

SARTRE



SOME LINES TO QUOTE:



SARTRE'S CONCEPTION OF MORALITY:

Since God does not exist, everything is permissible; hence Sartre gave his conception of Morality through Freedom, Responsibility & Anguish.

- We legislate for whole of humanity through our action E.g.: Marriage.
- This brings Anguish, knowing that we are responsible not only for us but whole of humanity through us.

Despair

- ✚ We cannot control others.
- ✚ Descartes said, Conquer yourself rather than the world.



Choice & Responsibility brings **To be or Not to be**

TO BE

Authentic Existence

Being for itself
Takes the burden of choice

NOT TO BE

Inauthentic Existence

Being for others
Bad faith
Rely on others to take control of our faith
False sense of control
E.g.: Girl on Date Server in restaurant (given by Sartre).

- ✚ Sartre introduces “Being and Nothing less”, his single greatest articulate of his existential philosophy in an essay in phenomenological ontology.
- ✚ Ontology means study of being & Phenomenology means relating to perceptual consciousness or Logical Study of the Phenomena.

✚ On Being and Nothingness:

Sartre rejects Kant’s “**Concept of Noumena**” Against Kant; Sartre argues that the appearances of a **phenomenon are pure and absolute. The noumena is not inaccessible, it simply is not there.**

- ✚ What we see is what we get or Appearance is the only reality. This eliminates a number Of dualisms.

✚ On Nothingness:

1. A conscious being, For Itself is able to recognize what it is not, it is not a being in itself.
Through the awareness of what it is not, the For Itself becomes what it is A Nothingness.
2. By nothingness he means, wholly free in the world, with the blank canvas on which to create its being.
3. Since man lacks any particular definite essence, apart from the ways he has created himself through the various choices he makes, we may say **that man is not any particular thing or object, man is “No thing”.**

Man’s being can only be non-being and therefore must consist in nothing. Sartre says nothingness comes into the world through man. The human self is both itself and not itself. Sartre holds that it is paradoxically present to itself in the mode of negation.

IMPLICATION OF NOTHINGNESS:

1. Freedom has been a central theme in **Sartre's Existentialism**. However to defend absolute freedom man has to begin from scratch, from nothing.
2. **Existence Precedes Essence:**
Man is not thrownness but ability to project himself in the future .It is nothing else, but what he makes of himself.

COMPARISON:

A similar view from which even Sartre was highly influenced was Martin Heidegger's view on temporality as a feature of Man's & being.

CRITICISM OF CONCEPTION OF NOTHINGNESS:

1. Some would argue that Sartre's conception can't defend a child prodigy, a born talent.
2. Nothingness could only lead to a **"Quietism of Despair"**
3. Sartre himself declares that **"Man is a useless passion"**, to which a catholic critic Mille Mercier accused Sartre of having forgotten how a child smiles.

ON FREEDOM & CHOICE

- All that is given is that we are but not what we are.
- Sartre proclaims the Freedom of Man to be absolute and wants to establish "Existence precedes Essence"

ON ABANDONMENT:

1. For Sartre, Abandonment means specifically abandonment by God.
2. This does not imply that God as a Metaphysical entity actually existed at some point and went away. Sartre is echoing Nietzsche's famous pronouncement: **"God is dead"**.

ON RESPONSIBILITY:

