**Movie Analysis Equilibrium**

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This analysis of 'Equilibrium' (2002) will consider how the movie's five plot points create the story's deep structure. These discrete story points include the 'Inciting Incident' in Act 1, 'Turning Points 1 and 2' in Act 2, and the 'Crisis Decision' and 'Climax' in Act 3. Spoiler alert: this structural analysis will reveal crucial plot moments; you may prefer to read this after viewing the film.

This movie's back story is as follows: a future society has overcome the problem of conflict, civil strife and war by formalizing the chemical suppression of the problem's source, human feeling, through a new wonder-drug, 'Prozium', which all residents are required by law to take each day, by law. They have created a society free of all conflict, and all feeling. Generations have passed since this change was initiated, and people are forgetting whether anything was lost. Cleric (Christian Bale) is one of the elite officers in the Praetorian Guards, assigned to protect 'Father', the society's leader. His duties also include making visits to homes to investigate whether residents have hidden away proscribed items (proscribed because they evoke feelings, thus undermining the affect of the Prozium). Anyone with such items found on their premises is 'processed' as a sense offender, and executed by 'summary combustion'.

A Hollywood movie's 'Inciting Incident', which occurs usually in the first 1/2 hour, challenges the hero to respond to a new development or opportunity. To achieve that response, the hero must internally expand, irrevocably changing his life. The hero is then thrown into a series of escalating accommodations on his journey to understand and solve the Inciting Incident's original problem. This film's Inciting Incident occurs when Cleric, who suspects his partner and best friend, Errol Flannery (Sean Bean), of sense offenses, apprehends Flannery in a factory reading a proscribed book of poetry by Yeats. Cleric executes Flannery, as per a new directive from Father.

Turning Point 1. Something has been gnawing at the back of Cleric's mind since his execution of Flannery. It's not guilt, which would be suppressed by the Prozium, but rather a vague feeling of thought-discomfort. (In fact, as we later learn, Father had arranged that Cleric's Prozium be changed to a placebo, so he will begin to 'feel', will be seduced to stop taking his Prozium, and may then seek to join the Resistance. It's Father's plan for finally getting a mole into the Resistance, after many failed attempts). Cleric did stop taking his Prozium, and was assigned a new partner, Brandt (Taye Diggs), who is now monitoring Cleric, just as Cleric had monitored Flannery. The Turning Point comes when they investigate a woman's apartment and find a hidden room of proscribed objects; he returns there later, explores the room, and switches on a recording of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Cleric is so affected by the beauty of the music he breaks down, weeps.

A movie's Midpoint usually provides the story with a coherence and symmetry that the audience feels unconsciously, and for this reason is important structurally. This movie's Midpoint sees Cleric rescue a dog from extermination, and later kill eleven other Praetorian officers in order not to have the dog taken from him. With each plot point Cleric's surrender to feeling advances another step.

Turning Point 2. Cleric's original suspicion of Flannery has now been transformed into admiration, and a desire to know more of his secret life, so he steps up his investigation of Flannery. He has another interview with Mary O'Brien, admits offhand to her that he had killed Flannery, she reacts violently, and he concludes she was Flannery's lover. His own attraction to her only increases his feeling of betrayed loyalty and renewed admiration for his dead friend. He next goes to the reading hall where Flannery attended lectures, and breaks through a wall into an antechamber to the 'underground', literally and figuratively. After meeting Jurgen (William Fichtner), he is welcomed into the underground Resistance. His feeling has taken him to full rebellion to the established order.

Act 3's Crisis Decision sees Cleric accept the offer by the Resistance to join their planned attack on the state's oppressive government, with the objective of assassinating Father'.

The Climax sees many of the top Resistance people arrested in a government sweep. Cleric succeeds in gaining entry to the elite compound, and learns that his defection to the Resistance had been a stratagem planned and instituted by a cabal within the government, as a means of getting a mole into the Resistance, a measure which had failed repeatedly in the past. This then made possible the sting', apprehending all the Resistance members. He also learns that Father died years earlier, and his public persona had been perpetuated to keep the public acquiescent, docile.

Cleric manages to win against all the elite Praetorian soldiers that now surround him by the mere expedient of being faster and deadlier, first with his semi-automatic, then with a samurai sword. He dispatches virtually all of the Praetorian Guard. The captured members of the Resistance, awaiting execution by summary combustion', are released and run riot gathering supporters to fight against the remaining soldiers protecting the government elite.