

Thesis Title : My Existential Path towards God: A Reading of

Marcel and Sartre

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ABSTRACT

According to Gabriel Marcel's ontology being is a sacred mystery, transcendental, inexhaustible and unfathomable by words alone. To describe being in words alone leads to a paradoxical. Existence itself is paradoxical. When Marcel means, 'There is no need to be anxious and worry about life', but this does not mean that one should live one's life in a way which is 'laid back' or 'easy going'. A way of life demands unceasingly great effort and patience, and it does not necessarily mean strenuous effort. I am responsible for every single thing in my existence, as well as my neighbor, the other. But, it does not mean I am almighty, or that I should myself towards the uplifting of 'I' but, towards the one wholeness of Being.

A human being has a certain amount of autonomy and authority over his or her existence. He or she has certain amount of freedom to choose his or her unique life as an inner call. Life is not fixed in one aspect, it is open ended, and life is plenitude according to one's ability to create with fidelity to one's authentic being. One is most responsible for oneself. He or she is endowed with the ability to anticipate and

participate in the process of becoming greater than oneself. In one's innermost, there is a guiding Light, a gentle whispering sound which leads oneself towards the Ultimate Reality. In the tranquil mind one is able to be in touch with the guiding Light. The Human body is the ontological datum, the mystery of embodiment as Incarnate Being. Exigencies are ontological as they reveal themselves as one's innermost feelings. One can be in touch with ontological exigency through Secondary Reflections of Marcel, which has the transformative effect on being.

Emphasizing God's revelation as Agape; Life is treasure and meaningful if one is able to build up inter-subjective communion with the others through Agape, which is the source of joy and peace. Marcel tried to integrate the unique individual and the collectivity of being through his concept of inter-subjectivity, which leads towards the wholeness of Being.

