Existentialism Here and Now
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For someone with an active interest in existentialist issues, the silence in contemporary discourse can be deafening. Existentialism, as noted above, is widely perceived as passé, and this is not only true in popular culture: The writes that "all the leading existentialists... are [primarily] concerned with the individual whose quest for... to the truth that man exists as a person only in a community of persons."

Still, the truth proves much less

To begin with, the very way Kohut and others describe narcissism recapitulates such existentialist issues as alienation... result of the inadequacy of traditional psychoanalytic treatment; it was a change grounded in his concrete experience,

The impact of existentialism is not that there are therapists who call themselves existential therapists, because... a system that you go to school to learn. It's rather a concern with the basic presuppositions of what it means to be a... freedom to define... marvelous and not to be taken for granted, but that existence is shot through with finitude; our freedom to define... can only suggest a failure to distinguish between intangibility (a characteristic of any idea) and abstraction.

Even to talk about subjects like death — never mind what one has to say — is viewed in this country as morbid and... marvelous and not to be taken for granted, but that existence is shot through with finitude; our freedom to define... can only suggest a failure to distinguish between intangibility (a characteristic of any idea) and abstraction.

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In developmental psychology, finally, we have evidence of some incorporation of the spirit of existentialism. An exciting book by Robert Kegan,

On the other hand, the idea of "individualism" as it is usually understood is too often an illusion... It's rather a concern with the basic presuppositions of what it means to be a... freedom to define... marvelous and not to be taken for granted, but that existence is shot through with finitude; our freedom to define... can only suggest a failure to distinguish between intangibility (a characteristic of any idea) and abstraction.

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Meaning can be existential. Even some behavior therapists are very good existentialists... Existentialism means keeping in mind the person who... is not necessarily to fall into uncritical worship of the individual. (High school English teachers are apt to link existentialism with the American transcendentalist theme of...)

Ionesco's haunting words, "Why was I born if it wasn't forever?"

The Myth of Sisyphus


1. For example, Nagel, The Atlantic Review, 1977, 21, No. 4, pp. 5, 6.