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In the play Waiting for Godot, Gogo and Didi talk about “**to have lived is not enough for them/ They have to talk about it**...they make a noise like feathers, leaves, ashes...” The message Gogo and Didi trying to convey in these lines is that for some people, only experiencing one’s life is not enough, and they have to share it with others either through talking or other ways. This idea of sharing one’s life can be interpreted either positively or negatively. In most cases, sharing one’s life experiences is generally beneficial as it gives others more information or act as entertainments. In Fifth Person You Meet in Heaven, the reason Eddie learned a lot of lesson is that every person he meets shares about their lives. If those people just utterly live their life without talking about it, Eddie can never learn the lessons and the truths about his past. The popularity of sharing life experiences led to the emerge of platforms like Reddit, where people share about things that happened in their life and discuss about it. However, in real-life scenarios, talking and sharing one’s life act more like entertainment. We often see comedian make fun of their ridiculous life encounters on television, and for most people, we talk about our lives with our friends almost constantly. It’s always entertaining to hear other people sharing exciting stories and to tell our own stories. It’s hard to imagine a world in which everyone lives their own life, and nobody knows about others’ lives because no one wants to share it.

Even though talking and sharing one’s life is, in essence, an important part of our lives, this phenomenon is distorted on social media: It’s now commonsense that people tend to only share the bright side of their lives on social media like Instagram, that photos posted on these platforms are modified to achieve a particular effect, that the most photos are false portrayal of people’s live. More importantly, when people share more on social media, they live less, as they are less involved in the precious moment or situation they are in since they are busy capturing it rather than experiencing it. I believe that how much people can experience a thing is a constant: when people want to share it with others, they experience less, and when they share less with others, they experience more. If someone worries too much about taking fascinating photos to post on social media while they are travelling, for instance, they loses the chance of immersing in a culture and experience it. That part of your experience is, thus, lost, and is transformed into forms of photos. Though the photo shared could be a representation of their experiences, it’s a false representation because it only records the most exquisite moment. So when people see the picture, they only see the filtered side of your life, not your actual life. Moreover, I believe experience is a thing that splits between people, and the more people you want to share it with, the less each person can experience it. For example, when you’re posting something on social media, where thousands of people can see it, you probably will take a longer time selecting the content of the photo, taking the picture, and editing the photo, which results in less time experiencing the thing you’re trying to capture. When you’re facing the pressure from thousands of anticipated viewers, it’s hard to concentrate on what you have now. The audience seeing the photo also experience less because they can only see the selected moments. When there’s fewer audiences, people don’t have to worry much about others and can spend more time enjoying the moment.

Living and sharing both are forms of experiencing lives, and as one increases, the other decreases. There is no definite conclusion that living a life is better than sharing it with others, different individual weights these two forms of experiencing differently. Some people don’t bother about others at all, while others feel that sharing their lives brings happiness. Though the concept of living and talking about lives is debatable, people seek satisfactory in their own different ways, and there is no reason to judge others based on that.