2021 International Essay Contest for Young People [Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

## What is life

(Original)

Ahmed Muhannad Madhi (Age 13, Iraq)

If I were to be asked this question 7 months ago, my answer would differ, if I were to be asked 2 years ago, my answer would differ, if I were to be asked 8 years ago, my answer would differ. If I get asked this question in the future, even then my answer would differ.

It goes without saying that the purpose of life is subjective. To some it may be as simple as to make a child smile, to some it can be as complicated as discovering the truth of everything, whether it be from the past or from the future.

From the people I've met I have harnessed many beliefs and many ideals, some of them just so happen to be answering this very question. Some say it is to make a family, have a child, watch them grow, watch your grandchildren grow and so on. Some say it is finding their soulmate, live their lives together in peace, and grow old together. Some say it is satisfying yourself, reaching goals that has not yet been reached, setting yourself apart from other great pioneers of the subject. Some simply said it is to live life to its fullest, see where it leads you, and enjoy whatever it throws at you.

I for myself don't have a definite answer, because as I said, the purpose of life is subjective, depending on our experiences, memories, and lives our answers may become astronomically different.

2 years ago, I thought there was no purpose in life, questioning everything, down to my very existence, and why I in particular was chosen to live this life. A year ago that feeling suddenly faded away, as if I was given a new brain, everything seemed new and made me feel better, the feeling of sitting under the shadow of a tree, discovering how things work behind the scenes, seeing objects move so smoothly, pushing myself to my fullest potential, feeling the air breeze on my skin. They were all things worth living for, simple as they were, they still made things bearable, tough as they were. 7 months ago I met someone, they were a very sweet person, something as simple as greeting them brought me the greatest feelings of happiness, eventually we discovered that we suit each other, and they've have become significant others.

In life we ought to have feelings, and these feelings ought to differ from time to time. One second you could be feeling on top of the world, as if you could take everything at once. The next you feel that all your hopes are broken, it is as simple as that.

So my best advice after I've been through trauma, friendships, and hardships, is to simply live life to whatever seems it's fullest at the time. Things do seem tough most of the time, you'd always feel the burden of not being good enough or not feeling like you deserve the life you've been given, and sometimes you want to take it away. And that is not how things ought to turn out.

Live your life. You've been given your life because **you** were chosen. Out of the millions of possibilities that could've happened, this possibility happened. And here you stand, there's no need to hesitate living your life, start it now, call up some friends, ask them to hangout, do it again, and again, it'll grow old at some point, sure, but you still can treasure that feeling of happiness, and that may push you through the hardships you're facing.

And if you don't have any, then simply talk to others, there are billions of people willing to converse with you specifically, you need not fear the inability to meet them. Don't sweat it, things ought to seem tough at some point. But only by facing hardships can we truly appreciate the good times we've had in our lives. And only by making those good times can we make new ones.