Journal entry 3/5/18

1. Is it true that my own death, your own death, is the single worst thing that will happen to you?  Some critics of Heidegger have noted that for a parent, they'd fear the death of their child more than their own death... is this poor reasoning on the part of the parent, or is it the case that there are some deaths that I'd dread more than my own death?

 I can relate to fearing my child’s death more than my own, because my child has so much life left to live. I would be heart broken if my son died without knowing the joy of driving a car, the warmth of a woman’s breast, and exhilaration of a life well lived. I’ve experienced these things throughout my life and for me I would consider a life without embracing adult life a wasted life.

2. Is Heidegger right that all societies are swamps, bathing us in lies and trite surface living, from the beginning.... or could you imagine a society whose socialization practices could be truly benign?

 It’s not possible for humans to develop without imprinting. My son tries his best to emulate my behaviors because he doesn’t have the ability to conceptualize himself as his own person. Adolescence is a time for gaining those abilities, but the mundane aspects of life leave a stain upon us. In some ways the social practices of our society can be comforting mechanism for some.

3. Is the anxiety of realizing that I am really free, that my life is my own story to write, as great of an anxiety as my knowing that I am going to die? Are they different sorts of worries? Are they related?

 I think there is sort of a reverse anxiety that juxtaposes that ideology. I considering fearing death to be death, because if you live your life in fear of death then you might as well die. I fear not living my life in a fulfilling manner and letting it go to waste. Since they both are in retaliation to death then they must be related, like two sides of the same coin.

4. In your life, do you embrace your freedom, or do you try to give it away, to a creed or religious doctrine, to some authority figure, to the They via accepting the 'normal' way to live one's years? Is this an active choice, or just a sleep that one drifts into, or that one has always been within?

I embrace my freedom, but I do give away some freedoms to authority. Civilized society requires a suppression of some freedoms in exchange for social functions/securities. Generally, the freedoms we give away are ones we wouldn’t exercise often anyways, so I don’t view this exchange as a loss. Our initial upbringing is what establishes they idea of a normal life, which isn’t always negative.