

Miguel De Unamuno

Tragic Sense Of Life

****Miguel de Unamuno and the Tragic Sense of Life: Exploring Existential Depths**** **miguel de unamuno tragic sense of life** is a profound philosophical concept that delves into the inherent contradictions and struggles of human existence. As one of Spain's most influential thinkers, Miguel de Unamuno's exploration of life's tragic dimensions offers a unique lens through which we can understand the tension between reason and faith, hope and despair, life and death. His reflections continue to resonate deeply in contemporary discussions of existentialism, spirituality, and literature.

Understanding the Tragic Sense of Life

At its core, the tragic sense of life refers to an awareness of the inescapable suffering and contradictions that define human existence. For Unamuno, life is not a neat, rational journey but a complex experience marked by doubt, passion, and a yearning for meaning despite inevitable mortality. This outlook stands apart from more optimistic or rationalist philosophies that attempt to resolve life's mysteries into orderly answers. Unamuno's tragic sense is not simply pessimism. Rather, it's an active engagement with the tension between the desire for immortality and the reality of death. This duality creates a paradox: humans long for eternal life and certainty, yet are bound by the finitude of their mortal condition.

The Roots of Unamuno's Philosophy

Unamuno's ideas were heavily influenced by existential themes and his personal struggles. Living through the political and social upheavals of early 20th-century Spain, he grappled with questions of identity, faith, and reason. His background in philosophy and literature also shaped his approach, blending classical thought with modern existential concerns. The tragic sense emerged as a response to the limits of rationalism and positivism, which dominated his era. Instead of embracing cold logic, Unamuno emphasized the passionate, irrational side of human nature, especially the spiritual longing that cannot be satisfied by reason alone.

Miguel de Unamuno's Key Works on the Tragic Sense of Life

Several of Unamuno's writings encapsulate his tragic philosophy. These texts provide insight into his views on faith, doubt, and the human condition.

"The Tragic Sense of Life" (1912)

This book is Unamuno's most explicit exploration of the concept. In it, he argues that the essence of human life is found in the struggle between reason and faith, knowledge and hope. He openly confronts the paradox of believing in immortality despite the absence of proof, which he sees as an act of faith intertwined with despair. Unamuno famously writes about the "agonizing intellect" — the mind that refuses to accept easy answers and is tormented by the mystery of existence. This intellectual and emotional conflict is what gives life its

tragic dimension but also its profound meaning.

Other Relevant Works

- *Abel Sánchez* – A novel that dramatizes jealousy and existential angst. - *San Manuel Bueno, Martyr* – A story that wrestles with hidden doubts beneath religious faith. - *Del sentimiento trágico de la vida* (The Tragic Sense of Life in Spanish) – The original philosophical treatise where Unamuno elaborates on the tension between reason and faith. These works collectively deepen the understanding of Unamuno's tragic sense, blending narrative and philosophy to illustrate human struggles.

Core Themes in Unamuno's Tragic Sense of Life

Exploring Unamuno's philosophy reveals several recurring motifs that define his tragic vision.

The Conflict Between Reason and Faith

Unamuno believed that reason alone cannot satisfy the human spirit's longing for immortality and meaning. While rational thought seeks clear answers, faith embraces uncertainty and paradox. This tension is not something to be resolved but lived through, giving rise to the tragic sense.

The Desire for Immortality

A central tenet of Unamuno's thought is that humans inherently crave

eternal life. This desire is a source of both hope and torment because mortality is unavoidable. The tragic sense acknowledges this yearning as a fundamental part of the human condition.

Existential Angst and Doubt

Unlike philosophies that offer comfort or definitive solutions, Unamuno's tragic sense embraces doubt and uncertainty. This existential angst is not a weakness but an authentic recognition of life's complexity.

Passion and Personal Struggle

For Unamuno, philosophy is not abstract theorizing but a lived experience full of emotional intensity. The tragic sense is passionately felt and expressed through personal struggle, reflecting the depth of human sensitivity.

Why Miguel de Unamuno's Tragic Sense of Life Matters Today

In a modern world often obsessed with certainty, success, and technological progress, Unamuno's tragic sense offers a refreshing and humbling perspective. It challenges us to confront the limits of knowledge and accept the ambiguity of existence.

