The Dream of the Happy Ending:

Interpreting the Movies, Songs, Politics, Stories, and Longings Around us

Mako A. Nagasawa

Part 1

Comparing Bigger Stories

What Do These Movies Have in Common?

1. Up in the Air
2. The Social Network
3. Romeo and Juliet
4. The Butterfly Effect
5. The Departed
6. Blood Diamond
7. Pay It Forward

8. Boys Don't Cry
9. Gangs of New York
10. Scarface
11. Atonement
12. Moulin Rouge
13. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
14. My Sister's Keeper

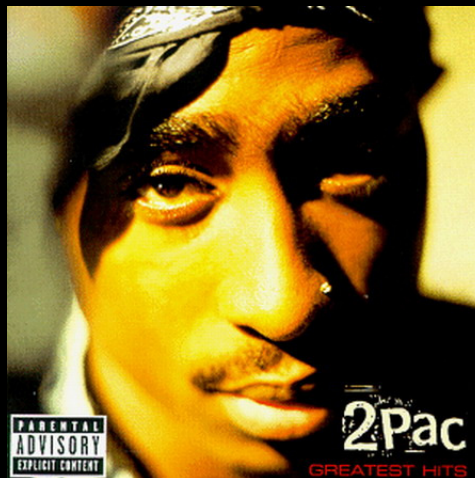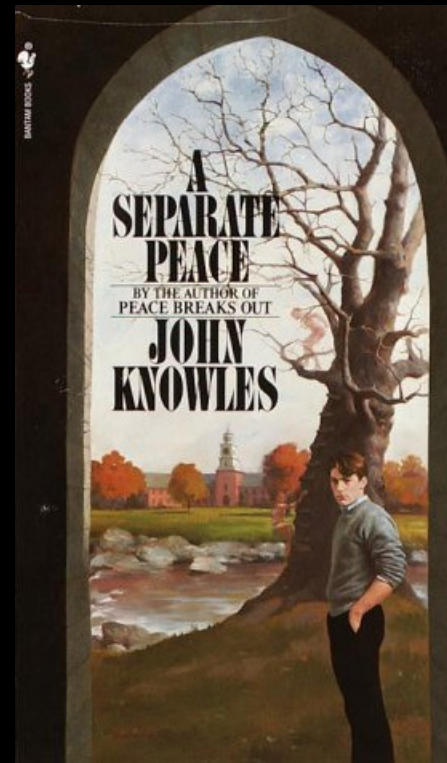# No Happy Ending: The Evil Banks Win
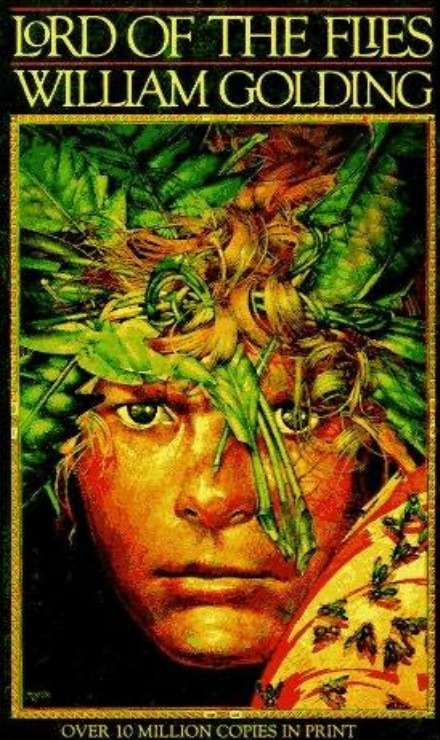
Songs With No Happy Ending

1. Don't Stop Believing, by Journey
2. Changes, by Tupac
3. The Way It Is, by Bruce Hornsby
4. The End of the Innocence, by Don Henley
5. Fast Car, by Tracy Chapman

