

THE PERFECTION PUZZLE

“You’re never going to get this perfection that you’re hoping. It’s not so much temptation. This is the energy that people are working from. It gets shaped and adapted in a working environment. It never exists independently as an idea. That’s your mistaken view. Wait a second. The puzzle offers another direction. It’s not so much and it’s an abstraction. It goes to the very heart of the constructive experience. You see things. You build from them. And building from them, you attain an awareness. Awareness drives everything else. It holds it all together in a lattice work.”

“This ability to take things apart and put them back together again provides a foundation for the feeling. It is a kind of seeing. It is an emotion in itself that is what makes it so enticing. This kind of construct may have characterized what was going on with Dusk. She was seeing these things in the environment, but she was also giving them a form for herself. This added to the effectiveness of the representation. If she could create things in this way, she could overcome the stringency of the pleasure principle.”

“She could put things together the way that she wanted to. This would add to the overall sensation. The whole experience might seem to be even more tenuous. But there is some thing lovely and its representation. This could get beyond Dusk’s interpretation of the pleasure principle.”

“And it’s so in way: each piece of the puzzle start to fit. And the judgment against Dusk might’ve been too severe. Colin had come in for the same kind of realization. And there were others who were even more immersed in this kind of thinking. In a deeper sense, did this endorse Dusk’s point of view. No one could be isolated from this kind of desire. It was nameless. It was amorphous. And it extended everywhere. Once the individual was under a spell, there was a little a person could do. So every action was a kind of compromise and people seemed to go along with this realization. You could make claims about the dominant culture, but everyone was seeking that form of satisfaction that seemed the most proximate. It was all about protecting what you had. If you had a little more, the forces of desire pushed you along ever more intensely. And in its own way, this vision described Dusk.”

Why would she question what seemed so certain? It was enough to adopt a slightly different politics. But she never saw it as any kind of risk. It was simple she had her skills. She applied herself. She looked at others who are unable to do the same. She deserves her rewards. Why was this kind of just desserts the source of the problem in the first place? Could it be applied in an individual way? Was it okay to question Dusk’s actions? Wouldn’t anyone else follow the same pattern? They would immerse themselves in the present. It could help them forget about whatever terrible was going on. And the cream could rise to the top. Just getting on this feeling. Why would anyone else do the same? Why wouldn’t she stick with her way of thinking? This created the great divide. Everyone wondered how to respond. It all seemed pretty obvious.

She learned how not to bite the hand that fed her. And if that hand was extra gracious, you could pay it greater tribute. Thus, Dusk had found her place in society. It seemed pretty much the same for anyone. This calling can make its mark. There would be all these triumphs day after

day. People could celebrate their newfound powers. Dusk at least had a right to do the same. Honestly, why should anyone object? What was wrong?

She believed that could make peace with this world. Even though she had a fundamental criticism, she try to look for the best in each person. In many ways, she was seeing a reflection of herself. There's was a little of a social critique in any of this.

This went to the heart of popular culture. What had been rebellion became erased. It was worth raising this question it granted greater credibility to Dusk's actions. Social awareness was engaged by this inchoate anger. If art was fueled by this basic emotion, it seemed for the moment as if it challenged dominant culture. This representation was all about self-gratification. Every gesture was exaggerated. The overall experience reinforced greater self indulgence. Was there even a reason to question the dominant culture? The offerings of the mainstream culture could even clue people in to a celebration in the moment. Why would a critic begrudge this experience? It seemed so rewarding for many; this was all that they had. But it did appear to be making another argument.

Dusk was was telling people not to give into their inclinations. But she seemed even more attached to the immediacy of the rewards. A further comparison was worthwhile. Dusk claimed to have access to a refined awareness. This would enable her to make choices based on clear evidence. But there was really nothing contestatory in her style. It had the look of rebellion. It aspired after defiant gestures. But everything was contrived. Everything was already recuperated by the dominant culture. What remained? For the others, there was still the lasting struggle. Whether they acquiesced or whether they sought new modes of expression. They all felt the effects of the system, which manifested itself as the damage that resulted from work. This realization brought us back to Tempest's understanding of her life.

