

Duality of Man

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"We had to destroy the village to save it"
Unidentified US Army Officer circa 1968

Duality of man is the idea that everyone is made up of GOOD and EVIL and that one side cannot exist without the other. There are contradictions within all of us. There are many examples of the duality of man in *Full Metal Jacket*, most prominently in the character of Private Joker.

- Private Joker fancies himself as an individual (his name is a pun on "private joke"). But as a journalist for Stars and Stripes he must recite the party line.
- He beats Pyle with the soap harder than anyone else but then holds his ears to stifle the screams.
- His ironic reasons for joining the army: "I wanted to meet interesting and stimulating people of an ancient culture...and kill them.
- Despite his wilfully shallow behaviour (interaction with prostitute) he is consistently perceptive and smart (his comments during the Stars and Stripes meeting).
- He has "Born to Kill" written on his helmet and wears a peace badge on his lapel.

There are also examples of the duality of man in the wider film.

- Throughout the film women are objects of pleasure and nothing else. Yet at the end the sniper is a woman.

Can you complete this list with examples from the film?