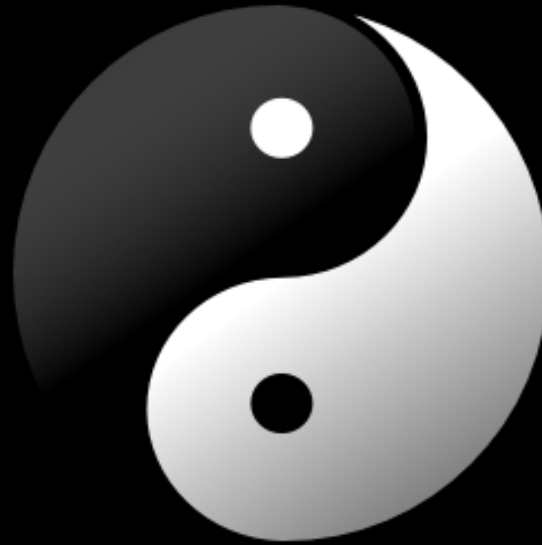# Books With No Happy Ending

1. Lord of the Flies, by William Golding
2. A Separate Peace, by John Knowles

The Fatalistic Story

Good and Evil Coexist Forever –
A Circular Non-Story

The Hero Story

Good Defeats Evil –
A Linear Story

Movies With a Happy Ending

1. Every Disney movie
2. The superhero who defeats the villain
3. The kids who stop the robbers
4. The guy and girl who hold out for each other
5. The family that stays together through adversity
6. The natives who beat the invaders
7. The lawyer who persuades the jury of the truth
8. The scientist who beats the disease
9. The teacher who gets through to the kids

The 1ˢᵗ Question in Life: Happy Ending or Not?
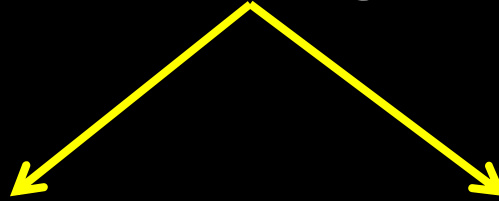
No Happy Ending   **Happy Ending**

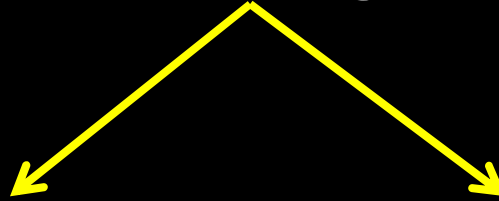# The 1st Question in Life: Happy Ending or Not?

No Happy Ending

Good = Evil

Happy Ending

Good > Evil

Discuss:
Your Emotional Responses to

No Happy Ending

- Defeated

Happy Ending

- Hopeful

Make a donation to Wikipedia and give the gift of knowledge!

Try Beta   👤 Log in / create account

article   discussion   edit this page   history

Problem of evil in Hinduism

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Hindu answers to the problem of evil are different from most answers offered in Western philosophy, partly because the problem of evil within Hindu thought is differently structured than Western traditions, mainly Abrahamic traditions.

In the Hindu tradition the problem of evil is phrased as the **Problem of Injustice**. This problem can be considered in the following manner:

God is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Just. Yet injustice is observed to persist in the world. How is this possible?

In the Advaita school of Vedanta, this problem is dealt with in detail by Sankara in his commentary on the Brahma Sutras, 2.1.34-36:

> *Brahma Sutra 2.1.34*: *"No partiality and cruelty (can be charged against God) because of (His) taking other factors into consideration."*

> Sankara's commentary explains that God cannot be charged with partiality or cruelty (i.e. injustice) on account of his taking the factors of virtuous and vicious actions (Karma) performed by an individual in previous lives. If an individual experiences pleasure or pain in this life, it is due to virtuous or vicious action (Karma) done by that individual in a past life.

