

a Modern Existential Treatise for Today's Current 90's

— By Forest Lee —

Masturbation is very existential.

Oddly enough, this idea occurred to me while listening to the scrambled porno channel on television, playing a Mr. Bungle CD, and riding the information superhighway in what is quickly becoming the replacement for cars as the American male's metaphorical penis. My computer, in other words.

Now, while I am no expert on existential philosophy, I have read a little bit of Camus, and from what my encyclopedia (on CD-ROM!) says, it seems to be a relatively simple philosophy. For those of you who have read neither Camus, nor beat poetry, I will endeavor to explain.

Existentialism, at least as most people think about it, was defined by Sartre, who believed that there was no God, and no fixed concept of humanity.

People are entirely free, and as free beings must take responsibility for their actions. Many modern existentialists have taken this so far as to say that life is basically pointless. There's a couple of playwrights you'd want to look into if you were interested in this. Most of them are French, like Camus, and Sartre. Interestingly enough, people of many other countries seem to think the French are basically pointless. Go figure.

Anyways. My dictionary has several things to say about being existential. Firstly, that existential is "of, relating to, or dealing with existence," secondly, that it is "Based on experience; empirical," and thirdly, that it is "of or as conceived by existentialism or existentialists."

It says also of the word existentialism: "A philosophy that emphasizes the uniqueness and isolation of the individual experience in a hostile or indifferent universe, regards human existence as unexplainable, and stresses freedom of choice and responsibility for the consequences of one's acts." Having said this, I can now move on to exactly why I have conceived of masturbation as the

end all and be all of existentialism. First of all, it is completely pointless, especially for women. From what I've heard, a lonely bout of masturbation for most women usually just leaves a lingering frustration in the pleasant afterglow of orgasm. There is something missing in doing it alone. I know from personal experience that there is a bit of that frustration in it for men, although apparently not as intense. A man just gets depressed because he usually just thought very hard about completely unattainable women as if they

although there are some people out there who do it for a living.), and the idea of the individual as the center of the universe, so to speak.

There remains the definition of existential as being "empirical," as being "conceived by existentialists," and of being totally unexplainable. Those are easy. In the first case, the more experience you get at masturbation, the better you get at it. One would imagine that the true masturbatory philosopher would be approaching a sort of existentialist nirvana involving enemas and anal

smell funny. At the very least, you concede your responsibility but refuse to do anything about it and leave a nasty surprise for the next person on the floor of the shower. The point is, male or female, you are producing fluids, the responsibility for which there is absolutely no escaping.

This is my proof for calling masturbation the ultimate in existentialist thinking. It is a pointless task rooted entirely in free will and self-affirmation, and the driving force behind it is the experience of the orgasm. To avoid responsibility for the results



by Russ Kaback

were his love slaves. Thinking about Demi Moore or Uma Thurman in this way is akin to those late night conversations everyone has about what they would do if they won the lottery, except a lot more intense. The only real result is that it occasionally makes it easier to fall asleep.

It is also the ultimate affirmation of the self, and the control over every aspect of the self. You don't need anyone else to have a raging, earth-moving, toe-curling, ear-wiggling, eyeball rolling, hair-whitening orgasm. All you need is control over most of your faculties and decent motor skills.

So far, I've covered the freedom of choice thing (it's rare that you'll find yourself in a situation where you are forced to masturbate,

beads. Not to mention the fact that the driving force behind masturbation is the experience of the orgasm.

In the second case, I would seriously doubt that Camus, Sartre, and even Kierkegaard didn't choke their chickens every once in a while. In the third case, if you've ever tried having a serious conversation about masturbation, you know that your experience is totally unexplainable and completely different from another person's.

Finally, there is only the issue of responsibility left. I personally believe that after the first time you do it, there is no way to avoid preparing for the responsibility for the result of your masturbation practices. Once you do it, you are prepared, in the future, for getting sticky, hard to wash off fluid on your hand, or making your room

of masturbation is to delude oneself.

Now, as should be obvious, I haven't studied a lot of philosophy, but it seems to me that most schools have a definitive phrase like "If a tree fell in the forest, and no one was around to hear, etc." I think that I may have arrived at a point at which I may, in all humility, offer a catchy summing up of modern existentialism. Therefore, I submit to the philosophical community a defining existentialist phrase which I hope will come into popular use in the study of 20th century European philosophy: "I spank, therefore, I am."

[About the Author: Jefferson Forest Lee is not Chinese.]

[From the Editors: We would never condone the naughty things mentioned in this article. Especially with whip cream.]