

6 Nov
Existentialism :-

John Paul Sartre [first one to pointed existentialism]

Albert Camus

F. Nietzsche

Simon de Beauvoir [existentialism to define feminism]

John Paul Sartre, most imp personality of Existentialism. He has written large number of books, on an average used to write 20 pages per day till his death. He wrote family Idiot of 2801 pages and then also it was incomplete. For his contribution in literature he was awarded Noble Prize but he refused.

Albert Camus, also was an important philosopher, and wrote book like Rebel, later shifted to fiction books like Inside, Plague (became very imp and started getting prominence in this Corona Pandemic). He was also awarded Noble Prize, which he excepted, but he wonder why he was given Noble Prize in such a young age whether they think if I have completed all my writings or they are fed up with my writings and want me to shut up by accepting the Noble Prize. Ironically, he died at the age of 44 in a road accident.

So, both John Paul Sartre, and Albert Camus, both were highly great contributors of Existentialism.

* Existentialism Ethics can be understood in terms of 3 simple concept :-

① Absurdity :- According to existentialist,

there is no inherent meaning purpose of human life
There is nothing that can explain or justify our existence.
This lack of inherent meaning, purpose or justification of
human life is called absurdity. Anybody who thinks in
existential manner starts thinking in absurdity.

Time, space, all have existentials. They have purpose
but human being have tendencies to ask himself questions
about his existentials. Even great philosophers also try to
find out basics of human being. What it defines human
being.

Nature of human beings as per philosophers

Hobbes :- self interest / violence

Sentham :- Pursuit of Happiness

Libertarians :- self-ownership

Kant :- Rationality

Aristotle :- Rationality.

Existentials discard all the above philosophies and ethics
and said to say that human nature is the result of
existence of one individuals. It cannot be defined.

John Paul Satre "Existence precedes Essence" — Human
nature or human essence defines its existence. That will
be a good life. But he rejects this and says Existence
comes first and then comes essence.

But a life without meaning and purpose is a bad life.
Thus in order to lead good life we must create
meaning and purpose in our existence.

Albert Camus, said the only problem of philosophical significance before man is the problem of suicide. Human beings are the only creature that commit suicide. If he finds the questions to their life's purpose he wants to live the life else he wants to die also.

② Freedom :- According to existential philosophers, every person is necessarily, fundamentally and inalienably free regardless of his circumstances, and the level of social, economic and political operation that he suffers from. Freedom is the only essential condition of human existence.

* → liberty & autonomy are normative ideas (should).
↓ freedom is not a normative idea it is a fact. Inspite of all the problems, we are free.

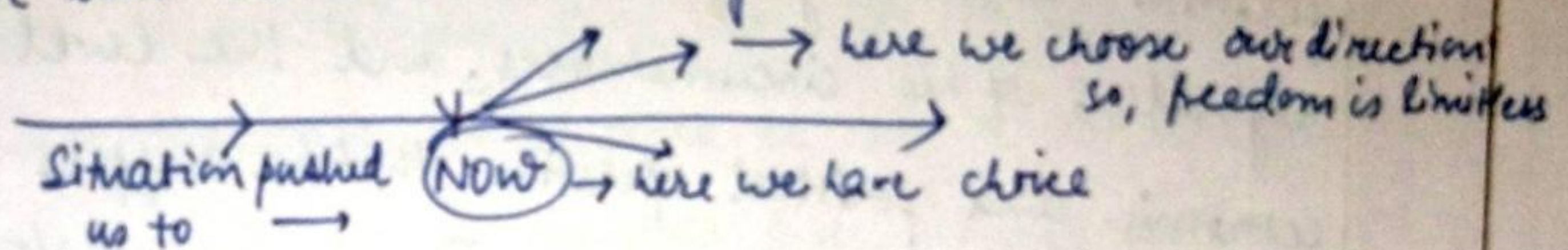
J. P. Sartre said that, there is no difference between man and free man, as by applying the word free before man, we are putting a doubt that there are some men who are not free.