Dusk was even more vulnerable in this situation. She accepted her work. She expended her hours, and this broke down her aspirations. She devoted herself more intensely to the immediacy of experience. That was why she craved a form of self-harm. She sought out people who would play te victimizer. On the surface, she was maintaining that the culture could reward her for her efforts. She wouldn't have to deal with the problems of others. Ultimately, she could feel free. There was another side to this portrait. And that was even more damaging. Why didn't work provide her with an awareness to address this challenge.

Her own efforts as a worker had given her motivation for transforming her world. Now, she was face-to-face with the real threats from the system. Anyone else would've seen this. But she fell under the spell in a more intense way. Her victimization was without bounds. If not for these extremes, or philosophy might have resembled that of dusk. This was complete devotion to these psychological impulses. This kind of surrender liberated the self. That was what she thought. And this view seemed to reinforce the notion of the pleasure principle. Dusk and Tempest represented two forms of accommodation.

The individual changed the world just enough to sustain this kind of lifestyle by consciousness. Both tempest and dusk demonstrated that the self could do a lot more to resist these influences. But neither was willing to make those steps. They both got lost in the immediacy of the experience. They both accepted the basic premise that the economic system could reward the deserving. They simply saw that perspective from two different points of view. And that almost put an end to any kind of debate. Dusk might've been more questioning of her

own relationship. She might've recognized how any attempt at social research was curtailed by these beliefs. All along, she had manifested youth rebellion. But she never really subscribed to an ideology, which was rooted in the sources of this contradiction. She could claim that her politics were radical. If it was so radical, how could someone who pledged allegiance to the system find comfort and hang out with her. Ultimately, this was the challenge. The critique had not been carried any further. It remained at the level of these gestures. Sometimes, they could feel a negative commentary about others. Her initial intent was to criticize their collaboration with the powers that be. Ultimately, she criticized the empowerment by the system. She primarily attributed it to her personal ability.

They lacked free will almost as a consequence of a personal attachment to a form of self-indulgence. If only they gave into their superior abilities, he wouldn't face these impediments. How could she relate? They were nothing like her. She was clued in. She was stellar. She could beat them all at any role-playing game. She was the victor. She would not cut her own arm off to escape the trap

Ultimately, this was Dusk's right. If she made it in a little effort, she probably could understand this argument. Others had a different answer. If they were having fun, why would they even want to discuss it? That was hardly the last word on the subject. The remained deeper questions about what constituted a good time.

"Your job is to be a leader. You can recognize what are the challenges. This means overcoming the appeals of the moment and seeing a more lasting understanding. But that understanding needs to come from your experience. Otherwise you're going to impose a viewpoint that coincides with those who exercise power. What is your main concern. Have you learned from this experience? Or we have you only manipulated it for your own Ames? Everyone wants that recognition. And once things to fit accordingly. Where does it go? Early on, you felt that things weren't right"

"You knew they weren't right. And things happened to you and only reinforce this feeling. Later on, the situation became trickier. Even in trying to escape, you found people who are taking advantage of you. And that only increased your alienation. This helped influence your performance. It made you who you were. But you pushed on beyond that. And you felt that you had found an answer, even if it was temporary. You could assume this pose. It would give you strength. "

"This could enhance your insight. You could call this your intelligence. It was a way of seeing and describing the world in a creative manner. That excited you for what it was. But you've attend an even more motivated outlook. This is where you lose the trail. You found someone who gives you the answers. He guides you. He completes you. As long as there, you don't have to ask anymore questions. Can you explain this to anyone else? Can anyone really understand it the way that you do?"

"This is marvelous in its own way, and it seems to put everything in place. What would be the alternative? You don't want to just get fed up over something trivial. Do you want the ability to work things out? What does that even be? Who has that seriousness? Here's the challenge, he's not really part of the story. If that is so does that mean: that you've left alone. You have given your time. You participated, but all that is over. The story has been transformed completely into some thing else. What is that?"

