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Existentialism: The Groundhog Day

1. How and why was Phil trapped?

In the movie, Phil Connors or the weather man was forced to take a road trip to Punxsutawney, P.A. to promote the news on the Groundhog Day. And somehow he is trapped in a 24-hour time period that repeat itself eternally. Phil has to live on the same situation and same reaction from people around him. No matter how hard he try to get out of the loop or whatever he had done the night before he would wake up at 6'o clock in the Groundhog day. Nothing he does allows him to move forward with his life. And probably because the movie wants the viewer to catch the point that if Phil still lives his life in the way of being selfish style then he would not be able to change the situation in the loops.

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

I would says the Groundhog Day is religious movie, the movie try to send some message about the meaning of life and the personal responsibility which is the same thing that religious trying to teach us. The movie sending the message through Phil that trapped in the old same day, its express that no matter how much depressed or disbelief you get you still can have your life and can make your own decision, you still can decide what will you do to your-self and community which will make your life worth living. And one more view that related to religious is that in Buddhism there are a quote saying that you born alone, you die alone and the relationship among us is only just to meet like in the movie Phil always wake up alone in the morning even though he was with someone before going to bed.

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

Phil goes through several phases, at first he was a self-center and egocentric until at a certain point he depress with all the things he have done, and after that he get into the kind of insanity which made he lost the self-identity, hopeless, and anger. Most important one that makes him changed himself is love. Because of love, he tries his best to be a better person and win the heart of the women he love. He began to learn playing piano, learning French, and ice sculpting. These are all activities that require patience and discipline. He chose to use them towards good. When he finally broke away from the time loop, he finally knew the importance of caring for, and loving all beings. He learns that the happiness can happen in every situation, its all about how your mind work and demand you to do. He can attainable through his loop

time only if he can accept it and choose the right decision in order to behave and deal with the situation. He learn that it is not necessary to be alive if you action does not create something good to the society.

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

Existentialism explains about life which saying that life has no meaning unless people takes control of the choices that they make. Taking control of your choices is easily imply that you have to make sure that whatever you are doing will cause good impacts on yourself and others, if not then you life will worth nothing. Like in the movie, time loop that Phil trapped and his reaction at first can assume that he made no impact on other and even himself so his life was meaningless. There is no reason of Phil existence because at 6'o clock in the morning all he had done yesterday was eventually gone, and it go like this over and over again until he realize that all the things he have done is incorrect. And try to improve himself to be a better Phil with the meaning full's life.

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

There are numerous things I would want to do if I were trapped in the Groundhog Day, both way in self-gratifying and in the way of seeking for the meaning of life. First I would start my loop with some thing excited, thing that I might not be brave enough to do in real life because it is too dangerous; being a speed car racer. However that is just for a little fun in life that will keep life lively and energetic. I still have goal that I would want to accomplish, I want to learn how to play guitar, how to write a song and how to be a good comedian. I think I would be so happy that I can create the smile and laugh on people face, make them happy at least only a little moment. From the research it said that only a laugh a day will make people live longer one more year.

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

I believe that life is what you make it. And you are allowed doing anything you want to do if it does not effect or hurt other people, together with; you should try to do thing that have a good impact on other. Moreover, happiness can always happen everywhere and anytime because it takes place in our mind not with the money, the big house or the fame. And I strongly think that everyone should try to make themselves worth living not just seeking for more money. You don't get to choose how you're going to die or when you are going to die but you can only decide how you're going to live your life and life is too short so enjoy every moment of it with the judicious plan.