

The Daoists believe human beings are natural entities. Lao Tzu believes that for a human being to live a meaningful life, they have to adapt to living in harmony with nature. For someone to understand how to live in harmony with nature, they have to learn how to cultivate Wu Wei.

The removal of social influence, desire, and obsession with control are ways to cultivate wei. The manifestation of Wu Wei components leads to the Daoist's three virtues: tranquility, moderation, and humility, which contribute to a meaningful life for the Daoist.

Opposingly, Confucianism's standpoint on the self is that human beings are primarily social entities, apart from Daoism's philosophy that human beings are natural entities that should live in harmony with nature. For Confucius, a meaningful life relates to human beings living in harmony with society by cultivating ren and li. Ren relates to humanity showing love and compassion to people, and Li relates to the establishment of social norms for individuals. The Daoists argue that human meaning is based on human relations with nature.

Personally, I do not agree with either of these religions' philosophies. Confucianism's premise about cultivating the concept of li is problematic to human life because social norms are different from one community to another, and most of the social norms are based on Confucius's ideas, which can change throughout time and favor a marginalized group over another. Since the religion is based on Confucius's ideas, his code of rules implies that people just have to take him to his word, but his ideology could have been stained by his own experiences and traumas. On the other hand, looking at Daoism and its emphasis on human nature involving Wu Wei as the key to a harmonious life, we could argue that "effortless action" cannot bring satisfaction to humans. This point of view can convey that determination, drive, and ambition are not necessary for society, which may confuse many individuals and block the potential for personal growth.

Descartes's standpoint of the self relates to the human conscious. He believes a person can experience a meaningful life by being certain about every basic belief system. He thinks human perception is not enough to justify any of our beliefs. Additionally, Descartes argues that an evil genius may be deceiving humans into thinking certain beliefs, which can contribute to the reason Descartes can't rule out all beliefs.

On the contrary, Descartes's philosophy is based on the certainty of all belief systems and consciousness relating to the self, compared to Buddhism, which adapted the idea that a meaningful life relates to a person attaining Nirvana by overcoming craving. Additionally, the Buddhist argues that to overcome craving, a person must remove the belief of a self-existing because the aggregates of a human being are permanent.

I do not agree with Descartes or Buddhism's standpoint on the meaning of human perspective. Descartes' opinion on the evil genius presents a major problem when he questions every proposition by saying that it is all an issue of perception and that most of them are possibly false. Because of the innate nature of man to doubt, interrogating the different perceptions of each proposition that one is submitted to can lead to never finding the truth about any of them. Ruling out some perceptions is sometimes beneficial for an individual's wellbeing. For example, in medical trials, when patients believe strongly in the efficiency of a drug, they end up healed even if the drug was initially water. As for Buddhism, they do not believe in a deity, yet they rely on karma and reincarnation to dictate if they have lived a meaningful life, which infers that there is some type of divine entity that counts every good or bad action and decides one's worthiness to reach Nirvana. The idea of the non-existence of oneself raises questions about the meaning of life and the purpose of reaching nirvana since there is no specified destination after you die.

Nietzsche's philosophy of the self relates to human beings as primarily natural entities that have talents and abilities that make each human unique. Along with the self, Nietzsche believes a meaningful life is based on the affirmative of eternal recurrence. He states that the component of affirming eternal recurrence involves humans building character from the hardships they've experienced in life and how strong individuals' strength is due to their experience in suffering. He also believes people have no reason to believe in the true world because if a person believes in a non-empirical world, they are "weak" and can't handle suffering.

Nietzsche's argument about the meaning of life is based on accepting the persistent nature of suffering and that religions like Christianity promote weakness, which is flawed for the simple reason that the "true world" doesn't ignore suffering nor avoid it but provides a weapon for people to go through suffering. Moreover, in Nietzsche's philosophy, it is expressed that God can "die" because he has become unbearable, yet multiple psychological studies show that belief in God and His power produces higher levels of fulfillment and less suicide. That alone is a reason to consider the existence of God. The "true world" gives power to the people to know that suffering can never have the best of them. For example, the Bible talks about Christians being more than conquerors and them having the power of the Holy Spirit within them, as well as going through the darkest valleys and fearing no evil. Therefore, we may argue that belief in the "true world" isn't in fact a sign of weakness but rather an outlet that arms one to defeat suffering.

For Nietzsche's argument, he would state an opposition to the research about the suicide rates and the fulfillment level by saying that Christians wouldn't commit suicide because they



are scared not to go to heaven and that the contentment stems from a fake confidence in heaven and a hope that doesn't stand on anything natural. Finally, he would counter-attack by stating that the power given by God on which the "true world" relies may be proof of weakness.