

Burn-in

Nobody asked but ...

Burn-out is a well-known problem. It happens when reason is overheated by passion, but further when that ardor generates friction. Like a meteor entering an atmosphere, our enthusiasm begins to consume itself. There is a cost, paid in self-destruction, when one meets ignorance and apathy on every path, anger and aggression on every reach. But what remains? Burn-in then becomes the problem. Is the remnant a diamond of principle or an agglomeration of process. The idealist becomes a politician, no longer pushing boundaries but constantly perverting toward what is acceptable. Principles become first practices, then obstructions. They become non-negotiable. Review the history of the human species. People die when burned-in notions freeze the possibilities.

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