

The Meaning of Life

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## Question::

*Why 'life's meaning' is not intelligible to our consciousness, even though it is eternally trying to scrawl its meaning on our minds?*

*(or)*

*Why should everyone know the "meaning of life"? In what way does such knowledge enhances our life standards?*

*(or)*

*When can mind-heart become sound or satisfied?*

*(or)*

*How can/does 'Master's grace' help understand the meaning of life?*

*(or)*

*Why our worldly bindings should be made defunct? How does these bindings affect our "consciousness"?*

*(or)*

*Why our "minds" have inherent inertia?*

*(or)*

*Why should one become submissive to a Master? How does such submission help?*

*(or)*

*What is the significance of annulling "impressional dispositions?" What happens when these "impressions" disappear?*

*(or)*

*Do we lose our 'memory' or lose our 'lessons of past experiences', if "impressions" disappear?*

## Answer:

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The limited “I” (or separative ego) of ordinary human consciousness is a complex structure– with ‘intellect’ and ‘feeling’ as important constituents. *Its ‘impressional’ or ‘sanskritic’ dispositions get involved with each other in numberless ways.*

None of them, BY ITSELF, nor their natural and haphazard combinations, can yield any permanent glimpse into the ‘meaning of life’. **On the contrary, the infinite ‘impressionary tangle’ covers up the Truth, obscuring it and making it impossible to get at.**

**To cut the tangled thread at ‘loops’ and ‘knots’ is to lose the whole game. And the STRAIGHTENING of the tangled impressionary thread can not be a mechanical process or an achievement through blunt application of ‘unintelligent’ or ‘loveless’ force.**

*The process of straightening up the ‘impressions’ must– in its very nature– be both ‘delicate’ and ‘difficult’, requiring the DISCRIMINATIVE WISDOM and INFINITE CARE, which the Master alone can bring for the task.*

**Bits of ‘relative meaning,’ locked up in each type of ‘impressionary experience’ have to be carefully gleaned.** These have to be carefully pooled, correlated and absorbed in the meaning of other types of ‘impressional experiences’ to which ‘consciousness’ has been subjected.

***The ‘meaning’ has to be gleaned and retained BEFORE the ‘impressional tangle’ can be straightened.*** But this is far from being simple or easy. Very often, the aspirant is unable to do this himself.

***The working of the Master often infuses, into his ‘impressional dispositions’, their APPROPRIATE MEANING, and enables him to straighten them and ANNUL their ‘restrictive functioning’.***

The process of ‘annulling the restrictive efforts of the impressions’ may be made clear by means of the analogy of the toy-balloon made of rubber. When there is no gas or air in the toy balloon, it shrinks into small size. And its entire surface is covered up with ‘creases’ and ‘wrinkles’. If anyone tries to take away these ‘creases’

or 'wrinkles' on the surface of the toy balloon– by external pressure or adjustment, he is bound to fail. For,

- one wrinkle may be straightened up, there would be another one in its proximity.
- Or perhaps, for one previously existent wrinkle, there would be in its place a number of new wrinkles on its surface– either in the same portion or in some adjacent portion.

The wrinkles have no chance of disappearing as long as there is merely 'external manipulation' of the wrinkled surface. The existing pattern of the wrinkles can, no doubt, be disturbed and radically changed by 'external manipulation'; but the wrinkles cannot be effaced or annulled COMPLETELY by this method.

**In the same way, the BINDING ACTION of 'mental impressions' cannot be annulled by the process of mere 'external' or 'mechanical' ADJUSTMENTS.**

But if in the above analogy– the toy balloon of rubber is infused with gas or air, all the wrinkles will automatically get rounded up and annulled. There will be no creases distorting the surface of the balloon, if it is blown up to its full capacity.

***In the same way, if the 'mind-heart' is INFUSED with the 'meaning of life', all the wrinkles of 'impressional dispositions' get effaced. And being free from all distortions, the 'mind-heart' becomes sound.***

***But the BINDING ACTION of 'impressions' becomes defunct only after they are made to YIELD their 'inner meaning'. Their becoming defunct– as ignorant resistance to Truth, releases the FREE FUNCTIONING of 'consciousness'.***

**To put the matter paradoxically, in the Truth-experience of unlimited consciousness, what has been rendered DEFUNCT is not the 'impressions' but their "binding action".**

***In annulling this BINDING ACTION, the 'impressions' can perform their true function of yielding their REAL MEANING to the 'liberated consciousness'.***

