

CONTENTS

Foreword by Jan Narveson		1
Preface		5
1. Lexicon		6
2. Topics		7
3. Acknowledgments		8
ONE	Meaning and Theism	9
	1. What Is the Meaning of Life?	10
	2. The Existential Problem	11
	3. Theism	14
	A. Eastern Theism	14
	B. Western Theism	17
	C. Assessment of Religious Theism	18
	D. Philosophical Theism	24
	E. Religious and Philosophical Theisms	28
TWO	Nihilism, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche	31
	1. Schopenhauer and Nietzsche	33
	2. Nietzsche and the Meaning of Life	36
	3. Nietzsche and Value	45
	4. Preliminary Observations	48
THREE	The Myth of Sisyphus	51
	1. Camus, Absurdity, and Sisyphus	51
	2. Sisyphus as Cool Hand Luke	52
	3. Sisyphus as Armadillo	53
	4. Sisyphus as Ironist	54
	5. Sisyphus as Master Architect	57
	6. Sisyphus as Robot	58
	7. Sisyphus as Creator	60
	8. Sisyphus as Grand Transcender	62
FOUR	The Meaning of Life	73
	1. Deflationary Accounts of the Meaning of Life	73
	2. Aesthetic Creativity	77
	3. Telescopes and Slinky Toys	78
	4. Struggle and Suffering	84
	5. Meaning and Significance	85
	6. The Yearning for Legacies	88

FIVE	Value	93
	1. Twin Terrors: Infinite Regress and Radical Subjectivism	95
	2. Realism and Anti-Realism	98
	3. Objectivism and Relativism	102
	4. Molding Alternatives	103
	5. What If Our Values Lack Ultimate Foundations?	112
	6. Critical Pragmatism	114
SIX	Why Happiness Is Overrated	119
	1. Happiness as Flourishing	119
	2. Happiness as Tranquility	120
	3. Happiness and Sociology	122
	4. Philosophy and Sociology	125
	5. What Is Happiness?	126
	6. Can Everyone Be Happy?	128
	7. What Is the Relationship Between Meaningful Lives and Happy Lives?	129
	8. Is Happiness the Greatest Good?	129
	9. Are Moral and Intellectual Virtues Needed for Happiness?	131
	10. Is the Desired Conscious Condition, Sustained Joy or Peace, Enough for Happiness?	132
SEVEN	Death	135
	1. Death Is Irrelevant	135
	2. Death Is Irrelevant to Value and Meaning in Life	139
	3. Death Gives Life Meaning	140
	4. Death Deprives Life of Meaning	146
	5. Death Is a Transition	149
	6. Death Is Relevant But Not Determinant	152
Notes		157
Bibliography		163
About the Author		169
Index		171