

Destiny Not Followed Becomes an Accusing Shadow

THE REVOLT OF THE MASSES (1930) Jose Ortega y Gasset (1883-1955)

- Spanish philosopher, essayist, and critic

...Destiny does not consist in what we feel we should like to do; rather is it recognized in its clear features in the consciousness that we must do what we do not feel like doing. Well, then, the “satisfied man” is characterized by his “knowing” that certain things cannot be, and nevertheless, for that very reason, pretending in act and abasement, degradation is simply the manner of life of the man who has refused to be what it is his duty to be. **This, his genuine being, none the less does not die; rather is changed into an accusing shadow, a phantom which constantly makes him feel the inferiority of the life he lives compared with the one he ought to live.**