

Soumik Deb

Ms. MacPhail

CAL – 105 – P

December 2016

### The Idea of Life

Life is an extremely odd term and trying to explain what it is or the purpose and meaning of it would lead to a very vague and generalized perspective that's hard to understand and complete gibberish. Some concepts discussed that I believe are to be related and pertain value to what life is for include topics like "what is perception and knowledge", "optimism vs pessimism – how do we get through this thing called life", "Subjectivity v. Objectivity", and moral, ethical, and logical values. A lot of this is based off the collective idea from society and what the world around us is. These topics make the meaning of life as much as the meaning of life creates these conceptions for humanity. What is this relationship between these notions and thoughts that have defined life and how life has defined these conceptions and perceptions?

For starters, the idea of knowledge and truth is based off a complete mental paradox. Knowledge, facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject, and truth, the quality or state of being true, are the closest and simplest terms I could find from Dictionary.com that would create a foundation of understanding for how humanity has created understanding. Now right off the bat, both these terms should be considered irrelevant as they are comprised of thought by the human brain. Nothing abstract created by something concrete will ever be "real". Whatever our brains think can never be validated or relevant in matter, which also means none of this is valid or relevant and has zero meaning as much as anything else that resulted from thought. This is

based off the idea that knowledge and truth aren't something we can ever fully comprehend. The nature of Descartes is that we will never know what we don't know and the impossible and unknowing will always stay as such. Two plus two equals four and that's the truth based off our knowledge. Something so simple just cannot be made so complex to be proven otherwise but the idea of mathematics and creation is something we had thought of. Perception and observation is what gives us knowledge which leads us to believing what is relevant and what is not. The truth of that is that our knowledge is not superior enough to know what we do not know. Knowledge will be based off truth as truth is created by our knowledge. I can say there will always be things we do not know because I have knowledge that there are such aspects and repeating patterns of us advancing and discovering what we did not know or would never think of existing and that knowledge in turn makes the truth that we will never know. It may sound confusing but basically the truth is our knowledge will never really be real or relevant and we know that because the truth is there's too much for anyone to understand and comprehend.

Now continuing off the idea of perception and observation, these two have created everything around us today. Plato's allegory teaches and divulges into the concept of perception and what it is that makes reality and life something of meaning to us. In the allegory, the prisoners limited observation is what creates their perception of what life is and when the one prisoner escapes and is exposed to something he has never comprehended his observations change his perception and what life is to him. He goes back to tell the others but their perceptions of what life is already set in stone and cannot be changed so they violently beat the one that escaped because their perception of life is different and so that leads them to the thought that the one that escaped is wrong and became stupid and had gone crazy from the unknown. This unknown and the prisoners' perspective and the escapee's perspective are three metaphoric entities that could apply to what life is today. The unknown is actually known as to be the unknown always and never changing. We can never comprehend the idea of what it is or what the limit of it is, we will not know it and knowing it will never come to fruition as it is a concept that cannot be bound by anything we know. The largest scale of what the prisoners' perspective can be is the collective perspective and thought of humanity. The escapee's perspective is subject to be anyone that derives from the collective thought of humanity and

is denied and rejected. Now the escapee's perspective cannot be determined true or false because our own perspective will deny it or think otherwise or the perspective is not strong enough to become a collective thought of humanity's and for that this would have to exclude anything controversial to any relevance of human thought. That perspective could also be true because the unknown can prove it true but we will never be able to validate that because at the same time that perspective is proven false by the unknown so whatever we think doesn't matter as the unknown can validate or invalidate the thought at the same time. But say the escapee's perspective is accepted by the prisoners, this now means the escapee is a prisoner of perception as they have a collective thought now. The entity of prisoners will be forever since whether the escapee's perception is accepted they are all then prisoners of the unknown and do not advance. Our perception is limited and restrained by what we do not know and that will never change

