

The meaning and purpose of life religion essay



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First of all life is the mostly cherished thing in the world, if we can call it a “thing”, as everything that people have, everything that they feel and experience is life itself. Questions like what is the meaning and the purpose of life are really hard to answer straight away; it takes time to think about it. Moreover it really has been the single ultimate question from the creation of earth and mankind. Every person for a moment or two in his life had to think what is the meaning and purpose of life, why am I here?

I think that it is hard for people to believe in any kind of purpose that we have in our lives, as people don't believe in eternal life, why should they believe in the purpose of life? It is true that when a person is young and full of energy he doesn't really bother of thinking about the purpose of life, and what will happen to him after his death, because he forgets about it completely. As people grow older they think of their life more and more, of what they have already done, and what is still missing. Nobody wants to live an empty life, without reaching any goals, something that we would be proud in the end of our life. If people have a purpose of life, they have something that they want to achieve and reach, so it makes the life that much interesting and fuller. It can also show the way how to live for people, serve as a guide in the labyrinth of life. Like the great ancient Roman stoic philosopher Lucius Annaeus Seneca said: “ Our plans miscarry because they have no aim. When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind”. <http://quotationsbook.com/quote/17170/> The great philosopher had a great point there, as people do need to have an aim to have some kind of a target for their life, to reach something.

Another important fact of the purpose of life is religious and spiritual side of people's lives. All in all it was God almighty that created the Earth and mankind, so religion and belief must exist and take a very important part in a person's life. If there were no Creator, if humans were just products and results of an ordinary system, as many in the world today assert, there would be no purpose in life. Each individual human being would strive simply to live their life with as much pleasure and as little pain and suffering as possible. Life should be seen as an eternal process of an endless spiritual discovery and growth: in the beginning stages of earthly life, the individual undergoes a period of training and education which, if it is successful, gives that person the basic intellectual and spiritual tools necessary for living his life successfully. When individuals attain physical maturity in adulthood, they become responsible for their further progress, which now depends entirely their own efforts and skills. Through the daily struggles of material existence, people gradually deepen their understanding of the spiritual principles underlying reality, and this helps them to relate more effectively to themselves, to others, and to God. <http://www.allaboutworldview.org/Meaning-Of-Life.htm>

Yet, different people have different purpose of life. Ones think that self-realization is the purpose of life, others think that it is memories that you leave after you die, and another group of people think that consuming and pleasure is the main purpose and goal of their life. There are still more things on the list of what do people include in the purpose of life, but some are really mistaken. Life can be compared to a school as people always learn in it, and come to this school to educate their souls. And some make an

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emphasis on the fun and games just like children do, while others put all their attention on the studying, and the meaning of life is so much clearer for them. Education of the soul consists of clear life-style, striving to help others, to reach the set goals, and live in harmony with God, so that people would have as little regrets for himself near the end of his life as possible. Of course we all know, there is no such thing as an ideal life, an all people make mistakes, and think about the past, wanting to change a lot of things. But that is life, and you have to move on, perhaps trying to make up for the mistakes made in the past by good deeds in the future. <http://www.allaboutworldview.org/Meaning-Of-Life.htm>

But how to rate a life, did people achieve their goal to reach the purpose of their life? The only time that a person can think back on all his deeds, and not do anything more is the moment before his death. The meaning of an activity is graded by the result of the activity itself. That same thing can be said about our life, which meaning we can view after death. If we are lost in our life, and can't find the meaning and purpose of it, we can take a completely different perspective-death. We can look at our life if we would be gone now, that of course sounds creepy but it might open our eyes on many things that are there, and need to be done before we go.

As for me, I am still young and questions like purpose of life, death and so on don't really bother me that much. But I do set clear goals for my life, putting them into priorities, from important to less important. And although it is very hard, but I try to put fun into a small " box", that needs to be open vary rarely, only after the big boxes are emptied.