

## Article 67: The Meaning And Purpose Of Life

A seeker of enlightenment climbed the final steps to a small cave hidden high in the mountains and fell exhausted at his Master's feet. After resting for a while, which seemed like an eternity, the seeker looked up and asked feebly, "Master, ...will you teach me the way to experience and understand the true meaning and purpose of life which you have so obviously discovered?"

The enlightened guru looked peacefully at the seeker and asked gently, "Who holds or blinds you? What restrains you from this knowledge?"

The seeker was perplexed by the Master's questions ...but managed to reply, "No one holds me, Master, ...and nothing restrains me."

"Then why are you seeking to understand the meaning and purpose of life?"

"So I can follow the truth of life ...as you so obviously have done. And so I can walk the true path of life ...and experience and understand all things as they are; ...but my mind and beliefs limit me ...and blind me."

"But who controls your mind and beliefs?"

"Ohh, I do, master. Yes, I control my mind and beliefs."

"Then what do *you* believe is the meaning and purpose of life?"

"Ohh, Master, ...I would so like it to be ...for me to walk the path of truth, ...to grow and develop as I see and believe, ...and to live and experience as I truly desire, ...but how do I know that's true ...and right? ...that it's what The Enlightened Ones want for me?"

"Does that sound right to you?"

"Ohh, yes, Master, it does, ...it truly does."

"And it sounds right to me as well, ...for life would never have given you a mind to fully believe as you desire ...and then lessen or take away your blessed power to live and believe and experience as you truly desire, ...now would it? The way you live is your self-chosen path for experiencing and understanding, and expressing the meaning and purpose of yourself and life, ...for no one holds you or blinds you ...and nothing restrains you. You are the meaning and purpose of the universe!

"Do you, like most people, even after a tremendous struggle, need to be constantly reminded of what you already know? It has frequently been said that the only thing that truly satisfies is experiencing and understanding reality as *it* is, ...but, since you can only experience and know reality (whatever reality might be) as you are, it is obvious that the only thing that truly satisfies is experiencing and being aware of yourself as *you* are, ...not as you think you are. Maybe you haven't paid enough attention to what you genuinely know about yourself ...and about life, ...or maybe you have hidden and denied yourself and life. dear one, you are the enlightenment of the reality you are seeking ...which is wholly within you. And when you experience or explain something "out there", are you really

experiencing or explaining that "out there thing" ...or experiencing and explaining yourself? When looking at another, do you actually see them as they are? ...or as you are? And when loving another, ...aren't you actually living yourself?

"Are you too "fixed" to live a flexible every-changing life easily ...and with confidence and assurance? Have you closed yourself into unyielding ways of believing and thinking and seeing, into tense and harsh ways of experiencing and responding, into rigid ways of living ...and out of understanding the meaning and purpose of life you seek?

"It seems obvious that you cannot live fully and enrichingly without a genuine sense of the meaning and purpose of life, ...yet the world of duality and separation, of judgment, and of causes in which you live offers no fundamental understanding of what is meaningful or purposeful, ...for to act with full meaning and purpose requires that you alone be the final authority in these matters ...and cannot depend upon another or a "law" to reveal what you must do. Stop searching for the meaning and purpose of life, ...live them! Does it seem that so much of what you have tried, thought about, or believed in never really satisfied you ...or offered much meaning or purpose? Could it be that YOU are to decide upon and add the ingredients of meaning and purpose to everything you do?

"By giving your self and life the meaning and purpose you truly desire, you give life the meaning and purpose it desires,"...so said the Master.