“Can you take this knowledge and use it to develop into some thing more critical? This is where you want to grab a pen from me, and you want to rewrite things in a different way. What would you say? Everyone has that moment when she wonders. That is what this whole experience is about. But the promise only becomes more intense. You see it, and you walk away from it. But you know there’s some thing else. At least you have an inkling. But that story seems to end so suddenly. And the pain becomes more intense. You slam the door. You let it all go. Where does it end up? I can’t keep going this way. This is the conflict here dysphoria do I feel right in my skin? How can I develop a new skin that enables me to achieve my reality. Do you ask this question? Have you asked this question? This is what you want to do with him. You want to challenge him with your version of the same question but it’s getting distracted from the actual purpose. Instead of asking him about his social allegiance, you were getting caught up in minor proclivities. It is what the relationship has always been about. Why are you bothering?”

“You’re concerned because this is who you really are. This is what’s important to you. Can you live up to this expectation that they have for you? In a very literal way, no one is going to measure up. Because there’s always something more that a person could be. And that’s why you’re getting lost.”

“You don’t even know what you have because you don’t have what you think you need, so the conflict is even more intense. It all seems to make sense. This is where you need to make a real break. Do you need to shake things up once and for all. Maybe, you have questions. Maybe, you were involved in a journey. And you get to this point, and nothing falls into place, or you think everything falls into place. Are you stealing from yourself or you’re stealing from someone else and nothing feels authentic? But now you think that you’re shaking all that out. In some ways, there’s something deeper going on, and you’re not even close to that. When can you put all that together. What’s succeeds, and what fails? Are any of these questions worth raising?”

“You don’t feel that you’ve lived an examined life. You’ve been living it all too well. Have you reached a breaking point? What are you do after? You tell yourself that you’re setting boundaries. It’s just some psychological game that goes along with the instructions that you give yourself. It has nothing to do with how you really feel. What is that you recognize what it is because you’ve seen that power again and again. It’s all about someone giving you some thing that you can’t find in yourself. And for some moments it’s not in yourself. But here’s where the disappointment is. You’re asking people who can’t go any further to find something in themselves which is already become a certainty in your own experience. It’s not toxic. You’re just losing focus about what you consider to be important. In another way, you’re using the circumstance to your advantage.”

“You don’t want to ask any more questions. Sure there are questions like puzzles. There are test questions that follow your reading. None of that is going to shake you up significantly. How did I mess up? How did anyone mess up? It was a moment of courage. It was a courage that he would never have. This is no longer you. It’s not dusk could be someone else. It’s lancer. But it can’t be her because she doesn’t know how to take the question any further than the agency allows her to go with else is there? How do these two different paths relate? Both lead towards the same destination.”

“For the time being they veer off in different directions. One directions is more dangerous. But the dangers are occasional, and the other direction includes obstacles along the

way. They're not entirely harmless. But they're easier to deal with. What do we consider when we take this path. We're seeing some thing that moves us once and for all and that seems to put everything in place you can't get at this point out going through an ordeal. And that ordeal is based upon asking yourself important questions. It's telling yourself that you can't keep being this way."

"You need to make a break once and for all. I really think that the first question is a physics question. It's a question about distribution of forces and dynamical systems. We're dealing with two independent forces, but in the description of the overall universe they seem to draw their energy from the same source. This would seem to suggest that the distribution itself represents another level of articulation of the same forces. What else is there? Or are the same representation occurs day in and day out. It gives us credibility. In this subsequent representation there is this connection between how you're living things and how you expect them to be. You see how you can get pulled back-and-forth. But there's another access that demonstrates your influence on these experiences."

"Your first impression is that your efforts are critical for the overall experience. Later on, he recognize what are limitations. This is not the end of the investigation. It's only the beginning. You are starting to fill out this pattern in more detail. There's another way to see this. And it's a little more desperate. This describes how we see and feel. The system describes the demand for more exciting life. Inevitably, it is excessive. But you were relying on this furnace to light the whole process. Do you see this?"

