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The Ultimate Meaning of Life

Find out where
the meaning of your life might lie.

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As we all know, the dilemma of comprehending the meaning of life has intrigued both the humans and the humanity ever since the start of existence. However, it seems there is only a few who have claimed having realized this meaning. Nevertheless, we have for thousands of years pursued that one conclusion, which would be universally accepted. It seems as if humans have an inherent desire for seeking a meaning for their existence. But why have we failed to find it? Is there indeed anyone who could confirm having found it? If yes, what exactly did he discover? Why is it important to realize the meaning of life just now?

This book reflects upon various perspectives which may point us to the direction of this rather elusive realization. The book gives little emphasis on the qualitative aspects of the physical life, but instead attempts to discover the *ultimate* meaning of The Life. This approach leads up to potentially uncovering the significance of existence, rather

than merely finding the meaning of one lifetime. Let us hope these reflections shall give you hints, assistance and insight into where the meaning of your life might lie.

CHAPTER 1: CONCEPTS AND QUESTIONS

Before we approach the puzzle of the meaning of life, it might be good to take a bit closer look at some concepts related to this issue. When we place a question of *“What is the meaning of life?”*, we should first comprehend what *life* is. A few years ago, a large telecommunications company created a popular commercial slogan for marketing its telecommunications solutions for the public. *“Life is.”* Even though the slogan aspired to portray a humorous image of *“life is what it is”* or *“life happens when it happens”*, a deeper meaning could be unveiled behind it if one cared to delve more. Another well-used phrase of *“life is brief, keep away the grief”* contains a deeper meaning, too, if scrutinized more closely. Eduard Bernstein, a German theorist of Marxism, had a well-known saying *“purpose does not mean anything to me, the motion means everything to me.”* This idea encourages you to just live your life and see for yourself where it leads. Another of his sayings *“while reaching out for something, a human lives a random life which may bring forth something significant”* gives support to the previous phrase in terms of

seeing life as a by-product of something larger. A Finnish writer, Hannu Raittila, has said that *"the first 40 years of life is birthing, and the following 40 years is dying"*. This idea encourages you to learn to live your life, rather than to contemplate its potential meaning. The famous Finnish cartoon figure, Harald the Terrible, a Viking warrior, has contributed to the issue of life, too, by saying that *"life is about war and battle while having times of distress."*

When we use the concept of *"life"*, we invariably mean the physical lifetime a human lives here on this planet. Could it be feasible that this concept points to some other life? Can there be *other life*? If yes, what would this *"other life"* be like? Where would one lead such a life? If there is such a life, what kind of relationship would it have with the life we are currently having? This issue has brought the mankind to a dead-end time after time.

Another relevant concept relating to life is *"meaning"*. The use of this concept has often been questioned by many who instead prefer to use *"objective"* as it is seen to be a more appropriate term. They argue that life creates movement towards something which, though, we do not know yet.

The term "*meaning*" implies that life is more of an impassive state or mere significance, which does not call for activity. Is life more of being than doing? The state of being may have a meaning, but obviously activity may have a meaning, too. The "*meaning*" tends to leave it open in terms of how the actual meaning of life is accomplished. Is it possible that the meaning is self-fulfilling, without the human input? As if a human leads a meaningful life, which will then actualize regardless of his actions. Or should a human fulfil his life on his own? This implies that the meaning of life will not come into realization unless a human makes it happen for himself. Where will the meaning come from? Who or what shall give the meaning? Is it up to humans themselves to define what the meaning of their lives is?

On the other hand, an "*objective of life*" contains the presumption that primarily life is about doing, moving towards a certain direction. What makes the definition of doing difficult is that one should know what kind of doing is required to reach the objective. If a human does not know what his objective is, he cannot know, what form of activity the accomplishment calls for. And what kind of activity one should avoid. As a

concept, the “*objective*” conjures up a predefined, life-long undertaking, the goal of which is to reach an outcome which is agreed upon before the start. How do we know, which life-long undertaking we should try to accomplish? Is there an index of available undertakings somewhere for us to choose from? Or do we all share one undertaking? If the undertaking reached one particular outcome, who exactly would specify it? Or is a human himself allowed to determine what the outcome of his life should look like? If so, how does he know, what outcomes are there to choose from? Or do we again share one outcome? How would humans find the definition of this single outcome?

One more concept, which is, in fact, only indirectly part of the original question, will have an impact on the overall consideration. That is, whose life and meaning are we talking about? Meaning of whose life? We will give the obvious reply, it is *my* life. But this reply prompts for another question. Who or what am I? This question is widely considered to be one of the most essential issues from the viewpoint of human spiritual growth. Well, obviously it is easier, if I understand, who I am, right? If humans had a

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This book reflects upon various perspectives of this rather elusive realization. Instead of the qualitative aspects of the physical life, it attempts to discover the ultimate meaning of The Life. Let us hope these reflections shall give you hints, assistance and insight into where the meaning of your life might lie.



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