

VICTIM
VILLAIN
VICTOR



Villain, Victim, Victor: The Three Characters in the Game of Life

Victim, Villain, Victor. In the end, these are the only three characters you get to play in this game of life. That's it. Every one of us starts out as the victim. We are thrown into the world not by choice, but by chance. And to chance, we are forever victims, because chance is what brought us into being. We didn't ask to be born. We didn't choose the body, the time, the parents, or the world. We just woke up inside the story one day, already mid-chapter, kicking and screaming and clueless.

And some people stay there, and they try, however fruitlessly, to kick and scream their way through existence. Some people never leave that victim state. They keep outsourcing their thinking—their only superpower. They keep surrendering their power, keep living the story someone else wrote for them. The victim lives in a chaotic swirl: no clarity, no coherence, just fragments of emotion and belief handed down from others.

But those who rise above that role all have one thing in common: They start thinking about their own thinking (meta-cognition). They begin analyzing their thoughts and ask: "Why do I think about that or in that manner, and should I be wasting my thoughts on that at all?" They begin to realize that they can think for themselves or continue to get lost in the noise. And so an evolution occurs in those who choose to write their own stories with this understanding in hand.

Because thinking—real thinking—is the tool. Thinking is our only real power in this world, our only source of control amidst all the chaos of chance and pain. It's what separates the victim from what comes next. But once you learn to think, once you tame your mind and harness it, you stand at a fork in the road. You can use that thinking in one of two ways:

You can become the villain, or you can become the victor. I contend that many of us need to consider this choice in every story we read and every thought we have and in every action we take. When we stare at the phone or the tube, we need to remember to ground ourselves in this reality, where the real people are, not the surreality swept over our eyes like that in Plato's Allegory of the Cave. We are not chained to our devices physically—yet.

As a matter of fact, the villain always beats the victim. Always. Because the victim has no base. No backbone. No stable narrative to stand on. And the villain knows this. The villain sees the gaps, sees the fear, and uses it. The villain weaponizes their clarity. They take control, not to help, but to manipulate, deceive, and dominate. They save themselves at the expense of others. That's their move every time. And it works... for a while.

But the villain is always kept in check by the victor.

The victor is who we all want to be. It's the character that triumphs in the end, not because they were handed victory, but because they earned it. They used the same thinking, the same power, but they did the hardest thing of all—they used it for good. Not for ego. Not for revenge. But for the hive. For the whole. While the villain scurries off to protect themselves and the victim sinks into despair, the victor rises to take the hit if it means others won't have to.

The victor doesn't need to beat anyone. They win by bringing others with them.

And the victor is not always the biggest, or the baddest, but they are always the fullest of courage. And courage is the cure to being a victim, and we find courage in others who act courageously.

That's the real goal in this life. That's the real story. To become the kind of person who wants to turn all victims into victors, so that even the villains eventually wake up, realize their time has come, and start using their minds for something greater than themselves.

Because at the end of it all—when you're on your deathbed—you'll have a book. Maybe not a physical one, but a mental one. A memory of who you were. A sense of the story you lived.

And maybe you'll remember this chapter. The one where I told you it was all just a story.

And then gave you the choice.

Villain. Victim. Victor.

My hope is that you'll choose wisely.

My hope is that you'll think like me.

So you too can be free.