

LEON: THE PROFESSIONAL THE WILL TO POWER AND THE CAPACITY TO SACRIFICE

This writing hopes to be an accessible yet sound and useful scholarly analysis of the film *Leon the Professional*, and in particular of Leon and Stansfield, according to the film theory of P. Paolo Pasolini. Many people see these two characters as quite similar: both of them resorted to violence and vendetta to achieve their ends. However, according to a Pasolinian analysis, their actions are directly opposed: Stansfield represents the will to power, which upsets the order of things, and Leon, a fundamental willingness to sacrifice, which sets that order right. For Pasolini, the will to power is the original evil, and the villain of history. According to this analysis, therefore, despite their apparent similarities, Stansfield is a villain and Leon is a hero.

OUTLINE:

The will to power in Thoreau, Tolkien, Frankfurt and Pasolini

psychological analysis: guilt and fear, forgiveness and love

Luc Besson and his story,

The story of Luc Besson's first wife, who was the real life Matilda

Jean Reno and his influence