

What it is to be

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March 24, 2020

Chapter 1

Foreward

We have all wondered what it means to exist. What are we? Who are we? What other rhetorical questions can I ask? It was on a chill March day in the two thousandth and twentieth year following the birth of Christ that I found myself in solitude along a lake. It's often these moments of solitude that lead the most riveting thoughts. When walking alone in the woods beside a lake you are reminded of how you are, after all, just a meatbag with a consciousness wobbling along in space.

When coming to this realization, many (or rather most) humans turn to religion to give them meaning. While an understandable decision, I don't believe it is a satisfying answer. After all, there are dozens of religions in the world, and each one of them is so confident that they are the right religion that they go to war over it.

Alas, this book is not meant to bash religion by any means. In fact, I am religious myself. The point of this book is to instead offer a different, more logical and philosophical warrant for valuing existence, and why without first understanding existence we cannot truly value anything.

After all, there are three possible scenerios we could have ended up in. Only one of them is reality:

1. We don't exist, life doesn't exist, and matter doesn't exist at all.
2. We exist, but purely as clueless meatbags wandering about a cold and empty universe
3. We exist, and have consciousness, and are rational agents capable of getting a grip on reality.

The latter of the three is of course the only one from which we can draw conclusions. Before we even begin to talk about anything, we must first accept the latter of the three scenerios I put forth. Indeed, nothing makes sense until we first actualize our existance. This is where this book begins.