

the
ABSURD.

===== **the ABSURD** =====

Here is dedicated to the zenith (in my view) of philosophical conceptions—the Absurd.

It is "the edge of philosophy".

It is when the rational mind can no longer grasp (logically) the seemingly unattainable meaning and reason for its existence.

Rationality has let you down, leaving you solely with your emotional states of mind.

Depression, despair, and anxiety dawn upon you. Feelings of emptiness, loneliness, and confusion begin to arise. Your deepest thoughts of self—your imperfections, ugliness, and patheticness. Fear takes hold of you. A realization emerges of how infinitesimally small and insignificant you are in the seemingly endless ocean of space and time. The impossible graspability of any single moment. It all seems so random, yet so structured. It's fleeting. A single moment: life... death... The countless possibilities of life's evolving processes. your unique beauty and divinity, your reduction to a statistic. uncertainty. the more knowledge, the less answers. the unattainable beauty, the unbearable ugly. the pleasurable pain, the painful pleasure. a contradiction.... yet it exists? your unique beauty and divinity, your reduction to a statistic. The imagination of non-existing, of death, uncontrollably persists to whisper in your mind once again. uncertainty. illusion of the senses. You try to grasp it, the reality... the infinite... and then you recognize the madness. Would it not make more sense for there to be nothing? And yet here you are—a unit of consciousness. Such is the irony of Our existence.

It is Nihilism at its peak.

We humans by nature desire to know. And philosophy which has sought to find the answer to the most valuable question:

Why exist?

has now been stopped short. You are at the edge of the cliff. You see that there exists no continuation, no road for you to take which would lead you to the answer.

It is "the edge of philosophy".

How do we reconcile with this?

In the essay '*The Myth of Sisyphus*', Camus presents three solutions from which we choose one —consciously or subconsciously— to the question fundamental to our existence.

1. Physical Suicide. You may physically jump off the edge of the cliff and escape the absurdity of existing.
2. 'The Leap of Faith'. That equates to religion. You may invoke a transcendental object—call it 'God'—and let that idea and the surrounding principles of the particular divine mental

state, the feeling, the revelation, the idea –'God' — provide meaning and guidance to your life. It is the one-word solution to *the absurd*. It is the turning away from it, a position that the absurd cannot be reconciled and it's futile to *even acknowledge* its existence. Absurdity of life and all the irrationalities can be summed up with this one word –'God' —, and hence the absurd can be ignored and never thought of again.

3. 'Recognition' of the absurd. This position allows one to create one's own meaning to life and freely choose the truths you wish to live by in doing so, having the courage that you have the strength to do good. There is good, and I shall find it. You are not bound by any imposed pre-defined rules, but rather, You create the rules of YOUR life. You are consciously aware that you will face the consequences of your choices, and you are ready, with courage, to accept the consequences—facing the unknown, the uncertainty. One finds happiness in this endless search and struggle, and embraces the freedom to choose – striving to live every moment to the fullest.

I don't think that any individual should be fearful of this last choice. As a student of physics, I have studied a few of the fundamental laws which show (to some degree) how the basic units of nature operate. Carrying the attitude that there are natural laws which dictate the behavior of systems beyond the basic units of physics, there exists laws which dictate human behavior as well. It is my impression that humans, by their nature, desire to optimize their happiness in life. In exploring the various philosophical systems that propose the attainment of this, developed through our personal experiences and new scientific knowledge of our nature at a particular point in space-time, I conclude: we must consciously realize that the only worthy goal for our striving is to maximize our individual happiness, and correlatively, our societal happiness, until the human story comes to an end. We have made philosophical mistakes in the past, but we learn. The truths that individuals choose to live by will be, on average, positive and beneficial, and (ironically) relatively universal.

In recognizing and embracing the absurd, what remains to pursue is no longer a universal truth, but the enjoyment of discovering the small truths. Namely, the mathematical truths, the truths of science, our own nature, and our personal experiences which dictate how we choose to live. May we live Happy and Free.