It is because of this freedom, we make choices in our life and through the choices we created meaning and purpose of life. This includes answer to the question = who are we?. Once they took a choice, their life gets a new meaning, which cannot be returned back.

John Paul Sartre said, "I am my choices" — a definition of human being. Human being is nothing but the sum of choices that he makes.

(3) ~~Responsibility~~ Since we make choices for our freedom so, we alone are responsible for our choices and our consequences. We cannot put the responsibility of our choices on someone else.

John Paul Sartre: "Man is condemned to be free", because life is full of condemnation, because we do not choose our condition, we are not the result of our choices. We are thrown into some condition by choice.

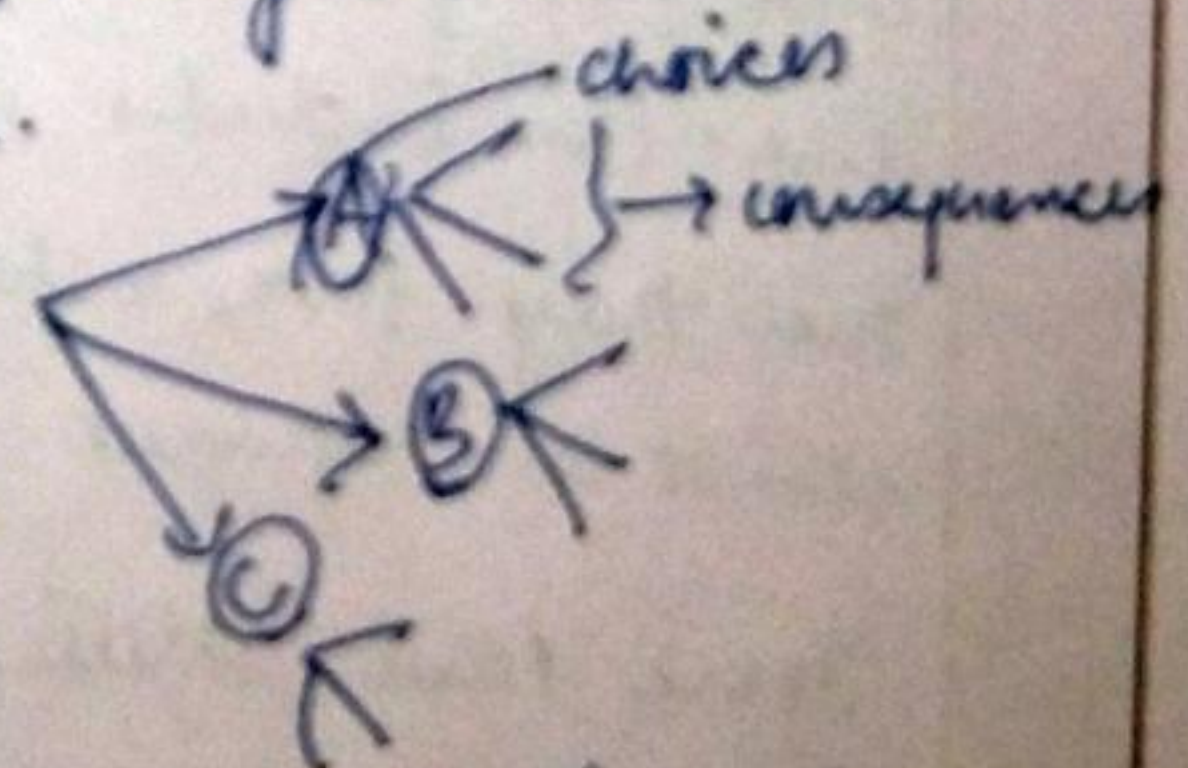


Man born in a family, caste is not of his choice, even the name of a man was not of his choice. We do not choose our condition. But, at every moment, we have freedom to do many things.

But this puts a heavy burden on man, which many of us do not want to bear. Thus in order to overcome the burden, we often try to escape from the responsibility of our choice. So, any attempt to escape from the responsibility of our choices unethical. Life would have been much easier if we shift this burden on someone else. People often try to escape by the following :-

① Some people refuse to make any choice at all and think that they are not responsible.

