

Hit on Head with Hammer

Once upon a time there was a guy sitting on a street corner hitting himself on the head with a hammer. A passer-by observed this strange behavior, and could not resist approaching the guy, and asking him, "Why are you doing this?"

The man looked the stranger in the eye, and answered, as if nothing could be more obvious, "Because it feels so good when I stop."

This story refers to the tendency for music to pass through waves of tension and release. If everything were consonant, nothing would sound consonant because there would be nothing to compare it to. We need dissonance to make the consonances feel better when they arrive.

One time, a devotee asked a great guru, "Oh Master, please tell us why—if God is so good and loving—why is there pain and suffering in the world?"

The guru replied, with a grin, "To thicken the plot."