

LIFE

Being and Manifestation

1. ESSENCE

- 2729 Life comes from the Spirit. Even as a man casts a shadow, so the Spirit casts the shadow of life, and, as a shadow of former lives, a new life comes to this body.
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 2730 As leaves on the trees, such is the life of man.
Homer (c. B.C. 700)
- 2731 Our days upon earth are a shadow.
Job (B.C. 400?)
- 2732 Life is a pure flame,
and we live by an invisible sun within us.
Thomas Browne (1605-1682)
- 2733 Life is rather a state of embryo, a preparation for life;
a man is not completely born till he has passed through death.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 2734 Life is the childhood of our immortality.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 2735 Life is but thought.
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 2736 One life - a little gleam of Time between two Eternities.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 2737 Life is a progress and not a station.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 2738 The experience of life consists of the experience
which the spirit has of itself in matter and as matter,
in mind and as mind, in emotion, as emotion, etc.
Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan (born 1916)

2. OPPOSITES

- 2739 It is between the two polarizing aspects of manifestation - the Supernal Father and the Supernal Mother - that the web of Life is woven; souls going back and forth between them like a weaver's shuttle. In our individual lives, in our physiological rhythms, and in the history of the rise and fall of nations, we observe the same rhythmic periodicity.
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)

- 2740 Who knoweth if to die be but to live,
And that called life by mortals be but death?
Euripides (B.C. 480-406)
- 2741 Life is easy to live for a man who is without shame, bold
after the fashion of a crow, a mischief-maker, an insulting,
arrogant, and dissolute fellow.
But life is hard to live for a modest man, who is free
from attachment, unassuming, spotless, and of clear vision.
The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)
- 2742 O life! long to the wretched, short to the happy.
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 2743 If you live according to nature, you never will be poor;
if according to the world's caprice, you will never be rich.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 2744 We are always beginning to live, but are never living.
Manilius (fl. 100 A.D.)
- 2745 I came like Water, and like Wind I go.
Omar Khayyam (fl. 1100)
- 2746 Life is a lying dream, he only wakes
Who casts the World aside.
Seami Motokiyo (1363-1444)
- 2747 Like bubbles on the sea of matter borne,
They rise, they break, and to that sea return.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 2748 All that is alive tends toward color, individuality,
specificity, effectiveness, and opacity.
All that is done in life inclines toward knowledge,
abstraction, generality, transfiguration, and transparency.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 2749 Life can only be understood backwards;
but it must be lived forwards.
Kierkegaard (1813-1855)
- 2750 Love is sunshine, hate is shadow,
Life is checkered shade and sunshine.
Longfellow (1807-1882)
- 2751 Half my life is full of sorrow,
Half of joy, still fresh and new;
One of these lives is a fancy,
But the other one is true.
Adelaide Procter (1825-1864)

- 2752 We have two lives:
The soul of man is like the rolling world,
One half in day, the other dipt in night;
The one has music and the flying cloud,
The other, silence and the wakeful stars.
Alexander Smith (1830-1867)
- 2753 Life imitates Art far more than Art imitates Life.
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 2754 At birth we come
At death we go...
Bearing nothing.
Chinese Proverb

3. INSIGHT

- 2755 Whatsoever quits the non-manifest, becomes active life;
it is drawn into the vortex of the ONE, which is neither
Spirit nor Matter, both being the absolute life, latent.
Book of Dzryan (B.C. 3000?)
- 2756 As the ocean giveth rise to springs, whose water
return again into its bosom through the rivers,
so runneth thy life force from the heart outwards,
and so returneth into its place again.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 2757 Rhythm is the basis of life, not steady forward progress.
The forces of creation, destruction, and preservation have
a whirling, dynamic interaction.
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 2758 A mortal lives not through that breath that flows in and
that flows out. The source of his life is another and this
causes the breath to flow.
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 2759 The Eternal is veiled by the real. The Spirit of life is
The Eternal. Name and form are the real, and by them the
Spirit is veiled.
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 2760 Whosoever knows others is clever.
Whosoever knows himself is wise.
Whosoever conquers others has force.
Whosoever conquers himself is strong.
Whosoever asserts himself has will-power.
Whosoever is contented is rich.
Whosoever does not lose his place has duration.
Whosoever does not perish in death lives.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

- 2761 Man is a microcosm, or little world, as possessing in miniature all the qualities found on a great scale in the Universe; by his reason and intelligence partaking of the Divine Nature: and by his faculty of changing aliments into other substances, of growing, and reproducing himself, partaking of elementary Nature.
Pythagoras (B.C. 582-507)
- 2762 Ignorant people see life as either existence or non-existence, but wise men see it beyond both existence and non-existence to something that transcends them both; this is an observation of the Middle Way.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 2763 The end of life is to be like God, and the soul following God will be like him.
Socrates (B.C. 469-399)
- 2764 No one has lived a short life who has performed his duties with unblemished character.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 2765 Nor has he spent his life badly who has passed it in privacy.
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 2766 This body is not a home, but an inn; and that only for a short time.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 2767 As is a tale, so is life: not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 2768 Everything is the product of one universal creative effort. There is nothing dead in Nature. Everything is organic and living, and therefore the whole world appears to be a living organism.
Paracelsus (1493-1541)
- 2769 Life is like music, it must be composed by ear, feeling and instinct, not by rule. Nevertheless one had better know the rules, for they sometimes guide in doubtful cases, though not often.
Samuel Butler (1612-1680)
- 2770 Life is a quarry, out of which we are to mold and chisel and complete a character.
Goethe (1749-1832)

