

Paul Koop: Review: "Mr. Nobody" by Jaco Van Dormael 2009

### Jaco Van Dormael:

Jaco Van Dormael is a Belgian director and screenwriter known for his innovative and visually stunning films. Born on February 9, 1957 in Ixelles, Belgium, he learned and worked in the fields of film and theater. Van Dormael became internationally known through his films. He is characterized by his impressively crafted, unique style, which embodies a mixture of surrealism, romanticism and philosophical themes.

### Action:

The film "Mr. Nobody" begins with a symbolic scene in which a pigeon is trained in a Skinner box. This scene symbolizes the concept of conditioning and how we often believe that our random behavior is the cause of events, which is often an illusion.

In the following shots, an identical person appears uncommented in independent alternative stories.

The viewer only then learns that this person, Mr. Nobody, is the last mortal human and that his impending death will be broadcast live in the media, accompanied by a psychiatrist and later a journalist.

The psychiatrist uses hypnosis to take Mr. Nobody back to the time before he was born. Here it is revealed that before birth all knowledge about possible developments and life paths is present, but the so-called "angels of oblivion" take this knowledge away at birth. With Mr. Nobody, the angels forgot to take it, which allows him to remember all possible lives and also know future lives.

The story focuses on a boy who is faced with the choice of going to his father or his mother when his parents separate. He remembers three stories with different spouses and children, as well as a sci-fi story about Mars colonization that he wrote as a teenager. This story is as real as the others because it is possible.

Over the course of his possible lives, Mr. Nobody also works as a television presenter and in his documentary program deals with popular scientific topics such as string theory, dimensions of time, illusion and reality, the possible and decisions.

The butterfly effect is triggered by a boiled egg when a raindrop blurs a phone number, causing important connections to be lost.

A version of Mr. Nobody learns from a recorded video of an older version of him that he exists in the memories of a boy who cannot choose between father and mother.

He tells the journalist documenting Mr. Nobody's death that each of his lives is the right life, each path is the right path, and that these paths are created by the boy who decides.

Finally, from a certain date, time runs backwards towards the time of the decision between father and mother, but the boy doesn't choose and runs away.

#### Interpretation:

"Mr. Nobody" is a remarkable film that takes us into the world of decisions and their impact on different realities. These different realities seem like the idea of many alternative worlds, which are the same in form and substance and differ from each other through the influence of alternative decisions made by the different versions of the characters involved.

It is fascinating to see how the protagonist, Mr. Nobody, experiences his different life paths and opportunities and how this challenges our understanding of choices and reality.

Different realities arise in parallel based on different decisions and trajectories. Every path is the right path and what is possible is real. That's why the story of Mars colonization told in the story is as real as any other story in the versions of Mr. Nobody.

The concept of the "angels of oblivion", which deprive one at birth of all knowledge of possible developments, can be viewed as a metaphysical metaphor for this many-worlds interpretation and the Omega point. And that's why the Omega Point must have lived every version of Mr. Nobody in order for him to have this knowledge too. In "Mr. Nobody" this idea is presented in the integration of all the stories and possibilities that make up the protagonist's life.

#### Personal rating:

Our lives are full of suffering (birth, old age, illness, death). It slips through our fingers like sand. We can't even hold on to the meaning we give it.

We all have to die and it would be good to be calm and collected then.

Our life is not quiet even when everything is quiet and there is no noise to be heard. Complete peace and serenity are timelessness. Timelessness is a state that we can never fully achieve in life.

Time is future, present and past. The future is the open possibilities and the possible stories that go with them. The past is the stories we can remember. The present is the conscious transition of possibilities and their possible stories into the past.

Timelessness is staying in this moment, knowing and keeping open all possibilities and their possible stories.

In this place there is no suffering, no pleasure and no desire and the knowledge of all possibilities and all possible stories is complete.

But in this place there is also, because there is no suffering and no pleasure, no time and no passing of time, no I, no self and no consciousness.

This is not a contradiction to perfect knowledge only if from this place all lives are continuously born, lived and suffered until everything continuously enters into timelessness, into peace and serenity and into perfect knowledge.