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# About Life Purpose

## Contemplations on Why We Are Here

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*Compiled by Mia Inderbitzin*

The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.

—*Eleanor Roosevelt*

Many people have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.

—*Helen Keller*

I have learned that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

—*Henry David Thoreau*

Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?

—*Benjamin Franklin*

I am here for a purpose and that purpose is to grow into a mountain, not to shrink to a grain of sand. Henceforth will I apply all my efforts to become the highest mountain of all and I will strain my potential until it cries for mercy.

—*Og Mandino*

Any idea, plan or purpose may be placed in the mind through repetition of thought.

—*Napoleon Hill*

Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time.

—*Marian Wright Edelman*

One needs something to believe in, something for which one can have whole-hearted enthusiasm. One needs to feel that one's life has meaning, that one is needed in this world.

—*Hannah Senesh*

The universe may have a purpose, but nothing we know suggests that, if so, this purpose has any similarity to ours.

—*Bertrand Russell*

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself

as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

—*George Bernard Shaw*

The secret of success is constancy of purpose.

—*Benjamin Disraeli*

Here is a test to find whether your mission in life is finished: if you are alive, it isn't.

—*Richard Bach*

Never forget that the purpose for which a man lives is the improvement of the man himself, so that he may go out of this world having, in his great sphere or his small one, done some little good for his fellow creatures and labored a little to diminish the sin and sorrow that are in the world.

—*W. E. Gladstone*

A man who becomes conscious of the responsibility he bears toward a human being who affectionately waits for him, or to an unfinished work, will never be able to throw away his life. He knows the "why" for his existence, and will be able to bear almost any "how."

—*Viktor Frankl*

Make your work to be in keeping with your purpose.

—*Leonardo da Vinci*

Our minds are finite, and yet even in these circumstances of finitude we are surrounded by possibilities that are infinite, and the purpose of life is to grasp as much as we can out of that infinitude.

—*Alfred North Whitehead*

Great minds have purposes, others have wishes.

—*Washington Irving*

A useless life is an early death.

—*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

When a man does not know what harbor he is making for,  
no wind is the right wind.

—*Seneca*

My life has no purpose, no direction, no aim, no meaning, and yet I'm happy.  
I can't figure it out. What am I doing right?

—*Charles M. Schulz*

Nothing contributes so much to tranquilizing the mind as a steady purpose—  
a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye.

—*Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley*

To forget one's purpose is the commonest form of stupidity.

—*Friedrich Nietzsche*

As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is  
to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.

—*Carl Jung*

## STRAIGHT TALK

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