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Existentialism

1. How and why was Phil trapped?

Phil is going to do his job reporting the news (Groundhog day) in the other town and then he gets a chance to find himself keep repeating the same daily activities in his life. As he has to wake up at the same time everyday, do the same things, meet the same people etc. His life is not so excited and as he is quite selfish, so most of his activities are done just for his benefits and satisfactions. So, he is trapped in this boring and meaningless loop repeated over and over.

2. Is Groundhog Day a religious movie? Explain your answer.

I think it's much related to religion since the main idea tells us about the actual meaning of life, which could be living one's life just for one's happiness and satisfaction without any concern of other's life or in the way that one does good things to others. The relation with religion is that it implies us that the worth-living people are the people who live for the other, not like the hedonism which concentrates in seeking for one's own happiness.

3. How would you characterize the phases that Phil goes through? What does he learn as a result of his experience?

In my opinion, Phil is considered to be the one who had experienced many views of life. As he was a bad person conducting bad things which later causes him to feel regret and gives him more understanding in how bad conducts result in the good and bad consequences for himself and even someone else. I will characterize this phase as 'a learning the action and its result phase'. Then, when he knew the consequences that it was not the true happiness and true meaning of life. And he also has fell in love with someone that forced him to start doing good things. I will call this 'a realizing phase'. Finally, he has learned all the experiences that make him change himself by choosing the choice that he believes it is the right choice for him and others. What he learned is that the worth-living life is the life with the good purpose for others and finally everyone must die soon or later, so what the meaningful life means is that to maximize one's day time to do good things to others and also oneself as well.

4. How is Phil's journey related to Existentialism?

Existentialism tells us that life will have meaning when one could take control of the choices that he made which means that one's life will be worthwhile when the chosen choice's purpose is not only for one's own benefits, but also for others' benefits. His journey is like proving himself his existence whether he is living his life meaningfully or unmeaningfully. And finally he has proved himself by doing good things to others and found the true meaning of living life for others.

5. What would you do if you were trapped in a "Groundhog Day"?

I have always thought about doing good things to other people. Even doing good is not depended on chances as we can do it anytime. However, I still not be a good person enough to advocate all of my time for other people. So, If I were trapped in a groundhog day, I would take that chances to advocate anything I could to everybody, for example, properties, knowledge, labor force etc. I think the most important thing of being born as a human is to do good things to each other and make this world the peaceful place.

6. What does your answer to the previous question say about your beliefs about the meaning of life?

I have a belief about life that humans are not born for just taking air in and out, eating foods, reproducing our own species. As all of these activities will make no difference to us from other animals. Then, I think being a human is a special chance to create something great to others. Not only specific for the sake of human, but also for all living creatures and environment in this world. So, life will have meaning or not is totally depended on what you want to do with this special chance and leave something to this world after you died.