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# Essence Of Human Freedom An Introduction To Philosophy

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A Short Inquiry Into Human Freedom

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Of Human Freedom

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**LANEY EMMALEE**

*A Short Inquiry Into Human Freedom* Indiana University Press

The 'free will' debate has been an issue of serious and significant tension in the history of 'Western' philosophy. For Martin Heidegger and Jean-Paul Sartre, debate has been rendered intractable by a fundamental misunderstanding of the terms involved. This is exacerbated, they argue, by a failure to identify and adopt an appropriate methodological approach to the problem. In this respect and for both philosophers, this error in the free will debate is symptomatic of a broader misunderstanding of philosophical enquiry as such and the method it necessitates. For Heidegger, the entire history of 'Analytic/Western' ontology has been fatally misconceived as a result of an effort to define the being of entities in static terms. The insistence on framing questions in respect of whether/what a being 'is' thus obstructs any meaningful enquiry by conceding existence at the outset of the investigation. He demands nothing less than the 'destruction' of that framework as a necessary step towards a radical account of freedom as a necessary feature of human experience. Sartre's project is founded on Heidegger's argument though he is critical of what he considers the ethical ambiguities inherent to Heidegger's account of Dasein. Instead, Sartre pushes the premises of Heidegger's project into a definitive claim about the nature of consciousness. Therein he argues that as the only being for whom 'meaning' is possible, consciousness is distanced from beings by 'nothingness' which ensures its ontological freedom. We propose that a thorough investigation of their projects will reveal an account of ontological freedom that does not suffer from the shortcomings of Sartrean existentialism whilst avoiding the methodological missteps of the traditional discourse. Moreover, we will suggest that overcoming Heidegger's ambiguities can be achieved by advancing his concerns into an interrogation of the ground of Dasein and its ontological priority. Thus we can satisfy Sartre's criticism while reinforcing the commitment to a radically different approach to philosophical enquiry. Our investigation will argue that although Sartre has misconstrued Heidegger's work, making comprehension of his freedom all the more complicated, an argument persists which sheds new light on a seemingly stubborn philosophical problem. In so doing, a challenge will be presented to some of the fundamental premises of modern philosophical discourse, promising to reorient the approach to enquiry as such.

*Self and Freedom* Bloomsbury Publishing

Schopenhauer's prize essay *On the Freedom of Will* is one of the classics of Western philosophy, dealing with the question of free will versus determinism. His treatment of the problem of free will is by no means obsolete, containing penetrating reflections relevant to contemporary discussion. The argument of the essay is clearly and rigorously presented, and reveals many basic features of Schopenhauer's thought. As such, it forms a useful introduction to Schopenhauer's philosophy in general. Equally, the essay can be studied with profit independently of Schopenhauer's metaphysical views. This new edition of the sole English translation of this classic text contains and expanded bibliography, index and preface in which the translator comments on recent scholarship on Schopenhauer. The translator's introduction puts the essay into the context of Schopenhauer's general philosophy and suggests some possible criticisms of his position.

*Of Human Freedom* Harvard University Press

The Essence of Human Freedom An Introduction to Philosophy A&C Black

**Philosophical Investigations into the Essence of Human Freedom** A&C Black

A groundbreaking classic of contemporary philosophy for the first time in English translation Between 1961 and 1970, Emanuele Severino was subjected to a thorough investigation by the Vatican Inquisition. The "fundamental incompatibility" identified between his thought and Christian doctrine ejected him from his position as Professor of Philosophy at the Catholic University in Milan. The *Essence of Nihilism*, published in 1972, was the first book to follow his expulsion, and it established Severino's preeminent position within the constellation of contemporary philosophy. In this groundbreaking and classic book—now for the first time available in English—Severino reinterprets the history of Western philosophy as the unfolding of "the greatest folly," that is, of the belief that "things come out of nothing and fall back into nothing." According to Severino, such a typically Western understanding of reality has resulted in a conviction that there is a radical "nothingness" to existence. In turn, this justifies the treatment of the world as an object of exploitation, degradation and destruction. To move beyond Western nihilism, suggests Severino, we must first of all "return to Parmenides." Joining forces with the most venerable of Greek philosophers, Severino confutes nihilism's "path of night", and develops a new philosophy grounded on the principle of the eternity of reality and of every single existent thing.

*From Bondage to Freedom* Harper Collins

In this profound and profoundly controversial work, a landmark of 20th-century thought originally published in 1971, B. F. Skinner makes his definitive statement about humankind and society. Insisting that the problems of the world today can be solved only by dealing much more effectively with human behavior, Skinner argues that our traditional concepts of freedom and dignity must be sharply revised. They have played an important historical role in our struggle against many kinds of tyranny, he acknowledges, but they are now responsible for the futile defense of a presumed free and autonomous individual; they are perpetuating our use of punishment and blocking the development of more effective cultural practices. Basing his arguments on the massive results of the experimental analysis of behavior he pioneered, Skinner rejects traditional explanations of behavior in terms of states of mind, feelings, and other mental attributes in favor of explanations to be sought in the interaction between genetic endowment and personal history. He argues that instead of promoting freedom and dignity as personal attributes, we should direct our attention to the physical and social environments in which people live. It is the environment rather than humankind itself that must be changed if the traditional goals of the struggle for freedom and dignity are to be reached. *Beyond Freedom and Dignity* urges us to reexamine the ideals we have taken for granted and to consider the possibility of a radically behaviorist approach to human problems—one that has appeared to some incompatible with those ideals, but which envisions the building of a world in which humankind can attain its greatest possible achievements.

