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Travelling Philosophy: From Literature to Film

Travelling Philosophy is primarily devoted to a sequence of close textual analyses and descriptions of six objects of cultural memory in the present, which are all narrative texts. Using narratology as a heuristic tool, I constructed descriptions of three novels (*A Clockwork Orange*, *Fight Club*, and *Solaris*) and their filmic adaptations in order to expose what I considered to be the philosophy that radiated from the binary tension inherent in the dialectic between "self" and "other." After the philosophies emerged through narratological descriptions, I revealed the consistencies and variations between the media in order to determine the measure in which the philosophy of the novel travelled into film. Simply stated, philosophically, I wanted to gain a deeper understanding of how watching the film is "like" reading the book.

I concluded that the films paralleled the novels primarily in the sense that one is generally being asked the same type of philosophical question by positioning the self against a consistent other. In other words, the novel's philosophical question travels relatively unaltered into its filmic adaptation because it is generated by the same oppositional agents in both media. Positioned against this consistency, the philosophical variations between the novels and the films demonstrated that the other principally functions to permit the self (through its relation to the other) an occasion to experience an evolution of self-consciousness. Specifically, it was a kind of altruistic love that appeared to be the means through which the self could achieve emancipation from any externally imposed self-conceptions. To state this differently, it was only within a context of love that the self could discard its self-deceptions. Although the self was ultimately powerless to break the boundaries of its finiteness and could only attend to its internal concept of the other, the variations suggested that it was within the framework of a meaningful expression of an altruistic love that the self was able to transcend to a higher level of human consciousness. In short, love facilitated the evolution of self-consciousness as the self could, in a sense, "look beyond" the materiality it saw in the mirror and into the Platonic realm of the Forms where the metaphysical self may reside.

