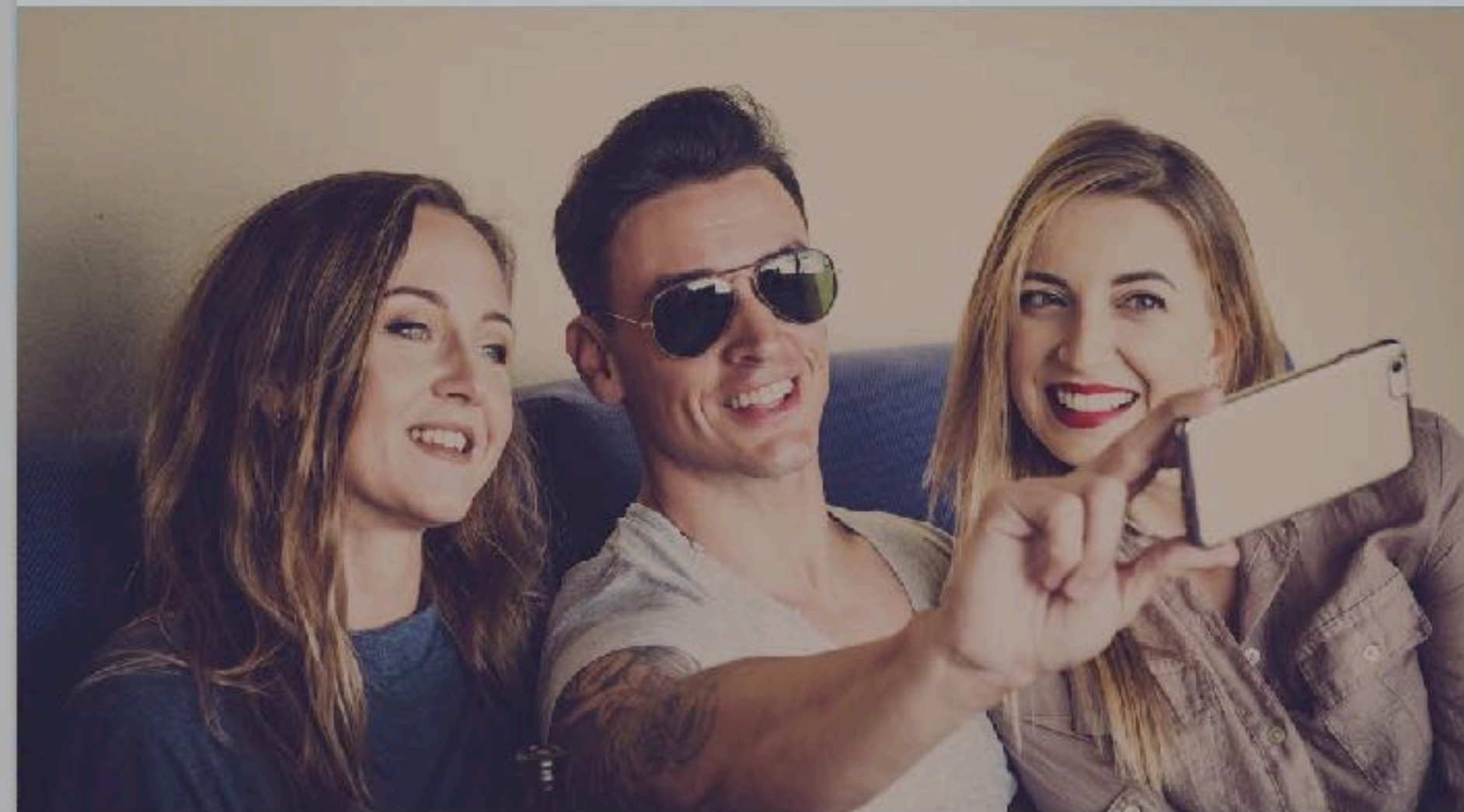
Butyl Rubber Gloves (Chemical Reistant) ...
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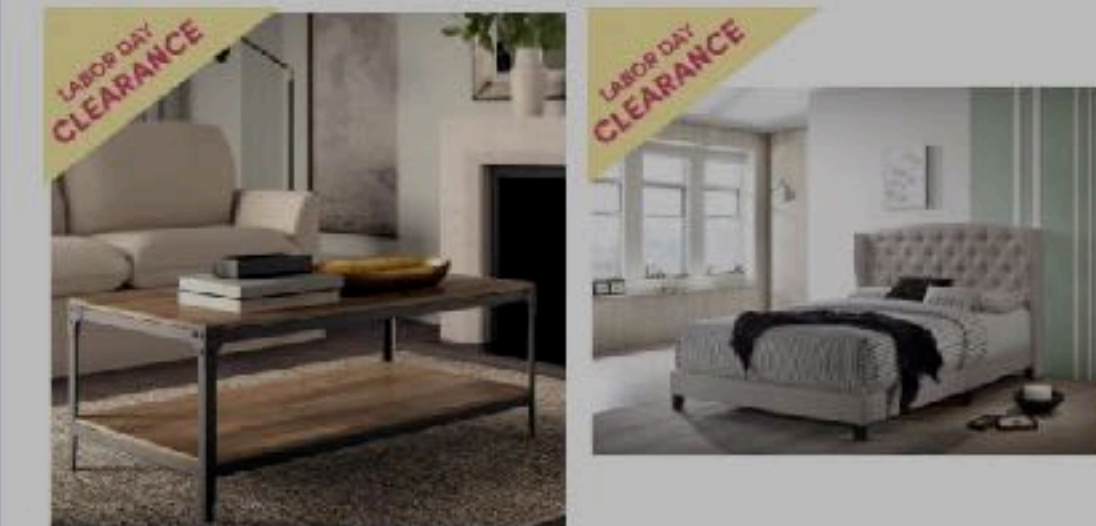
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A person with dark hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, is sitting on a chair in a room. They are looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression. The room has a window with a view of a building and a door in the background. The lighting is soft and natural.