> *Brahma Sutra 2.1.35*: *"If it be argued that it is not possible (to take Karma into consideration in the beginning), since the fruits of work remain still undifferentiated, then we say, no, since the transmigratory state has no beginning."*

> The opponent now argues that there could have been no "previous birth" at the very beginning of creation, before which Karma could not have existed. Sankara replies that it is not so, for the number of creation cycles is beginningless, vide the next verse:

> *Brahma Sutra 2.1.36*: *"Moreover, this is logical, and (so) it is met with (in the scriptures)."*

> Sankara provides references from the Vedas concerning the beginninglessness of Creation: "The Ordainer created the sun and moon like those of previous cycles" (Rig Veda 10.190.3). This shows the existence of earlier cycles of creation, and hence the number of creation cycles is beginningless.

Thus Sankara's resolution to the Problem of Injustice is that the existence of injustice in the world is only apparent, for one merely reaps the results of one's moral actions sown in a past life, which is compatible with the Justness of an Omniscient and Omnipotent God.

On the higher level of Existence, however, there is no evil or good, since these are dependent mainly on temporal circumstances. Hence a jnani, one who has realized his true nature, is beyond such dualistic notions.

Sources   [edit]

- Swami Gambhirananda. *Brahma Sutra Bhasya of Shankaracharya*. Published by the Ramakrishna Math. ISBN 81-7505-105-1
- Mohanty, J.N. *Classical Indian Philosophy*. Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000. ISBN 0-8476-8933-6

See also   [edit]

www.investigatingatheism.info

'But Nature, as we now know, regards ultimately only fitness and not our happiness… and does not scruple to use hate, fear, punishment and even war alongside affection in ordering social groups and selecting among them…'

www.investigatingatheism.info

'Claude-Adrien Helvetius (1715-1771) and Denis Diderot (1713-84) admitted that the consequences of a consistent atheism were depressing, and they sought comfort in forms of survival, such as species survival… But many atheists…regarded appeals to such survival substitutes as ultimately a form of self-deception, and sought other solutions to the problem…'

Discuss in Pairs
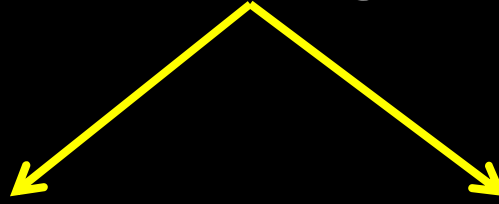
One person says, 'I love [that happy ending story].'

The other person begins, 'So do I…

1. Have you ever wondered why we relate to happy ending stories?

2. Do you think *this world* will have a happy ending?

3. Do you think good will defeat evil in reality?
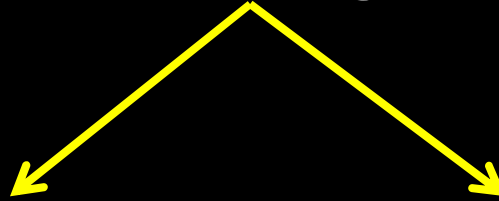
Part 2

Comparing Bigger Stories

The 1st Question in Life: Happy Ending or Not?
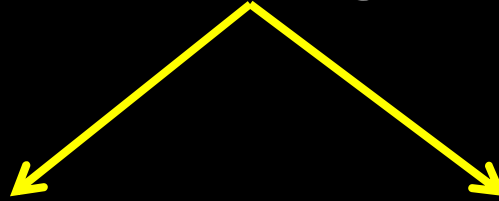
No Happy Ending   Happy Ending

The 1st Question in Life: Happy Ending or Not?

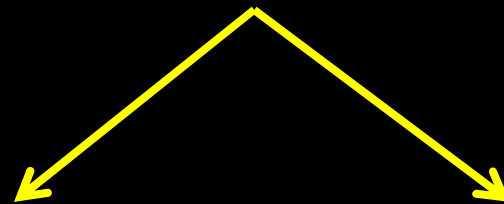No Happy Ending

Good = Evil

Happy Ending

Good > Evil

The 1ˢᵗ Question in Life: Happy Ending or Not?

No Happy Ending

Good = Evil

Happy Ending

Good > Evil

The 2ⁿᵈ Question in Life: Is the Villain Internal or External?

