

... 'How dare any one man take away another's free will for the sake of cheap thrills? Those who do so are defying the very essence of man. They do not deserve any part in this world. Freedom of will, freedom of choice is an absurdity if expressed within the fakery of a drug addled mind or digital interface. Existence is meaningless and futile without free will, without action, responsibility and reality. You all know of the Three Beings. We have The Fools; who do nothing, know nothing, choose nothing and believe nothing. They are content in their nothingness and their mental limitations imprison them. They are unaware of any more meaningful state of mind. We should pity these people, they know no different. We have The Followers; who think but choose to fit in. They believe but don't act. They follow others and in their subservience they lead the unhappiest lives of all. We should despise these people. They are cowards and hypocrites. Finally we have The Free; those who choose for themselves, act on behalf of themselves and others. These are the free, these are the real. Which life do you want to lead? Who do you want to be? '

'The Free! The Free!' shouted the audience in unison, Natasha wondering at the irony.

'Once you have made your choices, you must follow them through. Follow them through with total commitment and with effort. Only the effort, the struggle makes our lives meaningful. It's all we have. Without choice, without struggle, what are we?'

Natasha was reminded of a story she had read once at school, the story of Sisyphus, whose sole purpose in life was to push a boulder up a hill, only to see it roll back down the hill once he had reached the top. His satisfaction was achieved from the effort and the struggle, not the end result...