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Critical Thinking Journal #4: Richard Taylor interview

Richard Taylor was a philosopher who studied religion and after Pearl Harbor, enlisted in the Navy. Later he went to graduate school and began writing. He enjoyed taking some “far-out-themes” and presenting arguments that were analytical in that he did not really believe one way or the other about the topic. Taylor continued to work and write until the end of his life at the age of 83, which made his life fulfilling and rewarding per his interview with Tim Madigan. Other work he enjoyed was writing about and caring for his beehives. When looking at the life of Richard Taylor, he lived life to the fullest and was very active in his education, teaching, and writing. Even months before he died, he was working on writing a book about marriage and divorce. He used his work to help survive during the time near his death.

Richard Taylor wrote, “All men are fatalists as they look back on things.” This quote means that people commonly believe in the notion of fate when they review past events in their lives. Therefore, all humans are fatalists because people are powerless to change history. Taylor rejected this notion of fatalism, yet, because of his analytical philosophy, finds that he can defend this idea based on “commonly held presupposition.” Taylor reflected on his own life during this interview with Madigan, revealing that he kept himself grounded with reality through his beekeeping. Taylor had a religious background, but challenged his religion by asking questions

about why God was so punishing. He also realized that he was powerless to change history through his writings.

In my own experience I am a fatalist. I was in a relationship I wanted to continue. The relationship was on a spiral to end, and this was out of my control. In looking back I realize even though I could not change the events that sabotaged the relationship, I grew and changed significantly from ending this relationship. From the pain of losing this relationship, I changes in many ways while gaining the knowledge about myself I needed to understand.

Works Cited

Madigan, Tim. "Interview: Richard Taylor." *Philosophy Now* Oct./Nov. 2015. Print.

**<[https://philosophynow.org/issues/40/Richard\\_Taylor](https://philosophynow.org/issues/40/Richard_Taylor)**