Now the understanding is that there is the unknown and what we know or will know is pointless as we will never truly and fully know, so what creates life and meaning and the will to live then? Value is what creates the meaning and reason to live and advance. By our understanding, if there is something we do not know we will learn. We will never truly know but we will try to learn and understand and that is the simplistic reason of life. We exist therefore we have purpose and meaning. Humanity has thrived and advanced therefore we must have reason and will that keeps us in existence. If we will never know the unknown, then what point is there to advancement and knowing anything? It is because in all the abstract concepts and thoughts there is a "real" meaning and purpose. Real is used in the sense that we cannot distinguish its meaning but we "know" what it means to us so humanity will go to find the purpose and meaning of existence that is life. It exists therefore it has a reason of being created and continuing to exist. Everything may sound contradicting but it is because of the thought that we don't know that we will try to know and the truth that we will never know that we want to know why and what limitation does it have. Knowledge is power and the key to advancement so why would humanity allow itself to be limited in that. This is what creates the reason of life and the will to live and to advance. I have to ask myself do I care about those limitations and restrictions and if I want to know the unknown and I honestly don't care and know I'll never know but it must be human nature that I do want to know why I'll never know and why

there is such a limitation and how there came to be anything created in the universe. Chances are I'll never know and no will ever know but what else is there going for humanity and life? We don't know so we will advance until we do understand and know what we don't know and want to know. Knowing is everything and to know everything is to solve every meaning and reason and purpose of any concept and existence.

Although that would seem to conclude the idea of what existence and life is there are simpler and realistically defined terms and values that make life what it is for us and gives people a more grounded and comprehensible will to live. Ethical values are created by the comprehension of what is right and wrong from society. Moral values are created by the understanding of what you personally and individually think is right or wrong and what should and should not be done and by the will of your conscious and desire, these might or might not be shaped by society and that influence is entirely determined by the individual. Logical values are more ideal as they go hand in hand with what is right or wrong by society and your own justification but aren't as personal as moral values. The best way to define the three is by comparison. Moral is heavily defined by the unique thought of the person and logical can be a more generalized and shared perspective as this is by intellect and thought of unbiased and knowledge. Ethical is by society and thus it is a widely shared view but society's range is what creates the range of ethic and at the same time society changes to bend logic in its own relevance. Ethos, pathos, and logos are appeals defined by Aristotle. Ethos being ethical, pathos being emotional, and logos being logical. These appeals are parallel to that of the three values as morality is uniqueness that is shaped by emotion and thought of the person that is ever changing. To appeal means there must be values that you are connecting to. Our lives revolve around the appeal of our values and what we desire, our will to live. The purpose of living is a mix of all the three values. Everyone possesses these values regardless of what they think and can be influenced and will take action by these appeals. That is the way of life as humanity lives by their appeals to their values. That purpose and meaning is what creates the reason to live and do what we do. Someone who thinks they do not possess such have yet to understand it as our nature and meaning are broken down into these three categories and are bound by it and our understanding. That is the connection of everything prior to this paragraph, our understanding and knowledge and truth as bound and limited they are they are what make the relevance of

our values and what appeals to us and creates the will and desire to live. To reiterate, not having these just means you have poor understanding and comprehension of what life is around you and the greater your understanding and knowledge grows the purposes or life and meaning expand and might not be bound by just the three categories. Knowledge and understand create the will to live by value and appeal.

Life creates conception and value as conceptions and value create the meaning of life. It is a fulfilling thing that fulfills itself in relevance of being an abstract entity created by our concrete brains. The fact that we are limited and bound by the unknown is what destroys any purpose of life but at the same time creates our understanding and reason to live. Not knowing everything limits us to such simplicity that because we don't know we stay to what we know and revolve around that and continue from that. It's as if there is a ladder and we cannot climb up the rungs so we stay at where we are and try to climb still regardless of what we know and if we are even trying at all. We don't know what's at the top but there is this ladder and the purpose of any ladder is to climb it so that is what we ultimately do at whatever pace and any way there seems to be. The meaning of life is so grand and incomprehensible that the complexity has allowed us to make our own meaning and make what we can out of life. Our understandings and value bring meaning and purpose to life as life and existence limit us to our understandings and value.