

2021 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

## **Life is To Create**

(Original)

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Every person may keep asking themselves what life is all about but at the very beginning I will make it clear – we will never get to know. All we do is just speculating; and I am also going to only take a guess about it.

Biology shows us that every living creature has to do certain things to keep itself alive, such as eating, drinking and procreating. Humans are similar to animals because of the fact that they firstly seek for fulfilling their basic needs. But unlike them, people want more.

When an animal has enough food, source of water, its herd and a safe place to sleep – it is satisfied. It does not think of anything else because it does not need anything else. At this point, humanity is significantly outside the box. The monotonous satisfaction of basic needs is no longer enough for us, because we feel that life consists of something more. This "something more" has been keeping us awake at night for centuries. Philosophers have tried in every possible way to interpret the human desire to get more out of life. We even have a premonition that we deserve it from the very beginning. We see a clear difference between "existence" and "life." Many of us refuse to stick to the first one.

Hedonists show that human life is designed to be pleasant, recognizing personal happiness as the only goal worth pursuing. Nihilists take the opposite extreme, claiming that there is no point in life. Epicureans, on the other hand, considered having fun as one of the main advantages of being human. Shopenhauer believed that we have the most difficult situation of all other "entities" because of our exorbitant needs, so it is best to give up free will.

Every philosophy of life has some sense and some nonsense. Probably, depending on our worldview, we will sympathize with those who preach more pleasant truths or with those who glorify suffering. I will not judge any of them because each is interesting in its own

way. However, as I noted at the beginning, none of them fully answer our question about the purposefulness of life.

Following this lead, we can assume that a person begins to think about his happiness and self-realization only after fulfilling his most basic needs. From this moment begins "something more" than ordinary existence. Many believe that art is what gives our lives meaning. We express ourselves through it, we show our thoughts, our inner man. It is not only creativity, but also our passion that gives us full happiness and a sense of fulfillment. I gather from the statements of artists in various fields that the certainty of creating something that will remain long after their death, carrying the memory of them, gives them a sense of a well-lived life. And they are right - we still admire the wonderful pictures of painters who died over a hundred years ago, and we continue to glorify their genius. We accept with enthusiasm the simple drawings created by primitive humans found in the caves. We read classic novels that have stood the test of time and continue to surprise us. Even the use of scientific achievements is praise for the people who created them. We are proud of being human and what we achieve.

And I think that is what life is. We can think, discover and bring our ideas to life. We create something exceptional out of nothing that gives us deep satisfaction and the feeling that we can achieve anything because human ability to create is outstanding.