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Still Life with Damage in the Language of Adorno's *Minima Moralia*

Writing is an act for the future. Text can only be read once it has been written. Yet reading between the lines is a requisite accompaniment to any text, fact or fiction. Although perhaps not deliberate, subtext and objectivity are innate to critical interpretation. Observations framed by a widely accepted chronological timeline do not pinpoint which becomes an event of importance and which falls by the wayside; ultimately such importance is assigned by human decision. If true objectivity is impossible, there will always be a largely unwritten subtext that informs meaning. Subtext permeates subject matter by the experience that influences the writing itself. *How* subtext is interpreted is a critical method that creates a chronicle of collective individual human experience. The multiplicity of interpretation is essential to a method where any approach to the unwritten and unspoken determines the subtleties of a subtext and therefore subject to critical reproach. Critical theorist Theodor Adorno's experimental writing style both evokes and provokes a critical analysis without succumbing to purely subjective accounts of personal misery. With purposeful didactic intent, Adorno's *Minima Moralia's* subtext is shaped by poetic license that requires patience and commitment to expand a narrow-minded reality. Its fragmented dialogue examines issues that are left unspoken and remain unwritten into any socio-historical chronicle. Moreover, Adorno's aphorisms are fraught with an urgency for change. *Minima Moralia* is the language of damaged experience that engages a wry, laconic irony with a sharp self-referential cynicism that begs the future to be wrenched out of its current downward spiral. How can a text be understood by the unreliability of its subtext? Subtext however anachronistic; altered by time and distance still seeks to re-examine what is true or right. If truth is unspoken, it must be understood through a subtext that disseminates damage into its parts to prevent its perpetuation and reassemble an honest truth towards a viable future.