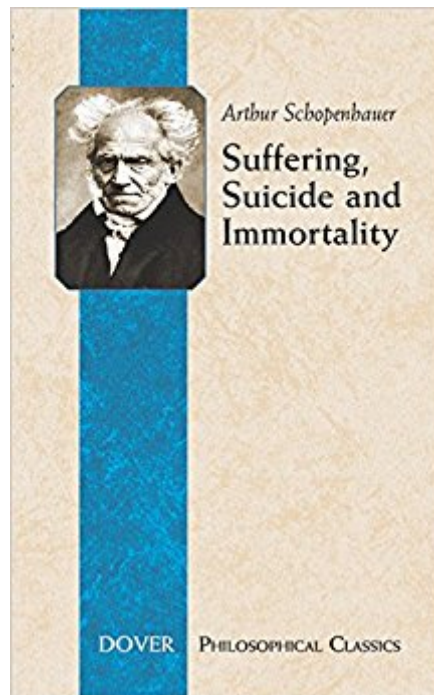


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Suffering, Suicide And Immortality: Eight Essays From The Parerga (The Incidentals) (Philosophical Classics)



Synopsis

One of the greatest philosophers of the nineteenth century, Arthur Schopenhauer is best known for his writings on pessimism. In this 1851 essay collection, he offers concise statements of the unifying principles of his thinking. Schopenhauer, unlike most philosophers, expressed himself in simple, direct terms. These essays offer an accessible approach to his main thesis, as stated in *The World as Will and Representation*. Schopenhauer's reasoning encompasses the influence of the Upanishads and Buddhist teachings, as well as the works of Plato and Kant. His philosophy had an enormous impact on contemporary philosophy and literature, and on subsequent thinkers such as Nietzsche, Freud, and Wittgenstein. Published toward the end of his life in a collection called *Parerga und Paralipomena*, these essays include "On the Sufferings of the World," "On the Vanity of Existence," "On Suicide," "Immortality: A Dialogue," "Further Psychological Observations," "On Education," "On Women," and "On Noise," plus "A Few Parables." They remain among Schopenhauer's most popular works, offering insights into his philosophy as a whole as well as the human condition.

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Customer Reviews

These eight texts from the *Parerga* are an excellent introduction to Schopenhauer's work, his pessimistic worldview ('the burden of existence'), his phenomenal psychological and philosophical insights, his stances on reason, religion, commerce and education, and his unacceptable misogyny. Man's life, good and evil Man's life is a task, the task of subsisting at all. Its material basis

is simply health, food, protection from wet and cold, the satisfaction of the sexual instinct. It is full of pain, with a few pleasures and with a continually pressing Time, like a taskmaster with a whip. Man is a continual Becoming, never a Being and it all ends in vain with a sure death. Evil is what is positive, while good is negative. Happiness and satisfaction always imply some desire fulfilled, some state of pain brought to an end. Man, reason, suicide, commerce The real meaning of 'persona' is mask: nobody shows himself as he really is. The whole of our social arrangements may be likened to a perpetual comedy. For man, reason is a prophet, because it shows the consequences and effects of his actions. There is nothing in the world to which every man has a more unassailable title than to his own life and person (habeas corpus). Those whose one aim in life is to fill their purses are miserable wretches. Religion, ascetism There are two things which make it impossible to believe that this world is the successful work of an all-wise, all-good, and all-powerful Being: firstly, the misery which abounds in it everywhere; and secondly, the obvious imperfection of its highest product, man. Ascetism is the denial of the will to live.

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