

## OF Life. I bleed! (2021)

### OUTLINE

1

#### Introduction

Thesis statement: Relentless pursuit of truth and unflinching desire of satisfaction in life leads one to get crushed by adversities of life. Therefore, life is not a journey, but not a destination. A journey where one keeps getting tested and suffers persistently.

2

Man has traditionally suffered by the infliction of pain.

3

Theoretical perspectives that reiterate that life is a challenge where one often gets to suffer relentlessly

a. Existentialism by Sartre

b. Concept of Absurdism by Albert Camus

c. Idea of Nihilism by F. Nietzsche

4

Literary depictions that illustrate that life is not a bed of roses but thorns that keeps one to one's toes

a. Accumulating money does not guarantee happiness

(i) The Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

b. Fighting for equality often sucks one's energy

(i) This is a Photograph

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of me by Atwood

c. ~~Striking with reality of life brings sorrow~~

(i) Doll House by Henrik Ibsen

d. ~~Materialism brings no good at the expense of individualism~~

(i) Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

e. ~~Marginalisation overlooks struggle of a whole group~~

(i) The Yellow Wallpaper by Perkins

f. ~~Future is as bleak as past because of man's own deeds~~

(i) The Second Coming by WB Yeats

5

Personalities who dared to fight against the odds of life but suffered at the hands of their fates all their lives

a. ~~Denied the validation of genius - Galileo Galilei~~

b. ~~Misunderstood for being the different one - Friedrich Nietzsche~~

c. ~~Identified the art of creativity pretty late - Vincent Van Gogh~~

d. ~~Found meaning between the lines after his death~~

- John Keats

6

Despite the adversities of life and unstopable suffering, worries and hardships of life do some good for an individual

a- Provides strength to fight against odds of life.

b- Connects one with inner-self

c- Essential for growth and individual nourishment

d- Builds connection of an individual with God

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### Conclusion

"The world breaks everyone, Travis. The very good, the very gentle, the very brave. And those it doesn't break, it kills." (Nicholas Sparks, The Choice, 2007) As the quote explains, life is not a bed of roses, but a challenge which characterizes pain infliction, relentless suffering and unstopable hardships. It tests everyone from the good to the bad and also those who never did bad. Relentless pursuit of truth and unflinching desire of satisfaction in life leads one to get crushed by adversities of life. Therefore, life is a journey, but not a destination. A journey where one keeps getting tested and suffers persistently. Theoretical perspective - to support the claim - reiterate that life is a challenge where one gets to taste hardships of life.

These theoretical ideas include Sartre's Existentialism, Absurdism of Camus and Nietzsche's Nihilism. Moreover, literary depiction also illustrate that life does not offer sympathy but keeps one to one's toes by continuous challenges thrown at an individual. Charles Dickens, Margaret Atwood, Henrik Ibsen, Franz Kafka, Perkins, and Yeats through their masterpieces places stamp on the claim. Furthermore famous personalities as those of Galileo, Nietzsche, Vincent Van Gogh and John Keats are example of those people who greatly suffered in their lives, misunderstood for their distinguished features and discriminated till they breathed their last. They were recognized and appreciated only when they were gone. However, despite the adversities of life and unstoppable suffering, worries and hardships of life provides strength to an individual to remain invincible. It connects one with inner-self and is essential for one's growth and individual nourishment. Additionally, it builds one's connection and link with God. Thus, life is a journey full of thorns that inflict pain to an individual and weakens one's strength and will, but it is essential for one to rise like a phoenix from ashes.

Greeks can be dated back to the first known intellectuals who led the foundation of western sciences. Greeks, when encountered difficulties in life and realized how timid they were in comparison with adversities of life, started communicating with God. They felt the need to be in touch with deities who would help them to overcome the troubles and hardships of life. Therefore, animism, one of the earliest religion, and communicating God with the help of Delphi were made when man was faced with invisibility of troublesome life. It is suffice to say that since the beginning man has suffered relentlessly and viciously.

Among the number of theoretical perspectives that reiterate that life poses multiple challenges in one's life, Existentialism by Sartre remains the crucial one. Existentialism deviates from traditional concept of Essentialism and states that life is meaningless and man does not need God to make sense in his life. Sartre states that man has to create his own essence through the choice he makes out of his opportunities and doing this he suffers a lot in his life, for he takes complete responsibility of his life and liberty in his own hands. To illustrate, Sartre says, "Existence precedes and rules essence." Thus, Existentialism states that the life is not a bed of roses, but

a challenge for everyone to make essence out of it.

Second, the concept of Absurdism also illustrates that life is not a destination filled with joy, but a challenge where one has to deal with troubles and misfortunes. Absurdism revolves around the idea that life has altogether no meaning and even though one tries to make sense and take the forces of life in hands, it always end in absurdism and loss of faith and hope. To explain, Albert Camus, who first used the idea of absurdism, says, "man stands face to face with the irrational. He feels within him his longing for happiness and for reason. The absurd is born of this confrontation between the human need and the unreasonable silence of the world." (Albert Camus, The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays). Therefore, absurdism states that life is an endless journey of miseries and troubles.

