

# The meaning of “existence”

## On “The Birth of Tragedy” by Nietzsche

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What is “existence”? What is the meaning of existence for people? And what is the meaning of existence for the individual? We have several perspectives from which to address these questions. For example, "living", "space" or "history", or "justice", "morality" or "ethics" and so on. However some fail to find answer in these because they are concepts created by people. When we try to find the answer of “meaning of our existence” within the framework of people, the answer is not recognized. The answer to this question requires a concept of people that includes the concept of the individual.

In this study, I clarify the world in which we exist. Then I clarify the role of people to answer the questions “What is the meaning of human existence?” and “What is the meaning of individual existence?” In this thesis, I consider the questions based on Nietzsche’s “The Birth of Tragedy.”

I conclude that the meaning of existence is “the nature of existence.” This includes two wills, the will to act, and the will not to act.

In the first chapter, I describe “The Birth of Tragedy”, and the two gods of art, Apollo and Dionysus. And I also describe the Attic tragedy, which is the lofty and highly praised artistic achievement and the dramatic dithyramb. I mention Nietzsche’s thinking that “a people (as well as a person, by the way) is only worth as much as it can stamp upon its experience the mark of the eternal”, and that in the metaphysics of art “existence and the world appear justified only as an aesthetic phenomenon.”

In the second chapter, I address primordial oneness. Primordial oneness is “the true basis of being, the ever-suffering and entirely contradictory.” And I mention the idea of “escape”.

In the third chapter, I discuss two kinds of “approval of existence” in “The Birth of Tragedy”, and in my thought.

Nietzsche believed that “existence and the world appear justified only as an aesthetic phenomenon”. However, if we stand in the other field of thought, we are not illusion, but we were share a primordial oneness. From this way of thinking, I conclude that the meaning of existence is “the nature of existence.”