**Chap 5 & 6 Questions:**

1. What is Pirsig referring to when he says “underlying form” and “immediate appearance?” What does this have to do with the “shim” problem in chapter 5? (PG 26)
2. “What we have here is a conflict of visions of reality. The world as you see it right here, right now, is reality, regardless of what the scientists say it might be. That’s the way John sees it. But the world as revealed by its scientific discoveries is also reality, regardless of how it may appear, and people in John’s dimension are going to have to do more than just ignore it if they want to hang on to their vision of reality. John will discover this if his points burn out” (PG 26) Lets consider this quote an argument, what is Pirsig arguing here about “visions of reality,” what does he want his audience to do or consider (what is his rhetorical purpose)?
3. In Chap 6 (pg 33), Pirsig claims that “dichotomy is necessary” and he “divide[s] human understanding into two kinds.” What is “dichotomy and what are these two kinds of human understanding and how does Pirsig define them? How can we connect these ways of thinking to the concepts in question number one?
4. What is “the trouble” with these two forms of thought in Pirsig’s mind? What do you think? Do you agree or disagree with Pirsig’s presentation of this dichotomy?
5. What form of thought do you think you primarily view the world with and what experiences can you draw from? Meaning, have you ever had a discussion with someone who thought in one form and you the other? How was this challenging?
6. Explain Pirsig’s metaphor of the “knife.” Who has a particularly strong skill in using this knife?

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