Luper reading 1/16/18

Luper refers to “powerful mechanisms at play” to block people from realizing their individuality and finding their own way to grip their existence. Theology can’t tolerate individual expression since it requires total domination of individuality to create the laity. Theology was ahead of the curb on diversions as well. By the time Pascal began to realize the power of diversion theology was had already capitalized on its ability to make individuals abandon themselves. Think of the conditions of life at the time of early society, and its easy to see why people would be desperate to have an escape.

I truly identified with Luper’s summation of our lives being the result of a complex web of decisions that ultimately mean nothing. I’ve embraced the two facts he mentioned which state that we are always free to make these decisions and will define our lives by these decisions. Personal responsibility is something very important to me and seems to be a common theme among existentialists. I think Kierkegaard developed the best take on ownership of decisions when he said Christians must accept the absurdness of their beliefs to fully accept them. It seems to me that Luper is pointing to self-deception as the weakness of theology and some philosophies, and I couldn’t agree more.