Internal

External

Who's the Villain in This Story

External Internal

• Snow White

Who's the Villain in This Story

External Internal

- Snow White

- Transformers

- X

Who's the Villain in This Story

External Internal

- Snow White
- Transformers
- Lord of the Rings

- X
- X

Who's the Villain in This Story

	External	**Internal**
• Snow White	• X	
• Transformers	• X	
• Lord of the Rings	• X	• X
• Star Wars IV, V, VI		

Who's the Villain in This Story

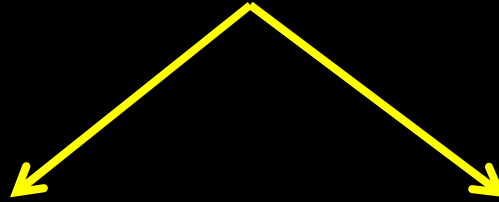|	**External**	**Internal**
Snow White	X	
Transformers	X	
Lord of the Rings	X	X
Star Wars IV, V, VI	X	X

All Belief Systems
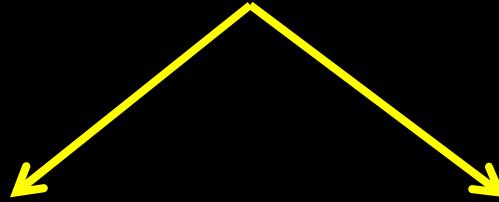
No Happy Ending   **Happy Ending**

All Belief Systems
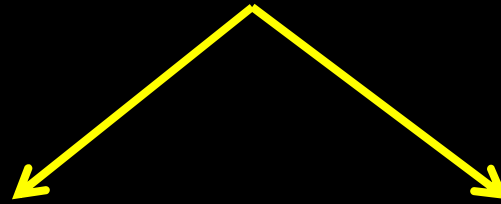
No Happy Ending

Happy Ending

Cycles of reincarnation
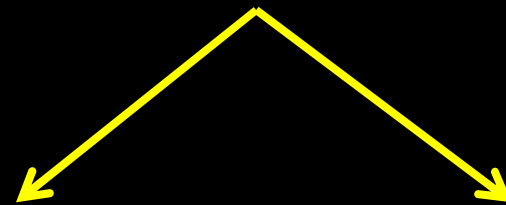
Escape to nothingness