Relevance to Modern Existential Thought

Unamuno's ideas prefigure many themes in existentialism, influencing philosophers like Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus. His emphasis on

individual struggle, faith amidst doubt, and the search for meaning resonates with contemporary existential questions.

Insights for Personal Growth

Embracing the tragic sense can foster resilience and authenticity. Recognizing that doubt and suffering are integral to life encourages a deeper engagement with our experiences rather than escapism. It also opens space for spiritual reflection beyond dogmatic beliefs.

Applications in Literature and Arts

Unamuno's tragic sense has inspired countless writers and artists who explore the human condition's contradictions. Understanding this philosophy enriches our appreciation of such works and encourages creative expressions of existential themes.

How to Explore the Tragic Sense in Your Own Life

Engaging with Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life can be a transformative journey. Here are some ways to begin:

1. **Reflect on Mortality:** Contemplating life's finitude can deepen your appreciation for the present and clarify your values.
2. **Embrace Doubt:** Instead of fearing uncertainty, welcome it as a natural part of seeking truth and meaning.
3. **Balance Reason and Faith:** Allow space for both rational inquiry and spiritual intuition in your worldview.
4. **Explore Unamuno's Writings:** Reading his essays and novels can provide insight and inspiration.

5. **Express Your Struggles:** Use writing, art, or conversation to engage with your inner conflicts and passions.

By adopting these practices, one can live more fully in the tension that Unamuno describes, finding richness in life's tragic complexity.

The Legacy of Miguel de Unamuno's Tragic Sense of Life

Unamuno's tragic sense remains a vital contribution to philosophy, literature, and spiritual thought. His courageous confrontation with life's uncertainties challenges us to live authentically and passionately, in spite of—or perhaps because of—our mortal limitations. As readers and thinkers continue to engage with his work, the tragic sense of life serves as a reminder that to live deeply is to wrestle with the mysteries of existence. It encourages an embrace of life's paradoxes, fostering a richer understanding of what it means to be human. In the end, Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life is not just a philosophical stance but an invitation: to confront our fears, cherish our hopes, and find meaning in the very struggle that defines our existence.

Understanding Miguel de Unamuno's Tragic Sense

Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life refers to his profound exploration of human existence, where meaning is elusive, suffering is inevitable, and death looms as an ever-present reality. Through passionate prose and philosophical inquiry, he challenges readers to

confront both the beauty and horror embedded within life itself.

The Roots of Unamuno's Philosophy

Born into the turbulence of 19th-century Spain, Miguel de Unamuno developed a worldview shaped by war, exile, and relentless intellectual struggle. His vision stands apart from traditional optimism; instead, he insists that recognizing life's finitude is essential to understanding what it means to truly live.

Historical Context Shaping His Thought

1. Spain's political instability during Unamuno's youth informed his skeptical outlook.
2. World events like early 20th-century conflicts heightened his awareness of mortality.
3. His exile years deepened personal reflection on loss and identity.

Unamuno believed philosophy must grapple not just with abstract ideals but also with tangible emotions—especially doubt, despair, and longing. He rejected blind faith and called upon individuals to accept uncertainty rather than succumb to dogma.

Core Elements of the Tragic Sense

Recognition of Mortality

The tragic sense begins with knowing death is unavoidable. This awareness doesn't lead to defeatism but rather urges people to find purpose despite life's fragility. In Unamuno's view, confrontation with mortality clarifies our values and priorities.

Inner Conflict Between Faith and Reason

Unamuno saw endless tension between spiritual hope and rational limits. He admired faith's comfort while demanding evidence-based consistency. Rather than resolve this gap, he embraced it, claiming the effort itself sustains human vitality.

Love and Suffering Intertwined

For Unamuno, love persists even when pain accompanies it. Tragedy emerges when we desire connection yet simultaneously fear abandonment. This paradox fuels motivation and artistic creation, as humans strive to bridge emotional gaps despite inevitable separateness.