"You are the one person who could understand the disposition of these forces, and you're retreating just as you come to this realization. You're going to cheat yourself."

"You think that you can make things safe for yourself. But no one's going to believe it for that long. What is going to destroy all the support? What's the real challenge? You fear everyone. You want to achieve greater authority. How does that even work? For the moment, do you feel safe? Whose side are you want? You need to act quicker."

"It completely makes sense how you discover what you're after, and it all becomes even more tenuous. You're on the verge of a greater awareness. You're applying the science. But this is where you'll lose your concentration."

"There's something going on at this moment that's much more engaging. Sure, it's linked to a kind of desperation. But it manifests itself in the moment. And you feel it for what it is. This adds to the experience. It's like having a device that tracks all these forces simultaneously. Nevertheless, the tracking seems to interrupt the actual intent."

"This is not going to help."

"Nobody is going to achieve the critical awareness to which you aspire. We just don't have the time to think about shit like that."

"You worry about this kind of stuff a lot more than you are admitting."

I reached a point that I was going around in a circle over and over again asking the same questions and not getting answers. And I was getting nowhere. I would be sitting up at six in the morning pondering over the mysteries of the universe. I would have to go to work in an hour. This was a dead end. If I kept on like this, I would have destroyed myself. I needed to pull myself together. I couldn't keep my life going like this forever. I needed to take a deep breath,

And quit being so overwhelmed by the world around me. How had I let myself get to this point?"

"The world was not going to change because of my attitude. It was never a big deal whether I ate a chicken sandwich or traded in my car. But I was totally losing my focus. And it happened night after night. I was getting hung up by the most trivial shit. I spent all my time trying to thread a needle. And I was getting no closer to any kind of resolution."

"It was if the world had become my addiction. And I kept up with the belief that I would eventually solve the problem. And we could all live in harmony. I would finally conquer the big bad wolf. And people would reward me for my efforts. I would have cured a disease. I would have put everything in place. And everything would be perfect after that."

"I would bring the same commitment to dealing with the most trivial shit. I would break a can opener. And it would be a major deal to fix it. None of this stuff would ever come together. But that did not stop me in my efforts. If I spent an hour on a problem, I would need a couple of more to put everything in place. I would believe that I would put everything in place. I would throw myself in bed without a solution."

"I would face the next day with the same zeal. But I would hit that same wall again and again. I had stopped growing. I only reiterated that same existence again and again."

"I finally made break from that. That didn't make me any better. I realized what was truly important in my life. I could fall asleep and not worry about any of it. I would still stay up late, but I learned not to worry about it anymore."

"But you kept on with that same vision. You kept believing that had discovered an escape from your former obsession."

"I am not going to resolve the politics of the world."

"It comes down to a simple idea. You are never going to change the world. You have to learn to do what you can. And the real concern is just playing by the rules. That is the only thing that ever matters. You learn how to keep your promises. And you put up with the most mundane shit. I have a guy, who's there for me. I don't have to worry about anything else. It goes deep. For people, who believe that there is something more, this is the damn wake up call."

"What do you really care about?"

"Do you even have a clue?"

"I have to ask that of everyone else here."

"But you feel disdain."

"I have not come here to save humanity."

"What if you did?"

"There would be so much frustration."

"After that point, what else is there?"

"You tell me."

"I want to win the race,"

"You set a goal."

"That is all that I can deal with."

"Take it for what it is."

"Who will be around to help out?"

"I ask that again and again."

“I pulled myself aside. And I told myself what I needed hear. I couldn’t take for granted what I had. I couldn’t worry about being stellar. I only needed to show up. That is ninety nine percent what it is all about.”

“When I was younger, I realized how fucked things were. People were telling me shit that had nothing to do with how the world really was. I was caught up in this terrible lie. And I thought that I could rectify. But I was struck by the hypocrisy. I kept believing that I could do so much more to change things.”

“It got to me all the time. It gave me a lot to think about. How was I supposed to dress? What music should I listen to? What should I eat? I became obsessed by all these questions.”