But according to ~~Sartre~~ Sartre no choice is also a choice, which has as certain and definite consequence as making any other choice as we are responsible for that. Not doing anything is also a choice.



Corruption ← Act of commission } = both are choices and have diff consequences.
omission
Act of omission

both are choices but have diff consequences

2. Some people adopt an external and objective source of value particularly religious and conventional values, blindly follow them and think that they are not responsible, but here also they make 2 choices, the choices of value they adopt and secondly to act on those values, and thus they are still responsible. Christians for example believe in Bible, then also they make certain choice of making Bible as imp. So, 'it becomes imp, because they chose it. Interpretation changes with time, there are no. of Bible as the number of Christians because different person considers Bible in diff ways.

3. Some people seek the advice of someone else and blindly follow it, and think that advisor is responsible. Even here they make 2 choices, the choice of advisor and secondly the choice to act on that advice.

John ~~de~~ Sartre, after WWII, gave a lecture published in small book called 'Existentialism is humanism'. He gave a very good example that at that time, France was under German occupation and France was defeated by Germans. So, his father joined Germans and started working against France and his brother was ^kkilled by the Germans. So, in this situation, he had an old lady in his house i.e., his mother. He wanted to fight for the nation, but in the dilemma, he chose Sartre as advisor, has already made a choice. He said, mother is more imp, and no one in the world can have same idea about one's mother. Different meaning for different person.

4. Acting in bad faith or in authenticity as per some philosophers. It is a very complicated concept. Some people adopt a social role, start blindly following all expectations associated with

the role thinking that they cannot do anything else but they fail to realise that at every moment, they have the freedom to violate their role expectation and do something beyond that as well. This failure to recognise our own freedom is a type of self deception called acting in bad faith. The idea is that, when we adopt a social role, we assume many right and wrong around us. So, we limit our roles. There are some situation where we are required to cross the limit ex:- Sita crossed the Lakshman rekha and thus the whole Ramayana took place.

A waiter entering office enters into a mechanical life takes order, places the order in the kitchen, and delivers the food in the tray to the guest of the hotel. So, he thinks his job is a job when he thinks so Sartre says that by doing so he is acting in bad faith, but in any time one has freedom to cross the line, and create a new definition for themselves. Ex:- sharan Kumar ~~case~~, Bheem in Maheshwari etc--

Ethics always requires one to redefine themselves in order to create a new definition. T.N. Seshan became Election Commissioner, before him Election Commission was a very low profile job but after him, the definition reformed, and election commission got new meaning.

Suppose, a police officer was given an order by the senior to kill a person by force encounter, the police officer always have a choice of not following the order instead of saying order is an order. The officer cannot simply say that he does not have a choice, he always have a choice. As a ^{Bureaucrat} bureaucrat, a person's freedom is limited choice.

As a human being our freedom is limitless.

The only ethical way of making a choice is acting in good faith. This may involve the following steps :-

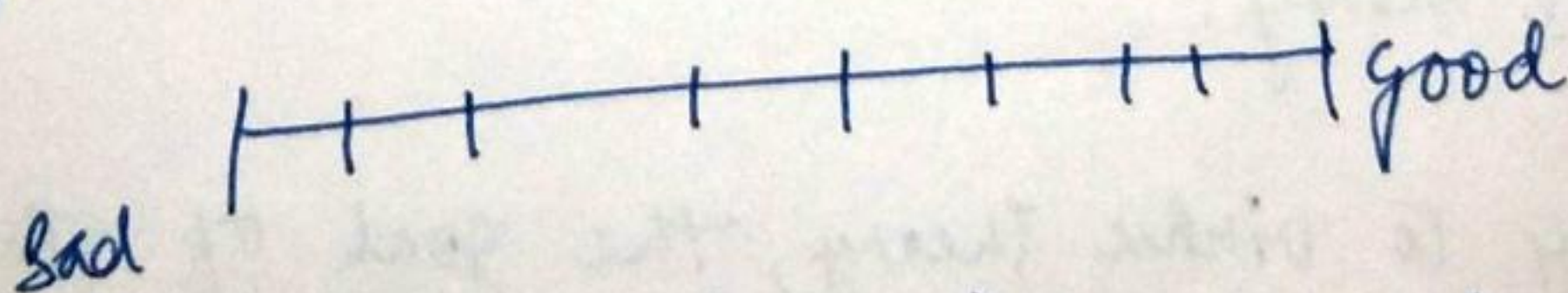
① Exercise your freedom, this means to explore all the alternatives available to us. No choice is always a choice. Alternatives are limitless. Human should always try out of the box. Ex :- Chandrashekhra Azad was once put in small cell jail by an officer so that he would die out of cold. But when in the morning, he saw Chandrashekhra doing pushups so that to keep himself warm throughout. So, even in the small cell, he had choice of not dying.

