

Meaning and Purpose

The principal foundation of life in a safe and stable society is the mental and spiritual internalization of "**humanity and morality**". Because the sole aim of imperfect, incomplete, and weak humanity on this earth is the discovery of life's meaning and purpose, within the context of self-fulfillment. The goal is to understand the experience of duality and incompleteness that is part of oneself and to improve this understanding spiritually, without confusing means and ends.

In these trying times when we feel in full the overwhelming alarm and apprehension brought about by the global threat of Covid-19, my greatest prayer is for humanity, and especially Turkey, to pull through with minimal casualties.

I believe that if we can embark on a journey of self-discovery while avoiding immoderate emotions and restricted knowledge, showing solidarity, and carrying out our responsibilities, we will better understand means and ends as well as meaning and purpose. These rocky roads are helpful in remembering the laws and measures of life as well as revealing and invigorating human values. They demonstrate the futility of seeking power, caring only for oneself, defiance, and self-centered lifestyles.

While proclaiming our obligation to inhere the sense that this mortal world is not our permanent address, these hard times we fall on point to a need to discover a path that leads from the material world to the soul and to strive towards meeting the spirit anew. Because as we people discover ourselves and draw nearer to our spirit—our essence—the foundations of individual and social life will be strengthened. Our most incredible God-given power for actualizing this is the power to change and develop out ideas. In stationary thought, inner development and public peace is developed by changing one's impressions and becoming, rather than doing, something new.

Therefore we must not forget that every positive contribution, every service, every good deed, every kind of help and solidarity we extend to a person/people and the general welfare is the price and rent of living in this world. Fortune, rank, power, profession, knowledge, wisdom, talent, skill.... and everything else we possess according to worldly conditions and standards has been entrusted to our use for a limited time. We are obligated to make good use of these things with merciful awareness. While we have the chance—meaning while we're alive—we must act with this knowledge. Or else one day you might find that the chance has either slipped away or that we've abandoned it.

One of the great meanings and purposes of life in this world of no full ownership is to exist with love. And by purging oneself of wrong motives, to serve the one who exists with love. To refine what exists. To raise what exists. Because one's life becomes meaningful and gains importance if they've contributed something to life, put to use their sense of solidarity and aid when needed, and proved helpful to others.

In this context, people who discover themselves, know their limits and their place do not stop at accepting others as themselves, but also act responsibly, look out for, value, share spiritual blessings, help one another, and show solidarity, conscious that the way to reach God leads through here. They are well aware that peace and stability between people is dependent on the preservation of human dignity and the rights that arise from this dignity, as well as the development of a meaningful whole that is accordingly consistent.

However, it should be known that in life, truth and reality are in a constant state of conflict. Perceptions are not formed by truth but by reality.

Just as in the example of the grapevine and the stick, the purpose built up by a human, who is merely a piece in the completeness of life, should be very near, even inside truth—completeness.

Reality is under the influence and compulsion of time and space. Truth, on the other hand, is independent because it is meaning and spirit. This is why Christ says, **"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

In that sense, this spirit has the choice to spread seeds. But the harvest is dependent on time, not choice.

Modern Brazilian thinker/writer Paulo Coelho writes on this subject, **"The only thing that can transform a person into someone else is love. Our purpose in this world is to learn to love. Life is a process of learning to love. To reach peace in the sight of God we must find love while we're on this earth. We have no worth without it."**

To embrace love, we must get away from all negative emotions that hurt people/others, chief among those being prejudice.

I believe the following anecdote can prove didactic.

A sage was once asked, "Sir, who do you love most in the world?"

"I love my tailor," he replied.

The ones who asked the question were surprised—"But master, why would you love a mere tailor over all the fine people in the world?"

The sage answered, **"Yes, my friends, I love my tailor the most. Because whenever I come by, he takes my measurements each time. But the rest aren't so. They pass a onetime judgement and never change their mind about me till my death day. Those who blindly defend their opinions and refuse to change them cannot change anything. Those who hold on to their prejudices cannot understand anybody."**

Therefore, in the search for life's meaning and purpose, conditioning, prejudice, wily assumptions, and misconceptions are of no use and have no future.

Yusuf Beğtaş