Examples from Literature and Everyday Life

Unamuno's work often reflects these themes through vivid characters facing existential dilemmas. In his novel "Mundo es Sí o Mundo," the protagonist wrestles with identity, memory, and purpose after life's disruptions—a narrative mirroring universal human struggles.

Real-Life Parallels

1. A student balancing ambition and fear of failure embodies the clash between aspiration and mortality.
2. An artist who pours emotion onto canvas transforms pain into something lasting, demonstrating how creativity arises from tragedy.

3. Families coping with loss often redefine meaning through rituals, showing adaptation in response to absence.

Societies also express Unamuno's sensibility through art, music, and ritual. During periods of crisis—wars, pandemics, economic downturns—people turn to storytelling and communal expression as coping mechanisms that acknowledge suffering while seeking resilience.

Contrasting Perspectives in Modern Times

While many modern thinkers lean toward positivity and self-help, Unamuno's approach remains distinctly somber. Unlike messages urging constant joy, he highlights value found in grappling honestly with discomfort. His legacy continues influencing psychology, particularly approaches emphasizing acceptance and growth following hardship.

Therapeutic Applications

Logotherapy, developed by Viktor Frankl, echoes Unamuno by asserting that finding meaning amid suffering becomes crucial for mental health. Both frameworks suggest that acknowledging life's inherent challenges does not diminish happiness—it enriches it with depth.

Practical Uses of Embracing the

Tragic

Adopting elements of Unamuno's perspective can reframe daily experiences. Recognizing life's impermanence may encourage more intentional living—valuing relationships, pursuing creative goals, or prioritizing kindness over trivial concerns.

Mindfulness Practices

1. Reflective journaling about fears keeps anxieties visible rather than hidden.
2. Meditation focusing on breath connects moment-to-moment existence with mortality.
3. Gratitude lists balance acknowledgment of loss with appreciation for small joys.

Impact on Leadership and Creativity

Leaders aware of Unamuno's insights foster environments that accept setbacks as learning opportunities. Artists inspired by this sensibility often produce more authentic works because they draw from raw emotional truth rather than manufactured optimism.

Cultural Resonance Across Borders

Unamuno's work transcends Spanish-speaking contexts because human struggles are shared. From Japanese literature addressing impermanence to African oral traditions commemorating ancestors amid adversity, cultures adapt similar rhythms of sorrow and renewal, proving that confronting tragedy fuels collective imagination.

Why the Tragic Sensibility Still Matters

Amid global crises—climate change, pandemics, political unrest—the human capacity for questioning persists. Unamuno’s framework offers tools for navigating uncertainty without surrendering to cynicism. It invites dialogue, fosters empathy, and honors complexity rather than oversimplifying life’s lessons.

Final Thoughts

Miguel de Unamuno’s tragic sense of life encourages us to see uncertainty not as weakness but as the very ground for meaning. By embracing tension, doubting comfortably, and cherishing fleeting moments, individuals cultivate richer stories worth telling—and ultimately, living.

Miguel de Unamuno’s Tragic Sense of Life: An Exploration of Existential Philosophy **miguel de unamuno tragic sense of life** represents a pivotal concept in early 20th-century philosophy, bridging existential thought and Spanish intellectual tradition. Unamuno, a prominent Spanish essayist, novelist, and philosopher, delved deeply into the contradictions and paradoxes inherent in human existence. His seminal work, *‘The Tragic Sense of Life_ (_Del sentimiento trágico de la vida_)*, offers an analytical framework that grapples with faith, reason, immortality, and the inevitable human confrontation with death. This article investigates the core tenets of Unamuno’s philosophy, situating it within broader existential discourse while shedding light on its enduring relevance.

Understanding the Core of

Unamuno's Tragic Sense of Life

At its essence, Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life embodies the confrontation between the human desire for immortality and the rational acknowledgment of mortality. Unlike optimistic philosophies that emphasize human progress or salvation, Unamuno acknowledges an inherent tension—a “tragic” conflict—that defines human consciousness. Unamuno posits that human beings are torn between reason and faith. While reason compels individuals to accept death as the final end, faith insists on the possibility of eternal life. This existential discord forms the backbone of the tragic sense, where life is understood not as a harmonious experience but as a persistent struggle marked by doubt, hope, and anguish.