- 2771 Life, like the waters of the seas, freshens only when it ascends toward heaven.
Richter (1763-1825)
- 2772 Life is short, and time is swift;
Roses fade, and shadows shift.
Ebenezer Elliott (1781-1849)
- 2773 Life is a language in which certain truths are conveyed to us; if we could learn them in some other way, we should not live.
Schopenhauer (1788-1860)
- 2774 A well-written life is almost as rare as a well-spent one.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 2775 Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 2776 Life is what we make it, and the world is what we make it. The eyes of the cheerful and of the melancholy man are fixed upon the same creation; but very different are the aspects which it bears to them.
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 2777 We sleep, but the loom of life never stops and the pattern which was weaving when the sun went down is weaving when it comes up to-morrow.
Beecher (1813-1878)
- 2778 Repetition is the reality and the seriousness of life.
Kierkegaard (1813-1855)
- 2779 Life is the continuous adjustment of external relations.
Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)
- 2780 The value of life itself cannot be estimated.
Nietzsche (1844-1900)
- 2781 In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life. It goes on.
Robert Frost (1875-1963)
- 2782 A little work, a little sleep, a little love and it is all over.
Mary Rinehart (1876-1958)

- 2783 Life is like a game of cards. The hand that is dealt you represents determinism; the way you play it is free will.
Jawaharial Nehru (1889-1964)
- 2784 Human life is as evanescent as the morning dew
or a flash of lightning.
Akutagawa Ryunosuke (1892-1927)
- 2785 At any given moment, life is completely senseless.
But viewed over a period, it seems to reveal itself
as an organism existing in time, having a purpose,
trending in a certain direction.
Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)
- 2786 ...What has been gained by incarnation can only really have
been gained if it has been eternalized: If it survives the
transiency of our fragile existence, if the essence of the
essence is drawn from all those aspects of creation which
are subject to change and decay, just as the essence of the
flower is drawn by the bees for honey.
Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan (born 1916)
- 2787 Man's life...
Candle in the wind
Frost on the tiles.
Chinese Proverb

4. POSITIVE

- 2788 Life precedes form, and life survives the last atom of form.
Through the countless rays proceeds the life-ray,
the one, like a thread through many jewels.
Book of Dzyan (B.C. 3000?)
- 2789 As the eye of morning to the lark, as the shade of evening
to the owl, as the honey to the bee, or as the carcass to
the vulture; even such is life unto the heart of man.
Though bright, it dazzleth not; though obscure it displeaseth
not; though sweet it cloyeth not; though corrupt, it
forbiddeth not; yet who is he that knoweth its true value?
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 2790 On life's journey faith is nourishment, virtuous deeds are
a shelter, wisdom is the light by day and right mindfulness
is the protection by night. If a man lives a pure life
nothing can destroy him; if he has conquered greed nothing
can limit his freedom.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)

- 2791 Life is short, yet sweet.
Euripides (B.C. 480-406)
- 2792 All that a man hath will he give for his life.
Job (B.C. 400?)
- 2793 Life, if thou knowest how to use it, is long enough.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 2794 A good man doubles the length of his existence;
to have lived so as to look back with pleasure
on our past existence is to live twice.
Martial (43-104 A.D.)
- 2795 Man contains all that is above in heaven and below upon
earth, the celestial as well as the terrestrial creatures;
it is for this reason that The Eternal chose Man as His
Divine manifestation. No World could exist before Adam
came into being, for the human figure contains all things,
and all that exists is by virtue of it.
Zohar (120?-1200? A.D.)
- 2796 The good life is the healthful life, the merry life.
Life is health, joy, laughter.
Jean Bodin (1530-1596)
- 2797 The finest lives, in my opinion, are those who rank in
the common model, and with the human race, but without
miracle, without extravagance.
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 2798 That life is long which answers life's great end.
Young (1683-1765)
- 2799 One hour of life, crowded to the full with glorious action,
and filled with noble risks, is worth whole years of those
mean observances of paltry decorum.
Walter Scott (1771-1832)
- 2800 Every man's life is a fairy tale, written by God's fingers.
Hans Christian Anderson (1802-1875)
- 2801 No life that breathes with human breath
Has ever truly longed for death.
Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)
- 2802 We live in deeds, not years:
In thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.
Bailey (1816-1902)

2803 There is no wealth but life.

John Ruskin (1819-1900)

2804 Life has loveliness to sell,
All beautiful and splendid things,
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,
Soaring fire that sways and sings
And children's faces looking up
Holding wonder like a cup.

