

Existentialism

N A D J A K O M N E N I C



Terminology

Epoche

Aletheia

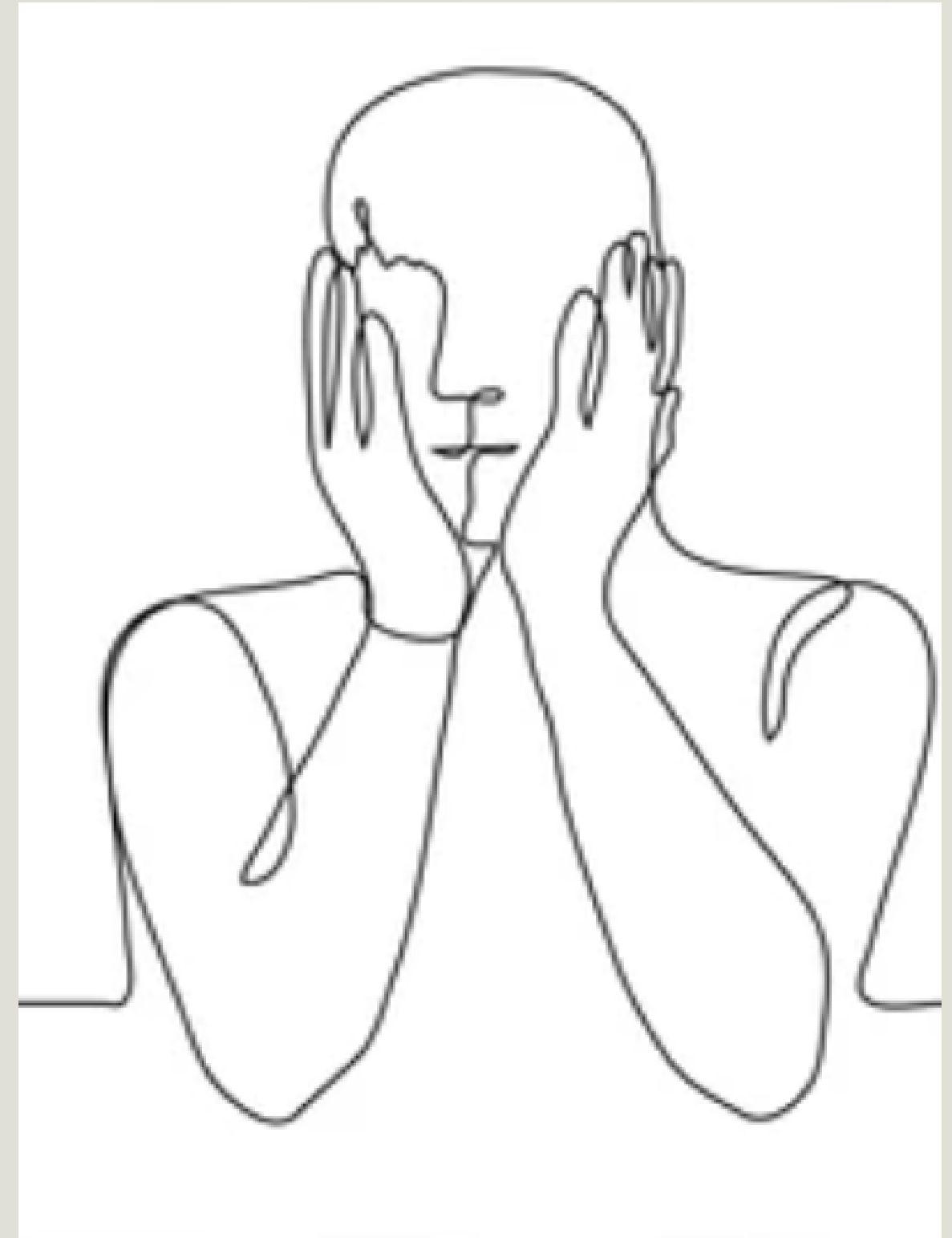
Dasein

Eidetic reduction

Différance

Mitsein

Hermeneutics





Existentialists in History

Husserl

Heidegger

