

A businessman is seen walking out of an office after a business deal. Upon entering the room the first man walked out of, a wealthy CEO, Reginald looks out his window, as the sun is setting. After a few moments, another mysterious person walks into the office.

???:

Howdy there partner. I see those stocks are still going up. Did you finally make your father proud or are you still groveling on his ashes?

Reginald:

(Facepalming and groaning.)

Why have you returned?

???:

Because you yearned for me.

Reginald:

No I do not.

(He slams his hand on his table.)

I don't need you. I've strived for all these years, you were the one keeping me back.

???:

You did cast me away and that's why I have come back, to complete you. You didn't need me then but suddenly I've returned to remind you truly want.

Reginald:

I have an empire, a loving wife and children. Why would I possibly need you beside me?

???:

Ah I see, the wife that's been shared around more than the latest trend, the son who is waiting for you to drop down to inherit your wealth and your daughter who wants nothing to do with you. When was the last time you have had an interaction that was human, one that invoked that warm feeling inside you unable to be filled with wealth or power?

Reginald:

But people love me, I have provided so many resources to our great society!

???:

So your value is the praise and adoration of the many, rather than the intimate affection of your own peers? Of course it is. Speaking about love, do the civilians of those developing nations whose homes you've trampled, the small businesses you've run to the ground in bankruptcy and the victims of abuse in your own workplace that you never give a second thought to, does their love concern you? Or are those whose outside your limited worldview mere pawns on your grand board?

Reginald:

I will be remembered in the future as the man who pioneered technology!

???:

And soon after that you will be remembered as the catalyst that set the world on fire. The damage you have done to the environment is more significant than the actions of thousands of individuals can repair, even working together. Even the devil despairs at your sight, you are one of the worst of all the fucked up people in the world. You are filth, slime, vermin.

Reginald:

(Starting to crack.)

So why have you come here, to torture me?

???:

You know why. Because somewhere in the void you call a soul, where you've tried to shackle, suppress and forget about me, akin your body, the chains you've kept me down with have eroded. Now you realise your mortality. You realise that one day it's all gonna end, and so with it, so will all the plastic bonds that you have created. That's why I've come back; for so long you have deemed me a, "poor man's quality," but now you understand that I am, in fact, the quality that makes an individual a human, your Humanity.

Reginald stands up, some denial still left in him, he removes his glasses, and looks at his palms.

Reginald:

I'm scared, I don't want to die, I don't want to be forgotten.

Humanity:

Death catches up to all of us, compadre. But the fact that I'm here means there is some humanity left within you, while you may be stubborn, at least you have some clarity of your situation in your waning years. Even if your parents drilled the concepts of capital gain into your mind, you still have experienced true compassion in your childhood, perhaps from a long-forgotten friend or an old role model. It's not too late to make a change. Yet.

Reginald:

I've gone down this path too long, if I leave it now I'll be ruined, my reputation and my influence will dwindle.

Humanity:

The path you're going down leads to the worm on the hook, get a grip, and let go of the route you're headed towards, ironic I know but life is full of paradoxes and contradictions. Gradually stir your corporation towards the right path without making it too obvious lest you be replaced by someone worse, improve your Human Resources and set up charities to those in need. In terms of your children, teach your son to become a respectable individual and reconnect with your daughter. You may never fully redeem yourself, the trail of corpses will never leave, the cataclysm you've created will never entirely clear. But trust me, this is the only way you can ever be happy when you draw your final breath. Do you understand?

Reginald:

Yes, I, we will become better.

Humanity:

So do we have a deal?

Reginald:

Yes we do.

Reginald and his humanity make a firm handshake then look out into the window to a rising sun.