

Of Life, Death & Salvation

Chapter Two: Heaven & Hell

„Nun ist diese Welt so eingerichtet, wie sie seyn musste, um mit genauer Noth bestehn zu können: wäre sie aber noch ein wenig schlechter, so könnte sie schon nicht mehr bestehn. Folglich ist eine schlechtere, da sie nicht bestehn könnte, gar nicht möglich, sie selbst also unter den möglichen die schlechteste.“

„Now this world is so equipped, as is necessary, with its exact needs in order to be able to exist: if it were a little worse, then it could no longer exist. As a result, because a worse one is not at all possible, being unable to exist, then it itself is the worst of all possibilities.“

This quotation of Schopenhauer made a great impression to me. Before I go to explain this I want to write more about Schopenhauer's philosophy: we learned in the text about the first song that the world is throughout will; but beside this will the world is also *representation* (German: *Vorstellung*). The world is by space and time as well as causality (cause and effect) manifestation of the will. The world is divided in the parts of subject and object because Schopenhauer writes: *„the world is my representation“* (German: *die Welt ist meine Vorstellung*), which means: there is no object without subject! This means, subject and object are ultimately only manifestations of the will, who is regarding quasi himself from subject to object so to speak. Schopenhauer is therefore teaching a principle of idealism and says: *„the world is for a subject“*. Because of that the world resp. the will is always „myself“ and never „yourself“, which leads us back to the quotation of this song:

Schopenhauer writes the world with its objects may be beautiful to look at, but to look is absolutely not the same as to be, because the world is arranged in such a way as it has to be – to persist in exact need! The world is in Schopenhauer's eyes not a gift but a rather a guiltiness, something which, like already said, persists in exact need; would the world be a bit worse than that, the world couldn't exist any longer; therefore is a worse one not possible, because that world couldn't exist, ergo our world is among all possibilities the worst one!

The world, as Schopenhauer writes, is no *„visual peep box“*, because we are subjects and no objects, and to be is a constant struggle. Life is like a pendulum swinging constantly between pain and boredom, and the restless will is never really satisfied. This is the state in which we live, the pendulum between the contrasts, the swaying between „Heaven & Hell“ – but it's more hell than anything else...