

A Purposeful Life

We must first begin our search by discussing equality. We must reach a consensus agreement as to how we as humans should treat other human beings as well as the natural world.

The majority of people in this world seek to coexist. Regardless of cultural differences, they seem to live out this ideal. Contrary to this observable truth, we often hear stories polarizing the balance of equality into two separate groups. One side is all about universal peace, love and acceptance, and the other about reckless hatred and separation. No matter which side of the argument a person may be on, it is simple to explain why both sides are mistaken, and to explain why this senseless struggle can be simply solved.

EQUAL:

Adjective

1. Being the same in quantity, size, degree, or value.

Noun

1. A person or thing considered to be the same as another
in status or quality.

Verb

1. The same, as in number or amount.

When we talk about equality in our communities, we are usually discussing social status, opportunities, and our attempts to legislate them. We have a great number of individuals creating struggles toward legislating equality of circumstance, which only seems to divide populations. It is undeniable that inequality is an issue, yet our current approach to the issue does not seem to be furthering us towards the goal of peace for all. There can be no lasting peace until all sides are unified under a common understanding. This cannot happen if we seek equality of circumstance, because the only thing all human beings have in common is that they are in fact, human beings. All of our surface differences must be accepted as necessary differences.

CIRCUMSTANCE:

Noun

1. A fact or condition connected with or relevant to an event or action.
2. One's state of financial or material welfare.

Perhaps if we could accept that equality is not something the human spirit aspires for, we would understand the necessity for equality of opportunity. We must not focus on our outrage, the usual pattern of behavior humans follow. It is our instinct to want what we don't have, and outrage focuses our creative energy on the destruction of others and the things they have created. If we can focus that energy inwards, we will change within ourselves what is needed to be successful. In this way, we will not be outraged with others for things that only we have the

ability to control.

This is a difficult task to undergo, because it takes away the ability to blame anyone but ourselves for anything. Of course things that happen in our lives may not seem directly our fault, but it is obviously true that the only way to solve a problem is by changing the way that we approach it. That is to say that if you have a problem, it will be rectified by your own actions and never by those of another. Knowing this, the suppression of ego is still a difficult wall to climb.

Humans have gone through some dark times in our historical past, but it is the responsibility of the individual to overcome them. It may be considered crass by some, but as mature and self-conscious human beings, we must put the historical past behind us just as we do the past in our daily lives. We seek not to illegitimatize the struggles of ourselves, our peers, or those who came before us, and we should remember their sacrifices. After accepting the wisdom of the past, then the here and now is the only place to begin if we expect to crystallize any truth.

As was previously stated, human beings do not aspire to equality. Human beings aspire to *greatness*. Those who are remembered throughout history are not the everyday person equal to the rest of the community, they are the titans of their times. We remember the soldier who stormed the beach at Normandy. The athlete who trained their entire youth to win an Olympic gold medal. The writer who spent countless hours translating ancient works only so their fellow humans could enjoy the fruits of their labor. All human beings are born with the ability to achieve greatness. That is the true human spirit. It may have taken

us many lifetimes, but we now must understand that each and every human being is born free, and must have equal opportunity to achieve their goals on the base of their own merit, skills, character, personality, and their own individual choices.

OPPORTUNITY:

Noun

1. A set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something.

We should understand that no matter how unlikely, it is possible for any human being in western society to rise above their current circumstances and into a better existence. The individuals who rise above the most extreme odds and reach high levels of success in life have several personality traits not possessed by other members of society. They have qualities that set them apart from those who cannot seem to break the shackles of circumstance that bind them.

First and foremost, they understand that any time spent not working towards their personal goals is wasted valuable time. This is not to say that the entirety of their existence is spent working, it is to say that none of their energy is wasted on futile pursuits such as victimization and polarization. They understand that the odds may be stacked against them in a completely unfair manner, yet they spend absolutely no time dwelling on this, they seem to not even acknowledge the social constructs that seek to bind them.

This is the self-aware human being. Those among us who

are self-realized understand that it is the sole duty of the individual to change the world they live in, and not the duty of the world to change in order to suit the individual. It may always be true that some human beings make the poor decision to victimize others with words and actions of hatred and violence, but those of us with noble goals must not waste our vital energy entertaining the will of these human beings of unrealized and impurely manifested potential.

We must evolve, as a collective, out of these shackles of circumstance and chains of the ego. We must accept that the only way to move out of the past and into a future free of any racial, religious, gender or any type of physical boundary is to be completely rid of archaic thought processes. This is why it is so important to impart our wisdom on to our children. The only way to achieve a higher level of consciousness is survival of the fittest. To outlast the old ways of thought. To breed them out, and to crystallize the best and most vital traits of consciousness into a new singularity.

