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The Quintessential Search for the Meaning of Life: A Comparative Analysis of the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and *The Allegory of the Cave*

The meaning of life has been sought after since the beginning of time presumably. According to one explanation from Dictionary.com, *life* is defined as: *the sequence of physical and mental experiences that make up the existence of an individual*. Today, the word *life* has over twenty different definitions in the English dictionary and various versions are available from a number of dictionaries. This is evidence enough that humankind has been consistently searching for the meaning of life or value in it. Prior to the great philosophers of Greece, there was not much discussion on intelligence and wisdom. Instead, the people turned to the gods and goddesses to provide them answers, usually through physical tribulations and triumphs. After Socrates, people began realizing they can find answers with the will of their own mind. This quest for a meaningful life or to find the meaning of life, and the answer, changes overtime and can be seen in just about every form of art. Although the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and *The Allegory of the Cave* are both literature that aim to add meaning to life, the individual times from which they emerged are responsible for the differences in the mediums, the focus of each work, and the distinct outcomes.