

Temple of Merciful Death



The Meaning of Life

What is the meaning and purpose of life? From simply observing the life cycle of animals and plants, we arrive at the answer of “to reproduce”. It is what all lifeforms strive for and for many it is the last thing they do before they die. However, this meaning has a problem of circular reasoning. Life survives to reproduce and it reproduces, so that life can continue. This is no better than saying that there is no meaning to life.

That is why we look for a different explanation and it brings us to the idea of a higher power, also known as gods. There are many religions in the world, each of them claims to know the truth. However, they are exclusive to each other. Only one of them can be true, but it is far more likely that all of them are incorrect. Which means that either there are no gods, or there are some and we don't know anything about them.

Let's assume there are gods and they created the universe. They probably had a reason for it and that reason is the meaning of life within the universe. However, the gods are now in the same position the life with no gods was in. What is the meaning of their existence? If there is none, then whatever purpose they had in mind for life loses its significance as well.

The problem is that gods can't exist simply to just exist. That has the same circular reasoning problem. And any other reason requires another creator above them, which would lead to never ending chain of gods and their own higher gods, which is equally pointless. The last possibility is that the reason for their existence is beyond our comprehension.

Unfortunately, that does not help us either. Everything that exists in our universe is within our comprehension, just as anything we can imagine is in our comprehension. So, the reason for gods existence, which by extension gives meaning to our lives, would have to be completely unthinkable for us. And one could say, that is again no better than no meaning at all.

Lastly, there is another way of reasoning about this. Let's assume that our universe exists for some reason beyond our comprehension. Now, let's say that the universe, and everything else that possibly could be outside it, suddenly cease to exist. Logic necessitates that whatever was the meaning for their existence is not significant anymore. After all, nothing exists anymore. And this means that not only there is no meaning for their existence, there can't be any meaning.

Gods or not, the only answer is that life has no meaning.

The Logical Conclusions

Now that we know there is no meaning to life, what does it mean for us?

Some people see it as an opportunity to choose their own meaning of life. Because life has no meaning, anything, no matter how simple or pointless, is better than that. Many find something they like doing and dedicate their life to it. They believe such life is worth living.

Others, including us, believe that life is not worth living. Life is filled with suffering. People are constantly hurting each other, both physically and mentally. While it could be possible to achieve peace and no criminality, people will still feel pain when they make a mistake and feel stressed when things don't go as they wished. It could also be argued, that pain is an inseparable part of life, because it is our way of recognizing when something bad happens to us. So, life is not just filled with suffering, life is suffering.

Of course, bad cannot be without the good. Some people argue that the positive parts of life outweigh the negative ones. They say that they like living. The problem is, that they are not the ones who decide what they like. Both the reason we don't like feeling pain and the reason we like doing certain things come from our evolution. All our instinctive behavior is tied to the pointless, circular meaning of life – to reproduce. We are not masters of our own mind. We did not decide to like comedy, music, or the taste of food. We are just made that way. Therefore, trying to derive meaning of our life from things we like doing is like trying to derive it from the meaning of life itself, which is none. In the end, by continuing our lives, the only thing we do is being obedient to our biological programming – avoid pain, seek pleasure.

This realization may lead some people to the desire of ending their life. However, we believe that people dying, or even the death of all humans, does not solve the issue. There is an unfathomable amount of creatures on our planet that tear apart and devour each other every second. They suffer the same fate as us, even though they don't realize it. And given enough time, another intelligent species may emerge, which will ask the same questions we did. The real solution is the destruction and prevention of all life.

We are in a unique situation. Not only we are able to realize how nature manipulates us, we are technologically developed enough to fight back. Planets, that support life, can be made so they don't. This can be achieved by automated self-replicating space ships that will spread into every star system, making sure no life can emerge ever again. Unfortunately, the laws of physics may prevent our probes to ever reach places in the universe that are too far away from us, but every sanitized celestial body means countless beings spared the suffering of life.

The Plan

For the people, who wish to join us on our life ending endeavor, we offer the Plan. Few general steps that will lead us to the end goal and allow anybody to contribute. It might take up to a few centuries but it is possible.

1. Spread the message

Keep a copy of this document and share it with anybody who shows interest in this topic. They may join us, or not, it should be their own decision.

2. Keep humanity from going extinct

The Plan is useless when there are no people left to follow it. Apart from extinction, falling back to medieval level of technology would also be bad, because the industrial revolution was fueled by resources that are significantly harder to obtain today, so it may not be repeatable.

The obvious threat is a world scale nuclear war but lets not forget about solar flares, asteroids or losing key parts of our ecosystem.

3. Develop the technologies we need

Rocketry, satellites, space habitats, automation, artificial intelligence. If you are developing these or work in an industry that supports it (production of materials used, or even basic necessities like electricity), you are in the right place. Keep up the good work.

4. Support private space business

It is highly unlikely that any Earth's government will subscribe to the Plan. The only option is private business. Right now it does not matter who owns these companies. Once factories in space become a reality, we can create our own companies that can accumulate resources and, if needed, move away from Earth's reach.

5. Produce autonomous space mining equipment

One of the easier ways of ruining planets is to throw large rocks at them, which heats up planet's crust and could move it from its orbit, hopefully falling into its star in a few millions of years.

A good testing ground for this would be an asteroid mining operation, where both moving asteroids around and mining them to produce more automated probes could be tried out without scaring anyone.

6. Weaponize and release the probes

Finally, the only thing left is to take the mining probes, reprogram them a bit and send them on their way. It will be best to start off with a close star system, so that their progress can be monitored in case of unforeseen problems.

It will probably be necessary to make them able to produce and use weapons, both in case they run into another intelligent species and when they inevitably return back to us.