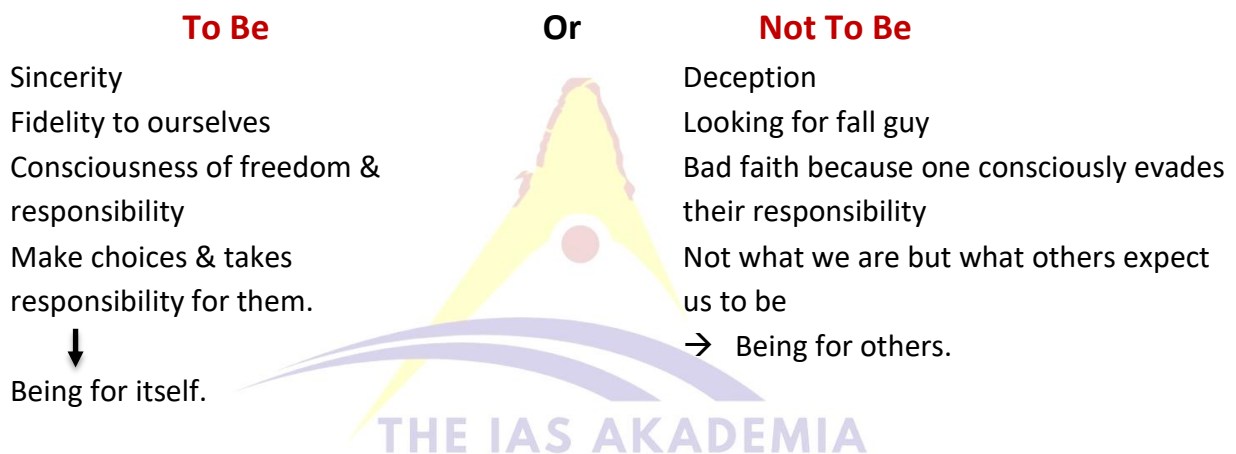
- Not only am I responsible for everything that I am, but also when choosing any particular action. I not only commit myself to it but am choosing as a "Legislator deciding for the whole of Mankind".
- This is similar to Kant's conception of Morality as Universality [Categorical Imperative].

ON DESPAIR:

The attitude of despair is one of indifference to the way things turn out. When Descartes said “Conquer yourself rather than the world”, what he meant was the same thing; we can’t expect to rely on anything or to be disturbed about anything outside our control.

On Self Deception/Bad faith:

1. Self-deception invariably involves an attempt to evade responsibility. Using psychological theory to distinguish between a “Good I” and a “Bad me” only perpetuates my evasion of responsibility and its commitment like “We are always looking for a fall guy--- God, Government, society, other beings for our problems, our incapacities to choose .
2. In this context, Sartre describes “To be or not to be”.



- 📌 In Being & Nothingness the central feature of human existence is the capacity to choose in full awareness of one’s own non-being, it follows that the basic question is whether or not I will be true to myself. **“Sartre in Being & Nothingness.”**
- 📌 The ability to accept what we are without exaggeration or Excuse is the key, since the chief value of human life is fidelity to ourselves.
- 📌 However in relationship with others, we often betray ourselves by trying to be whatever the other person expects is to be this exhibits a total lack of faith in ourselves to an extent that I have faith in anyone else.
- 📌 We reveal lack of courage to be ourselves.
- 📌 There are in the end only 2 choices Sincerity or Self-Deception to be or not to be.
- 📌 Two types of Bad faith

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Playing the Role

 Being in itself or Material object.
- Sartre also gives practical Examples of Bad faith. A girl pretending to keep all options open on a date by deliberately ignoring the sexual advances of their partner.
Ex” A server in restaurant



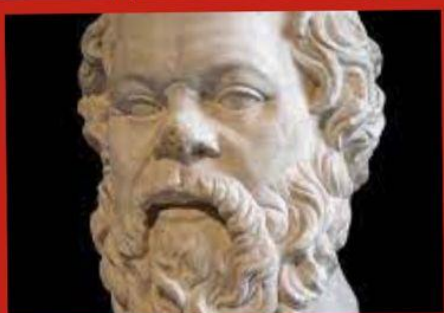
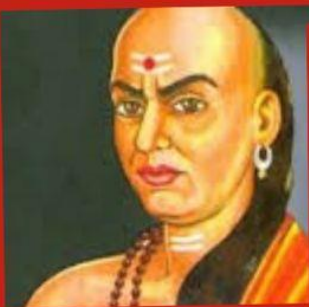
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