

The School of Nihilism
Module 1 – *Morality*

Your mission, should you dare to accept it, is to watch the film *Stranded: I've Come from a Plane That Crashed on the Mountains* (2007) DVD. The title is self-explanatory. The film is composed of reenactments and interviews of the survivors who explain what they experienced and how they made it through this remarkable event that occurred in the Andes Mountains in 1972.



Practically everyone who's been on an airplane at altitude has thought about what would happen if it crashed. And although air travel is about the safest way to move, most expect to be killed in a crash. In fact most passengers walk away from the majority of airplane crashes, but nonetheless accidents happen. In 1972 a small plane hit bad weather travelling from Uruguay to Chile and crashed in the Andes Mountains. After waking from the shock, 29 out of 45 people realized they had lived and, amazingly, 24 of those were unharmed! But their struggle had only just begun. Suddenly, atop a glacier at 18,000 feet, all the old [artificial] laws no longer applied. The survivors became unexpected participants in a remarkable accidental experiment that required the use of all of their ingenuity and strength to overcome while lost in a frozen realm of "pure nothingness".

"There were no laws, just habits and practices, activities that were accepted by the group."

In the end 16 survived a two and half month ordeal after two of the team made an incredible trek out of the mountains and brought back help.



Film Review Questions

1. How did a misplaced faith in rescue from the outside (salvation from and external source) hurt the group and their chances for survival?
2. While stranded after the crash the group was forced to change their values, what they believed to be right and wrong, in order to survive. What does this tell us about *our* morality and where it comes from?
3. How is cooperation related to existence and the universal need for survival?
4. How great of an impact does mind and willpower have on our physical survival?

5. [Bonus Question] After watching the extra feature *'The Making of Stranded'*, what kind of sensations did the survivors describe feeling after being rescued and suddenly back within modern civilization?

Click here to read the answers: http://www.counterorder.com/school/1_morality_answers.pdf

- Personal Notes on the Film -