

Part 4, Paper 160, Rodan of Alexandria, Midwayer Commission

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Rodan's philosophy, instant gratification, self-awareness, confronting fears, mutual growth, diverse viewpoints, personal growth, reserve galleries, embracing failure, true maturity, spiritual experience, eternal adventure, resilience building, connecting with others, philosophical journey

SPEAKERS

John, Sarah

- J** John 00:00
All right, buckle up, because today we are going deep, really deep, into the mind of a first century philosopher, a Greek guy named Rodin.
- S** Sarah 00:10
This is a fascinating one.
- J** John 00:12
It is, isn't it? I mean, just try wrapping your head around this, trying to bring together the teachings of a brand new faith with like, centuries of, you know, well established philosophical ideas. Yeah, that's what Rodin was wrestling with. Yeah, he was walking a tightrope, for sure, totally. And the wild part is how much his insights still resonate today. It's kind of mind blowing.
- S** Sarah 00:34
You know, one of the things that makes Rodin so interesting is that, unlike some philosophers who just kind of sit around and theorize, this guy was living through some seriously big changes, kind of like us today,
- J** John 00:43
right? Like trying to build a whole philosophy of life, while the world around you is like totally

right? Like trying to build a whole philosophy of life, while the world around you is like totally reshaping itself

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Sarah 00:49

Exactly. So how do you even begin to make sense of it all? Well, Rodan starts with the fundamentals. He believed that human life was driven by three main things, urges, desires and lures. Okay,

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John 01:02

sounds kind of basic on the surface. It does, right?

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Sarah 01:05

But he digs way deeper than that. Okay, so

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John 01:07

unpack that a bit. What did he mean by like elevating those urges

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Sarah 01:12

so he believed we've got this choice. You see, we can either be ruled by our base instincts, right? Let's kind of go with the flow, or we can actually choose to channel them into something way more, you know, fulfilling, interesting. Think about the difference between, I don't know, like a fleeting desire for instant gratification, right, versus that deep satisfaction you get from actually achieving a long term goal you've been working towards.

J

John 01:35

You know, that tension between, like, instant gratification and a long term goal that feels, I don't know, incredibly relevant today. I mean, we are just bombarded with information, opportunities for, yeah, instant pleasure all the time. Did Rodan have anything to say about how we navigate that?

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Sarah 01:52

Oh, absolutely, yeah. Rodan was way ahead of his time on that one. He knew how important it was to delay gratification for something more, you know, meaningful and lasting. He called it the art of living, The Art of

J John 02:02

Living. Okay, I like that. So in a world that's constantly trying to distract us, how do we actually master this, this art, this Art of Living Well,

S Sarah 02:11

Rodan believed it all started with self awareness, a deep understanding of well ourselves, and he really emphasized the need to confront our hidden fears and biases, right? Those things that kind of hold us back from reaching our full potential, right? Right? He said, only by acknowledging those things, those fears and biases, can we even begin to make choices that line up with our our true selves. That

J John 02:34

makes a lot of sense, but it's yeah, definitely easier said than done, right? Yeah, can be really uncomfortable to confront those, those shadows within ourselves? Oh,

S Sarah 02:41

absolutely, it can be downright painful sometimes. But Rajan would argue that it's in those moments of discomfort that the real growth happens, the good stuff. He saw self reflection as as an ongoing process, you know, like a lifelong journey of of peeling back the layers and really getting to know ourselves on a much deeper level.

J John 02:59

And he also had some, really interesting thoughts about how our connections with other people kind of play into all of this, especially in the context of of marriage. So marriage wasn't just about like, you know, romance. For Rodan, he saw it as, like, the deepest expression of friendship, this journey of, you know, mutual growth and support, which makes you wonder, how many people, even back then, right? Really had that.

S Sarah 03:22

It's good question, and it kind of makes you think about, you know, the connections we make today, what they really mean, yeah, but Rodin's point, it goes beyond just, you know, romantic relationships. He thought that any shared experience, whether it's like a conversation or a meal or a trip together, you know, it has this power to broaden our horizons, our perspectives. It's

J John 03:41

like they say, the world's a book, and those who don't travel only read one page, you know, yeah, every encounter, every conversation, it's a chance to see things from a different angle

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Sarah 03:51

totally. And Rodan recognized how easy it is, you know, to get stuck in our own little bubbles, to surround ourselves with people who think just like us. But he believed that to really grow, you gotta engage with different viewpoints, especially the ones that challenge you. You know what I mean?

J

John 04:06

Oh, for sure, the ones that make you uncomfortable. Yeah, exactly, exactly.

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Sarah 04:09

And you know, it's interesting. He noticed something about how Jesus sent His disciples out on their mission, always in pairs, right? Rodan saw that as like a model for learning and growing, like this, pairing up, especially when it's someone who challenges you but also supports you, it can really accelerate your journey. It's like having an accountability partner. But for, you know, your personal and spiritual growth, yeah,

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John 04:32

and there's actually, like, modern research that backs that up. You know, having a good support system, it's crucial for resilience, for well being absolutely, absolutely, seems Rodan was really onto something there. But, yeah, personal growth isn't all about, you know, connecting with others. He also talked about these lures of maturity, right? These things that that motivate us to to really reach our potential.

