



Analysis of Death in Heidegger's Philosophy

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores Martin Heidegger's approach to death and how it affects our understanding of human nature. Heidegger's examination of death is grounded in his understanding of Dasein, which he views as the core framework of existence. According to Heidegger, dying is not something that occurs to us but rather a constant aspect of who we are. His theory of temporality, which holds that the past, present, and future shape our existence, is intimately tied to Heidegger's explanation of death. Heidegger's conception of authenticity, which holds that we must acknowledge our mortality and lead meaningful lives, is connected to his examination of death. Heidegger's concept of finitude, which is the notion that life is finite and that we must make the most of it, is connected to his examination of death. This essay will investigate how Heidegger's examination of death might aid in our understanding of the human condition and our position in the universe.

Keywords: Death; Finitude; Being; Dasein.

1. INTRODUCTION

From time immemorial, the meaning and purpose of human life has been the preoccupation of human beings. The odious reality and experience of death has made the whole enquiry into the meaning of life, daunting and yet intriguing and fascinating. Martin Heidegger asserts that death is an inevitable phenomenon of life and it is defined only in relation to life. In respect to this Jaja (2013, p. 1021), writes that, "Death is an integral part of human existence in the final phenomenon of life itself... as such it influences the entire life by a reverse flow. Death becomes the meaning of life as the final chord in the meaning of the melody". That is to say that death makes the life meaningfully. In addition, death signifies the end and the goal of man; it is something intrinsic and natural component of man's life. Death moves with life and life terminate with death, it is also a thing in life, it does not come from outside of man to invade life, and rather man's whole life is a progressive

journey towards his not-yet-death. However, Nickel (2012, p. 32) observes that:

Death is a universal shared experience, hence all humanity are involve in the reflection of death, even though some do it academically and some do it as part of life reflection and therefore, there are ample of work on the understanding of death. Death is inevitable, death is certain in human existence, though we do battle with its inevitability.

Moreover, the problem of death has been disturbing the human mind through the ages. Reiland³ posits that the fear of death has kept man restless and posed a heart-breaking thorn on his flesh. To affirm the above thought more clearly, Schopenhauer assert that, "the fear of death is the beginning of philosophy and the final cause of Religion" (Durant & Case, 1992 p. 297). To unravel the mystery of death, the researchers attempt to

analyze the concept of death according to Heidegger's Philosophy.

2. DEATH

Humans have been thinking about death since the beginning of time. All living creatures must endure this common experience, although it is still a mystery (Pollan, 2019). Death is frequently perceived as a bad thing, yet it can also be considered as a normal aspect of existence. It can be thought as a release from the physical world and a change from one state of existence to another (Overall, 2003). Dying can also be viewed as a spiritual journey, a period of introspection, and a chance for development. It may be a moment to commemorate and honor the memories that a loved one left behind while also honoring their life.

Philosophy has been interested with death since the beginning of time. For instance, Plato contended that death is not a bad thing but rather an essential component of existence (Hartsock, 1983). According to him, dying is a normal procedure that enables us to ascend to a higher plane of life. On the other hand, Aristotle contended that death is a sin because it robs us of the chance to experience life (Shults, 2003). He thought that because death keeps us from realizing our greatest potential, it is tragic. Existentialists like Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus have argued that death is a necessary aspect of life more recently. Some contend that the sense of closure and awareness of our mortality that death brings to life gives it significance. They claim that death is not something to be dreaded, but rather welcomed as a part of the human experience.

In conclusion, philosophy has long been interested in the subject of death. From Plato's opinion that death is a necessary component of life to Sartre and Camus' perspective that it is a crucial component of the human experience, several philosophers have presented a variety of perspectives on death. In the end, death is a complex and challenging subject that needs more research. Finally, we must all accept that death is a natural part of existence.

3. CRITIQUE OF HEIDEGGER'S PHILOSOPHY

One of the most well-known and contentious philosophers of the 20th century is Martin Heidegger (Ignatius, *et al.*, 2022). His ideology has garnered a lot of attention, been hotly contested, and received both praise and criticism. Heidegger's philosophy is frequently criticized for being extremely esoteric and challenging to comprehend. His views can be challenging to understand because of Heidegger's frequently opaque and intricate writing style. This has caused some to claim that Heidegger's philosophy is too obscure and difficult for the typical reader to understand (Peters, 2022). Heidegger's philosophy is sometimes criticized for being overly individualized. Heidegger frequently overlooks the social and political facets of life in favor of focusing on the individual's sense of being in the world. Some claim that Heidegger's philosophy is overly individualistic and ignores the collective experience of humanity as a result of this.

Finally, the absence of moral direction in Heidegger's philosophy has been challenged. Heidegger's philosophy focuses primarily on comprehending the nature of being; he makes no overt moral recommendations. This has prompted some to claim that Heidegger's philosophy is overly abstract and devoid of suggestions about how to live a decent life.

4. CONCLUSION

Martin Heidegger's approach to death is intricate and nuanced. Heidegger thought that accepting death as a natural element of existence and the human experience is important. He made the case that dying should not be dreaded, but rather accepted and embraced (Cohen, 2007). Heidegger claimed that considering death to be a natural aspect of existence and a means of understanding its significance (Zimmerman, 1990). He had the opinion that passing away might inspire us and make us cherish life more. Death, according to Heidegger, can be a source of

freedom since it frees us from the limitations of life and enables us to realize our full potential.

In general, Heidegger's approach to death urges us to view death as a natural part of life and a source of inspiration and freedom. Heidegger's philosophy exhorts us to accept death and to use it as a means of understanding the purpose of life. The philosophy of Heidegger exhorts us to enjoy life to the fullest and to cherish the time we have.

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