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Struggling like a Shadowmoth by Raemon

Source: Featured posts - LessWrong 2.0 viewer Published: Tue, 24 Sep 2024 00:47:05 +0000

URL: https://www.greaterwrong.com/posts/hvj9NGodhva9pKGTj/struggling-like-a-shadowmoth

Summary: The article reflects on the story 'Star Wars: Traitor' by Matthew Stover, particularly a poignant anecdote involving the character Jacen Solo, who is tortured and engages in philosophical discussions with an alien woman. She compares his struggle to a shadowmoth trapped in a cocoon, highlighting that while the struggle is painful, it is a necessary part of growth. The alien woman's eventual realization is that directly helping the moth can prevent it from developing the strength needed to thrive. This leads to Jacen understanding that he must adapt his relationship with his torture and learn to accept it, which eventually results in a form of enlightenment. The article touches upon the balance between accepting suffering as a learning process and the ethical implications of causing pain for growth. It emphasizes the importance of self-agency, resilience, and understanding one's internal locus of control, while acknowledging that sometimes outside help is necessary. Ultimately, the narrative suggests a blend of tough personal growth experiences with empathy towards oneself, reinforcing that achieving true independence and self-acceptance is essential even in times of struggle.