

What is the meaning of life?

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A number of years ago I was invited to offer a series of lectures at William Carey University in Los Angeles. The majority of my students who enrolled for the course had some background in Oriental philosophy. One bright student described the plight of traveling the East in search of wisdom. He heard of a famous Guru in India who was supposed to have the Wisdom of Solomon. It was a long journey. He had to travel from Los Angeles all the way to New Delhi. From there he had to catch another flight, take a train, and then a taxi to reach his destination. Very tired, exhausted, and anxious to meet the enlightened Master who is sitting in a meditative posture floating in the sea of cosmic consciousness.



"You've come all this way seeking great wisdom, from someone who's stupid enough to sit half naked on top of a mountain?"

Now the time had come, this was the moment of truth, time to be enlightened. He couldn't wait to pose the burning question which has tormented his soul for some time. With great existential confidence, he proposed his question. "Your Highness, I have traveled far and wide, I have taken great effort to meet you. I have just one serious question, **"What is the meaning of life?"** Without hesitation, the Guru opened his mouth and pronounced, **"Life is a Banana."** "What?", said the young man. Do you mean I traveled all the way from America to India to be told that life is a banana?

Needless to say, he was disappointed and disillusioned. Life is a banana is a common chichi among taxi drivers in L. A. You don't have to go to the East to know that. The chichi is the epitome of profound nonsense. It is as meaningful as the sound of one hand clapping. This famous statement has amused many but has enlightened no one. A statement must be meaningful and logical to qualify as a sensible proposition. Otherwise, they are meaningless nonsense.

There is no human solution to the human predicament. It is for this

reason that the Mystics promote silence. One sage insists, “When the mouth is opened all goes wrong.” Another spoke, “He who speaks doesn’t know and he who knows doesn’t speak.” One very exhausted student said, “I owe everything to my teacher because he taught me nothing.”

Surprisingly the misguided rock group, The Beatles, understood the tragic reality of the modern mind in their famous song “He’s a Real Nowhere Man”.

*He’s a real nowhere man.
Sitting in his nowhere land.
Doesn’t have a point of view.
Knows not where he’s going to.
Isn’t he a bit like me and you.*

*The New Dark Age
Ideologically Incoherent
Morally Permissive
Theological Confused
Spiritually Empty*

Plato long ago understood the problem when he wrote *“I have done the best I can, if only I had a raft of revelation to carry me over the sea of doubt.”*

Ludwig Wittgenstein regarded by many as the finest mind in philosophy notes in his famous work *Tractatus Logico Philosophicus*, *“Men never has sufficient perspective from within the world to build an eternal structure of truth and value.”*

Jean-Paul Sartre, the influential Existential philosopher, agrees: *“A finite point without an infinite reference point is meaningless and absurd.”*

In the final analysis, the wisdom of man is nothing more than illusions of man. Humans did not create life, therefore, they don’t have the capacity or the authority to define the meaning of life. As the painter knows the meaning of his painting, only the Creator of life knows the meaning of life. No leader in the world lived the way Jesus lived, spoke the way he spoke, and died and rose again the way he did. And made the claim

“I am the resurrection and life”