Nietzsche

Kierkegaard

de Beauvoir

Camus

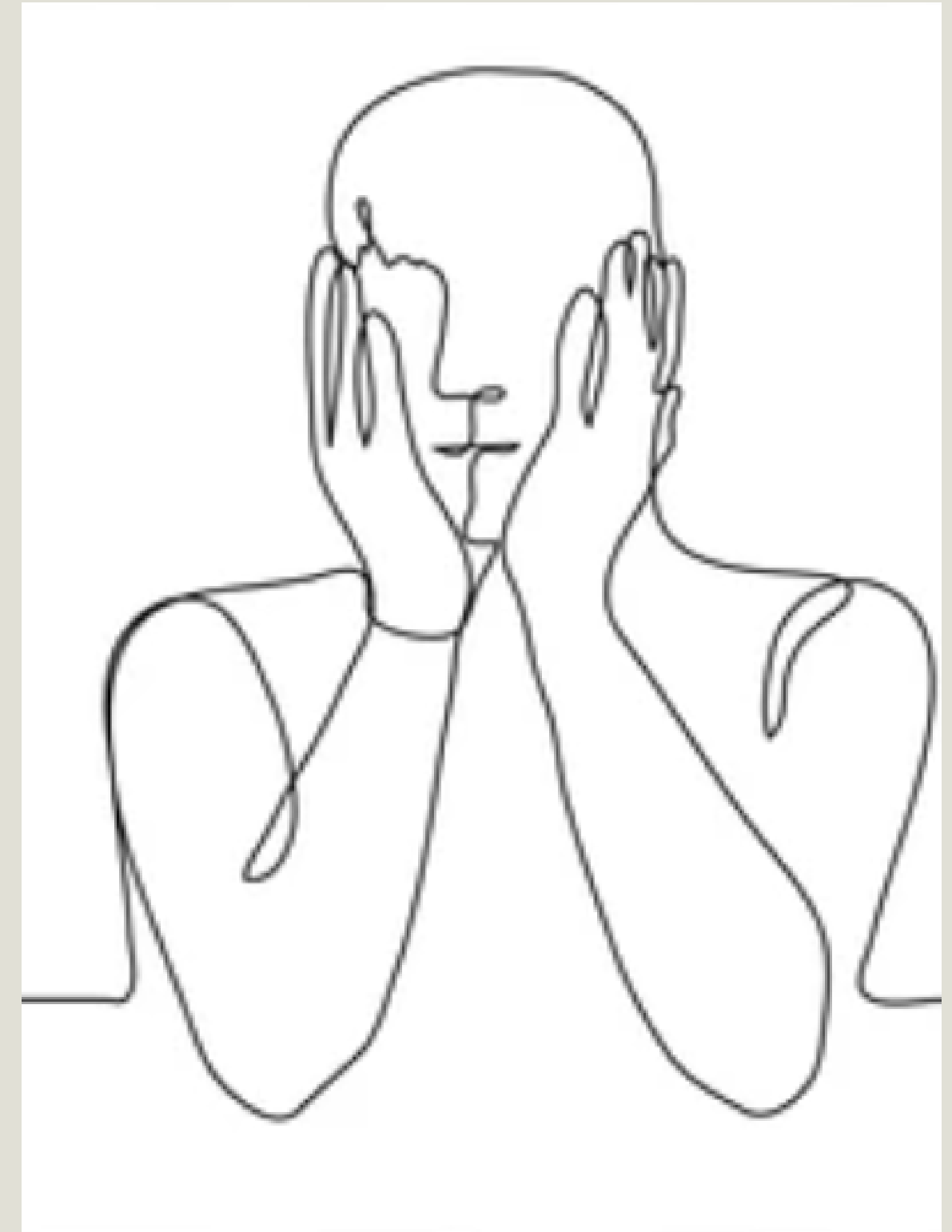
Sartre

Merleau-Ponty

Existentialism: Existence as a Philosophical Problem

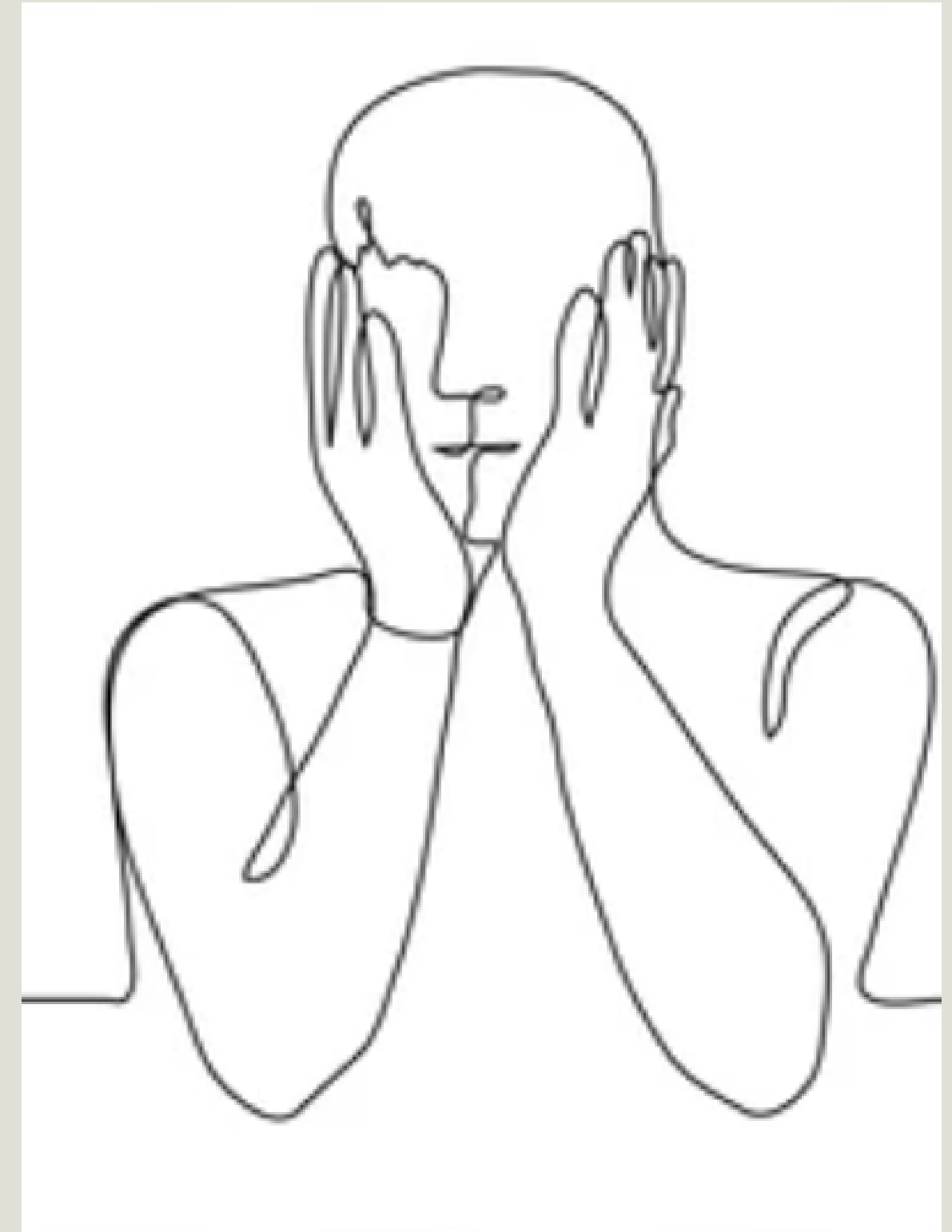
"Existence precedes essence"

"Man is condemned to be free"



Existentialism: Existence as a Philosophical Problem

Why are we now concerned with existence? Is this a 20th and 21st century concern alone? Were there existentialists in the ancient world?