The Philosophical Context of Unamuno's Thought

Emerging during an era dominated by positivism and scientific rationalism, Unamuno's philosophy stood in critical opposition to the prevailing intellectual currents. While many contemporaries championed empirical knowledge and material progress as the ultimate paths to meaning, Unamuno maintained that such approaches neglect the emotional and spiritual dimensions of human life. His tragic sense of life resonates with existentialist themes later popularized by thinkers like Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Sartre. However, Unamuno's focus on the tension between immortality and mortality introduces a unique dimension: faith is not dismissed but remains a vital, albeit problematic, component of human existence.

Key Features of Unamuno's Tragic Sense of Life

Several distinctive features characterize Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life, reflecting his complex philosophical stance:

1. **Faith versus Reason:** The perpetual conflict between rational knowledge of death and the emotional need for immortality.
2. **Existential Duality:** Humans are simultaneously mortal beings aware of death and spiritual beings yearning for eternal life.
3. **Acceptance of Uncertainty:** The tragic sense embraces doubt and paradox as unavoidable elements of human existence.
4. **Individual Suffering and Struggle:** The human condition entails suffering that cannot be resolved by abstract reasoning alone.
5. **Rejection of Final Certainties:** Unlike dogmatic philosophies, Unamuno's view resists definitive answers, valuing the struggle itself as meaningful.

These features underscore Unamuno's belief that life's tragedy lies not in despair but in the tension that propels human creativity, faith, and identity.

Unamuno's Influence on Spanish Literature and Philosophy

Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life has profoundly influenced Spanish intellectual history, particularly during the Generation of '98—a group of writers and thinkers responding to Spain's socio-political crises at the turn of the century. His exploration of existential themes permeated his essays, novels, and poetry, inspiring

contemporaries and subsequent generations alike. Unamuno's narrative style often blends philosophical reflection with literary elements, making his works accessible beyond academic circles. The tragic sense of life is vividly portrayed in novels such as *Abel Sánchez* and *San Manuel Bueno, mártir*, where characters embody the existential dilemmas central to his thought.

Comparative Perspectives: Unamuno and Other Existential Thinkers

To appreciate the uniqueness of Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life, it is instructive to compare it with parallel existential philosophies:

Kierkegaard and the Leap of Faith

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard similarly emphasized the tension between faith and reason, advocating for a "leap of faith" to embrace religious belief despite uncertainty. However, Unamuno extends this by focusing more explicitly on the tragic dimension—the emotional torment accompanying this tension—rather than solely the act of faith.

Nietzsche and the Will to Power

Friedrich Nietzsche's existentialism centers on the affirmation of life despite its inherent meaninglessness, characterized by the "will to power." While Nietzsche rejects metaphysical immortality, Unamuno clings to the hope for eternal life, making faith a vital, albeit conflicted, element of his tragic vision.

Sartre and Existential Freedom

Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialism highlights radical freedom and responsibility in an absurd world devoid of God. In contrast, Unamuno's tragic sense is less about liberation from God and more about the agonizing desire for transcendence beyond death, emphasizing the spiritual anguish rather than freedom alone.

Modern Relevance and Interpretations

In the contemporary landscape, Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life continues to resonate, particularly amid ongoing debates about existential meaning, spirituality, and human mortality.

Existential Anxiety in the 21st Century

Modern society grapples with issues like technological advancement, secularization, and global crises, often intensifying existential anxiety. Unamuno's articulation of the tragic tension between faith and reason offers a valuable framework for understanding this unease. His acknowledgment of doubt and suffering as intrinsic to human life contrasts with modern cultural tendencies toward certainty and instant solutions.

Psychological and Theological Applications

Psychologists exploring existential therapy have found affinity with Unamuno's insights, especially regarding human confrontation with death and the search for meaning. Similarly, theologians appreciate

his nuanced approach to faith, which neither dismisses doubt nor demands blind belief but embraces spiritual struggle as authentic.

