

Nature, the universe and our place in it

The universe and our place in it, quite frankly that continues to be a daily inquiry of mine. What is our duty? What is the sole objective of us being here? Is it to grow in love? Is it to purge the evil in us, to build patience and tolerance, or are we simply paying our debts?

The questions can go on and on. It is wise to begin answering them considering that there is a God and he is just. However, when we are starting to evaluate the enigma of life, we begin by asking ourselves the cause of the discrepancies or inequalities that exist in our human condition. Why one is born in a wealthy environment while another is impoverished beyond belief? Why one is born healthy while another is born sick, deformed or blind? Why would one have the chance to be a beauty while another would not be so lucky? If God is just why do some get the bad hand of the card while others don't? Wouldn't that create a certain since of cosmic favoritism?

Based on that same topic regarding inequality we have had the contribution of eminent philosophers such as Jean Jacques Rousseau and the "Discourse on Inequality" or Vauvenargues and his famous quote "It is not true that equality is a law of nature. Nature has no equality. Its sovereign law is subordination and dependence" Therefore, we can concur that those conditions had been a preoccupation of philosophers and non philosophers alike.

To all those questions, several have tried to provide reasonable answers, but have often fallen miserably. Some philosophers and thinkers frequently refer to the law of cause and effect and reincarnation being the root for our existence here and the fruits that are associated with it. What we sow we reap, in this life or another. Such assumption is the starting point of our understanding of life and our purpose. Who we are or what we have- our qualities or defects are all a result of our previous actions. However, we also do have the chance to improve through the opportunities that life offers and acquire the missing faculties for a futuristic life. Life can be compared to a school where we learn and evolve, always remembering the lessons found in many sacred texts regarding our spiritual behavior and our interactions with others.

Some may think that it's ok to treat people as they wish. They think vainly in terms that there is one life and we all die some day. However, if we are profound thinkers and understand that the purpose of life is greater than what our senses perceive we can quickly conclude that the debts that we accumulate here on earth (either by poor treatment of others, lack of morality or spiritual growth) cannot be erased by moving to the after life. Pretty much the same way that our debts do not get erased by moving to another city. We are responsible for heaven or hell, we are what we make of ourselves. It is not God who condemns us or makes us miserable, we are the responsible ones. Nature is made of laws, whether we are a good or evil person we will fall from a roof top if we jump, therefore we will fall not because God doesn't love us but simply by law, Gravity. Hence, it's wise to always put the law on our side whether it's earthly or divine laws, that defines our purpose. That defines *my* purpose in life.

