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In the story “Bartleby, The Scrivener: A Story Of Wall Street” by Herman Melville he introduces some interesting characters with many seemingly different personalities. There’s Nippers, Turkey, and Ginger-nut. Of all the characters the one who seems the most interesting of them all personality wise would be Bartleby. Bartleby in my own imagination is very unique as he answers to most things saying the phrase “I’d prefer not to” for almost everything he’s asked to do besides when copying documents, and he refuses to do anything else that his boss (The old man) asks him to do, with a response of “I would prefer not to”, never actually saying no or I won’t do it, but “I would prefer not to, almost in a sense of declining to do what he is being told to do in a nice way. As if giving his boss an option of what he will or will not do. Like in a passive aggressive manner. After having to find out what a scrivener was I came to the understanding that Bartleby was a human copy machine. Always working, living in the office, and working in the same place.

Bartleby in the story is seemingly obsessed with his job as a scrivener and works day and night almost as if he’s always in need of something to do, as if he always needs something to copy as if he’s in a race with himself to copy as much as one person can possibly copy, excluding every and anything else he needs to do. It’s as if he lives to copy documents and the narrator totally seems as if he’s oblivious to this being one Bartleby’s flaws and accepts this as him being a hard worker until Bartleby begins to change from being the passive aggressive worker to the worker

who begins to outright do nothing and refuse all requests and demands he's given. Leaving the reader to have to choose between having sympathy for Bartleby or having it for the narrator.

After Bartleby's refusal to work as a copyist he started to become that of a nuisance to the Lawyer. Becoming dependent on the lawyer in various ways for several different reasons. I'm just going to go out on a limb to saying that I feel as if Bartleby and the rest of the characters were created from the mind of the lawyer. More-so that they're all a figment of the Narrators imagination. It's Bartleby's refusal to leave the office being symbolism for not being able to clearly figure out a problem, and stop worrying about it and mental illness playing its role in the narrator not being able to rid himself of what's just in the imagination. I think its symbolizes mental illness giving itself a home and a resting place and Bartleby is the resting place of mental illness in the lawyers mind. I think Bartleby stands for the Lawyers alter-ego merely being the person that the lawyer wants to be within the character of Bartleby.

After Bartleby refuses to work any longer as a copyist he becomes somewhat of a parasite to the lawyer. He becomes dependent on the lawyer for mysterious reasons. Other than the obvious reason that Bartleby needs a place to live, his relationship with the lawyer remains a mystery. Although clearly a love hate relationship, it is otherwise vague. Bartleby is also very persistent in refusing to leave the lawyer's office or the lawyer's presence in general. Despite the bribes and threats made by the lawyer, Bartleby continues to stand firm in his resistance, perhaps as an indication that Bartleby cannot leave, that is not his role.

Bartleby serves as a boost to the lawyer's ego. The lawyer talks of Bartleby as a charity case and refers to himself as a "Good Samaritan" type for allowing Bartleby to stay at his office and later at his personal home without pay. The lawyer is using Bartleby as a way to earn himself merit points. He says in the short story, "Here I can cheaply purchase a delicious self-approval." The lawyer so detests his profession that he desires to do some good in the world. Bartleby becomes his own personal experiment to do good works, while also challenging himself to go beyond the comfort of his Wall Street home.