Wittgenstein and Meaning in Life

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Wittgenstein and Meaning in Life

In Search of the Human Voice

Reza Hosseini

Rhodes University, South Africa

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To my father

*Don't look for anything behind the phenomena;
they themselves are the theory.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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In 2008, I left my home country, Iran, in search of something I couldn't tell what it was by then, something I was conscious of but could not apprehend, and I landed in South Africa out of all the places. But now I can tell what it was and for which I am deeply grateful to my wife, Lebo Makubetse, who made me feel at home by virtue of which I came to realise why I had begun my journey in the first place. *Kea go bona, wa mpona!*

'On the 28th of August, 1749, at mid-day, as the clock struck twelve, I came into the world'.

Goethe, *Poetry and Truth: From My Own Life*

'When I was fifteen years old or sixteen I carried around in the streets of Brooklyn a paperback copy of Plato's *Republic*, front cover facing outward. I had read only some of it and understood less. . . How much I wanted an older person to notice me carrying it and be impressed, to pat me on the shoulder and say . . . I didn't know what exactly. I sometimes wonder, not without uneasiness, what that young man of fifteen or sixteen would think of what he has grown up to do'.

Robert Nozick, *The Examined Life*

'Midway upon the journey of our life
I found myself within a forest dark,
For the straightforward pathway had been lost'.

Dante Alighieri, *Divine Comedy*

'Tell them I've had a wonderful life'.

Ludwig Wittgenstein