Preface	•
Pretace	IV
1 ICIACC	ın

### Acknowledgements x

### Introduction 1

	1	Defining	the	Absurd	6
--	---	----------	-----	--------	---

<ol> <li>Absurdity within Classical Ciner</li> </ol>	ma 6
--	------

- 1.1 The Search for the Holy Grail (1975)
- 1.2 The Seventh Seal (1957) 9
- 1.3 The Big Lebowski (1998) 12
- 2 Absurdity in Human Life 20
- 3 Feinberg's Analysis of Absurdity 23
- A Working Definition of Absurdity 25

# 2 Relational Absurdity 27

- Tolstoy's Psychological Collapse and Redemption 27
- Camus and the Absurd 31
  - 2.1 A Stoic Precursor: Marcus Aurelius 33
  - 2.2 Sisyphus the Defiant Hero 35
  - 2.3 Sisyphus as Prince of Propinquity 37
  - 2.4 Has Camus Demonstrated that Human Life is Absurd? 40

7

- Kierkegaard, Religion, and the Absurd 42
- Sartre and the Absurd 49
  - 4.1 Defining Who We Are 51
  - 4.2 Are We Free? 53
  - 4.3 Emotions 54
  - 4.4 Has Sartre Demonstrated that Human Life is Absurd? 55
- The Relationship between the Absurd and the Meaningful 58
- The Contingent Nature of Absurdity 61

# 3 Internal Absurdity 64

- Shakespeare and the Absurd 64
- The Cosmic Perspective and the Personal Perspective 69
- 3 Schopenhauer's Derivation of Absurdity from the Nature of Desire 71
- Nietzsche: Will to Power and Process Values 74
  - 4.1 Nihilism and Will to Power 77
  - 4.2 Grand Strivers and Pogo Sticks 81
  - 4-3 Suffering, Happiness, and Power 82
  - 4.4 Denying Pessimism, Striving Grandly, and Lingering Doubts 84
- Nagel and the Absurd Within 85
  - 5.1 The Absurd as an Objective Condition and as a Subjective Experience5.2 Is Nagel's Absurd an Inevitable Part of the Human Condition?92

90

- 5.3 Everyday Absurdity and the Absurdity of an Entire Human Life 94
- 5.4 What is the Proper Human Response to the Absurd?
- 6 Combatting the Absurd 97
  - 6.1 Process and Inherent Values 100
  - 6.2 Can We Turn "Absurdity" into Practical Advantage? 103
- The Contingency of Absurdity 104

# Taylor's Romance with Meaningful Living 108

- Taylor and the Absurd 109
  - 1.1 "The Meaning of Life" (1970) 110
  - 1.2 "The Meaning of Human Existence" (1981) 118
  - 1.3 "Time and Life's Meaning" (1987) 125
  - 1.4 "The Meaning of Life" (1999) 128

- Reconstructing Taylor on Meaning in Life 131
- The Cosmic and Personal Perspectives, Again 137
- 5 Interpreting a Meaningful Human Life 143
  - 1 Full and Attenuated Meaning 143
  - The Fundamentality Theory 145
    - 2.1 The Intuitions in Play 1502.2 Reason and Meaning 154

    - 2.3 Posthumous Significance and Meaning in Life 156
    - 2.4 Purposive Theories of Meaning 159
  - 3 Why a Positive Visceral Response is Necessary for Meaning in Life 162
  - 4 Subjective Attraction Meets Objective Value 170
  - 5 An Analysis of a Minimally Meaningful Human Life 179

Bibliography 189

About the Author 195

Index 197