In addition to the perspectives of Existentialism and Absurdism, the idea of nihilism also expresses the notion that world breaks individual in different phases of life. Nihilism states that there is no purpose to having values or beliefs because everything is unfounded and useless, including truth, so there are no reasons to uphold moral principles, for the world and

human life are progressively more meaningless with no role of God. As Nietzsche says, "God is Dead. God remain dead. we have killed Him." (Friedrich Nietzsche, The Gay Science, 1882) Therefore, as the ideology of nihilism says, life does not possess a meaning and reveals the bleak side of world in which even truth is distorted.

Literature is the reflection of life. It depicts social, cultural, political, economical, psychological and prevalent norms belonging to that era. Similarly, literature has been used to depict the theme of helplessness and sorrow posed by life.

Among the number of literary depictions to illustrate misfortunes of life, literature has been used to explain that accumulating money does not guarantee happiness. Charles Dickens, in his famous novel, The Great Expectations, draws the character of Pip who strives all his life to attain material wealth and social mobility to only suffer at the end of his life where he realizes that suffering does not end. Pip says, "In a word, I was too cowardly to do what I knew to be right, as I had been too cowardly to avoid doing what I knew to be wrong." (Charles Dickens, The Great Expectations) To sum up, Dickens, through the character of Pip,

explains that even though man possesses wealth, the hardships of life never ends.

Second, literature has also been used to explain that fighting for equality and against marginalization often takes a toll on one's life. Margaret Atwood, in her famous poem, This is a Photograph of Me, states that women have been traditionally marginalized because of prevailing patriarchal and misogynist views. This fight, however long, is a long journey and takes generation to work for it. It states that numerous people suffered in their lives because of marginalization. She says, "The photograph was taken the day after I drowned / I am in the lake, in the center of the picture, just under the surface." (Margaret Atwood, This is a Photograph of Me). To conclude, Atwood explains that life of women fighting for equality is full of thorns and nails waiting to pierce in her.

Moreover, literature has also been used to dig in the theme of self-actualization which gradually brings pain in one's life. Henrik Ibsen, in his masterpiece play, sketches the character of Nora in A Doll House who spends her whole life being dictated by men in her life. Nora forsakes her choices, her individuality and personal growth for the sake of her husband who was shallow enough to discard all her



efforts and love. Nora dejectedly says, "I felt my life unspeakably empty. No one to live for anymore" (Henrik Ibsen, A Doll House). Suffice is to say that life itself is a challenge in which puts efforts only to get dejected by misfortunes and adversities.

Along with these, literature has also been used to depict that even materialism does not evade problems from one's life. Franz Kafka, in his renowned novel, The Metamorphosis, draws the character of Gregor Samsa who belongs to a middle class family and provides bread and butter to his family. However, when he unexpectedly turns into a cockroach and fails to provide for his family, he gets humiliated, isolated and depressed to the point of attempting suicide. To illustrate, Samsa illustrates his inner-plight by saying, "I cannot make you understand. I cannot make anyone understand what is happening inside me. I cannot even explain it to myself." (Franz Kafka, The Metamorphosis) Thus, Kafka illustrates that even family poses great grief in one's life making one's life a living hell.

Additionally, literature also presents the theme that marginalization overlooks the struggle of marginalized people who suffer in all aspects of their lives. Charlotte Perkins Gilman writes a short story, The Yellow Wallpaper, revolving

around the struggle of a woman who suffers from depression but gets isolated by her husband at the name of her treatment. She is isolated and grieved to the point that she starts to imagine a confined woman yearning for independence which in actual was the protagonist herself. To illustrate, Gilman explains that life for marginalized people is never easy, for they are chained and confined. To sum up, Gilman expresses that life is no bed of roses but a challenging journey.

In the last, literature has also been used to illustrate that future of the world because of human deadliest weapon inventions is bleak. WB Yeats in his famous poem, 'The Second Coming', writes about the future destruction of world where future is bleak. Yeats illustrates that man has intervened in the world and caused millions of innocent people to die as a result of aftermath of world war. As Yeats says, "Turning and turning in the widening gyre / The falcon cannot hear the falconer; / Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; / Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world /" (WB Yeats, 'The Second Coming') Therefore, Yeats predicts that the world offers no hope and breaks those who stand against it.

Among the number of personalities who dared to fight against the conventional ideas of life, but suffered at the hands of their fates, Galileo Galilei remains the crucial one. Galileo, considered as father of astronomy and modern sciences, was denied validation of his genius in his life. Galileo stood against the traditional belief that sun revolves around the earth which was widely accepted because of influence of Aristotle and scriptural belief on Bible. For this, Galileo was put behind the dungeon where he breathed his last with sorrows and pain inflicted upon him by the world. To conclude, through the life of Galileo, it can be inferred that life is full of sorrow and challenges let alone a bed of roses.

