

PURPOSE OF LIFE

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Eternal Source of Life

A thought that has haunted many people is: What is the purpose of life?

Many have tried to solve this problem. Many have tried to write on this subject. One of them is Will Durant who put this question to various people all over the world including Mahatma Gandhi. All gave different viewpoints.

Many people are baffled by the purpose of life. This thought occurred quite often to me also, but almost every time after viewing various purposes of life, the thought boiled down to one and only one purpose. Put in different words and in one sentence, it can be expressed as: **“Life is lifeless when Life in it is not”**.

Any creation, not only in the world but in the whole cosmos, exists because there is some force in it, behind it and surrounding it which, in a general way, can be called life. It can be lifeless life, lifeless in the sense that it may be other than the life known to men as biological life - botanical or zoological including the life of man and woman.

Yet, that does not mean that the biological life is the life without which life is lifeless, more so, because the biological life originates from the lifeless matter - the Five Elementals in nature - beginning with ultramicroscopic life called DNA, growing unto microscopic and macroscopic life. Thus, even the biological life begins from the lifeless biological matter.

Does it mean that biological life, which begins from lifeless matter, is the right life? Right, from the point of view that it has in it some permanent basis? It has no permanent basis because lifeless matter goes on changing. So also, the biological life goes on changing from time to time, ultimately ending in ends of diverse nature including biological death. This means that the purpose of life is neither the source of any matter - lifeless or with life – nor the end of any matter, which is lifeless or alive, because neither the source nor the end of matter are permanent.

So, there must be a deeper basis of life which is permanent, with changing phases between the beginning and end, leading to the beginning again. That basis of life is the Eternal Source within each one including human beings, and is called the soul of the matter, including the matter that is man and woman. All this points to one and only main purpose of life and that is: **to live the way of life so that one grows to know one's own soul and through the soul, ultimately, the Source of the soul that is generally called God.**

Application of Science and Technology to the Purpose of Life

In continuation with the above-mentioned thoughts that the purpose of life is to live the way of life that grows unto Life Eternal, further thoughts arise when we observe diverse manifestations in the present-day way of life, whether personal or collective. One such thought is: Which is the way of life that makes one grow unto Life Eternal?

As I was observing the television just now, thoughts got linked up with the thoughts that came earlier, connected with the purpose of life. From the present-day point of view connected with science and technology, one finds that all that was observed on the television is necessary in the present-day way of life. Yet, the question arises: Will it lead to Life Eternal or not?

It is not that the science, and technology emanating from the science, are contrary to Life Eternal but in technology, science can be applied to go outwards, away from the purpose of Life Eternal. The same science can also be applied through technology to grow towards Life Eternal, that is, in the opposite direction of the current trend.

In spirituality, there is nothing against science as such, but in the application of science through technology, one has to determine whether it takes the way of life away from the goal which is Life Eternal or whether it takes it towards the goal which is Life Eternal. Some aspects of technology that we observed today were connected with various instruments used for health and mostly for ill-health. They are useful in helping a patient to grow from ill-health to the usual average health. Though they have a value for a patient, they do not lead him to that state of health, which is necessary for spiritual health. Such application of science to technology is helpful up to a point for growing towards the goal, but that help is very superficial.

Ill-health or the average state of human health has more to do with the internal conditions that happen in every cell of the body concerned with health. Every cell of the body is influenced by the human way of life, not only the physical way of life but also emotional. Emotions are of two types, negative and positive, working in opposite directions. Those whose emotions are working in the negative directions, linked with hatred, envy, jealousy, greed, anger and lust, they cannot

grow towards the spiritual goal even if their outward behaviourism, in the gross way of observation, not in the fine way of observation, is in keeping with the surroundings.

The negative direction of their emotions takes them away from the spiritual goal. This is the case from ancient times.

Spiritual Principles and Laws

Therefore, High Beings have given the principles and the laws to govern one's way of life and various outward behaviourisms based on these principles and laws. They are known as Commandments, or *Sheelas*, *Yamas* and *Niyamas*. They are mostly in the terminology "Thou shalt not...."

Jesus the Christ not only said words to the effect: "Love thy neighbor as I have loved you" to his disciples, but also "Love thy enemy." It is not necessary for High Beings like Jesus, Buddha and Ram to follow this principle because they are transcendental to both positive and negative emotions, but the average human minds go after their own likes and dislikes based upon what they have inherited and their upbringing as well as various desires in life. Thereby, they develop many negative traits, which hinder the way of growing towards Life Eternal. If they are in real spiritual surroundings, it can even harm them, more so if they are seized in the Spiritual Mind which is the center of these spiritual surroundings.

This is why they have to see that in the right spiritual surroundings, they live the way of life in keeping with the principles and laws known as Commandments, *Yamas*, *Niyamas* and *Sheelas*. Here, it is only their own effort that can change them.

It was through Moses that the Commandments were given. They were added to by Christ. Buddha gave *Panch Sheela* for the laymen. For the monks, he gave *Das Sheela* and the whole *Vinaya*. The ancient *Rishis* gave the *Yamas* and *Niyamas* in the *Vedas*. If those who had been the Source of such spiritual principles and laws, which they gave to humanity, could have been able to control the human nature, there was no need for them to give Commandments, *Yamas*, *Niyamas* and *Sheelas*.

Control of Human Mind

The fact is that even God cannot control the human mind. Each one has to control one's own human mind oneself. Likes and dislikes, positive and negative emotions, have first to be controlled and then eliminated, but in the right spiritual way.

And, as they empty out their own thoughts, they receive the spiritual force of Grace and in the spiritual surroundings, they grow towards the spiritual goal.

This is also the case for those who are graced even for assignments. But they have to follow the principles and the laws.

Science is nothing but principles and laws, the application of which is technology. Basically, science has nothing to do with the manifestation of the principles and the laws, which lies in the realm of technology. Thus, there is nothing contradictory between the basic science known to men and the science that emanates from the Will of God.

Value of Human Emotions

As regards the positive aspects of human emotions, they have their value within a certain human way of life, like the so-called human love. It is different from the Divine Love though it is linked with Divine Love in a way. But if the human love is allowed to manifest outward, it often works in a direction away from the Divine Love. So, it appears that the human love is contrary to the Divine Love in manifestation. Yet, if the human love is used to grow inward, towards the Divine Love, then the purpose of life is served which is to grow unto Life Eternal.

On the television, we also observed various commodities being invented and produced which are other than those for health. They have their value from the human point of view for maintaining a certain way of life.

The important question is whether the human way of life maintained by external things is used to grow towards the Life Eternal or not.

In most cases, the things that are produced are used not to grow inward towards Life Eternal but to go after things of life, away from Life Eternal. It all depends upon the human mind.

Control of Thoughts

Those who really have the aim to grow unto Life Eternal should watch every thought and expression of thought in words and deeds. They should check whether it is helpful towards the goal of Life Eternal or not. That is the second mission of this Society: To introduce spiritual values in all walks of life. Spiritual values are not to go after things outside oneself, but to utilize things outside oneself to grow towards Life Eternal, at least to know one's own soul first and then to liberate the soul unto the spiritual realm, growing unto the Source of the soul that is God. God Bless You.

(From talks given by Revered Dadaji, Dr. Dinshah K. Mehta, Servant of Servants of God, on January 30, 1978, in the afternoon and evening, at the Delhi Branch of the Society of Servants of God.)