② Recognise all the consequences of the choices. Every choice has consequences.

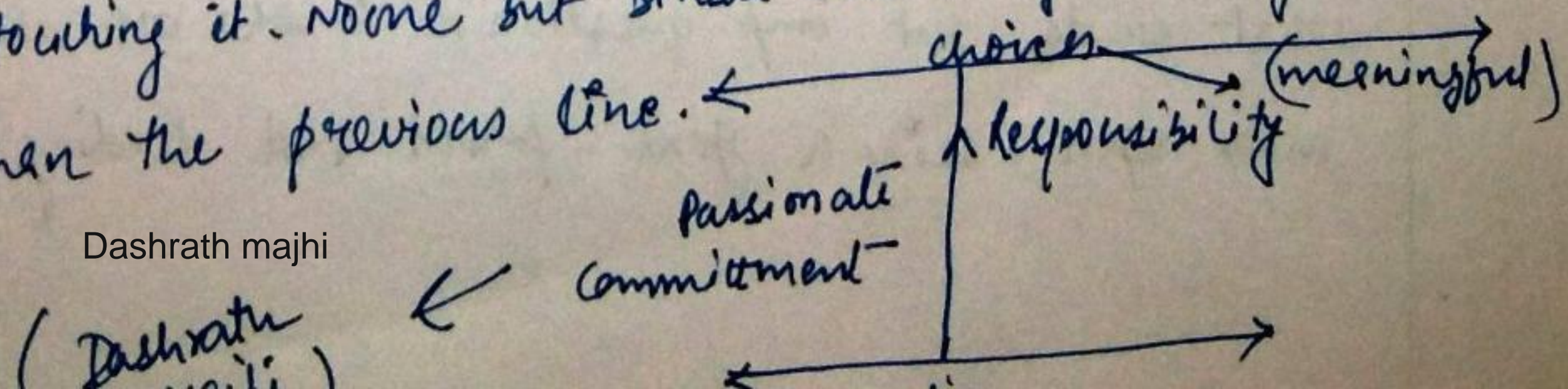
③ Make a conscious choice. But the theory does not give ~~and~~ ~~the consequences~~ how to make choice.

④ Take complete responsibility of your choice and all its consequences.

According to John Sartre, the people, who takes full responsibility of their choices they lead a good, meaningful, purposeful life and those who don't leads bad life.

