

Of Life, Death & Salvation

Chapter One: The Blind Urge of Being

„Die niedrigsten Stufe der Objektivation des Willens stellen sich die allgemeinsten Kräfte der Natur dar, [...] wie Schwere, [...]. So sehn wir denn hier, auf der untersten Stufe, den Willen sich darstellen als einen blinden Drang, ein finsternes, dumpfes Treiben, fern von aller unmittelbaren Erkennbarkeit.“

„The lowest level of the Objectification¹ of the Will is represented by the general forces of nature, [...] like gravity, [...]. Thus we see here, at the lowest level, the Will represented as a blind urge, a dark, dull, striving, far from all immediate recognition.“

To explain my lyrics of the first song and the corresponding Schopenhauer-quotation I primarily have to explain what the so called thing-in-itself is about (German: das Ding an sich):

The *thing-in-itself* was firstly a term used by Immanuel Kant which describes the absolute reality that exists for itself independent from all sensual perception and is therefore unknowable. Schopenhauer adopted this term but went far beyond it and criticized Kant in this way, that the *thing-in-itself* may not be recognizable, but it is absolutely not unexperienceable, because we all know it very well from ourselves: it is our will!

This is one of Schopenhauer most genius thoughts and explains a lot of things in philosophy previously not comprehended or at least unexplainable. The will resp. the *thing-in-itself* is the force behind all living things, which we best know from ourselves as the will of life: we all want to live! But the will is not only the primum mobile of every action of man and animal, but also the unfounded cause behind the laws of nature, like gravity (see quotation), which is effectively an unending, blind and unreasonable will in Schopenhauer's world-view.

Also he is correctly saying that the will is not free, because the will always follows causality, which is not a mental concept, but the will per se. Schopenhauer says about that in a legendary quotation: *"Man can indeed do what he wants, but he can-not will what he wants"*.

This is an appealing truth, which a lot of people try to deny because it means: our own will is not free (!) and man can only want according to his inherent character. The will is therefore what I describe in my lyrics as *„the blind urge of being“*, not free and never really satisfied, reaching *„from wish to greed to addiction“* or *„from hope to fear to desperation“* and finally *„from love to hate to ignorance“*. As I believe in rebirth this state of man continues as long as he affirms the will of life, yet there is a way out of this, which will be discussed later in these articles.

¹ *Objektivation des Willens* = *objectification of the will* which means the different individual forms of the will resp. the *thing-in-itself* in its perceivable forms like plants, animals, humans etc.