This is not to be conducted as a war between two factions, and hopefully it does not appear to be as such. For the unenlightened, the struggle between purity and impurity seems to be the never ending battle between good and evil. To the pure, the pendulum must swing because it must. It must swing because its only will is to be, and therefore it must create and destroy.

The mental trait we must breed out is the ego driven will to destroy what is unlike ourselves. The fittest will survive, and the future will bring a generation capable of the next level of consciousness. We must continue to pass down this wisdom and pass down the values of love and

acceptance. If we treat others the way we want to be treated, then we will invariably see improvement in our own circumstances.

DEFINITIONS

To crystallize an idea, to truly define it, we must first completely isolate all of its parts individually out of the abstract chaos. We must take the idea to its rational conclusion using logical analysis in order to find any and all flaws in it, thus giving the idea order and form.

CRYSTALLIZE:

Transitive verb

1. To cause to take definite form;
To crystallize ones thoughts

ABSTRACT CHAOS

The author has been presented with a problem. This problem arises from the statements of another individual with whom they were discussing the necessity of discovering one's own *true* will [and not living out the will of others]. The individual has stated to the author:

"I know I am the creator of purpose in my own life. Right now, it is filled with my own everyday duties to survive. I do not know why I was put on this earth [as to the purpose of my own human existence]."

This individual believes that their everyday duties give them purpose in life. We will start by defining "everyday duties" as our individually valued personal responsibilities. We also will define "purpose" as that which is created out of meaning. Once the meaning of something is found, then it can be found to have purpose. To have purpose without meaning would be to set a course of action in achieving your goals without establishing what those goals are. It would be as if a ships navigator is plotting a course that has not yet been determined, and is blindly hoping their vessel ends up in the right place.

This personal belief in responsibility as their purpose in life is claimed by the subject to arise from a sense of duty to their personal moral obligations. We have received an answer of "routine duties such as bills, shopping, doctor appointments and other mundane tasks necessary for survival" as to what these obligations are. We will concisely state this persons perceived moral obligations as follows:

Survival is my most important personal responsibility and it is what gives my life purpose.

If something must have a meaning before we can form any purpose, what is the meaning of a life in which ones greatest responsibility is their own survival?

It may seem nobler to say it is not their own survival that is paramount, but that of their offspring and those they care for. Even still, you must ultimately survive so that those who rely on you for their own survival may in turn survive as well. If survival is your greatest concern, then the importance of your own personal survival must

ultimately exceed that of anyone else.

It is indeed fair to say that people make important sacrifices for those whom they love, and that most would make the ultimate sacrifice for their loved ones if the situation deemed it necessary. It may be said that it is out of the will to sacrifice in which they garnish some feeling of purpose. Whether it is an obligation to self or an obligation to others in which we find purpose, the meaning of life still seems elusive.

FORMING AN IDEA

We will form a more concise and thought out idea with the aid of the analysis so far, this will help guide us to a clearer destination.

The meaning of life can be deduced through the idea that our purpose as human beings is our own survival.

LOGICAL ANALYSIS

Purpose has been previously defined as that which is derived from meaning, so it may seem that we are approaching this problem backwards. We must first define meaning, and we will do so as follows: That which has meaning is that which is known to be completely true and held as the highest ideal [standard ¹] of that specific form. The ideal form being defined as the best possible version of something; the consensus for the proper form or mode of being for any specific thing.

If a consensus human ideal of survival is a life free of monetary worries combined with social stability and

comfort, then striving to achieve this ideal becomes the consensus purpose of human life. We must keep in mind however that a consensus agreement is based on trust of others, and not based on the truth of individual experience.

Even if we have a consensus on purpose, life still remains devoid of meaning. The earlier described "mundane tasks" become a routine of survival conceived as meaningful activity, but how is any activity considered to be meaningful if it will eventually be completely forgotten? If one day it would be as if it never even existed in the first place?

Regardless of what we do in life to secure our own survival, eventually we will no longer exist as individuals. One day, all of our descendants will no longer exist, and this consensus purpose of survival will be rendered completely meaningless.

How can meaning be found in something that logically cannot exist eternally? Surely the universe will live on after humans no longer exist, after our planet does not exist, and after our sun eventually burns out. It will continue to exist after all the matter in the universe condenses once more and the great cosmic breath begins to expand outward again ². We may not exist anymore as individuals, but we may still exist in some way if we believe that we are somehow involved with the entirety of the process.

