

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

Every living being has a purpose in life and it is the knowing of that purpose which enables every soul to fulfill it. As it is said, 'Blessed is the one who knoweth one's life's purpose.'

So long as one has not found this purpose, though one may have success or failure, though one may seem to be happy or unhappy, in reality one does not live. For life begins from the moment a one finds the purpose of one's life. Mankind is ignorant, and yet interested in a thousand things.

'The first knowledge we must gain is the knowledge of the purpose of our life'

Often, Parents do not pay attention to the fact that it is in one's childhood that one has to find the purpose of one's life. Through unhappiness, the moment one knows the purpose of one's life a switch is turned and the light is on. One may not be able to accomplish anything at once, but the very fact of knowing the purpose gives one all the hope and vigour and inspiration and strength to wait for that day.

Besides, wrong or right, good or bad differs according to the purpose of life. The more one studies life, the more one realizes that it is not the action but the purpose that makes things right or wrong, good or bad. And as we progress we become more wide-awake, and the greater becomes the purpose before us.

Beyond this is the purpose of all, the ultimate purpose. We align our individual and ultimate Soul purpose by studying the inclinations of humans. Every human has inclinations hidden in the depths of one's heart. Being absorbed in the life of the world one may forget that ultimate

purpose, but at the same time there is a continual inclination towards it. That shows that the ultimate purpose of the life of all is one and the same.

'Every being is created for a purpose, and the light of that purpose is already kindled in one's soul.'

To know our life purpose, We must each contribute what we are meant to and what we should contribute to be in tune with our destiny. It is only by playing that particular part which belongs to us that we shall get satisfaction.

The principal thing for every individual is to become conscious of the duty for which one is born.

FRUITFULNESS

The coexistence of shadow and light, goodness and badness teaches us that its not spirituality alone, for the soul in its nature is spiritual. The whole creation is purposed for something greater than goodness or even spirituality, and that is fruitfulness. Goodness and spirituality are the means, not the goal. If there is any goal, it is fruitfulness.

Fruitfulness has three aspects.

- 01. The first aspect is when a human benefits from one's own life.
- 02. The next aspect is when a human benefits from the life outside oneself.
- 03. The third aspect is when a human is a benefit to oneself and to the life outside, and the life outside is a benefit to one. That is the moment of the fruitfulness of life.

Every intelligent person comes to a stage in one's life sooner or later when one begins to question oneself as to what purpose there is in life, in being on earth.

'Why am I here?
What am I to accomplish in life?'
one asks.

The moment this question has arisen in a person one has taken the first step in the path of wisdom. Whatever be one's occupation, condition in life, whether one is wise or foolish, learned or illiterate, there is always discontent. One may have success or failure, but the desire that one's life's purpose should be accomplished remains, and unless it is accomplished a person cannot be satisfied.

When a person knows, 'I am here for this particular purpose,' that knowledge in itself gives a great strength of conviction.

TWO PURPOSES

There are in reality two purposes of life. One is the minor, the other is the major purpose of life. One is the preliminary, and the other is the final purpose. The preliminary purpose of life is just like a stepping-stone to the final one. Therefore one should first consider the preliminary purpose of life.

We ought to be devotional, spiritual. But if one's mind will not be there, one cannot be spiritual. Very often people in place of food, give water, and in place of water, give food. That is not good. Spirituality comes in its time. But the preliminary purpose is what a human will contribute to the world

as the first step before awakening to spiritual perfection.

There are four different ways people take in their lives.

01. MAKING WEALTH

One way is the way of material benefit. By profession, by occupation, business, or industry, a person wants to make money. Something is to be said both for and against this ideal. Against it may be said that while working for money one very often loses the right track, thought, and consideration.

One easily overlooks the rights of others when one is working for money. And what is to be said for it is this, that it is after all those who possess wealth who can use wealth for the best purpose. All charitable institutions, hospitals, schools, colleges, are raised by charitable people who have given generously to such organizations.

There is therefore nothing wrong in earning money and in devoting one's time to it, as long as the motive is right and good.

02. DUTY

Another aspect is duty. One considers that one has a duty to one's community, town, or country; one does some social work, one tries to do good to others and considers it one's duty. It may be that one has a duty towards one's parents.

One may be looking after one's mother and sacrifice one's life for her, or for one's wife and children. There is great merit in this also. No doubt what speaks against it is that very often such lives are spoiled, and they have no chance to do anything worthwhile in the world. Duty, the sense of duty, is a great virtue. And when it is perfected and deepened in the heart of a human it wakens one to a greater and higher consciousness. The greater his ideal of duty the greater the human.

03. MAKING THE BEST OF THE PRESENT

The third purpose one chooses in life is to make the best of the present.

'Drink the cup of life just now.'

There is a quatrain in the Rubaiyat which says:

O my Beloved, fill the cup that clears
Today of past regrets and future fears.
Tomorrow! why, tomorrow I may be
Myself with yesterday's seven thousand years!

The person who says, 'If I was great in the past, what does it matter? Let us make the best of this moment, let us make life as happy as we can. Those who adhere to it are happy and give happiness to One is not aware of life's conditions, one is not awake to the conflicting influences of life.

If one is happy it is not surprising, for one is happiness oneself. Those who are awakened to life's conditions, those who are tender and sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of others. For them it is very difficult to go on living and at the same time to keep smiling.

If a one can do it, it is certainly a great thing.

04. PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

The fourth aspect is that of those who think,

'What is life on earth after all. Is it not only a few days to pass somehow?'

The day ends, the months and the years pass, and so time slips by. One comes to the end of life before one has expected it, and the whole past becomes like a dream in the night.

Ask a person who has lived a hundred years, 'What do you think about life on earth?'

