



In the Cave of One's Own Existence

In his latest song, Daniel sings about things that may seem strangely familiar to us all. 'The Cave' transports the lyrical narrator into the darkness of a cave: "I am sitting in the dark / Staring at nothing." The new song thus makes it immediately clear that it delves into the depths of a philosophical discourse. It references none other than Plato - the Allegory of the Cave is given a wonderful musical interpretation here.

Listening in

In his release notes, Daniel writes that 'The Cave' is ultimately a story of liberation. The darkness teaches the narrator reflection and perseverance, so that the shadows lose their terror and, with it, their power. The narrator then consciously chooses solitude by descending into the labyrinth of the cave.

The melody seems almost bright in contrast to the sombre lyrics, at least when compared with the artist's other tracks. The opening and closing passages are particularly noteworthy: they emphasise the track's atmosphere and lend the subsequent verses even greater credibility.

Over the course of five verses, Daniel tells the story of the hermit who, in his solitude, initially sees the reflections of his own memories - much as in Plato's Allegory of the Cave: our perception of the past is

deceptive; to some, it may seem worse – or indeed more beautiful – than it actually was. In both cases, however, one finds oneself trapped within a cage of one's own making.

In this cage, one comes to know oneself, for one is left to one's own devices: both Plato and Daniel explain how distorted realities of the past intrude upon the present, and how, as a result, suffering is constantly repeated without any way out becoming apparent. This allegory could apply not only to one's own psyche, but also to our society, which repeatedly becomes entangled in the past – and thereby risks repeating it.

It is only through these 'delayed tears' that the narrator is able to free himself – surely everyone is familiar with the feeling that the release of pent-up emotions can have a profound effect. Two verses later, the lyrics explain that the sound of the beats resonates ('The noise of the beats resonates so far.') – in the image of the cave, these are one's own heartbeats, but the image could also be taken further to suggest that the music is a liberating force.

The piece explores the possibility of escape but points out – both in a foreshadowing manner ('coming back to me', 'Spinning', 'Reflecting') and in its conclusion ('I can't run from the dark.') that one cannot escape one's own darkness. But if one cannot avoid something, one must draw strength from it and learn. This is one possible message conveyed to us by this powerful song from the artist, who now lives in Berlin.

A self-cover

The track was first released in 2018 under Daniel's original band, The Knutz. In this version, the opening seems darker, the song more punk-inspired. Daniel's shouting here is even more authentic and aggressive – the rebellion that generally comes through in his lyrics is even more pronounced. The current version seems almost a little more restrained, more tamed. This brings to mind a dialogue from *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Éxupéry: the fox explains to the Little Prince that to tame means to become familiar with (*Le Petit Prince*, Chapter 21). One might therefore conclude that the artist has become more familiar with his own darkness, and that this has now given rise to the new version.

Down into the darkness

'The Cave' is a magnificent cover that Daniel has delivered here of his own work. It is a tribute to the band's early days – and at the same time, the track illustrates a process of development: Whilst in the original (also very fittingly) the vocals sound rougher and more raspy, rebellious and unsettling, in the version due for release on 9 July 2026 they are more tamed – a statement that certainly could not be applied to the artist himself. Insight, yes; conformity, no: Daniel remains true to this credo – and thus wins over his audience once again.