Moreover, Friedrich Nietzsche, the most misunderstood German philosopher, stands as an astounding example of those who bear hardship from lives. Nietzsche was misunderstood and labelled as negator of God for his unconventional beliefs. The death of God, for Nietzsche, is a liberating force and according to him God cannot be perceived objectively but rather God is an objective reality. Nietzsche says, "Sometimes people don't want to hear the truth because they don't want their illusions destroyed". (Friedrich Nietzsche)

To conclude, life of Nietzsche provides

the analysis that those who do not go by the flow of life get destroyed.

Along with Galeleo and Nietzsche, Vincent Van Gogh is also the one who faced the hardship of life till he passed away. Vincent Van Gogh, the renowned Dutch artist, famous for his creative pieces of art had a very different style of painting that would reflect his different sense of perceiving world. As Gogh said, "I dream of painting and then I paint my dream." (Vincent Gogh). He suffered from mental illness and was admitted to asylum which overshadowed his genius and talent. He was appreciated only after he left the world. Therefore, through Gogh's life, one can infer that life is challenging for everyone be it for strong or for weak.

In the last, John Keats is also a prime example of those people who suffered all their life. John Keats is among renowned romantic poets blessed with genius of artistry and talent of writing enchanting words which transports readers to other realm. Keats lost all his family in tuberculosis and lost his own life at a very delicate age of 27. He suffered both loss of life and loss of love and never received appreciation for his literary work. Keats says, "Do you not see how necessary

a world of pains and troubles is to school an intelligence and make it a soul? Thus, John Keats suffered all his life illustrating the notion that life never pays heed to one's goodness and is equally harsh to everyone.

Despite the tumultuous suffering and quagmire of adversities, continuous hardships provide strength to fight against the odds of life. Individual facing the relentless suffering gradually realizes the sprout of strength emerging in him to face the troubles of life. To illustrate, when someone faces a deadlock in life and realizes the gravity of situation which soon crushes him, one gets the strength for knowing the fact that one can only save oneself. This notion of self-actualization leads a path of invincibility in that individual who does not backtrap, but bravely faces the adversity. To sum up, misfortunes and adversity makes an individual strong enough to deal with miseries of life.

Furthermore, tough situations where individual faces piled-up adversities connect one with one's inner-self. When one gets stuck in quagmire of harrowing situations and knows that one stands alone, one tend to get connected with inner-self and at that moment unleashes the strength present in one's unconsciousness.

The act of connecting with inner-self not only helps to solve situation, but also gives courage to remain resilient in the face of hardships of life. To explain, Steve Jobs said, "Don't let the voice of others opinion drown out your inner voice" (Steve Jobs). Therefore, despite the moments of weakness, hard luck gives opportunity to an individual to get connected with inner-self.

In addition to these, adversities are essential for growth and individual nourishment. If misfortunes and tough situations do not come, people would not get to see their growing resilience blossom and it would hinder the chances of individual nurturing. Hardships make a person stronger and grow one in experience to tackle with brewing storms waiting at the edge. Martin Luther King Jr said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter the most." (Martin Luther King Jr.) To conclude, tough situations are fundamental to nurture growth and individuality.

In the last, the hard luck and unstoppable sufferings build the connection of individual with God. Greeks started communicating with God when they find themselves timid in front of the adversities of life and seeked help of God with the help

of delphi. In the same manner, an individual during the period of suffering, gets connected with ultimate God and makes one's bond of spirituality strong. The belief of deriving power from God to deal with adversities has always been contended by believers of every religion. Therefore, adversities are also blessing in disguise for it connects an individual with God.

In conclusion, the thirst of contentment and success in life are overshadowed by the continuous suffering and adversities of life. Life is not a bed of roses, but a journey full of thorns that tests an individual in every aspect of life. Theoretical perspectives that stamp the claim that this world gives nothing but unstoppable sufferings are Existentialism by Sartre, Camus's Absurdism philosophy and also the idea of nihilism presented by Friedrich Nietzsche. These ideas provide an eye opener and negate that life has a meaningful purpose. Moreover, literary depictions of Dickens, Marguerite Atwood and Henrik Ibsen provide the analysis of man's control over his life's miseries. In addition to them, Franz Kafka, Gilman and WB Yeats illustrate the notion that nothing in this world makes an individual to evade misfortunes and adversities. Furthermore, the personalities of Galeleo, Nietzsche, Gogh and John Keats

shed light that even genius of their times could not evade the unflinching life sufferings. However, despite the tough situations which make people helpless, these situations bear goodness in them as well. They provide strength to fight against odds of life and connects one with inner-self. Also, it is essential for individual's growth and nourishment and strengthens the link of an individual with God. Therefore, despite the fact that life of an individual is full of quagmire of tumultuous situations, it helps one in one way or other and time passes soon and miseries get overturned. As PB Shelley rightly said, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind" (Percy Shelley, Ode to westwind)

Good