Do you ever feel lonely?

A person with dark hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, is sitting on a chair in a room. They are looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression. The room has a window with a view of a building and a door in the background. The lighting is soft and natural.

Do you ever feel lonely?

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself **alone**; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

-John 12:24

If you destroy relationships, you can destroy the fruit.

This is the enemy's scheme.

He wants to get us caught up in our own "narrative"...

not God's Meta-Narrative

and we end up in a “script” war...

against each other and the
uncontrollable world around us...



this is where the enemy wants us...

trapped in the promise of our own little stories

But...is there a larger story?

Is there a Meta-Narrative?

...Remember the former things, those of long ago;
I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and
there is none like me. I make known the end
from the beginning, from ancient times, what is
still to come...

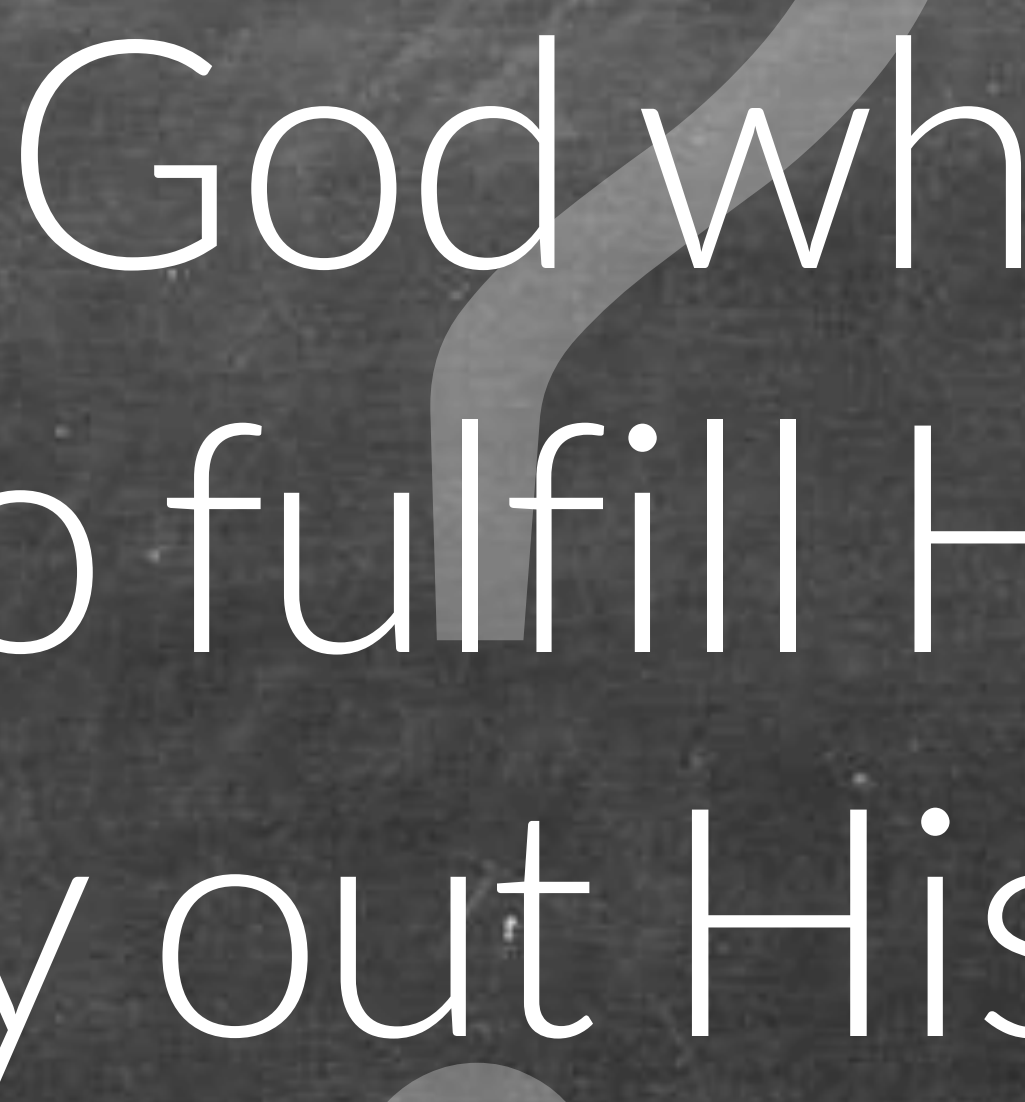
I say: My **purpose** will stand, and I will do all that I
please. From the east I summon a bird of prey;
from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my **purpose**.
What I have said, that will I bring about;
what I have planned, that will I do.

