



*A Brief Sketch of Misery
Based on Michio Hisauchi's
"Japan's Junglest Day"*

Tyler Carter

*"We can tell when we're accelerating towards misery
or happiness. However at rest in a steady state of
misery or happiness, we can't tell if we're happy or
miserable."*

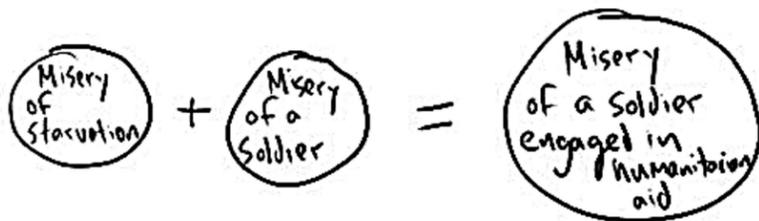
Part 1: Misery Fields

Each misery (M) has its own field:



We can feel these fields, but not one field's particular characteristics. All misery feels the same.

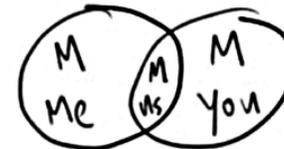
Fields join with each other, creating larger fields of misery:



When you leave a field, you are leaving behind that particular misery. You feel an increased sense of misery because you are moving through the field, and thereby creating a change in misery over time (S). What you are noticing is not misery, but the transition from one state to another; the contrast (see section 2).

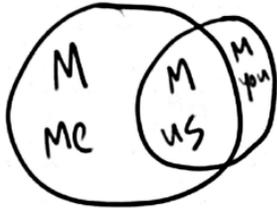


When you act on someone else's behalf, to relieve someone of their misery, you are in fact joining their misery field, and they are joining yours:



Depending on the nature of the commitment, this "sharing" of a common misery field is almost never

equal, as misery fields tend to differ in size and shape, appearing more as:



When entering another field, an individual is in fact leaving their previous field in the sense that through combination, the field of misery changes. Conversely, when another field moves into yours, your field is altered. Thus, an outside M will “solve” your current miseries by altering your field.

“You’re both in the throes of misery, so you’re blind to each other’s misery.”

In this sense there is a choice between one’s own misery field and the misery field of others. Both will

eventually stabilize, and when this happens, each will be indistinguishable from the other in a subjective sense.

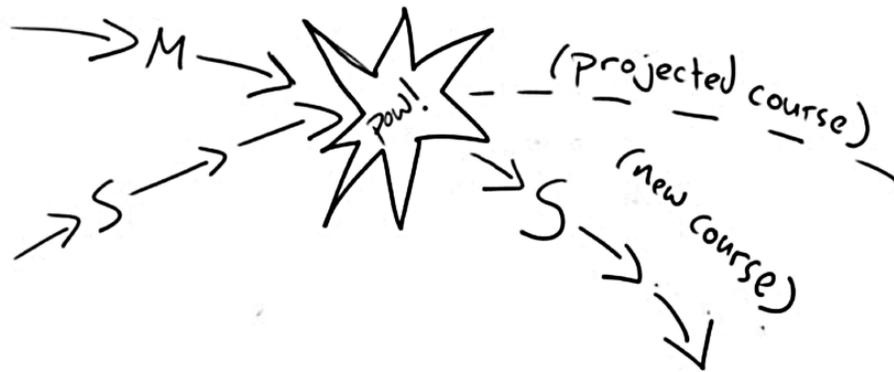
Part 2: Misery Over Time

Depending on your situation, miseries over time tend to pile on top of one another, creating larger and larger misery fields. However when a new supply of miseries runs out, your misery field will stop increasing in size. Misery will eventually stabilize. When this happens you will no longer notice your particular misery field because you will no longer see it changing.

When we do feel our misery fields, what we are feeling is the transition within a field, or from one field to another.

S = stabilized misery or happiness (misery over time);

M = forces of misery.



When M intercepts S, the course of S is altered. (Note: the word “misery” could just as easily be replaced by “happiness.”)

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Bibliographic Note: The quotes and majority of ideas were taken from Michio Hisauchi’s graphic short story “Japan’s Junglest Day” as translated by Alfred Burnbaum, which can be found in the 1991 anthology Monkey brain sushi: new tastes in Japanese fiction.