Critiques and Limitations

While Unamuno's tragic sense of life is celebrated for its depth, some critiques highlight potential limitations:

1. **Overemphasis on Conflict:** Critics argue that focusing on existential tension may overlook moments of harmony and joy in life.
2. **Ambiguity in Faith:** Unamuno's position on faith is sometimes seen as ambiguous, neither fully embracing nor rejecting religious doctrine.
3. **Contextual Constraints:** His philosophy is deeply rooted in early 20th-century Spanish cultural and religious contexts, which may limit direct applicability across diverse global perspectives.

Nonetheless, these critiques often acknowledge the philosophical richness that such tensions generate.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Unamuno's Tragic Sense

Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life remains a compelling contribution to existential thought, inviting reflection on the fundamental tensions that shape human existence. By confronting the paradox of life and death, faith and reason, certainty and doubt, Unamuno offers a profound meditation on what it means to be human. His work continues to inspire philosophical inquiry, literary creativity, and spiritual reflection, underscoring the tragic sense not

as a source of despair but as a catalyst for deeper understanding and authentic living. In a world still grappling with existential dilemmas, Unamuno's tragic sense of life serves as a timeless reminder of the complexity and richness inherent in the human condition.

Knowledge has always shaped progress, but the way people access it continues to evolve. In the digital age, information no longer waits on shelves or behind institutional walls. Instead, it travels quickly and freely across devices and platforms. Within this transformation, the option to download ***Miguel De Unamuno Tragic Sense Of Life*** has become an important gateway for learning, reflection, and personal growth.

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Students experience similar benefits. Academic demands often require access to multiple resources at once. Downloadable PDFs

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Digital access supports different learning styles as well. Some readers prefer structured, linear reading, while others jump between sections or focus on specific topics. Digital formats accommodate both approaches. Readers can skim, search, annotate, or read deeply according to their needs, making **Miguel De Unamuno Tragic Sense Of Life** adaptable rather than restrictive.

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Environmental considerations also matter. Producing and transporting printed books requires significant resources. While digital technology has its own footprint, distributing content electronically often reduces paper use and transportation emissions. Downloading **Miguel De Unamuno Tragic Sense Of Life** contributes to a more efficient model of knowledge sharing.

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As digital resources become more common, digital literacy grows in importance. Learning how to evaluate sources, manage information, and use digital tools responsibly is now a core skill. Engaging with **Miguel De Unamuno Tragic Sense Of Life** in digital format helps readers develop these competencies naturally through regular practice.

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reflection, skill development, and intellectual growth in a world where learning never truly stops.

Understanding the Essence of Miguel de

The “tragic sense of life,” articulated by Miguel de Unamuno, encapsulates an existential perspective that embraces the conflict between humanity's innate desire for immortality and the harsh reality of its own mortality. This philosophical stance is not merely an expression of pessimism but rather an acknowledgment of the tension between hope and despair, faith and doubt, shaping a profound worldview that resonates with both scholars and seekers alike.

Unamuno's Philosophical Foundation

At its core, Unamuno's tragic vision emerges from his engagement with existential dilemmas—those questions that resist neat resolution. As a respected Spanish intellectual, Unamuno synthesized elements from philosophy, literature, and religion, challenging readers to confront their deepest anxieties. The tragic sense of life represents both an internal struggle and a creative force, propelling individuals towards meaning despite uncertainty.

Comparative Analysis: Unamuno Versus Other Existential

Unlike contemporaries such as Nietzsche, who celebrated the will to power, or Kierkegaard, whose focus centered on leap of faith,

Unamuno's conception dwells more directly on the emotional weight of mortality. Where others offer redemptive narratives or radical autonomy, Unamuno confronts readers with unresolved grief—a sensuous awareness that life's finitude shapes every aspiration.

Mechanisms Behind the Tragic Sense

Several mechanisms underpin Unamuno's framework:

1. **Consciousness of Death:** The tragedy begins when one truly perceives their inevitable end.
2. **Desire for Permanence:** Humans instinctively yearn to transcend temporal limits.
3. **Emotional Dissonance:** Conflict arises when longing meets insurmountable reality.
4. **Creative Response:** Tragedy becomes generative, fueling art, culture, and personal resilience.

