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Perspective: an Extension of Opinion

Cory Doctorow explores in his story "Model Minority" the notion that perspective is the deciding factor in the outcome of social affairs. A prime illustration of this is American Eagle, who, to the reader, personifies the ideals of the American spirit. However, in the story, he is seen as an unregulated and wholly mysterious third party, with powers beyond human comprehension. When Eagle decided to save Robinson from a racially targeted police attack, he acted from a moral standpoint - believing it was the right action to take. Nevertheless, because of Eagle's position to intervene in the affairs of humans he unknowingly created a conflict of perspective. Each side in this conflict differs in viewpoint due to the presence of an unknown variable (Eagle). Such a situation creates a plethora of equally undesirable outcomes, in this case motivation for a head-on clash between political spectrums. Because of a unified dissatisfaction in a scenario completely out of anyone's control, the original problem of police brutality is downplayed. Bruce, a counterpart to Eagle, states that "You can be right, or you can be effective" [p.183], which exemplifies how Eagle approached the Robinson situation; believing his perspective of right was the solution to a convoluted and dynamic problem. Perspective is dangerous in the sense that it can be used to justify nearly anything. An extraterrestrial intervening in human law without repercussion is a much more powerful story than anything else that can be conjured. For this reason, perspective is more influential than any opinion, because opinions are loosely derived from facts, whereas perspectives are from experience.