If human survival is our purpose, then the placement of human beings on this planet must serve some greater purpose as to the entirety of the process of creation and destruction (from the perspective of the universe as a whole). This seems to be the same as the religious

statements involving the idea of a creator god whose plan we are unable to understand ³. We are asked to contribute to our society the means necessary for survival within it, and in turn granted the promise of security in life as well as after death.

Let us return to the analogy of a ships navigator guiding his vessel towards an unknown destination. If the world we live in is the ocean, then we are the ship being navigated. If a life with purpose is the destination, then consciousness is the navigational map that guides us there. If our mind is the navigator, and if we find meaning in life through plotting a course to a specific destination, then our mind must be what defines the meaning of life for the individual.

Our minds have the unique ability to formulate ideas out of abstract concepts. The mind can take all information it receives from our sensory observations ⁴ and experiences and filter them down into a structured ideal. This is the ability to reason, which gives us the opportunity to compare different ideas together and decide which one is more beneficial to us in the future. Reasoning is what creates a logical process of thought.

Before the automobile was invented, humans still had the desire to travel more quickly from one place to the next. It must have taken a great deal of thought and reflection just to realize that horses and other animals could be domesticated enough to be used as transportation. It must have taken an even greater amount of thought to conceptualize building a boat to sail on the water as a form of transportation. Instead of only observing an animal and deciding to use it as a tool, man thought to build with

his own hands a vessel to traverse bodies of water. This must have taken a Herculean effort of thought to conceptualize a boat before they became an integral part of culture. This isn't even mentioning the discovery of harnessing the wind as a mode of power to move a boat. Imagine the long hours of watching leaves blow in the wind before a kite was ever invented. It wouldn't be until after the industrial revolution began that any mechanical concept for a mode of transportation such as an automobile would be invented or even conceptualized.

The process of forming the abstract chaos of an idea into an actual manifestation of itself is a long process of trial and error. It is a comparative process only of which the best and most true ideas stand the test of time. It has taken generations to form the concept of survival as our most important purpose in life, and it may hold true if we believe our purpose is to make the goal of survival easier to achieve for future generations. Could there be some meaning found even in a life whose entire world will someday be destroyed? Could there be a measure of purpose found in a life dedicated to the betterment of future generations?

PROBLEMS CREATED BY OBSERVATION

There must be a more acceptable meaning to life than struggling only to physically survive, especially if the level of suffering we face is as intense as it is. Is it acceptable that the urge for personal survival causes us to forsake others in order to achieve the goals we have selfishly made for ourselves? Are we unable to observe the

long term damage of competition which shows it is clearly not acceptable? What structures of our society have caused us to act in such a self-serving way?

CULTURAL LESSONS

There is a story told in many cultures that involves heaven, hell, and the utensils used for eating. There are several different premises to the story depending on in what part of the world it is taught, but the basics of the story remain the same.

Heaven and hell are two places exactly the same, the only difference being the mindset of those in each specific place. At the dinner table, the only utensils available are longer than the arm of any human being and extremely heavy. In hell, the denizens are constantly hungry as they are unable to feed themselves, while in heaven, the bellies of the inhabitants are always full because they have learned to feed each other.

Cultures pass on this story not because they know from personal experience the exact conditions of heaven and hell, but because of the lessons it provides. They may have faith in the existence of life after death, but the descriptions come as an example of how to live on earth. Since these stories cannot come from direct knowledge of heaven and hell, they must have earthly origins.

The idea for this story must have come as all other ideas come, from the process of organizing the chaos of abstract observations and loose ideas into a concise and ordered manifestation. After many generations of

observation and comparison between the long term benefits of cooperation against the long term consequences of competition for survival, human beings came to a consensus agreement that cooperation was the best solution. This realization happened independently with each world culture that developed such stories of unity and cooperation ⁵ .

LOGICAL ANALYSIS WITH TRANSCENDENTAL AIDE

If we discover patterns in the ways of thinking of those who came before us, we feel a sense of comfort in knowing our ancestors faced the same problems that we do. We can see by example that our ancestors valued cooperation and a more comfortable life than they did of a life filled with unnecessary competition. In competition there is always some form of loss, and consequently there is always suffering. Cooperation is the only way to eliminate the pain of loss for human beings, and it is a pathway to greatly reducing suffering.