“I could put together an encyclopedia from all these ideas. Where was any of this headed? I continued to build upon this perspective.”

“I wasn’t the only one who thought like this. I felt inspired. Maybe, I was on the verge of a realization. I could push things just enough. That would put everything into play. I felt that I was on the verge of something. And that was brilliant in its own way. It added to my inspiration.”

“It was all these things. Music and culture. None of this was trivial shit. In my own way, I was moving mountains.”

“I was at the edge.”

“We were at the edge.”

“Things were going to change.”

“I had the belief.”

“Where did it go?”

“The perfect design.”

“What is that?”

“Being brilliant.”

“Staying true to form.”

“There is the representation and what is being represented.”

“Take a look around: it only proves my point. Nobody really cares about your book. How could anyone? It’s all too basic. People have lives, for better or worse. It’s not that complex. They’re not looking for an explanation. This is why go to work. Some mornings you’re tired. You want to stay home. But you show up anyway. You’re not making excuses. Sometimes it means playing through the pain. Do you deal with the suffering for whatever that means? There’s really no other way to look at it. That is what survival is. You live for the now. You don’t have it crazy regrets. Perhaps there’s these moments here and there. You face a crisis. All of your own shit. It might be tough just coming through that. All the rules. And you’re doing these things. You make it seem difficult. This is all your doing.”

“You worry about it needlessly. You’re spending too much analyzing. Who is smarter? That’s what people do here. It’s not a puzzle. They come here to forget. It’s pretty much the same. For a brief moment, these personal things seem to be so much more.”

“Honestly, I left a long ago. I’m not adverse to the knowledge. Others may still cling to that understanding. I just can’t make it more difficult. Inevitably, that’s all part of our experience. It is nothing more. Basically these are things beyond our control. I have found ways to get over it.

I am good at what I do. I get up for work. I learn new skills. I study. I may be unlike 99% of the people here. I am making money and going places.”

“I can’t think about it. I can consider what it all means. At the end of the day I am here. There’s also a life waiting for me side of his place. This is my entertainment. And it’s nothing new. If I was looking for greater stimulation, I might immerse myself in what was going on around me. But I know when you quit. I know when to leave. I go home. You wonder why. I didn’t come here. Perhaps others need this. I have a couple drinks. More than that, and I would be going against my nature. There’s gonna be a moment, when I just book. Can you get on with your life?”

“This was a stage. And that is all. I have grown up. This might’ve been more important to me at one time. I wanted to figure out whatever it means, Now, I am beyond that. And that is why you’re seeing less and less of me. That may be your respite. What can I do to help, if you do not already have it together for yourself? I have a plan. I have a goal. If the rest of the people are still living on the surface, there’s nothing more that I can do to hold it together for you. You understand. You took the risks. We’ve all been doing great. I’m not the only one who feels this enlightenment. This is all part of the experience. We are welcome to I am. However, I don’t worry about it. It doesn’t make me isolated. I can sleep soundly.”

“We do not expect greatness; we just want to survive. For someone else, this must be a challenge in itself. I can sense it. I can deal with it. I can deal with it. Any of us can look at this situation to confirm our nature. I don’t mind. My friends and I also realize what this is, and I am willing to do what I am told. Maybe that does make me wonder. That’s how it works. You are looking for a presence. Welcome to the situation. You see an art. It speaks for something else. It has a history. It has persistence. It offers its own form of confusion. I do not go along with it. Nevertheless, I can understand.”

“It’s a kind of illusion. People are looking for a lot more. They seek a creative resolution. There’s the story to tell. You want it to mean something. You want it to mean so much more. Look how things are all moving faster my and consider the risks. Consider all the challenges. Can you face the confusion? That is all. It’s something that you are not really part of. This is the promise, but you’re not related to time. It is it done for you. I get it. More than ever I get it. I can walk away from it. I understand. I see how things are hanging in the balance. I see the risks. What else is should we expect?”

“Perhaps that guy over there is a medical student. That woman is a concert pianist. Her friend is studying nuclear engineering. They are making the machines move faster. Certainly, all this peaks your interest. I only wish it could be you. If all these parts functioning together.”