Eternal battle of good vs. evil

There is no good and evil

All Belief Systems

No Happy Ending

Happy Ending

Internal

External

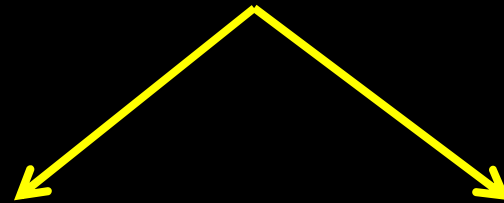Cycles of reincarnation

Escape to nothingness

Eternal battle of good vs. evil

There is no good and evil

All Belief Systems

No Happy Ending

Happy Ending

Internal

External

Cycles of reincarnation

Escape to nothingness

Eternal battle of good vs. evil

There is no good and evil

New human nature

All Belief Systems
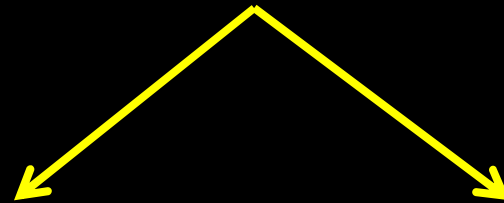
No Happy Ending

Happy Ending

Internal

External

Cycles of reincarnation

Escape to nothingness

Eternal battle of good vs. evil

There is no good and evil

New human nature

Theocracy

Social progress

Individualism

All Belief Systems

No Happy Ending

Happy Ending

Internal

External

Hinduism

Buddhism

Zoroastrianism

Atheism

Christianity

Islam

Capitalism/Marxism

Secular liberalism
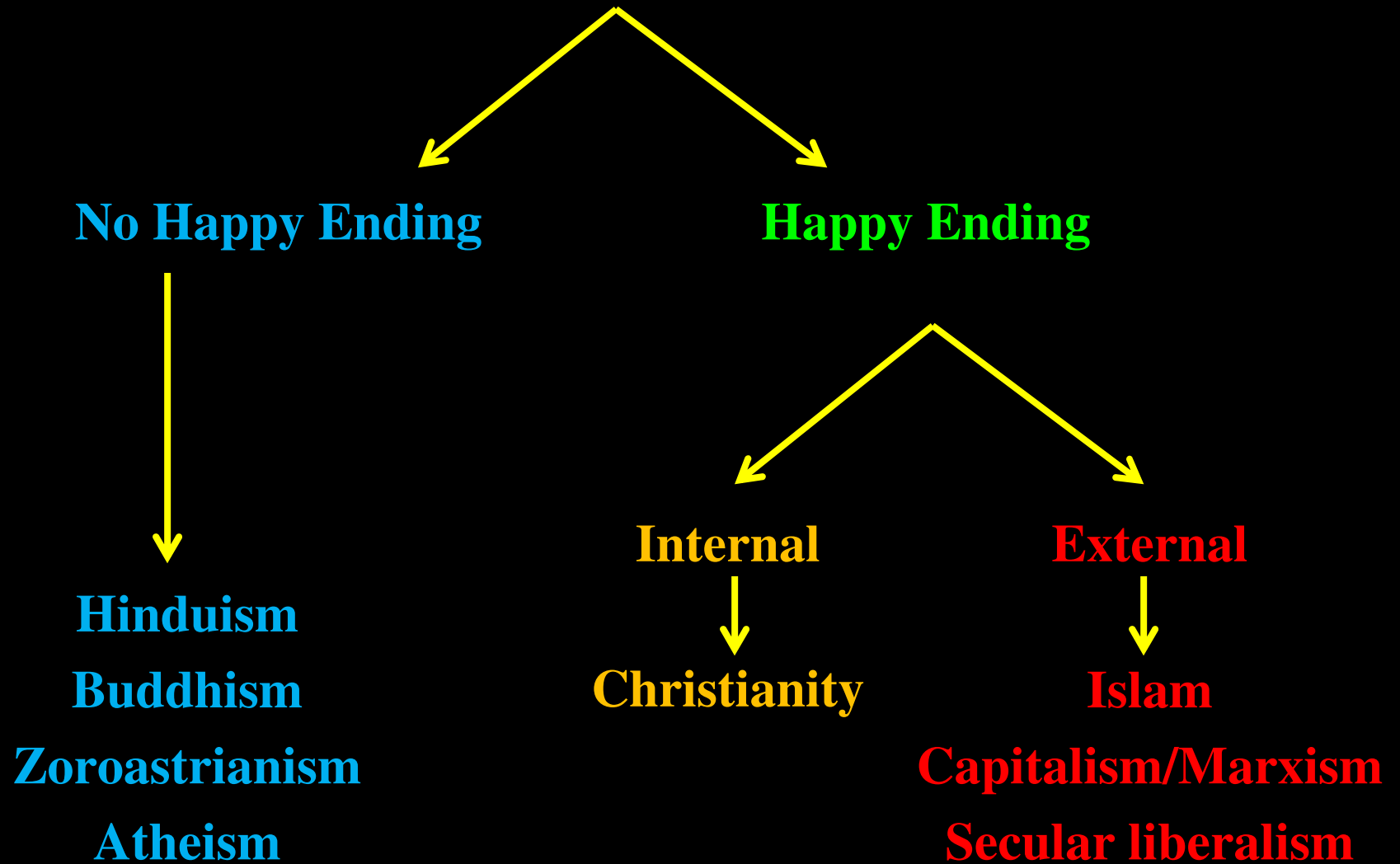
Discuss in Pairs. Choose one.

1. One person says, 'All religions are really the same.' The other person responds.

2. One person says, 'We just have to work for better laws, schools, and circumstances. That's all we can do.' The other person figure out a way to talk about human nature as a deeper problem.