

# Philosophy the Meaning of Life

9 pages | 2150 words

There are many different views as to what makes life meaningful. Philosopher, Thomas Nagel, presents a good argument as to why a "Sisyphusian" existence is meaningless. This does not necessarily mean that all lives are meaningless, because Richard Taylor and Raymond Martin provide strong evidence that prove otherwise. According to Greek mythology, "The Myth of Sisyphus", by Albert Camus, condemns Sisyphus to forever roll the same rock up a hill; only to see it roll back down once he reached the top.

Sisyphus' "scorn of the gods, his hatred of death, and his passion for life" was the reason for his punishment and endless turmoil in accomplishing nothing (Camus 775). In Nagel's essay "The Absurd", his views on the meaninglessness of life and the absurdity of it, provide evidence that Sisyphus leads a meaningless life and how all people are condemned to lead this life. He points out that the absurd comes about by "the collision between the seriousness with which we take our lives and the perpetual possibility of regarding everything about which we are serious as arbitrary, or open to doubt"(Nagel 769).

In other words, the things people take seriously in their lives are always open to doubt. Nagel believes that human life becomes absurd when the realization of living an unreasonable life becomes known. "Once the fundamental doubt has begun, it cannot be laid to rest"(771). When people begin to doubt their existence, they search for answers that cannot be justified. Humans are capable of being self-conscious and self-inspiring which gives them the ability to step back and observe themselves from an outside point of view. This allows them to see the reality and pointlessness of their goals.

Some people try to escape the absurd and try to add meaning to their lives by giving themselves a role in something bigger. When Nagel says, "a role in some larger enterprise cannot confer significance unless that enterprise is itself significant", he means that the larger enterprise cannot have meaning, unless the enterprise as a whole has meaning (770). According to Nagel, for something to be meaningful it must be objectively meaningful. For example, Sisyphus leads an objectively meaningless life because he is condemned to roll the stone up the hill forever and achieving nothing.

Nagel says that the life of a mouse is not absurd because the mouse is not aware that it is only a mouse; it does not have the ability to perceive its life like humans can. "Absurdity is one of the most human things about us: a manifestation of our most advanced and interesting characteristics"(774). The absurdity shows people that their lives are meaningless; and when this is recognized, the logical conclusion is suicide. This solution to absurdity is not accepted; instead it is suggested to keep on living in spite of the absurdity of life.

"If we relied hard on reason our life would have collapsed" because relying only on reason would leave people with many philosophical questions, leaving them to dwell on the doubts of life (773). One way to...

# Meaning Of Life Philosophy Essay

**George Angier Gordon**



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**Human Life and The Meaning of It** Lee-Michael D'Souza, 2016-02-29 Essay from the year 2015 in the subject Philosophy Theoretical Realisation Science Logic Language course Access to Humanities and Social Science language English abstract The aim of this essay is to philosophically discern the broad and universal question of What is the meaning of life pertaining to humans and humanity The conclusion will as accurately as possible represent the shared meaning of life amongst individuals as well as the basis of the meaning itself It is key to understand that any conclusion found may not include every single individual but will include most individuals It may also be found that any actual meaning of life is subconscious where the individual is simply unaware of themselves embodying or actuating the meaning itself This writing will also highlight the relevance as well as importance of the concept within individuals society and humanity as well as the philosophical insights and inferences found due to this I will be referring to sociological and philosophical theories throughout to compare contrast and analyse perspectives which will aid in the honing of my purpose Lastly throughout the essay I will mention reservations of my own findings and I will address them to further clarify my points *The Meaning of Everyday Occupation* Betty Risteen Hasselkus, 2011 This text is designed to bring the reader closer to the world of occupation The new edition probes more deeply into the meanings of everyday occupation and offers opportunities to the reader for personal reflection about day to day occupational patterns The continuing emphasis of this edition is on everyday occupation as experience It motivates occupational therapists to think about how occupation is experienced in everyday life to absorb the complexity of meanings imbedded in daily life and to value the personal and social significance of everyday occupation in their own and their clients lives Throughout the text focuses on the ways in which daily occupation contributes to meaning in our lives providing a sound understanding of the daily routines and activities to which we so often give little attention Emerging trends in occupational therapy are also examined focusing on strengthened globalization the movement toward populations and systems as clients and the increasing emphasis on experiential definitions of occupation in education practice and research **The Road Traveled and Other Essays** Steven M. Cahn, 2018-12-26 The Road Traveled and Other Essays presents the recent work of philosopher and educator Steven M Cahn This book offers his latest reflections on the nature of well being the rationality of religious belief and the aims of higher education Also included are a selection of his challenging philosophical puzzles The work concludes with a detailed account of his career as a faculty member foundation

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