

Existentialism

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Part I

Introduction

0.1 Topics in Existential Thinking

Nihilism So let's begin with the most common and popular conclusion from what people think is existentialism. Although Nihilism isn't really existentialism it's not really the same thing though the Nihilists do take some of the postulates of Existentialism. The difference here is the way each ideology interprets them. So for example: someone who is in the camp of nihilism believes that we are floating around the world without purpose this is fundamentally a bad thing due to the fact that, since essence precedes existence, we have no essence. Therefore, nothing really matters and people just live such that they can die. Existentialists believe that, since essence precedes existence, we as humans are the ones who create meaning in the first place since we are not given any essence it's our job as the logical and rational beings we are to form the world of essence around us. Since nature and the universe is fundamentally random; we cannot control it but we can control our place in it through our own decisions and actions which we are completely responsible for. Free will is a fundamental postulate of this idea. If humans do not have free will then Existentialism is then invalid. If we do have free will then Existentialism is valid.

Freedom Freedom and existentialism, the idea behind freedom and existentialism is that we are fundamentally free beings therefore, most of this pain and terror that we feel is fundamentally over the issue of freedom. We are burdened by choice itself and can make one of two decisions in reaction to this realization we can either a. make no choice or b. choose to choose and live the life that we want to.

Ontology Ontology is the study of being. Existentialism deals with this frequently and thoroughly considering that Existentialism is itself somewhat of a phenomenological study of being. Ontological study of being. When we look at ontology as it relates to Existentialism we see that Existentialist philosophy brings some new interpretations to the table when it comes to ontology. Most notably on the ideas of choice and free will. If we are all burdened by choice then why do most of us choose not to choose.