One will say,

'One night's dream, my child, it is no longer than that.'

Maybe there will be some who have the right understanding, while others make too much of it and have a wrong conception of the hereafter. Yet the wise ones who believe that they must use the time and opportunity which is given to them in this life to prepare for the next one, have accomplished a great deal. It is something to admire.

It is said that the earth and the sky and space do not accommodate a person who does not answer life's demands, although for exceptional souls there are exceptional laws, for the lives of exceptional beings cannot be explained in ordinary terms.

One may ask what will be the future of those who have not fulfilled the demand of life. Will they have to come back to learn their lesson once more? We must all learn our lesson right now. Life is lived right now, its demand is right now, and we must answer it right now. At every moment

we are asked to perform a certain duty, to fulfil a certain obligation. And to become conscious of this and to do it in the most fitting and right manner, that is the true religion.

We understand life's demands by understanding life better. There are some who do not answer life's demands because they do not know what life asks of them. And there are others who do not answer life's demands although they do know. When the demands of the outer life are different from what the inner life asks of us, we should fulfil the demands of the outer life without neglecting those of the inner life.

We have to become like the ebb and flow. This is a symbolical expression. A certain thing is accomplished at one time by empathy, and at another time by indifference. One situation we must meet by taking interest in it, in another situation we must become indifferent, not concerned with it. If in a sea there were always ebb and no flow, or always flow and no ebb, then this would be a dead sea. The living sea is both inhaling and exhaling. Thus in everything we do in life, we should be able to meet every situation and event with the manner that the situation demands.

These are the four different ways people take in order to accomplish the purpose of their lives: making wealth, being conscientious in their duty, making the best of every moment of life, and preparing for the future. All these four have their good points. And once one realizes this there is no need to blame anyone for having taken another path than our own for the accomplishment of life's purpose.

By understanding this one becomes tolerant.

THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF LIFE - SPIRITUAL ATTAINMENT

Every human has in the end to accomplish the same purpose, in whatever way one will. One will come to it either consciously or unconsciously, easily or with difficulty. But one has to accomplish it. That is spiritual attainment.

Everyone, consciously or unconsciously, is striving after spiritual attainment. Sometimes one does not take the same way as we do, sometimes one's point of view and one's method differ, and sometimes one person attains to spiritual realization much sooner than another. It may be reached in a day, and another person may have striven for it all one's life and yet not have attained to it. What determines it?

It is the evolution of a particular soul.

MEDITATION

To realize the preliminary purpose of our life we must find our natural rhythm. Today people adopt wrong methods. They go to a clairvoyant and ask one about the purpose of their life. They do not know it themselves. Anybody else must tell them except their own spirit, their own soul.

They ask others because they do not tune themselves to that pitch where they can feel intuitively what they live for. If another person says, 'You are here to become a carpenter or a lawyer or a barrister,' that does not satisfy our need.

Thus the ultimate purpose, for which the soul is seeking every moment of our life, is our spiritual purpose.

And one may ask how to attain to that purpose. The answer is that what we are seeking for is within ourself. Instead of looking outside, we must look within. The way to proceed to accomplish this is for some moments to suspend all our senses such as sight, hearing, smell, touch, in order to put a screen before the outside life.

And by concentration and by developing that meditative quality we will sooner or later get in touch with the inner Self which is more communicative, which speaks more loudly than all the noises of this world. And this gives joy, creates peace, and produces in us a self-sufficient spirit, a spirit of independence, of true liberty.

'The moment we get in touch with our Self we are in communion with The Divine. It is in this way, if Divine-communication is sought rightly, that spirituality is attained.'

The main object of life can only be one object, though there may be as many external objects as there are things and beings. There is one object of life for the reason that there is only one life and this in spite of the fact that it appears outwardly to be many lives. It is in this thought that we can unite and it is from this thought that true wisdom is learned.

No doubt that main object of life cannot be understood at once, and therefore the best thing for every person is first to pursue one's object in life. For in the accomplishment of one's personal object one will arrive some day at the accomplishment of that inner object. When a human does not understand this one goes on thinking there is something else to accomplish, and one thinks of all that is before oneself that is not yet accomplished.

That is why one remains a failure.

The person who is not definite about one's object has not yet begun one's journey on the path of life. One should therefore first determine one's object for oneself however small that object is.

Once it is determined one has begun life. We find with many people that somehow they never happen to find their life's vocation. And what happens then is that in the end they consider their life a failure.

'Everyone should therefore be given freedom to choose one's object in life. And if one finds one's object one knows that one is on the right path.'

However small the job a person has undertaken, if one completes it one has accomplished something great. It is not the work that a person has accomplished, it is the very fact of accomplishing which gives one power.

As to what is the main object of every soul, that object may be called spiritual attainment.

A person may go through one's whole life without it, but there will come a time in one's life when although one may not admit it one will begin to look for it. For spiritual attainment is not only acquired knowledge, it is the soul's appetite; and there will come a day in life when a person will feel the soul's appetite more than any other appetite.

No doubt every soul has an unconscious yearning to satisfy this soul's appetite, but at the same time one's absorption in everyday life keeps one so occupied that one has no time to pay attention to it.

The definition of spiritual attainment can be found in the study of human nature.

STEPS TO IDENTIFY YOUR PURPOSE TODAY

STEP 01 -

Journal all the thoughts and desires you are inclined to in Life.

STEP 02 -

Identify the material goals which will empower you to attain your spiritual goals.

STEP 03 -

Design your Lifestyle to be able to take action on your material goals keeping your spiritual practise as an anchor.

YOUR FINAL STEP-

Live your purpose and evolve from surviving to living to thriving in Life to live the best version of your Life.



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