



## The Wisdom of Life

*By Arthur Schopenhauer*



**The Wisdom of Life** By Arthur Schopenhauer

In this essay from Schopenhauer's final work, *Parerga und Paralipomena* (1851), the philosopher favors individual strength of will and independent, reasoned deliberation over the tendency to act on irrational impulses. He examines the ways in which life can be arranged to derive the highest degree of pleasure and success

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### Editorial Review

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: German

About the Author

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788?1860) was a German philosopher known for his atheistic pessimism and philosophical clarity. At age 25, he published his doctoral dissertation, *On the Fourfold Root of the Principle of Sufficient Reason*, which examined the fundamental question of whether reason alone can unlock answers about the world. Schopenhauer's most influential work, *The World as Will and Representation*, emphasized the role of man's basic motivation, which Schopenhauer called will. His analysis of will led him to the conclusion that emotional, physical, and sexual desires can never be fulfilled. Consequently, he favored a lifestyle of negating human desires, similar to the teachings of ancient Greek Stoic philosophers, Buddhism, and Vedanta. Schopenhauer's metaphysical analysis of will, his views on human motivation and desire, and his aphoristic writing style influenced many well-known thinkers including Friedrich Nietzsche, Richard Wagner, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Erwin Schrödinger, Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud, Otto Rank, Carl Gustav Jung, and Jorge Luis Borges.

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