

## Theory Six: The Good Life is Your Life

“Try again. Fail again. Fail better.”  
-Samuel Becket

“I have come to believe that the whole world is an enigma, a harmless enigma that is made terrible by our mad attempt to interpret it as though it had an underlying truth.”  
-Umberto Eco

I SENTENCE YOU  
TO  
FREEDOM!!



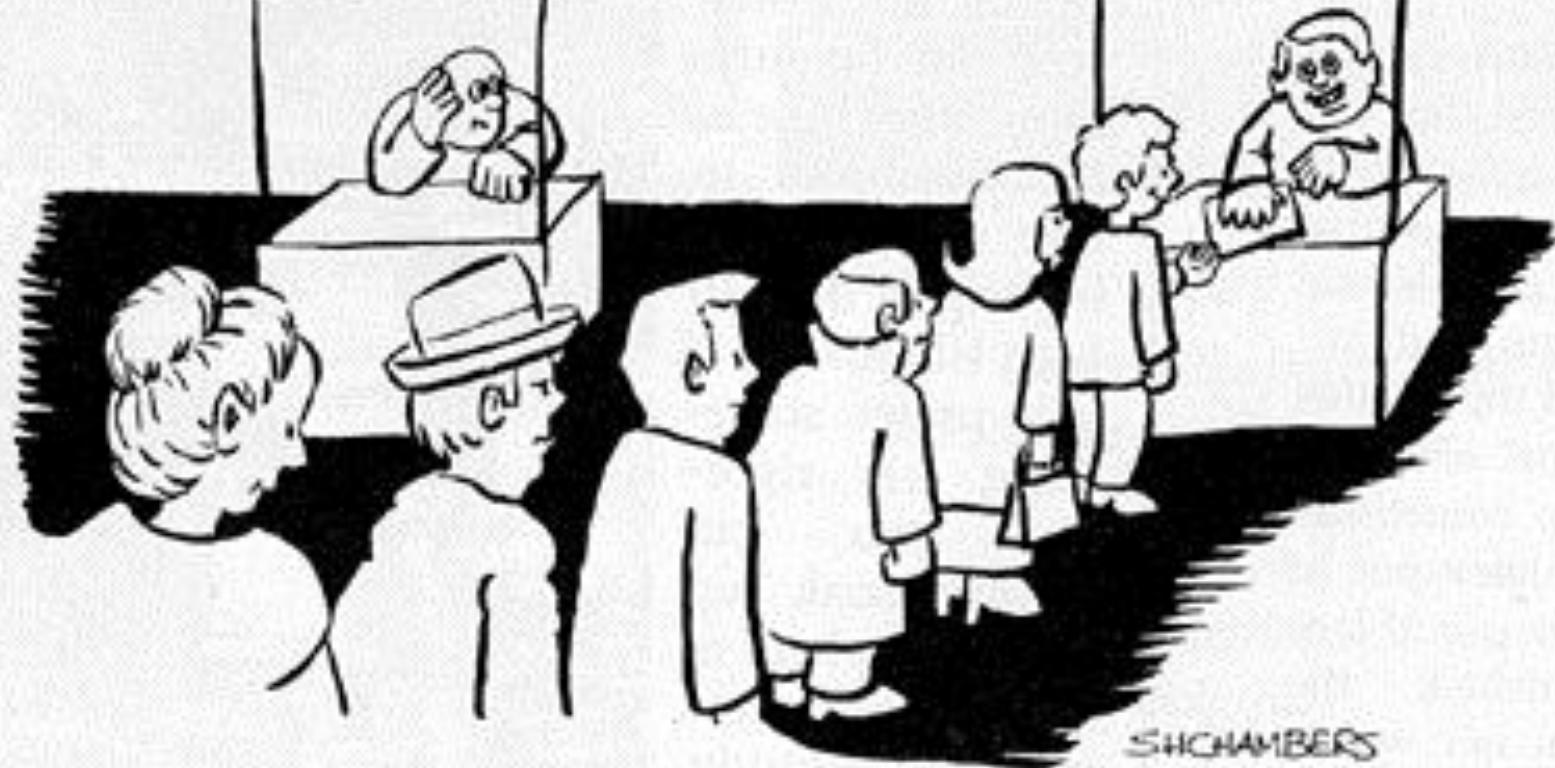
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SARTRE AS JUDGE