-Isaiah 46:9-11

There **is** a Meta-Narrative!

I say: My **purpose** will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my **purpose**. What I have said, that will I bring about; **what I have planned, that will I do.**

-Isaiah 46:9-11



Who is this God who summons
creatures to fulfill His purpose,
to carry out His plans?

I say: My **purpose** will stand, and I will do all that I
please. From the east I summon a bird of prey;
from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my **purpose**.
What I have said, that will I bring about;
what I have planned, that will I do.

-Isaiah 46:9-11



If He has a plan,
Is it a good one or a bad one?

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD... "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

-Jeremiah 29:11

Does this scare you?

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD...

“Plans to **prosper** you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

-Jeremiah 29:11


“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD...

“Plans to **shalom** you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

-Jeremiah 29:11

Losing the Meta-Narrative: Consequences

1. It's all about me and my script
2. Isolation and loss of relationships
3. Dependency versus true freedom

A Chestnut-backed Chickadee is captured in mid-flight, its wings fully extended, as it approaches a cluster of small, round, yellow berries hanging from a thin branch. The bird's plumage is a mix of brown, black, and white. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of light colors.

This is a Chestnut-backed Chickadee found only in the Pacific Northwest and parts of Montana.

God equips, empowers and sends
He gives to His creatures the ability,
responsibility, authority and power to **shalom**

He distributes His power and authority to the
lowest level so that the **smallest creature**
might flourish

Freedom

God equips, empowers and sends
He gives to His creatures the ability,
responsibility, authority and power to **shalom**

He distributes His power and authority to the
lowest level so that the **smallest creature**
might flourish

Dependency

Satan does the opposite. He consolidates
power and **authority**...

enslaving God's creatures, making them
dependent and destroying their incentive to
be fruitful, to **shalom**

Dependency

Satan does the opposite. He consolidates
power and **authority**...

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dependent and destroying their incentive to
be fruitful, to **shalom**

loss of incentive

loss of desire

loss of self-esteem

loss of purpose

loss of meaning

barren

Dependency

Satan does the opposite. He consolidates
power and **authority**...

enslaving God's creatures, making them
dependent and destroying their incentive to
be fruitful, to **shalom**

in the state...

in the church...

in the family...

in the workplace...

Behold, I have set before you today, Life and good, Death and evil...choose Life...

-Deuteronomy 30:15, 19

Death

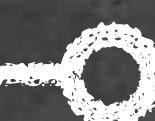
Life

Mt. Ebal



Mt. Gerizim

Sand



Rock

Wide Gate



Narrow Gate

Good fruit... or bad fruit

Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their **fruits**. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?

So every good tree bears **good fruit**, but the bad tree bears **bad fruit**. A good tree cannot produce **bad fruit**, nor can a bad tree produce **good fruit**. Every tree that does not bear **good fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.

-Matthew 7:15-20

Good fruit... or bad fruit

But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is **death**.

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the **fruit** you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

-Romans 6:21-22

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, **in order** that we may bear **fruit for God**.

For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear **fruit for death**.

-Romans 7:4-5

For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear **fruit for death**.

-Romans 7:5

You will know them by their **fruit**...

-Matthew 7:15-20

Missing the Gauges





Checking my “gauges”

- ♦ Am I angry, frustrated, disappointed, worried?
- ♦ Constant complaining, bitterness?
- ♦ Controlling, focused on “my script”?

all of this will keep us from fulfilling the Royal Task



Satan is okay with you polishing the lamp...

Because...as long as you are not bearing fruit,
you will eventually die out, wear out,
and the flow will go on.



It is not about you.
It is all about **Him** and what
He wants to do **through you**.