Post 1

Reading The Atlantic article and Simic's work made me think about how we all look for deeper meaning in life. The article notes that recent entertainment offers "not escapism but wait-there's-more-ism" (Hassan, 2017), suggesting there's more to our world than what we can see. I find this interesting because Simic does something similar in his poetry, finding deep meaning in everyday moments, even when life feels chaotic. As Harp (2003) points out in his review, Simic often explores "the shadow life of the unconscious" while finding meaning in ordinary experiences.

As someone working in IT at age 37, this really hits home for me. Like Simic staying up late as "the metaphysician at 3 a.m." (Harp, 2003, p. 171), I often find myself doing the same, especially during those late-night system updates or when fixing technical problems. While my work deals with straightforward logic and clear solutions, I still catch myself looking for deeper meaning beyond just ones and zeros. Recently, during a 3 AM project launch, while staring at endless lines of code, I had one of those moments where everything felt connected to something bigger. It reminded me of how Simic describes finding meaning in simple moments, like his wartime memory of watching bombs fall while sharing cheese with his grandfather, where the mundane and profound exist together in what Harp calls "a violent world" (2003, p. 173).

Post 2

In considering whether Bruno the penguin could kill his grandfather in the time travel paradox, I believe that through the lens of multiverse theory, the answer is both yes and no. Let me explore three main theoretical frameworks that help explain this paradox:

First, the Self-Consistency Principle, developed by physicist Igor Novikov (1990), suggests that any actions taken by a time traveler have already been integrated into past events, making it impossible to change history. Under this principle, Bruno would find himself unable to kill his grandfather because something would always prevent it - he'd slip on a banana peel, the gun would jam, or he'd have a change of heart. This creates a causally consistent loop where Bruno exists precisely because he failed.

The second perspective is the Grandfather Paradox Resolution through timeline branching. In this view, as discussed by Lewis (1976), when Bruno travels back in time, he creates a new timeline the moment he arrives. While he might succeed in killing his grandfather's alternate version in this new timeline, it wouldn't affect his original timeline where he was born. This theory addresses the logical contradiction but raises questions about the meaning of changing a past that isn't really "your" past.

The third and most compelling explanation, in my view, is the Many-Worlds Interpretation (MWI) of quantum mechanics, originally proposed by Everett (1957). Unlike simple timeline branching, MWI suggests that all possible quantum outcomes exist simultaneously in parallel universes. This means there are universes where Bruno succeeds and others where he fails, all existing concurrently. I find this explanation most satisfying because it preserves causality while allowing for free will - Bruno can make genuine choices without creating paradoxes because all outcomes are realized across different universes.

References

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