-2

UNPLEASANT  
TRUTHS

COMFORTING  
LIES



# Existentialism is...

1. Existentialism is an Attitude more than a Philosophy
2. Freedom is Inescapable
3. Individual Responsibility/Authenticity
4. Passionate



# Franz Kafka

1883 – 1924

*The Metamorphosis*

*In the Penal Colony*

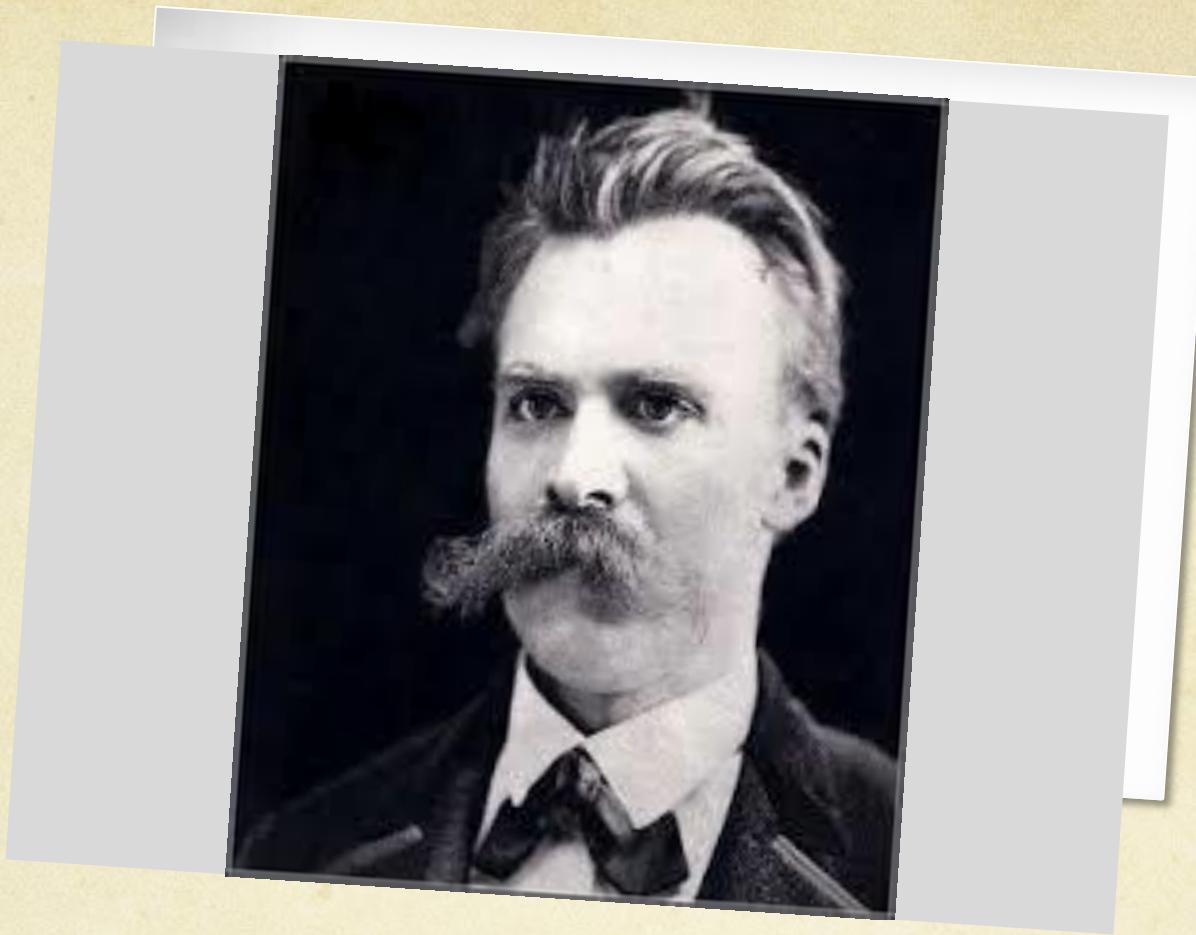
*The Trial*

# *Passers-by* (1912)

When one is taking a walk through the street at night, and a man - already visible from a distance because the street rises in front of us and the moon is full - runs toward us, we will not tackle him, even if he is weak and ragged, even if someone is running behind him and screaming, but rather we will let him continue running.

