

CONTENTS

	Editorial Foreword by H. G. Callaway	xiii
	Preface by Robert Ginsberg	xv
	Acknowledgements	xvii
	Introduction	
	Empirical Knowledge and Philosophy Face to Face with Life: A Fresh Start, 50 Years after Schrödinger	1
ONE	On the Metaphysical Essence and Absolute Irreducibility of Life: The Many Meanings of Life – and a Brief Discourse on Method	9
	1. Introductory Remarks on the Essence of Life as <i>Bios</i> and <i>Zoe</i>	9
	2. “Being in Itself” and “Self-Motion” as Universal Properties of All Life – The Analogous Meaning of Self- Motion and Freedom	10
	3. Can Life Be Sufficiently Identified by Means of Self- Motion or Intrinsic Teleology, etc.? On the Character of Life as an <i>Urphenomenon</i>	15
	4. Life as a “Transcendental” in the Medieval Sense and as a Pure Perfection	20
	5. The Fundamentally Different Forms and Phenomena of Life	24
	6. The Purpose of the Following Chapters	32
TWO	What Is Biological Life? The Irreducibility of Vegetative Life (<i>Bios</i>) to Ordered and Chaotic Physical Systems	33
	1. Irreducibility and Undefinability of Organic Life, yet Possibility of Its Essential Definition through Its Various Marks	33
	2. The Empirical Marks of Biological Life and Two Scientific Attempts to Define Life through Them	36
	3. The Essentially Necessary (<i>A Priori</i>) Characteristics of Biological Life Open to Philosophical Knowledge	39

4.	Essentially Necessary (<i>A Priori</i>) Characteristics of Biological Life in Terms of Chaos Theory and Their Ambiguity	63
5.	Two Irreducibilities of Organic Life to Material Systems Governed by Chaotic and Non-Chaotic Laws: Irreducibility in Essence and in Fact	75
6.	How Do We Know Biological Life?	78
THREE	The Irreducibility of Mental Life and of Its Subject (Soul) to Ordered and Chaotic Physical Systems	81
1.	The Immediate and Indubitable Givenness of Conscious Life	81
2.	Four Arguments for Mental Life Inhering in a Spiritual Substance (Soul)	83
3.	Life and Death: The Unity of Biological and Mental Life in the Human Being	90
4.	The Death of the Human Being – Radical End of Human Life? On Death and Immortality as Subject of a New Book	92
FOUR	Value and Dignity of Human Life	93
1.	The Value of Human Life and the Fourfold Root of Its Dignity	93
2.	The Question About the Value of Human Life against the Background of Today's Intellectual and Political Landscape	94
3.	What Is "Dignity"?	95
4.	The Four Roots and Sources of Human Dignity	101
5.	The Human Being Defined as a Being Capable of Transcending Itself: Human Dignity and Its Immanent and Transcendent Origins	108
FIVE	Dialogues with Scientists	111
1.	On the Significance of Emphasizing the "Many Meanings" of "Life"	111
2.	The Autonomy of Philosophy and that of Science with Respect to Life	112

3. Can We Stand Between or Beyond Reductionism and Anti-Reductionism?	116
4. The Question of Life as a "Transdisciplinary Question"	119
5. Mental Life Cannot Be Identified with the Brain	121
6. "Can" and "Cannot" in Philosophical Knowledge	122
Notes	125
Bibliography	143
About the Author	157
Index	159