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Sarah 04:55

And he challenges our assumptions about what maturity really even means. It's. Not just about, like, your age or achieving some status, right? Right? Rodin believed that true maturity, it was about finding this balance between, you know, your material self and your spiritual self. So

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John 05:11

he wasn't saying you should, like, neglect the practical stuff in life to pursue some higher ideas. Not at

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Sarah 05:17

all. He was actually a very practical guy. Rodan knew how important, you know, skills and planning were, even even financial security. He thought that true fulfillment, it came from finding that balance, not from neglecting one side or the other. And

finding that balance, not from neglecting one side or the other. And

J John 05:31

this is what I find so refreshing about Rodin. You know, he blends this, this deep philosophical thinking with with this, this healthy dose of being practical, like his idea of building, what did he call him, reserve galleries? Yes, reserve galleries in your mind, yeah, it's

S Sarah 05:48

a great metaphor. It is a great metaphor for cultivating that, that storehouse of positive memories of beauty and goodness and gratitude to help you through those, those tough times. You know, it's like

J John 06:01

he came up with, like, the ancient version of gratitude journaling, you know, or or mindfulness practices. He's basically saying, hey, life is going to throw some curveballs your way, so you better have a mental stash of good experiences to help you get through them totally,

S Sarah 06:13

totally. And this idea of building that inner resilience, it actually connects to another really crucial part of Rodin's philosophy, how he viewed failure.

J John 06:24

It's like he's not afraid of the hard stuff, you know, at all. He actually seems to embrace it like failure. He didn't see it as this, like setback, yeah. He saw it as, like, this essential part of growth. He did. He

S Sarah 06:36

really did. He believed that we actually learn more from, you know, our failures than our successes. It's when we, you know, stumble and have to pick ourselves back up that we develop real resilience, you know, wisdom, all that good stuff.

J John 06:49

That's a really powerful message, especially today. You know, when there's this pressure to like succeed all the time, right? It's like encouraging us to like change how we think about failure altogether, totally, to see it as this, this opportunity to learn and grow Absolutely.

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Sarah 07:06

Yeah, he'd probably say, you know that real growth, it often happens outside of our comfort zone, right? And, yeah, part of that is embracing those, those failures, those moments when things don't go our way. But we've talked about, you know, the art of living, connecting with others, building resilience. But where does, where does religion fit into all this? Because, remember, this is a guy trying to reconcile his existing beliefs with with these teachings of Jesus. Yeah,

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John 07:32

it's like he's coming at this new faith through the lens of philosophy, yeah, which is, you know, super interesting. How did he like bridge that gap? Well, for

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Sarah 07:39

Rodin, he was really aware of the difference between, you know, intellectual beliefs and a real, genuine spiritual experience, right? It wasn't enough to just, like, go through the motions of religion, right? He was, he was searching for something deeper, something something transformative, you know.

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John 07:57

So it wasn't just about talking the talk, but actually walking the walk. Yeah,

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Sarah 08:01

exactly, exactly for Rodan, true religion. It wasn't about, you know, dogma or ritual. It was this deeply personal journey, and he believed it could change not just you but but the whole world around you. Wow.

J

John 08:15

Okay, so how did the teachings of Jesus connect with him on that level? I mean, that's a pretty bold claim. Yeah, even today,

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Sarah 08:22

well, remember, Rodan spent his life wrestling with these, like, huge philosophical questions, right, right? And then when he encountered the teachings of Jesus, he saw something different, something something new, you know, he saw this path to, like, directly connect with with the divine. So



John 08:38

it wasn't about just, you know, theorizing about it, but like really experiencing it



Sarah 08:42

exactly. Yeah, exactly. He saw Rodan. Saw God as this ultimate ideal, something, something beyond just what humans can come up with or even understand and and he believed that this pursuit of the Divine, this this yearning for something bigger than ourselves, that was the, the real driving force behind you know true spiritual growth,



John 09:03

like he's saying, real fulfillment, it comes from aligning yourself with something bigger than just you. You know a purpose that goes beyond your own, like individual life



Sarah 09:11

and radon's own journey is a testament to that. Like he was so moved by by Jesus's message that he chose to follow him. He He embraced this new path, this eternal adventure, he called it.



John 09:22

That's quite a journey, going from like grappling with these, these big philosophical questions, to then finding this, this new path, this new way in the teachings of Jesus.



Sarah 09:32

It really is, and it makes you wonder, what's our eternal adventure? What are we willing to to give up, to sacrifice in pursuit of something more, more meaningful, something that connects us to to something bigger.



John 09:45

Those are some deep questions, right? There they are. And that's that's probably what Rodan would want us to do, right, to think, to examine our own beliefs and to never, ever stop searching. Yeah. He reminds us that the journey, the actual journey, is just as important. Is the destination, and that even in our our failures, our setbacks, there are, there are these valuable lessons to be learned,



Sarah 10:07

It's like the old adage that says, "You know, the journey is just as important as the destination."

beautifully said, and maybe, just maybe. You know, by embracing this art of living, by really connecting with the people around us, by building that resilience and by pursuing our own, our own eternal adventures, you know, maybe we can each play a part in creating a world that's a little bit closer to that, that ideal



John 10:24

such a thought provoking, Deep Dive. A huge thank you to all of you for joining us, for exploring the life and philosophy of this, this really fascinating guy, Rodin, until next time.