Thus, from this point of view, **the ‘impressions’ have been SO ALTERED that they can contribute their quota to the plus-meaning of a free consciousness.** *The ‘alteration of impressions’ is so drastic that it looks like ANNULMENT because– the readjustment ensures that the ‘impressions’ will not be able to operate in their ‘separateness’ in an exclusive or semi-mechanical manner, which inevitably leads to inertia or inner conflict.*

***Freeing the intelligence of the mind-heart-consciousness from IMPRESSIONAL MALADJUSTMENTS is an essential and indispensable requisite of releasing the dynamic harmony of the liberated consciousness.***

**Life is eternally scrawling its own meaning on the ego-mind-heart.** *But its script is not intelligible to the ‘consciousness’ entangled with it because of the distorting ‘sanskritic’ or ‘impressional’ engravings left upon it by ‘past experiences’.*

***The ego-mind-heart cannot freely and intelligently function in the ‘present’ with the necessary alertness and alacrity, owing to the ‘inherent inertia’ and ‘resistances’ created by these past engravings. The inevitable result is that it PARTLY MISSES the import of the revelation of the Truth in the eternal present.***

***Thus, psychic distortions are due to ‘inertia’, and inertia is due to psychic distortions; and there is an unending vicious circle.***

Suppose that, in the above example of the deflated balloon, the ‘wisest Truth’ had been written on its wrinkled surface; no one would be able to read the script. *But if the same toy balloon is now infused with ‘air’ or ‘gas’, the wrinkles will all disappear, and the SCRIPT on the finely rounded surface can be deciphered with utmost ease, making it possible for anyone to understand what the writer wanted to convey.* In the same way,

**the meaning of what life has written on consciousness can be easily and unmistakably grasped ONLY IF the ‘sanskritic distortions’ are mended and taken away by an act of the ‘Master's grace,’ infusing it with a new ‘life-force’ and ‘receptivity to Truth’.**

**The vicious circle that needs to be broken through is that– the DISTORTED ‘mind-heart’ of the limited ego cannot see the ‘meaning of life’, and therefore, it also cannot free itself from its own ‘distortions’ and ‘resistances’**

*The vicious circle can be broken only if the distorted ego-mind-heart of the aspirant becomes SUBMISSIVE to the Master, and ALLOWS ITSELF to be ‘illuminated’ by the infusion of meaning imparted by the Master.*

The ‘infusion of meaning’ may, in the initial stages, appear to take upon itself the ‘limitations’ to which the mind-heart is subject to, just as the ‘air’ which goes into the toy balloon will seem to get conditioned as it occupies the diverse hollows of the inner surface. **But this is only a temporary phase.** It ultimately culminates in the disappearance of all creases and wrinkles on the balloon, after inflating it to the full size. **But this is the only way in which all creases and wrinkles could be removed.**

**In the same way, the Master cannot infuse the ‘meaning of life’ in the psyche of the aspirant except on the lines engraved upon it by his own past.**

- *He has to enlighten the aspirant by making use of the ‘sanskritic’ or ‘impressional’ dispositions PREVIOUSLY ACQUIRED by the aspirant.*
- *He makes explicit the ‘meaning’ which lies implicitly and inscrutably stored in the dispositions of his own ‘ill-understood experiences’ by taking away their muteness, as it were, and giving them a ‘voice’.*

**Only after the ‘mind-heart’ is FULLY INFUSED with Truth do all of its ‘distortions’ disappear.** *But after that, in the place of the confusing and distorting inscriptions which yield no meaning, there appears– in the unlimited mind-heart– the lucid and unambiguous self-explanation of life, written by life itself.*

**The Master does not graft on the disciple– some alien Truth from outside.** *He enables the aspirant to decipher the ‘code of life’ by restoring to his ‘mind-heart’- the vitality that can heal all its ‘sanskritic distortions’.* This is the significance of the annulment of impressionary dispositions, the removal of the distorting wrinkles of ‘mind-heart’.

During the process of perfecting or rounding up, all the distorting contours of 'sanskritic' or 'impressionary dispositions' DISAPPEAR; and they no longer limit the functioning of the 'mind-heart'. *But this does not mean irrecoverable loss of 'memory' and the 'lessons of experience' or the destruction of the recorded history of the 'striving individuality'.*

*When the 'Truth-inspired mind-heart' WANTS TO REMEMBER its past, it can do so with utmost ease— not only vividly and clearly remembering the present life, but all the innumerable lives through which the striving and ascending individuality has arrived at the goal of the unlimited life of the Eternal. And this memory is clear, definite and complete— in all the wealth of inexhaustible details of 'incidents' and 'occurrences'.*

— Meher Baba

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