

## The Deeper Meaning of My Work

**Meaningful Work** is a deep driving force that gets us up each day to stellar work. Meaningful Work is a knowing and sense of contribution that is greater than we are; it is about how we make a difference, every day, in every way in the lives of those we are to be of service to.

Each of us currently holds a vocation of some sort—either in the traditional sense of employment, in the vocation of raising a family, or even attending school full-time—which is a combination of skills, knowledge, and ability.

At the opposite of vocation's spectrum is its antonym, avocation. Avocation is a recreational or leisurely passion (and sometimes not so leisurely, depending upon the level of passion for it). Some may call avocation a hobby, talent, or gift that is cultivated outside the domain of one's regular vocation. When vocation unites with avocation, there is a blending of skills and gifts that support having more meaningful work, making this aspiration of purpose easier to achieve.

Bringing our whole authentic selves to our work must include this deeper vision. It is a way of transforming the meaning of how we go about our daily routines and tasks. Award-winning and epic poetry writer Robert Frost was famous for capturing the daily living of the people of his time. In the last verse of his classic poem "**Two Tramps in Mud Time**," we receive a glimpse into the ambiguity of marrying together the two halves of our lives through the example of the woodcutter's passion for his trade.

*But yield who will to their separation,  
My object in living is to unite  
My avocation and my vocation  
As my two eyes make one in sight.  
Only where love and need are one,  
And the work is play for mortal stakes,  
Is the deed ever really done?  
For Heaven and the future's sakes.*

You may want to spend quality time working out what your life description is by jotting down some areas you are responsible for in your family and personal life. If you have a job description from work, take it home and look at it more deeply and with different eyes. Martin Luther King, Jr. summoned us all, "If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper in life, sweep streets...like Beethoven composed music. Sweep streets...so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say, Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well."

