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Journey of Transformation

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### Crash Confessions: Memory towards Truth

The beginning is the end and the end is the beginning. From the day we are born, we are to live and die. Over time, we tend to forget what used to be important to us. That importance is truth. We lose the memory of truth because we are distracted by irrelevant illusions that may or may not bring us closer to truism.

“It is the sense of touch. You brush past people, people brush into you. We’re always behind this metal and glass. I think we miss that touch so much that we crash into each other just so we can feel something.” Detective Graham Waters states this in the opening of *Crash*. As newborns, still inside of our mother’s womb, we have that sense of touch that Jesus feels towards Mary, the truth of purity and wholesomeness. In *Confessions*, Augustine mentions his mother, their relationship with each other and God. “But in my mother’s heart you had already begun your temple and the beginning of your habitation” (Confessions 27). There is a specific connection between him and Detective Waters and that connection is fornication. Fornication is a more professional word for sexual intercourse; however in their case it was fornication outside of marital practice, a sin that distracted them away from truth. “She was not my partner in what is called lawful marriage. I found her in my state of wondering desire and lack of prudence (Confessions 53). Detective Waters has the same scenario with the woman he fornicated with, Rita.

Waters and Augustine were both successful in their field and at times were unfair, just so that they could get the benefit of the doubt. For example, when Detective Waters was not

going to frame a potentially innocent man, Jake Flanagan flashed his brother's record in his face and said it will be cleared if you do it, the persuasion of vice. "Without any resort to a trick I taught them the tricks of rhetoric, not that they should use them against the life of an innocent man, but that sometimes they might save the life of a guilty person. I manifested to people who 'loved vanity and sought after a life" (Confessions 53). This gears him away from what is true.

Jean Cabot, the angry wife, is full of hatred and misery. Half the time she did not even know why she was upset. She calls the locksmith an amigo in an insulting way, while making insinuations about his background life and his friends. She tries to impose misery on everyone else, so that those close to her or not close at all, can suffer with her. "Only, when he himself suffers, it is called misery" (Confessions 36). Could it be because she missed the sense of touch, of wholesomeness, or simply a true friend? In her life, she did not have one. The only one who would stay around her was the house keeper, Maria, who also put up with Jean's abusive language and frustrations towards her. While falling down the stairs, Jean's so-called "real" friend was not all that concerned about her health. As she talks on the phone to her husband, she says "It's okay. Maria drove me to emergency. It's just a bad sprain. Carol was the only one home and she said she couldn't come get me because she was getting a massage. She's been my friend for ten years." "Friendship can be a dangerous enemy, a seduction of the mind lying beyond the reach of investigation" (Confessions 34). In her realization of what is true, she says to Maria, "Do you wanna hear something funny? You're the best friend I've got."

The little girl Lara and Augustine's mother are deeply connected. They both allow others to remember what it is that they forgot about truth. For instance, the store owner had come to kill the locksmith for not fixing the door, when in reality, it was his own fault. "They make a man not in the least responsible for his faults, but mere flesh and blood and putrid pride" (Confessions 54). Augustine always believed that God was speaking through his mother, as he

was speaking through little Lara. Lara tells her father as she jumps into his arms, while the store owner is holding him up at gun point and the gun sounds off, "It's okay daddy. I'll protect you." This allows the store owner to come to conclusion with truth. He tells his daughter in the store while sitting down, "She's my angel. She came to protect me, to protect us." After this he gives her the gun that he needs no more. Truth is there is no need for violent weapons when God is on your side.

*Confessions* and *Crash* are very in sync. The truthful similarity about these two is that they both are true. God is truth and truth is god. The beginning is the end and the end is the beginning. Everything has a cycle and a cycle repeats itself, which is the circle of truth. The beginning of *Crash* was the ending of *Crash*, beginning with a crash accident and ending with a crash accident, which was the beginning of another lesson learned. "To make conversation, to share a joke, to perform mutual acts of kindness, to read together well-written books, to share in trifling and in serious matters, to disagree though without animosity – just as a person debates with himself – and in the very rarity of disagreement to find the salt of normal harmony, to teach each other something or to learn from one another, to long with impatience for those absent to welcome them with gladness on their arrival. These and other signs come from the heart of those who love and are loved and are expressed through the mouth, through the tongue, through the eyes, and a thousand gestures of delight, acting as fuel to set our minds on fire and out of many to forge unity" (*Confessions* 60-61). Augustine and the characters of *Crash* realized that it feels better knowing that you love rather than when you hate. "Since in virtue I loved peace and in vice I hated discord, I noted that in virtue there is unity, in vice a kind of division" (*Confessions* 67). United we are with the truth of God, by which he wants us to accept one another and to block out the fact that we are different, getting over the racial hump and to stop making assumptions. Judge the man based on his inside character

and not his appearance. "Happy is the person who loves you and his friend in you, and his enemy because of you. Though left alone, he loses none dear to him; for all are dear in the one who cannot be lost. Your law is truth and truth is you" (Confessions 61). However, sometimes we have to forget in order to remember.

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