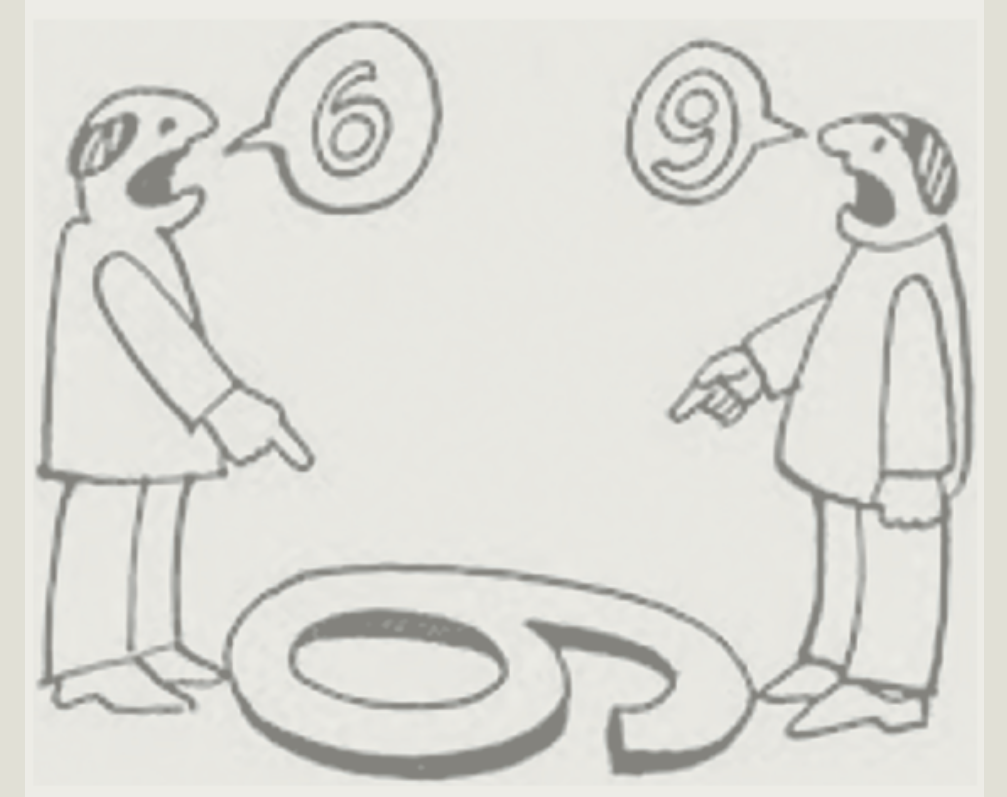
Existentialism and Phenomenology

Suspension of our engrossment in the everyday

Ideology permeates everything: there is no view from nowhere.

Intentionally vs. passively experiencing the world:
the role of agency and will

Subjectivity and the life-world: the world is given
to us by those who came before us and can give
rise to our natural attitude toward it



Existentialism and The Absurd

The world is given to us through an "infinite number of shimmering fragments" (Camus)

The "stage scenery" of the world is masked by habit --> we must fight this in order to live an authentic life

Camus sought to answer the question: does the absurd dictate death?





Fascism and the Absurd

Is Existentialism
inherently depressing?
Nihilistic?



Meaning-making

We are made to sense patterns, to look for meaning in our existence and in the world around us.

This makes us very good at building, creating, existing.

It also makes us anxious and burdened with the weight of meaning.

The existentialists want to help unburden us by giving us the tools to perceive and make meaning out of the absurdity that is our existence.



Thank you!

