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**Paper Analysis: “Living to Some Purpose”**

As ever living-being, we have the privilege to stand and breath the air in this world. In other words, we live. Life is what we all emphasize in our own form. For some it may be an easy life, for others it is not. In Greek mythology, there is a character called Sisyphus, the king of Ephyra. He betrayed the secret of Gods and for that reason he was punished. His punishment was to push a huge stone to the top of a hill. Once the stone was on the top of the hill, Sisyphus was obliged to repeat his task. Thus, for eternity, Sisyphus was pushing the same builder to the top of the hill.

In the text “Living to Some Purpose”, Peter Singer explains the philosophical dilemma with the Greek story. This important philosophical problem is the meaning of life. In the story, Sisyphus pushed the rock just to see it fall at the end. Why he even bothered pushing it up for no reason? This issue can also be analyzed in our modern daily life: we study, we work and we die. Throughout generations, some families stood in the farm lands every day repeating the same task millions or even trillions of times. So, the issue relies in the questioning of our actions related to the life we currently live. At the end of the day, we ask ourselves: “What did I accomplish? Why do I live?”.

With the help of Richard Taylor, an American philosopher of the 20th century, Singer explained two major approaches to resolve this issue. If life is not worth living without any meaning, we shall find one. The first idea of this ideology is to assemble all our efforts and put them towards a single defined goal. Let’s take the Sisyphus context. Taylor explains that Sisyphus could work towards an objective goal. The suggested idea is that instead of watching the stone fall at the end of the journey, take another rock and bring that on up. You’ll see a complete progression and you can construct a temple. Every time Sisyphus will push the rock, he will think about his mighty temple. This morale will result in a more meaningful purpose of his task. The second approach would be to have subjective desire to continue the task. It wouldn’t matter what you’re building as long as you’re doing something. Keeping you busy with daily things give purpose to your life because you’re it keeps you going. It doesn’t matter if it has meanings, as long as something is happening. Therefore, pushing the same stone is as much as relevant than building a temple. Taylor clarified these two approaches with a relevant quote:   
“There is no face that cannot be surmounted by scorn… The struggle itself towards the height is enough to fill a man’s heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.”  
We can conclude that the meaning of life is conducted by the mental state we are in.

The problem of the meaning of life is hidden deeply in our nature. If we did conclude two solutions, why does the problem still exists? Life is fulfilled with unhappy people who are seeking desperately purpose in their life.   
  
First example can be found in womans morale. As mentioned in the *“The Feminine Mystique”* by Betty Friedman, a lady can be happy throughout her life as it’s in development and in progress to achieve a goal. However, when that same lady has everything she ever wished for a lovely house, loving husband, healthy children, she has no meaning of life.  
  
Second example would be the Australians Aboriginals. These people hunted and gathered food with pride since centuries. As they met the western life, these Aboriginals lost their meaning of life. As it’s obvious, why practice and master their hunting skills when the freshly cooked meat is in the local supermarket? In this case, the Aboriginals lost all the satisfaction towards putting effort in their native skills. So, they also lost their meaning of life.   
  
The last and most recent example is about the millionaires. Sherman McCoy makes millions of dollars and yet he claims that he can’t afford unpriced things. What’s the reasoning of making so much profit and yet still be condemn to the same question: “Why would I even bother? It’s another million.” Even with all the richmens in the scene, Micheal MacCoby suggest that it’s always about the finances, but also goals you’ve set. Let’s say, you are a poor man. Then one day you win a lottery and you invest to make more profit. After few years, you hit the top ten rich people according to Forbes. You basically climbed though all social ranks. Eventually if you ask yourself what you shall do next, you’ll struggle with the question.

Singer emphasized that throughout his career he was troubled by the amount of people who didn’t had any defined purpose to their lives. He concluded that the second approach is the most appropriate. Singer used the millionaire as an example for this solution. As he mentioned, the current millionaires of our world can end the most dramatic current issues of this world such as world hunger and pollution. As on the side note, he stated that it’s very unpleasant to see these rich people complain about depression. Clearly these people can’t find their subjective meaning of life, but everybody can set their goal to benefit the world. Promote the idea of selfishness is what makes this world evil and bad. Singer clearly state his point on which approach shall better benefit the world.

In my perspective, the meaning of life should be based on objectivism. In order to engage, you need to have defined goals. I’ve been working on few projects as a programmer. These projects were very challenging and I realized on several occasions that there was no meaning to it. It’s not an abstract element as life but it has the same principle. I finished by placing key point goals and worked to achieve them. This resulted in a very great end product. I was insanely proud of it as much as the Aboriginals were satisfied with their practices. Everyone can find a meaning by setting goals and work on achieving them as I did. In my opinion, the best possibly life meaning you can establish is emotional. You can get the best education degree, be wealthy and yet fall into this problem. However, if you’d set your wishes to be simply un-realistic, you will never be able erase your life meaning. One explain could be to travel and visit new places. You would travel the world as your life meaning is to simply explore. Another emotional goal can be related to sports. As a hockey fan, I train to become better. Someone else may train to become the best. Thus, everything we are thriving for gives purposeful and joyful life. This is a very effective way because it comes from the bottom of your heart and there is no limit to it. So each day you wake up, you live your life to the fullest. Wether you’re in your travel boat or you’re on an Olympic podium, there is still more to explore and conquer.