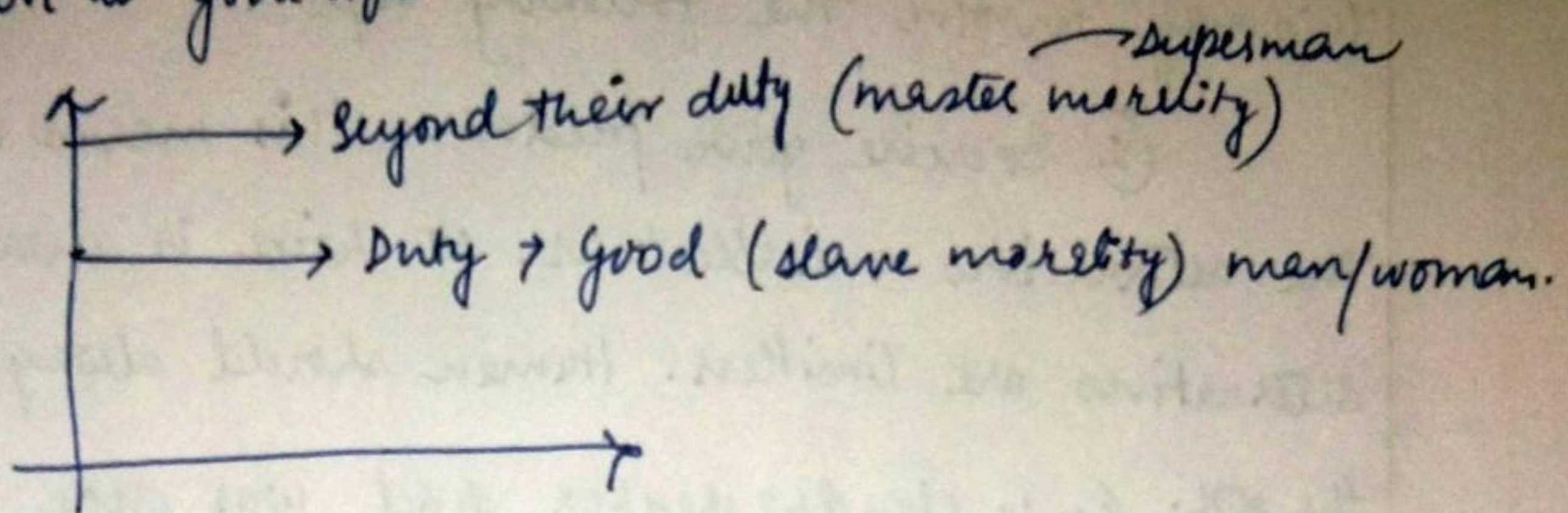


Akbar - Birbal life story itself is an example of such. Akbar asks his court persons by drawing a line how to cut it small without touching it. No one but Birbal did it by drawing a line longer than the previous line.



Dashrath majhi

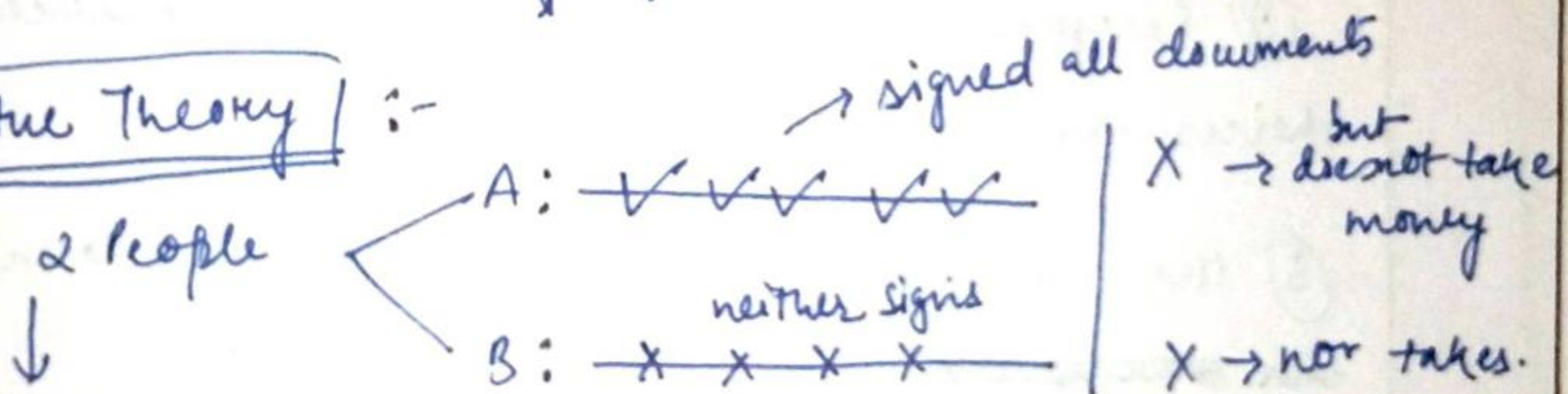
so, only way to make life ^{worth} living is to draw a bigger line and take full responsibility of that, that would be known as good life



A book 'No Excuses' covers the whole essence of Existentialism. For human beings, we should never use the term disabled because human beings are never disabled. They are differently abled.

