**The Ways Our Human Rational Powers Seem to Transcend the Bodily Aspects of Our Human Existence**

Name

Institution

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The daily life experiences often provide an opportunity for people to understand the significance of such experiences in improving future life. There are various experiences, some of which are desirable, while others tend to harm. For those that cause harm, its effects can either affect the human body, or some also cause harm to humanity. It is important to understand the purpose of each experience, with reference to its effects. The nature of human life, therefore, require an aspect of endurance, through which an individual learns how to survive amidst the pains of life, and build on the possibility of a better personality in life. In this case, human rational powers transcend the bodily aspects of human existence. Victor Frankl’s life as an inmate is an epitome of the ways through which the human rational powers transcend the bodily aspects of his existence.

On the basis of his painful experiences in his life as a prisoner, Victor Frankl acquired valuable life lessons. He acquired an immense ability to study human life and the nature of experiences surrounding it, from which he manifests a deeper sense of knowledge for human existence. According to Frankl, more people have various means of life, but often lack a meaning to live for. According to him, life never ceases, and one should always find a meaning in life at every moment they find themselves alive. The implication of this observation is that the despite the sad reality of a painful life, such as his experiences in the concentration camps, the ability of an individual to survive does not depend on their physical capabilities, but on their attitude, and the basis of its construction.

Victor Frankl’s life and more particularly, the sad and traumatizing experiences he underwent at the Nazi death camps are a revelation of the different ways human rational power becomes more important than the bodily aspects of human existence. Between 1942 and 1945, Victor Frankl describes some of the most traumatizing experiences a human being can imagine. In addition to the pains he suffered as a prisoner in four different concentration camps during the World War II, his parents, brothers as well as his pregnant wife perished. These experiences for one person within a relatively short period may override the logic of standing strong against emotional breakdown.

In his book, *Man’s search for Meaning,* Victor Frankl presents his main message in which he encourages people to confront the fear of suffering with courage, hope, and a sense of appreciation for life itself without failure. According to him, human beings cannot avoid to undergo suffering, but each person has the ability to choose how to cope with experiences that cause suffering, find the most appropriate meaning in each form of an experience, and finally forge a way out of such challenges with a new sense of purpose. It is contrary to the common and observable human behavior, in which people tend to lose hope and die whenever they face life threatening situations.

As a professional psychiatrist dealing with major social challenges facing humanity, Victor Frankl developed the theory of Logotherapy. This theory holds a basic tenet in human life, stating that the core drive for human beings is not to search for pleasure. However, the theory teaches that human life should center around the pursuit of what one finds to be most meaningful. Victor Frankl’s career as a psychiatrist, in tandem with the experiences from those he treated, as well as personal occurrences in his life as an inmate taught to value more of human personality in challenges, other than the challenges themselves.

Just as Victor Frankl managed to survive for many more years to die later in 1997 after his painful ordeals as an inmate, all other human beings learn that the human rational power that decides to live, is more powerful than the bodily aspects of his existence that succumb to pain and suffering. Frankl made a personal decision to live beyond the painful and traumatizing ordeals at the four camps for years. Even though the readers do not get a clear idea regarding the circumstances under which his parents, brothers and pregnant wife perished, the author uses them to give a comparative view of the importance of the power of individual’s decision over bodily weaknesses.

In conclusion, Victor Frankl’s life, both during and after he left the concentration camps is a vivid manifestation of the various ways the human rationale powers can transcend the bodily aspects of human existence. As a psychiatrist, the author uses his personal experiences and those from the people he treated to expose the nature of the power of human’s rational decision, over the bodily aspects of human existence. According to him, what matters for the success of human life is the freedoms of attitude development, rather than the attention given to the challenges one faces.

References

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