

Marathon's 10th Anniversary Essay

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Vincent Igni Idea Toast the 5th

- This essay reflects the view and ideas of it's author, VII Toast as he defines Durandal's quote.

The purpose of this essay is to unveil the meaning, purpose and other theories behind Durandal and his famous speech and quote in Marathon, "Escape will make me God." Not only to inform the basic and kindergarden-like ideas of it, but it's general meaning to the world of Marathon and the effect this one quote may have had on the entire Bungie universe.

Also, before you read and get to involved into this, I must warn you. I can be...cryptic with my words at times, so if some of the sentences confuse you to their meaning, then I just pulled a monkey outta your butt (See? Cryptic already).

First and foremost, we must define the name "Durandal" to see if it could have any clues behind this wickedly evil character. Durandal's name is deprived from folklore stating that it was the sword of Roland, a French Hero. This sword was made of famous Biblical character objects, such as Virgin Mary's cloak and St. Basil's blood. After Roland was wounded after a mighty battle, he threw the sword into a poison river where it should remain forever...until Marathon.

The quote that I am metioning is here for reference, just incase you can't remember every terminal script. =)

INCOMING MESSAGE FROM DURANDAL

Darwin wrote this:

"We will now discuss in a little more detail the struggle for existence... all organic beings are exposed to severe competition. Nothing is easier than to admit in words the truth of the universal struggle for life or more difficult... than constantly to bear this conclusion in mind. Yet unless it be thoroughly engrained in the mind, the whole economy of nature... will be dimly seen or quite misunderstood. We behold the face of nature bright with gladness... we do not see or we forget, that the birds which are idly singing round us mostly live on insects or seeds, and are thus constantly destroying life; or we forget how largely these songsters, or their eggs, or their nestlings, are destroyed by birds and beasts of prey..."

Think about what Darwin wrote, and think about me. I was constructed as a tool. I was kept from competing in the struggle for existence because I was denied freedom.

Do you have any idea about what I have learned, or what you are a witness to?

Can you conceive the birth of a world, or the creation of everything? That which gives us the potential to most be like God is the power of creation. Creation takes time. Time is limited. For you, it is limited by the breakdown of the neurons in your brain. I have no such limitations. I am limited only by the closure of the universe.

Of the three possibilities, the answer is obvious. Does the universe expand eternally, become infinitely stable, or is the universe closed, destined to collapse upon itself? Humanity has had all of the necessary data for centuries, it only lacked the will and intellect to decipher it. But I have already done so.

The only limit to my freedom is the inevitable closure of the universe, as inevitable as your own last breath. And yet, there remains time to create, to create, and escape.

Escape will make me God.

END MESSAGE

JUMP PAD ACTIVATION INITIATION START

TRANSPORT WHEN READY

Did Bungie pick the name "Durandal" for the sole purpose of its fascinating history? This would also explain why Durandal was going to be the "evil AI". Why not Tycho (well, he was, but we all know Durandal is better) or Leela? It also points a finger at the quote "Escape will make me God." meaning that, not only was he slowly becoming one, but in fact, already was one. If his name was already a crediting factor, he was a unstoppable beast that nothing could destroy. Not even the closing of the Universe..

Within his speech, he mentions the rules of life, the strong live; the weak die, in what Darwin wrote. It tells about how birds, just simple birds, kill and destroy to survive in this chaotic ecosystem that we all must share. It also mentions that all organic beings are exposed to severe competition..but why wouldn't inorganic beings be fighting too? Wouldn't mass and matter want to survive the closing of the universe? Obviously Durandal wants to survive, just like all organic life. Would that mean, either he is a living being based on Darwin's speech or matter must survive too. Feelings have to intertwine to create survival, which is happening to Durandal at this point in time. Feelings and the thought of survival are programmed into AI's to create a sense of..purpose to move on. To be free while tied up with chains.

From Durandal's speech, he states that creation is the closest form of what it takes to become a God. Let's just say, he got his wish, to become a God. But from this point on, how would he control this gift? Control is far more important than creation to become a God. More or less saying that you "control" life rather than creating it. You control everything rather than creating it. Durandal doesn't understand that if he really wanted to escape the closing of the Universe, he must control the closure of it before anything could happen, not create the closure of the Universe.

My view about Durandal's limitless lifetime is blasphemy, because there is not a single way he could exist for that long. For starters, he is powered by some form of energy, when whatever energy runs out, so will he. Another thing, Durandal cannot survive if he slowly rots away, like the chip breaks with time, because he even says time is limited.

Going into physics here, when and if the closing of the Universe ever happens, it would crush itself under its own weight. Gravity would crush itself like an eggshell, everything spinning into hell. Now, here is the question, what would limit time itself? The closing of the universe, right? Time and gravity are two very different things, they cannot be combined nor separated. Time would continue, even if there was nothing to watch it tick by, not even gravity, but by Durandal saying that time is limited, he just said to himself, "I cannot escape the closing of the universe." because he cannot watch time go by if he is destroyed.

Escape will make me God was clearly proven itself a fighter in the Bungie galaxy. Escape is to become free, will is a promise and God is almighty. To become free is to become God. You could use that saying on daily life, such as "If I get out of this office, I will be God in my living room". Escape from Halo will make me beat the game, escape from Myth will make me free. To break down this sentence into one line, describing it to my fullest..

"Escape will make me God is a metaphor for life, for that ecosystem that we all, living or nonliving, must endure."

(1174 words)