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*Biology of elasticity*

The physical property of a body to return to its original shape after removal of the pressure is common to the material and the animal body, as a property both of the cells and of the human communicative interactions. This paper examines those aspects of cell biology which point towards the existence of molecular devices aimed at attaining an intracellular tension with specific functions. This idea of elasticity is subsequently tackled within the philosophical spectrum, from Plato's *Timaeus* to Nietzsche's considerations on the 19th century biologists. Finally, an excursion in the field of human sciences, through the work of Vygotsky and Yves Clot, reminds us the progress which is at stake in the risks and struggle of elasticity. It is the compression law which has ruled for centuries the human ambition to build monuments and concepts which could only crumble in the end, and here a field example will be put forward.