

Emerson and the Conduct of Life

In ‘Self-Reliance’, Emerson discusses the fundamental importance of asserting the individual self, comprising of several steps such as speaking your latent conviction, and the like. Emerson is unable to discuss deeper, truer implications for his actions and for his words. These implications arise out of steadfast understanding, life in the horizons as we are comfortable with.

Emerson’s weaknesses

Addressing those weaknesses

Conduct of Life

Emerson writes that, “But do your work, and I shall know you. Do your work, and you shall reinforce yourself.”

In an ideal world, everybody is able to find meaning in the work that they do, deriving meaning from this work. We often think about professors, CEOs, and these sorts of individuals who are very much privileged people in the top echelon of society, but rarely do we consider the other half, that is, the people who are not at all accustomed to the unknown, that we are working towards a life that we may be somewhat unsure of. Mathematics, computer science, and everything else presented into its full frontal form.

However, only a certain number of people have the ability to work towards making this work a reality, and that itself is the infeasibility, the impossibility of Emerson’s goals.

How can we best reconcile what Emerson is speaking? How Emerson is saying it? It is very much our own personal biases, judgments shrouding our ability to speak upon such matters, and that itself is often unsatisfactory. To understand these large philosophical studies and