

Fernando Pessoa

### **All evil comes from the sentiment of obstacle,**

All evil comes from the sentiment of obstacle, or, seeking deeper, by the sentiment of limitation. All evil, all unhappiness is in being limited, in having a bound. All unhappiness is a sentiment of our deficiency.

*One argument against:* the sentiment of my excessive viciousness, for instance, which is the sentiment of an excess, gives pain.

*Answer:* no what gives pain is the sentiment of our lack of power to control it.

The man who is vicious purely and wishes not to control this viciousness, is not unhappy at all. Therefore that excess, same in him as in me, is not the cause of unhappiness. If I am unhappy it is not because of it.

All pain is the result of limitation. The poet is unhappy when his thought becomes imperfect in words. The thinker is unhappy when there is a problem he cannot solve: sentiment of obstacle, of limitation.

Space and time are the conditions of existence, of pain, of action.

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Relative freedom attenuates our pain. But the selfish, the egotist are unhappy. Now what is selfishness? The sentiment of selfsufficiency, of selfperfection. But as nobody, as no thing is perfect in the universe, a sentiment of selfperfection, is a sentiment of the perfection of an imperfection, that is, such a sentiment, being false, is itself an imperfection.

Limitation is therefore the sort not only of all unhappiness but also of all evil.

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Man is either free or determined. Indetermination has no degrees.

Before this that evil consists in limitation, consequently in personality, the theory of the immortality of the soul cannot be considered as true, neither as

cheerful nor satisfying. Personality is always limited however ideal or metaphysical.

Regarding life as a (one) reality of their ill-reasoned dualism, the Christian philosophers are materialistic in wishing to perpetuate a material state in a world which is not material.

The things in which the greatest pleasure lies are those which we regard as nearest to the unlimited. Imagination, juvenile impulse, enthusiasm, etc. All the loftiest, all the nuldest poetical conceptions are strivings after the unlimited.

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