

Exploring Each Other's Way in Philosophical Practice: A Dialogue

LEON DE HAAS
IN MEMORIAM 1949-2020

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Abstract

In the context of the sudden and sad death of Leon de Haas, a great practical philosopher and promoter of the discipline, this dialogue is published. It was practically finished, but Leon couldn't see it in its last version. I am honored to have met him and learned from him. I send this dialogue with the deep intention that his words and ideas continue to bear fruit in the world.

—David Sumiacher

How to Live a Good Life — Two Examples

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Abstract

What is a philosophy of life? And why should people examine both their own and those of others? We present an operational definition of philosophies of life as constituted of three components: (i) a metaphysics, i.e., a view of how the world works; (ii) an ethics, i.e., a view of how we should behave in the world; and (iii) a set of practices. We also argue that examining and comparing philosophies of life is conducive to more tolerance of others and to a more fulfilling life path for oneself. We then present two examples of life philosophies—Greco-Roman Stoicism and contemporary existentialism—as case studies.

Keywords: *Art of Living, Life Philosophy, Stoicism, Existentialism*

Finding Our Way About: Philosophical Practice in Religious Community

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Abstract

Building upon a broad conception of philosophy as the basic human attempts to become oriented, develop insight, seek meaning, and find direction, this article examines one of the settings in which such philosophical inquiry is most likely to occur: in religious community. In reflecting upon the author's experience developing a philosophical practice in a particular religious community, the article identifies new opportunities for philosophical practice, and offers insight into the nature of philosophical practice, religious community, and philosophy itself.

Keywords: *Philosophical practice, religious community, spirituality, facilitated discussion, Unitarian Universalism, Wittgenstein*

Philosophical Solutions to Dispute-Conflicts between Humans

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Abstract

Disputes and conflicts are common phenomena in human societies. Disputes arise because of competitive interests, and conflicts are irrational interactions with self-consumption to serve interests or occur purely out of emotional hostility. Disputes could but do not necessarily lead to conflicts. Philosophers should intervene in disputes and attempt to provide philosophical solutions that are formulated by changing the beliefs of involved participants.

Keywords: *philosophical consultation, dispute–conflict, philosophical solution*