Strategic Implications of the Tragic Sense

In strategic terms, embracing this duality can be transformative. Organizations, leaders, and individuals harnessing the tragic sense often display enhanced adaptability, empathy, and authenticity. Rather than denying vulnerability, they integrate it into vision-building, fostering deeper connections and innovative problem-solving.

Practical Applications Across Domains

Unamuno's tragic sense is far from abstract—it manifests across diverse fields:

1. **Literary Creation:** Writers use tragic recognition to evoke catharsis, inviting audiences toward self-reflection.
2. **Leadership:** Leaders mindful of mortality may prioritize legacy, ethical stewardship, and meaningful impact over superficial success.
3. **Personal Development:** Individuals cultivate resilience by accepting vulnerability as foundational to growth.
4. **Cultural Discourse:** Societies informed by this sensibility often exhibit richer conversations around meaning, mortality, and the value of lived experience.

Real-World Context: Historical Resonances

Historically, periods marked by existential crisis—war, pandemics, social upheaval—have seen revivals of Unamunonian themes. Writers, philosophers, and policymakers grapple with the tragic sense as a lens through which collective identity and purpose are redefined. Its relevance persists in modern contexts like climate anxiety or technological disruption, where uncertainty magnifies humanity's oldest anxieties.

Limitations and Risks

Yet, the tragic sense harbors potential pitfalls. Without careful navigation, chronic exposure to existential angst risks spiraling into nihilism or paralyzing despair. Recognition alone does not guarantee constructive action; interpretation critically mediates outcomes, requiring balance between acknowledging limits and pursuing agency.

Advantages and Strategic Value

When harnessed intentionally, the tragic sense delivers notable advantages:

1. Enhanced authenticity in relationships and communication.
2. Depth of character fosters trust and cooperation.
3. Creativity emerges as responses to perceived futility.
4. Resilience increases through acceptance.

Conclusion: Embedding the Tragic Sense in

Miguel de Unamuno's tragic sense of life remains vital because it rejects easy answers while affirming the enduring human impulse to seek significance. For practitioners of strategy and thought leadership, integrating this sensibility means navigating contradictions with humility, cultivating strength through acknowledgment, and crafting legacies resilient against impermanence. The enduring power lies not simply in facing mortality, but in channeling that confrontation into innovation and compassion.

Questions & Answers About miguel de unamuno tragic sense of life

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1	What is Miguel de Unamuno's concept of the 'tragic sense of life'?	Miguel de Unamuno's 'tragic sense of life' refers to the awareness of the inherent conflict between human reason and the irrationality of existence, particularly the tension between the desire for immortality and the inevitability of death. It emphasizes embracing this existential struggle as a fundamental aspect of human life.
2	How does Unamuno's 'tragic sense of life' influence existential philosophy?	Unamuno's 'tragic sense of life' is considered a precursor to existentialist thought, highlighting the individual's confrontation with mortality, doubt, and the search for meaning despite life's absurdities. It stresses personal faith and passion over rational certainty, influencing later existential philosophers.
3	In which work does Miguel de Unamuno extensively discuss the 'tragic sense of life'?	Miguel de Unamuno extensively discusses the 'tragic sense of life' in his 1913 philosophical essay titled 'The Tragic Sense of Life' (El Sentido Trágico de la Vida), where he explores themes of faith, reason, immortality, and the human condition.
4	How does Unamuno reconcile faith and doubt in his tragic sense of life?	Unamuno reconciles faith and doubt by embracing the tension between them as essential to authentic human existence. He argues that true faith involves wrestling with doubt and uncertainty rather than blind acceptance, making the tragic struggle itself a source of spiritual vitality.

5	Why is the 'tragic sense of life' still relevant in contemporary philosophy and literature?	The 'tragic sense of life' remains relevant because it addresses universal human concerns about mortality, meaning, and the search for identity in an uncertain world. Its emphasis on embracing existential conflict resonates with contemporary discussions in philosophy, psychology, and literature about the human condition.
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existentialism, Spanish philosophy, tragedy, meaning of life, Unamuno philosophy, faith and reason, human condition, mortality, angst, identity crisis

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