

● The Fragility of the Human Condition:
● Are We Merely Vessels?

By

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In a world that constantly demands more of us—emotionally, physically, spiritually, financially and mentally—it’s not uncommon to feel as though we are mere vessels, hollowed out by the expectations and pressures placed upon us, it's succinct to define man in five realistic words "A Means To An End " regardless of gender.

Society, in its never-ending roil, has often romanticized the idea that each of us is special, unique, and destined for greatness. Yet, as life unfolds, many of us are confronted with a harsher reality: that we are, as some suggest, simply vessels—tools to be used until we are empty and alone.

This sense of emptiness is exacerbated by the paradox of existence in modern society. We are constantly fed the narrative that we should strive for more, be more, and achieve more(and yet it's an astute fact that man is insatiable). But in this relentless pursuit of “more,” what do we lose? Often, it is the very essence of our humanity—our ability to find peace and meaning in a world that seems designed to strip us of both.

Llona, a Nigerian musician, expresses this harsh reality in his "Homeless" album, who poignantly captured this human dilemma, once said in Commander, "Finding light in shadowed alleys, I seek solace in naked streets." His words resonate deeply with those who struggle to find meaning in a society that often feels devoid of it. The “shadowed alleys” Llona speaks of are the dark corners of our minds, the lopsided transaction of love (from family, friends and loved ones), were fear, traumas and anxiety (for what's next) are man's best companion, the places where doubts and fears reside. The “naked streets” are the raw, unfiltered realities of life, where the truth of our existence is laid bare.

Llona’s perspective is rooted in existentialism—a philosophy that grapples with the inherent meaninglessness of life and the search for personal significance in a world that offers none, were man tills the earth 24/7 only for the world to reward his efforts with a glorious death.

Existentialists like Llona argue that it is up to each individual to create their own meaning, to find their own light in the darkness. However, this is no easy task. The journey to self-discovery is fraught with turmoil and barricades, and the burden of crafting meaning can be overwhelming.

Society often fails to recognize this struggle. Instead, it perpetuates the myth that happiness and fulfillment are easily attainable if we just follow the prescribed path: work hard, achieve success, and everything will fall into place, but does success really guarantee fulfilment and happiness, Avincii was one of the world's successful DJ's, but his hardwork and success didn't stop him from suicide and there are many more successful people in the world committing suicide on a

daily basis, matter of fact Global suicide statistics say an estimated 703 000 people die by suicide every year and it's twice as high among men than women. Indeed Asake was right it is lonely at the top. But what happens when that success leaves us feeling hollow? When the accolades and achievements don't fill the emptiness inside? This is where the idea of being mere vessels becomes painfully clear.

We are vessels for societal expectations, for the dreams and desires of others, and for the relentless march of time. We give and give until there is nothing left, and then we are cast aside, empty and alone. In my understanding, marriage is meant to be a union of two people who deeply love each other and are committed to spending their lives together, pouring their existence into making it work. However, those sacred vows often end up broken, whether by betrayal, infidelity, past wounds, religion, beliefs, or differing ideas, leaving both parties feeling empty, alone, and abandoned. This bleak reality is one that many people face but few openly acknowledge.

Yet, within this darkness, there is also the potential for light. Llona's words remind us that even in the shadowed alleys, we can seek solace, but when and where can we find solace? Is it in Religion, is it in Affluence, riches, wealth and money which again can be transcribed as the root of all evil causing; war, slavery, racism, is it in drugs, is it in marriages? We can find moments of peace and clarity, even if they are fleeting. The key is to recognize that while we may be vessels, we are not defined by our emptiness. We have the power to fill ourselves with meaning, to choose what we carry within us.

This is the essence of existentialism: the belief that we are responsible for our own existence. It is a philosophy that rejects the idea that we are predestined to be empty and alone. Instead, it challenges us to find our own path, to create our own meaning, and to live authentically, even in the face of a world that often seems indifferent to our struggles.

In the end, society may have been right about one thing: we are vessels. But what they fail to see is that we are not passive containers, waiting to be filled and emptied by others. We are active participants in our own lives, capable of choosing what we carry with us and what we leave behind. The challenge is to find the strength to seek light in the shadows and to find solace in the raw, naked truth of our existence.

Best Regards
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