Because it is night, and it isn't our fault that the street is rising before us in the full moon, and besides, maybe these two have staged this chase for their own entertainment, maybe both of them are pursuing a third, maybe the first man is being pursued even though he is innocent, maybe the second man wants to kill him and we will become accomplices to the murder, maybe the two of them know nothing about one another and each is going independently to his bed, maybe they are sleepwalkers, maybe the first man is armed.

And after all, don't we have a right to be tired, haven't we drunk a lot of wine? We are happy when the second man has also vanished from sight.

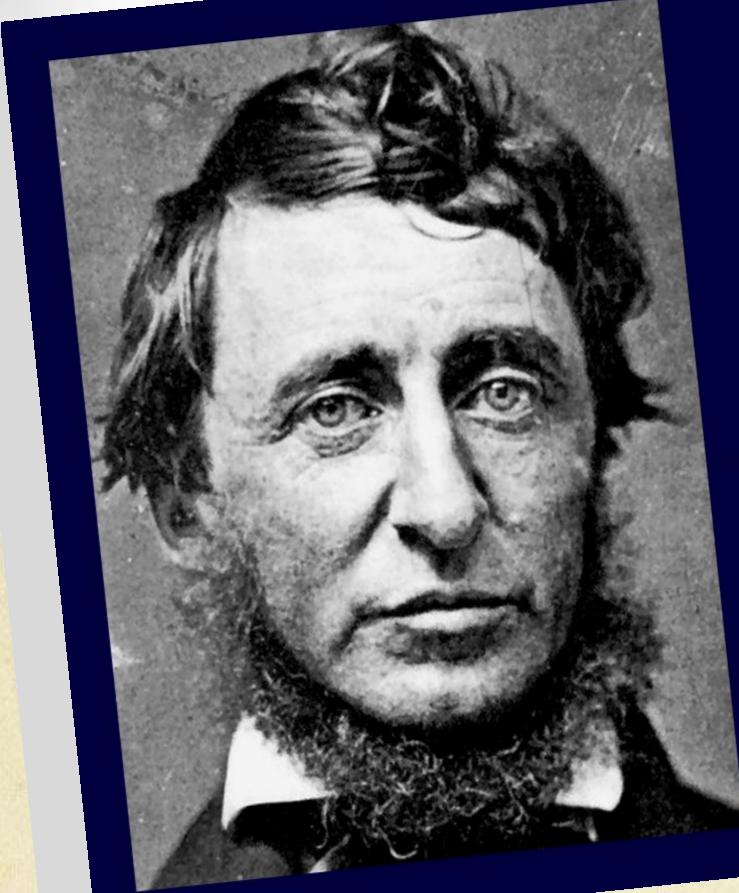


**Frederick Nietzsche**  
(1844 – 1900)

**“I am not man; I am dynamite!”**

# *On the Genealogy of Morals* (1887)

It is not surprising that the lambs should bear a grudge against the great birds of prey, but that is no reason for blaming the great birds of prey for taking the little lambs. And when the lambs say among themselves, "These birds of prey are evil, and he who least resembles a bird of prey, a lamb,—should he not be good?" then there is nothing to carp with in this ideal's establishment, though the birds of prey may regard it a little mockingly, and maybe say to themselves, "We bear no grudge against them, these good lambs, we even love them: nothing is tastier than a tender lamb."



Under  
a government  
which imprisons  
any unjustly,  
the true place for  
a just man  
is in prison

- Henry David Thoreau

Henry David Thoreau, 1817 - 1862

“Any person more right than his or her neighbor  
constitutes a majority of one.”

Thoreau: “You always have a choice...”

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Emerson: “Thoreau, what are you doing  
in there?

Thoreau: “Emerson, what are you doing  
out there?



# Albert Camus

(1913 – 1960)

“I have no idea what's awaiting me, or what will happen when this all ends. I only know there are sick people who need curing.”

## *The Myth of Sisyphus* (1942)

“The gods had condemned Sisyphus to ceaselessly rolling a rock to the top of a mountain, whence the stone would fall back of its own weight. They had thought with some reason that there is no more dreadful punishment than futile and hopeless labor.”



Father of Existentialism:  
Søren Kierkegaard (1813 – 1855)