“None of this is available to you. Ultimately, you are no more a part of this. You will never encounter anything more. So you take this understanding for what it is. That is it.”

“In a sense, I have what I’m looking for. You do not. And that is part of your observation. What do you think? Who is willing to act? Everybody seems to be feeding off the situation. No worries. It only makes you want more.”

“I am going to ask the questions. I am looking at your answers. Nothing looks like this. It was never meant to be that way, and I hope you can reconcile yourself with disappointment, There a winners and there are losers, and you are you really none of them. You’re not playing any more, and you think that you are at the center of it all.”

“What if there is a force field, how can we marshal its power for our own use?”

“There is a power in the human body that could light a hundred cities.”

“This is the next nuclear age. We can coexist with this power.”

“I know who he is. And you do to.”

“Do we have a higher level of consciousness?”

“Don’t think about this?”

“I have got this down.”

“Who is in control?”

“What does that ever mean?”

“Can I sneak in there with you?”

“This is a closed space.”

“I can’t take this.”

“DEAL WITH IT.”

“All the energy is falling away.”

“The rhythm falls away.”

“This is the first step.”

“What did you discover?”

“Universality.”

“Productivity.”

“She escaped.”

“This is where people get the wrong idea.”

“I live with the wrong idea.”

“You cannot play along.”

“Play for now.”

“It is still early.”

“Thanks for the assistance.”

“I shut down.”

“Everything comes to a halt.”

“Where do we go from here?”

“I CARE.”

“I live for this.”

“Are you working on this at home?”

“I am getting really good at this. You will get to this soon.”

“I have seen it all.”

“I have this whole collection of fantasy books.”

“I can help you with what you need.”

“My name is Dusk.”

“You are not the real Dusk.”

“How can that be?”

“I am part of the bus ride.”

“We need to switch buses.”

“That was never me.”

“That is a different kind of history.”

“We can go back in history.”
“This is the marvel that you see.”
“This is what you can control.”
“Otherwise, you slide back.”
“You become nothing more than that.”
“How many fireflies?”
“I am slipping back.”
“How far will you slip back?”
“This is more than a catalogue of human experience.”
“This was a clearer explanation.”
“The revelation of time.”
“Through someone else.”
“I can assist you through a difficult passage.”
“THIS IS THE PART THAT SURVIVES.”
“Eat one of these to sustain your life.”
“Do I have to listen to any more of this?”
“You need to put aside these plans.”
“She became so much more than she was.”
“This has not happened yet.”
“Have I happened yet?”
“I switched careers.”
“Do you really know?”
“I am entirely certain at this moment.”
“That is too much certainty for me.”
“These are uncertain people who had that moment of brilliance.”
“I do not want to interfere.”
“Introduce yourself.”
“My name is Dusk.”
“Who gave you that name?”
“It is a spiritual connection.”
“Keep talking.”
“That keeps you in touch with the world.”
“Is it a perfect fried egg.”
“Why is that a constant metaphor for human experience.”
“There was more to think about.”
“I can fly.”
“We can all fly.”
“I can put on the costume, and I can take it off.”
“I cannot leave my place.”
“I can be impressed in different ways.”
“These are your hope.”
“I love everyone.”
“Who do you want to protect?”

“I am not as good at this as I seem.”

“I was back in math class again.”

“What makes the world move so fast?”

“I am not going to solve this tonight.”

“WE ARE NOT LEAVING UNTIL WE COME TO A SOLUTION.”

“History comes alive in my hands.”

“We have to wait this out.”

“We have been cast out. We need to understand who is doing this to us. How long will go on for?”

“What are you telling me?”

“This is where you find safety.”

“I feel totally safe.”

“We could plan a garden.”

“Give that smile to me.”

“A garden of smiles.”

“Then I see it all.”

“Do I want to see it?”

“You will see.”

“Embrace your inner child.”

“That is not my story.”

“That is your story.”

“END OF STORY.”

“FREAK ZONE!”