To bring us back to the questions that have inspired us, will it be easier to find purpose in a life dedicated to the survival of humanity as a whole then the survival of ourselves as individuals? Is it possible to change the pattern of thought for anyone who still believes that competition for survival no matter the cost to themselves or others is the best way to be?

If it is possible, there must be a unifying factor that connects the individual with the collective so that they may hold the cultural lessons they have been taught to be true examples of proper moral guidance. This unifying factor must be transcendental in nature, something that exceeds all known limitations of life as we understand it.

The belief in a cause of existence and the existence of the universe as a whole is logically the only transcendent concept that can serve to unify human beings ⁶. It is thus because it is the only concept in which the entire manifested universe was once contained. (It is believed by science that when all matter condenses, the entire universe will be collected into a singularity just as before the most recent big bang. To state this in a religious way, all things will one day reunite with god.)

Creation may be a revolving cycle of cosmic breaths of a universe which releases its creation then inhales it back unto itself. It may, as science believes, be a series of random miracles, or it may be a product of intelligent design ⁷. No matter which, there still must be a first cause which begins the cycle, and this ideal must contain within it each other cycle within the manifested universe. There can be no effect without a specific cause, this is one of the true and everlasting laws of nature ⁸.

When we observe the world around us, we see that each thing that happens, no matter how large or small, has a specific effect on other things. Even if the thing is a thought and not an action, it still has specific consequences inside of our mind (then eventually with our chosen actions as well). This web of causality is far too intricate from which to derive any divination or foresight ⁹, but we are able to observe the effects of causality and grant ourselves some level of context as to the solving of our problems.

It is this natural, observable law of cause and effect that gives us the concept of karma ¹⁰, but only in the very

basic and unrefined way that western society views it. It is generally believed that the more good deeds you perform in life the more rewards you will have because of them, and consequently bad deeds provide the opposite effect. This simple belief is true at its core, but its lack of refinement leads many human beings only seeking to perform good works out of a selfish desire for reward.

Karma is not a concept to be harnessed for personal gain, and any attempt to do so will only result in great personal loss. Karma is a process to be understood through the wisdom gained in life experience, and to be used as a tool to understand the world in which we live in. If we meditate of the law of cause and effect¹¹, we will ultimately find it to be universal and unfailing. We will discover the ways to rationalize the existence of a first cause, and the one most true and transcendental concept of the universe.

RESTATING THE IDEA

Our idea was previously stated as:

The meaning of life can be deduced through the idea that our purpose as human beings is our own survival.

We must now form an improved and more concise idea as revealed through our logical analysis, so that we may have a more direct path to crystallizing the idea into its truest form.

We must no longer value our own personal survival over that of any other individual. If we are all currently separate but began as a single part of a cohesive unit, and

the fate of those separate pieces is to ultimately reunite with the rest of the universe, we must be an integral part of the process [individually as well as collectively] regardless of our understanding of it ¹² .

There is a meaning to life that can be deduced through the idea that our purpose as human beings is our collective survival.

CRYSTALLIZATION

We now have a new idea, subtly similar to the previous one. The same idea, yet now more concise. It has been well thought out and better formulated in which to guide us to a consensus. We have several aspects of this idea to break down before we can conclude by stating a solid and proven truth.

- WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVE SURVIVAL?

It may seem redundant, but for lack of a better description at this point, the purpose of collective survival is collective survival itself. If we understand that individual survival and collective survival are equal in importance, then we must focus on the survival of the collective, as it is the only way to assure the lasting survival of ourselves and our offspring. This is to say that to ensure our own survival, we must during our lives contribute at a greater level to society than that of which we take from it. No matter the size and scope of the contributions, our collective survival is ensured provided they outweigh what we consume.

This concept forms the ideal of the productive member of society ¹³. This individual, no matter how much they consume, still contributes more to society than they take away. Though it is impossible to judge for certain whether or not this ideal has been fully achieved, we can agree in principal that aspiring to achieve the ideal of productivity is more beneficial than the opposite. We could also say that the effect of productivity is a happy and comfortable life, and then therefore the cause of a happy and comfortable life is our collective survival.

- IF THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS COLLECTIVE SURVIVAL, CAN WE KNOW THE MEANING IF WE DO NOT YET SEE THE CAUSE?

If purpose is found out of meaning, then meaning could also be described as a clear cut and truthful ideal. An ideal being the best and truest manifestation of anything, be it an idea, a physical object, or even a specific mode of being for a person in a specific time and place. The ideal form of anything is the state in which we find our ideas, creation, attitudes and modes of being to be better than any other we have experienced. Ideal concepts then become the standards of any function or department of existence.