**Essence of Human Freedom, Epz Ed** University of Virginia Press

This volume comprises the lecture course that Heidegger gave in 1941 on the metaphysics of German Idealism. The first part of the lecture course contains a preliminary consideration of the distinction between ground and existence. The elucidation of the conceptual history includes a

striking confrontation with Kierkegaard's and Jaspers' concepts of existence, as well as an elucidation of the concept of existence in *Being and Time*, which Heidegger distinguishes from the former concepts. Heidegger's self-interpretation is not an end in itself, however, but rather a way of pointing to Schelling's distinction between ground and existence, whose root and inner necessity and whose various versions Heidegger discusses subsequently. The second part of the lecture course is focused on Schelling's "freedom treatise," which Heidegger regards as the pinnacle of the metaphysics of German Idealism. Heidegger's consideration of Schelling's distinction between ground and existence finds its guiding thread in the introduction of the realms of being – eternal or finite, each being is a joining of the ground of existence and existence itself. In a subsequent overview, Heidegger discusses the relation of the distinction between ground and existence to the essence of human freedom and to the essence of the human. On the basis of this discussion, it becomes possible to grasp the connection between freedom and evil in Schelling's system. This important work by Heidegger, published here in English for the first time, will be of great interest to students and scholars of philosophy and to anyone interested in Heidegger's work.

#### **Being and Time** SUNY Press

An unparalleled collection of original essays on Benedict de Spinoza's contributions to philosophy and his enduring legacy *A Companion to Spinoza* presents a panoramic view of contemporary Spinoza studies in Europe and across the Anglo-American world. Designed to stimulate fresh dialogue between the analytic and continental traditions in philosophy, this extraordinary volume brings together 53 original essays that explore Spinoza's contributions to Western philosophy and intellectual history. A diverse team of established and emerging international scholars discuss new themes and classic topics to provide a uniquely comprehensive picture of one of the most influential metaphysicians of all time. Rather than simply summarizing the body of existing scholarship, the *Companion* develops new ideas, examines cutting-edge scholarship, and suggests directions for future research. The text is structured around six thematically-organized sections, exploring Spinoza's life and background, his contributions to metaphysics and natural philosophy, his epistemology, politics, ethics, and aesthetics, the reception of Spinoza in the work of philosophers such as Kant, Schelling, Schopenhauer, and Hegel, and more. This unparalleled research collection combines a timely overview of the current state of research with deep coverage of Spinoza's philosophy, legacy, and influence. Part of the celebrated Blackwell Companions to Philosophy series, *A Companion to Spinoza* is an ideal text for advanced courses in modern philosophy, intellectual history, and the history of metaphysics, and an indispensable reference for researchers and scholars in Spinoza studies.

#### Hegel Verso Books

Spinoza rejects fundamental tenets of received morality, including the notions of Providence and free will. Yet he retains rich theories of good and evil, virtue, perfection, and freedom. Building interconnected readings of Spinoza's accounts of imagination, error, and desire, Michael LeBuffe defends a comprehensive interpretation of Spinoza's enlightened vision of human excellence. Spinoza holds that what is fundamental to human morality is the fact that we find things to be good or evil, not what we take those designations to mean. When we come to understand the conditions under which we act—that is, when we come to understand the sorts of beings that we are and the

ways in which we interact with things in the world—then we can recast traditional moral notions in ways that help us to attain more of what we find to be valuable. For Spinoza, we find value in greater activity. Two hazards impede the search for value. First, we need to know and acquire the means to be good. In this respect, Spinoza's theory is a great deal like Hobbes's: we strive to be active, and in order to do so we need food, security, health, and other necessary components of a decent life. There is another hazard, however, that is more subtle. On Spinoza's theory of the passions, we can misjudge our own natures and fail to understand the sorts of beings that we really are. So we can misjudge what is good and might even seek ends that are evil. Spinoza's account of human nature is thus much deeper and darker than Hobbes's: we are not well known to ourselves, and the self-knowledge that is the foundation of virtue and freedom is elusive and fragile.

#### Freedom and the End of Reason Methuen Publishing

Martin Heidegger's writings on Hegel are notoriously difficult but show an essential engagement between two of the foundational thinkers of phenomenology. Joseph Arel and Niels Feuerhahn provide a clear and careful translation of Volume 68 of the *Complete Works*, which is comprised of two shorter texts—a treatise on negativity, and a penetrating reading of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*. In this volume, Heidegger relates his interpretation of Hegel to his own thought on the event, taking up themes developed in *Contributions to Philosophy*. While many parts of the text are fragmentary in nature, these interpretations are considered some of the most significant as they bring Hegel into Heidegger's philosophical trajectory.

