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Florman Ch. 11, Reading Response 4

Florman uses the story of the protagonist who becomes enslaved shoveling sand and devising a way of acquiring water to show how engineering has impacts our lives. Without engineering we would be stuck in the same daily cycles. No progression, no learning, no joy, no different from regular animals. The protagonist discovering a method of acquiring water is them discovering engineering. Without it they would have no chance at freedom, pleasure, or joy. I think this is Florman's biggest message. Engineering has given humans a way to advance and learn, and in turn, a route to finding joy and pleasure in life and what we do. Florman reminds us that "the main existential pleasure of the engineer will always be to contribute to the well-being of his fellow man". The engineer strives to improve the lives of all not just himself. Florman also notes that one does actively seek out happiness. The engineer seeks what work there is to do, what there is to be completed that he can apply his knowledge and skills to. And thus, happiness is bestowed upon him for he has found something that gives him meaning.