Ideals are created by a cause, and they cannot be known by language until they have been observed. The earliest humans understood what qualities made their pack leaders and tribal chiefs the most influential members of their society, and it took many generations to formulate the language needed to describe the ideal of a great leader. The cause of the ideal leader would be those who provided them with the tools and teachings needed to aspire

towards it. Their parents, their communities, the society in which they are born all contribute, and all of these things are effects of some other cause. Through logic, it is understood that all things in the universe, both mind and matter, must be traced back to a specific cause.

If it is true that ideals do exist, then traced back through a chain of cause and effect, any ideal must ultimately be an effect of the first cause ¹⁴. Therefore the observation and discovery of ideals are necessary to garnish any meaning or purpose out of life. If there is no first cause, there is no transcendence of consciousness or matter in the universe and nothing from which to isolate any meaning or purpose. With this revealed wisdom, we will come to our crystallization.

~~IDEA~~ TRUTH

If we have purpose, then a first cause [or creator] must exist.

NOTES:

1 Physically, the term "standard" would represent an object of the best quality and that is most useful in achieving its purpose (a chair is the standard ideal for sitting, a cup is the standard ideal for drinking, etc.). Non-physically, this term would represent the best possible mode or pattern of behavior that is most efficient at achieving its purpose.

2 The beginning of the universe described by science would be the condensation of matter and the "big bang" that followed. Religions all have a story to describe the creation of the universe, and all have beliefs as to the way the world will end (and be reborn). We seek no unification of religious and scientific ideas, only to achieve consensus that the universe is not finite and a continuous cycle of creation and destruction.

3 The idea of a god whose plan we are unable to understand is a delicate situation to consider. Knowing that we may never completely understand something is not a reason to avoid seeking any knowledge of it, and taking this statement to mean that it is acceptable for human beings to be ignorant is a travesty. If we have the capacity to gain intellectual knowledge, then we must use this ability rather than let it wither away.

1 Peter 4: 10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

The idea here seems to be that if the belief in God is

present in an individual, any wasted potential is a sin. To a non-religious person, wasted potential is still agreed upon in consensus to be counterproductive to a meaningful existence.

4 Sensory Observations are anything we observe with our senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste. It has been said that nothing can be known to be true without personal experience, and only with sensory observation can we denote having personal experience of anything. Sensory observation is required by the ego to perceive something as true, and sensory perception of non-physical concepts is the boundary the human being faces in discovering and understanding the transcendence of their own existence.

5 Consensus as to cooperation over competition is self-evident due to the observation that modern civilization is far more [technologically] advanced than our previous generations. The advances of modern civilization could not be achieved without a high level of cooperation, this is made apparent in the simple fact that many constructs of society could not have been built by only one person. It is necessary to achieve some level of cooperation to uphold the structures of society that help to make its citizens more productive.

6 *The only transcendent concept* refers to the first cause of the universe. This is a concept to the scientific community that differs only slightly than the religious community. To the religious community, this transcendent concept would be the idea of God. The most apparent difference here is that in religion, the first cause is given *form* in a creator god, whereas in science this concept remains elusive and immaterial. The speculative idea is the same in both communities, but only in religion is it given a *form* in which human beings can more easily identify with.

7 *Intelligent design* is the idea of a creator god who manifests creation in its perfect form to perpetuate itself with no outside interference. This is not to say that *intelligent design* rules out any direct intervention, the term is used as a softer way of stating the possibility of the universe being the product of creation.

8 The term *law of nature* denotes one of several true and unfailing laws of our universe. These laws are the boundaries of creation, the rules that cannot be broken. They are apparent in scientific theory as well as given form within religious theology. They are also known as the *Seven Hermetic Principles*, and will be outlined further as we progress.

9 Many believe that [with occult tools] they can predict the effects of a specific cause (shown in the modern interpretations of astrology and the tarot). There is value in these concepts, but they are devoid of all meaning if we selfishly use them for our own material gain.

10 Karma is a concept in Eastern religion often misunderstood. It is the concept of cause and effect, and should not be viewed in any way as sinister or as taking comfort in the suffering of another [as retribution for our own personal feelings]. This is an impure ideal corrupted by the ego. Karma has no personality. It is a law, a specific boundary of which we are meant to understand and not to make any futile attempts to break.

11 To meditate on this would be to observe specific effects in the physical world and to trace them back to their causes. By observing effects, we are able [through reason] to change our actions and their subsequent effects.