#### **On Plato's Cave Allegory and Theaetetus** Hackett Publishing

"What is the meaning of being?" This is the central question of Martin Heidegger's profoundly important work, in which the great philosopher seeks to explain the basic problems of existence. A central influence on later philosophy, literature, art, and criticism—as well as existentialism and much of postmodern thought—*Being and Time* forever changed the intellectual map of the modern world. As Richard Rorty wrote in the *New York Times Book Review*, "You cannot read most of the important thinkers of recent times without taking Heidegger's thought into account." This first paperback edition of John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson's definitive translation also features a new foreword by Heidegger scholar Taylor Carman.

#### *Beyond Freedom and Dignity* Oxford University Press

In this personal and practical guide to moral self-improvement and living a good life, the second-century philosopher Epictetus tackles questions of freedom and imprisonment, stubbornness and fear, family, friendship and love, and leaves an intriguing document of daily life in the classical world. GREAT IDEAS. Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives - and destroyed them. Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are.

#### The Essence of Nihilism E-Kutub Ltd

Presents a translation of the Danish philosopher's 1844 treatise on anxiety, which he claimed could only be overcome through embracing it.

#### The Abyss of Freedom Penguin UK

The present collection seeks to contribute toward finding that distance by making the tradition of thought more a living reality and not an object of arid analyses. Unlike most collections the present one transcends disciplinary boundaries, as it acknowledges the interconnectedness of philosophical, theological, and political arguments on these themes.

Phenomenological Interpretation of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason Burns & Oates

We speak of being 'free' to speak our minds, free to go to college, free to move about; we can be cancer-free, debt-free, worry-free, or free from doubt. The concept of freedom (and relatedly the notion of liberty) is ubiquitous but not everyone agrees what the term means, and the philosophical analysis of freedom that has grown over the last two decades has revealed it to be a complex notion whose meaning is dependent on the context. The Oxford Handbook of Freedom will crystallize this work and craft the first wide-ranging analysis of freedom in all its dimensions: legal, cultural, religious, economic, political, and psychological. This volume includes 28 new essays by well regarded philosophers, as well some historians and political theorists, in order to reflect the breadth of the topic. This handbook covers both current scholarship as well as historical trends, with an overall eye to how current ideas on freedom developed. The volume is divided into six sections: conceptual frames (framing the overall debates about freedom), historical frames (freedom in key historical periods, from the ancients onward), institutional frames (freedom and the law), cultural frames (mutual expectations on our 'right' to be free), economic frames (freedom and the market), and lastly psychological frames (free will in philosophy and psychology).

*First Outline of a System of the Philosophy of Nature* John Wiley & Sons

System of Transcendental Idealism is probably Schelling's most important philosophical work. A central text in the history of German idealism, its original German publication in 1800 came seven years after Fichte's *Wissenschaftslehre* and seven years before Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*.

*The Activity of Being* Macmillan

In *The Soul of the Marionette*, his brilliantly enjoyable and freewheeling book, John Gray draws together the religious, philosophic, and fantastical traditions that question the very idea of human freedom.

**Existentialism and Humanism** University of Chicago Press

Michel Haar argues that Heidegger went too far in transferring all traditional properties of man to being. Haar examines what is left, after this displacement, not only of human identity, but perhaps more importantly, of nature, life, embodiment - of the flesh of human existence. This sensitive yet critical reading of Heidegger raises such issues in relation to questions of language, technology, human freedom, and history. In doing so, it provides a compelling argument for the need to rethink what it means to be human.

**The Essence of Human Freedom** Oxford University Press

Martin Heidegger is one of the twentieth century's most important philosophers, renowned for his exploration of "the question of being". He was Professor of Philosophy at the Universities of Marburg and Freiburg and his influence is felt in such diverse subjects as philosophy, theology, literary theory and artificial intelligence. *The Essence of Truth* is an examination of the most fundamental theme in Heidegger's philosophy: the difference between truth as 'the unhiddenness of beings' and truth as 'the correctness of propositions'. Based on a course of lectures delivered at the University of Freiburg in 1932, the book presents Heidegger's original analysis of Plato's philosophy and represents an important discussion of a fundamental subject of philosophy through the ages.

An Introduction to Philosophy University of Michigan Press

Delivered as a lecture in Paris in 1945, this work provides a seminal defence of the author's doctrine of existentialism and a plan for its practical application to everyday human life. It explores one of the central tenets of the author's philosophical thought, offering an introduction to his work. It is suitable for students of philosophy.

**Development as Freedom** The Essence of Human Freedom An Introduction to Philosophy

Spinoza was one of the most influential figures of the Enlightenment, but his often obscure metaphysics makes it difficult to understand the ultimate message of his philosophy. Although he regarded freedom as the fundamental goal of his ethics and politics, his theory of freedom has not received sustained, comprehensive treatment. Spinoza holds that we attain freedom by governing ourselves according to practical principles, which express many of our deepest moral commitments. Matthew J. Kisner focuses on this theory and presents an alternative picture of the ethical project driving Spinoza's philosophical system. His study of the neglected practical philosophy provides an accessible and concrete picture of what it means to live as Spinoza's ethics envisioned.