

**Notes on Existentialism (for my lecture)**

***The Existential Situation***

God is Dead  
World is essentially meaningless,  
In the face of death, nothing has meaning  
existence precedes essence  
No transcendent meaning  
Absurdity  
Nausea  
Nothingness

**In the face of the Existential Situation, individuals experience feelings of:** Hopelessness, Angst, (anguish), Alienation

Suicide as a response is just as absurd as any other action.

Kakfa's "Before the Law" is an expression of existentialism.

For the masses, they cannot live in an existential reality, so they create sustaining illusions (such as God) or pipe-dreams.

***The Existential Solution***

However, for the existential hero, the realization that **EXISTENCE PRECEDES ESSENCE** is **LIBERATING**.

Creates **ULTIMATE, LIMITLESS, AND COMPLETE FREEDOM**.

Therefore, **TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY IS PLACED ON THE INDIVIDUAL FOR ALL CHOICES MADE**.

**TO NOT MAKE A CHOICE IS A CHOICE.**

**WORK VS. REWARD**

The Existential Hero must try to create meaning with the full understanding that his meaning is solely for the individual alone, is not transcendent to anyone else, and is only useable for the moment.

**GOOD FAITH**

The accept what you have done (not thought, willed or desired)

To accept responsibility for your actions.

To not choose is a choice.

**BAD FAITH**

The unwillingness to accept responsibility for one's acts and to ascribe personal responsibility to someone outside the self as the "cause of one's own servile condition."

***Some Existential Authors***

Jean Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, Andre Malraux, Samuel Beckett, Eugene Ionesco, Simone de Beauvoir