

Looking at *Justine* through Simone de Beauvoir and contradicting forces

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Duration of video clip: 2 minutes and 28 seconds

Simone de Beauvoir is very complex, I don't know if we have time to get into it. Basically she says that each of us is at least two contradicting forces at the same time, meaning you are a filmmaker who very much wants to make a successful film, you are a caring individual who cares about us, humanity, people. *Justine* touched your heart, you want to make a change in the world, in order, but you're both of them at the same time. Now there's no way to break that knot, you are that tension. Now she asks one question: was your action ensuring her freedom in as much as your freedom was ensured by the fact that you're doing your own business? This is a tough one, or was it all about 'I am making a film and if it will be successful' etc, etc, then it will ... The question is different for de Beauvoir, was *Justine's* freedom insured and elevated and enhanced and pushed forward by the means of your action? If so, then it's a moral act, and you are a morally, you're at the highest and seventh rung of her moral ladder. If not, you're other things, you're an adventurer, you're a passionate man. I think it's a good point for discussion, not because we're going to open your heart and say "what was your intention?", but what de Beauvoir is offering us, is a means to examine our actions. Saying, don't look only on your side, look at the other side. I mean leave it, leave your intentions aside, she says, I don't want you to say, "what I wanted to do was good". Let's look here at the existential condition of your action, is it enhancing the other's liberation? We should know, we should know by now if it does or doesn't. If it does that means that it is. Meaning, you have to think of *Justine* in as much as you thought of yourself, it has to be evident in the piece. I don't have an answer, I'm just saying that this is a perspective through which we can all benefit. If we ask it, and when we have time we can discuss the other rungs in the ladder, because she has seven.