∴ Existentialism is a ^{ethics} ~~theory~~ of heroism, or ethics of no excuses.

Virtue Theory :-



goitserwants, have chance of getting huge sum of money with the fact knowing that no chance of getting caught. As per both the acts, Kant says A is moral, because despite of ~~not~~ being signed he didnot took any money and B, due to his good background didnot take money.

According to virtue Theory, the goal of ethics is not just to decide, what is right or wrong but rather it is to develop the character of a person. The imp question is not what we do, but imp question is ^{leading} who we are. They focus more upon being a good person and ~~leading~~ a good life.

They define good in terms of virtue and bad in terms of ~~vice~~. virtue is a ^{terms} trained, behavioural, disposition that results in the habitual acts of moral goodness.

Virtue

Vice

Trained - lessening devt.

Behavioural disposition

Truthfulness
wisdom

Habit

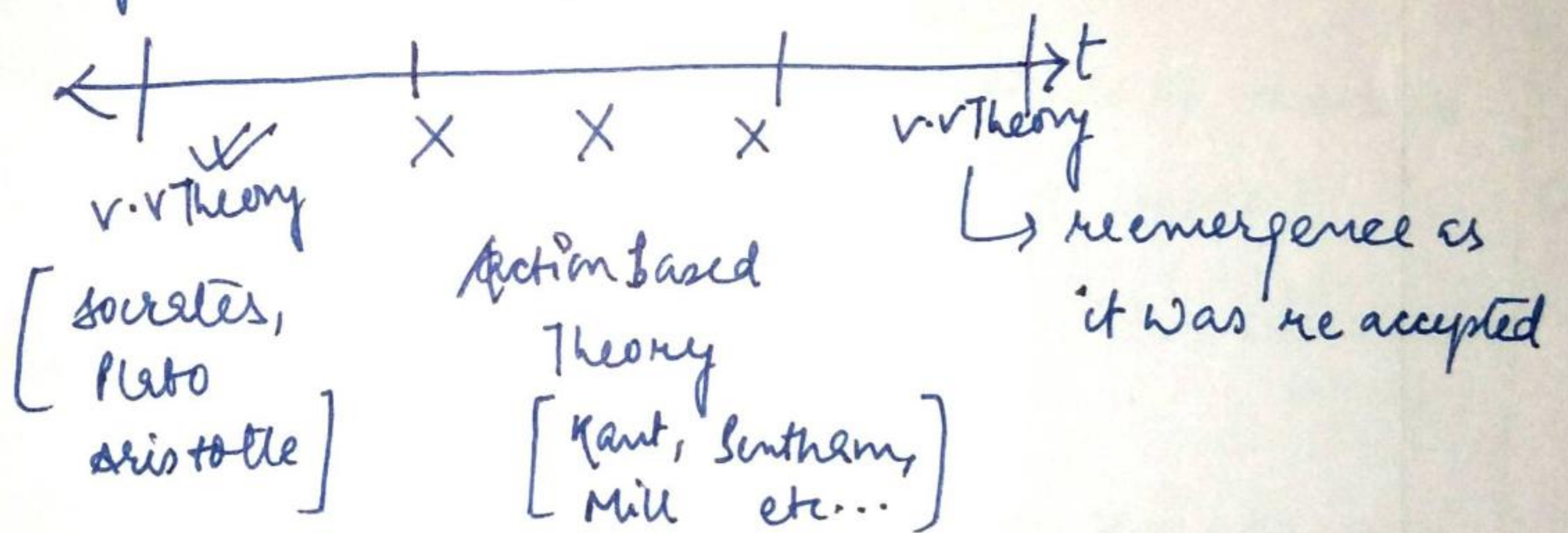
Justice

Benevolence

Moral goodness

Courage

historically, virtue theory seen ~~3~~ timeline



Virtue Theory criticises the action based Theory on the following grounds:-

↳ [continue in next class].