

AN INTERWOVEN THESIS

Tsukihime is an existentialist tale that delves into the irrationality, suffering, and meaninglessness of existence to explore the reasons why, in spite of it all, life is still worth living. By weaving these themes into every aspect of its narrative—the plot, characters, their relationships and arcs, and in how branching choices are utilized—*Tsukihime* leverages its emotional bind on the player to make its thought-provoking themes resonate within them.

FANTASY AS METAPHOR

The supernatural problems plaguing the characters of *Tsukihime* all serve as powerful allegories that touch on familiar ideas from novel angles. Themes of mortality, depression, suicide, dissociation, and loneliness are explored through the supernatural lenses of mystical powers, magical immortality, and mythical inhumanity. By wielding these fantastical concepts as compelling metaphors, *Tsukihime* presents its themes while sacrificing neither excitement nor complexity.

SLOW-AND-STEADY CHARACTERIZATION

For as dark and gritty as *Tsukihime* can be in the broad strokes, it has countless low-stakes interactions that serve to humanize its characters and make their struggles feel nuanced, meaningful, and personal. Far from clashing with its somber core, the prevalence of levity binding *Tsukihime* together provides much-needed contrast: just as real people laugh, play, and converse whilst pushing through the hardships of life, the characters of *Tsukihime* are written to feel like *people*—not merely amalgamations of traumas, fears, and flaws.

TSUKIHIME

A piece of blue glass moon