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

5. NEGATIVE

2805 Life is short, the art long, opportunity fleeting,
experience treacherous, judgment difficult.

Hippocrates (B.C. 460-370)

2806 No man enjoys the true taste of life, but he who
is ready and willing to quit it.

Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

2807 Nature has given man no better thing than shortness of life.

Pliny the Elder (23-79 A.D.)

2808 Those who speak ill of the spiritual life,
Although they come and go by day,
Are like the smith's bellows:
They take breath but are not alive.

Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)

2809 Know that the life of this world is but a game and pastime
and show and boast among you; and multiplying riches and
children is like rain, whose vegetation delighteth the
infidels - then they wither away, and thou seest them all
yellow, and they become chaff.

Koran (c. 651 A.D.)

2810 O threats of Hell and Hopes of Paradise!
One thing at least is certain - This Life flies;
One thing is certain and the rest is Lies;
The Flower that once has bloomed for ever dies.

Omar Khayyam (fl. 1100)

2811 Life is as tedious as a twice told tale
Vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

- 2812 Human affairs are like a chess-game: only those who do
not take it seriously can be called good players.
Life is like an earthen pot: only when it is shattered,
does it manifest its emptiness.
Hung Tzu-ch'eng (1593-1665)
- 2813 Who breathes must suffer; and who thinks must mourn;
And he alone is bless'd who ne'er was born.
Matthew Prior (1664-1721)
- 2814 Life is a tragedy wherein we sit as spectators for a while
and then act our part in it.
Swift (1667-1745)
- 2815 Our days begin with trouble here, our life is but a span,
And cruel death is always near, so frail a thing is man.
New England Primer (c. 1690)
- 2816 Human life is everywhere in a state in which much is to be
endured, and little to be enjoyed.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 2817 Life is a malady in which sleep soothes us every sixteen
hours; it is a palliation; death is the remedy.
Chamfort (1741-1794)
- 2818 A useless life is an early death.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 2819 Those who complain of the shortness of life, let it slide
by them without wishing to seize and make the most of its
golden moments.
Hazlitt (1778-1830)
- 2820 Life is a waste of wearisome hours,
Which seldom the rose of enjoyment adorns,
And the heart that is soonest awake to the flowers,
Is always the first to be touch'd by the thorns.
Thomas Moore (1779-1852)
- 2821 Through life's road, so dim and dirty,
I have dragged to three and thirty;
What have these years left to me?
Nothing, except thirty-three.
Byron (1788-1824)
- 2822 Youth is a blunder;
Manhood a struggle;
Old Age a regret.
Disraeli (1804-1881)

- 2823 The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.
Thoreau (1817-1862)
- 2824 The basic fact about human existence is not that it is
a tragedy, but that it is a bore.
H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)
- 2825 Life is an unanswered question, but let's still believe
in the dignity and importance of the question.
Tennessee Williams (1911-1983)
- 2826 If there is a sin against life, it lies perhaps less in
despairing of it than in hoping for another and evading the
implacable grandeur of the one we have.
Albert Camus (1913-1960)

6. ADVICE

- 2827 The union of the Word and the Mind
produces that mystery which is called Life...
Learn deeply of the Mind and its mystery,
for therein lies the secret of immortality.
The Divine Pymander (BC 2500?-200 AD?)
- 2828 We should live as though our life would be both long and
short.
Bias (fl B.C. 600)
- 2829 It is impossible to live pleurably without living
prudently, honorably, and justly; or to live prudently,
honorably, and justly, without living pleurably.
Epicurus (B.C. 341-270)
- 2830 For if a man live many years, let him rejoice in them all;
but let him remember that the days of darkness will be
many. All that comes is vanity.
Ecclesiastes (B.C. 300?)
- 2831 Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the
way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who
enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way
is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
Jesus (B.C. 6?-30? A.D.)
- 2832 One should count each day a separate life.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 2833 The art of living is more like that of wrestling than of
dancing. The main thing is to stand firm and be ready for
an unforeseen attack.
Marcus Aurelius (121-180 A.D.)

- 2834 Learn to live well, that thou may'st die so too;
To live and die is all we have to do.
John Denham (1615-1668)
- 2835 To make good use of life,
one should have in youth the experience of advanced years,
and in old age the vigor of youth.
Leszczynski Stanislaus (1677-1766)
- 2836 Would you live with ease,
Do what you ought, and not what you please.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 2837 Reflect that life, like every other blessing,
Derives its value from its use alone.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 2838 To execute great things, one should live as though one
would never die.
Vauvenargues(1715-1747)
- 2839 Plunge boldly into the thick of life! Each lives it,
not to many is it known; and seize it where you will,
it is interesting.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 2840 Life is divided into three terms - that which was, which is,
and which will be. Let us learn from the past to profit by
the present, and from the present to live better in the
future.
Wordsworth (1770-1850)
- 2841 The fraction of life can be increased in value not so much
by increasing your numerator as by lessening your
denominator. Nay, unless my Algebra deceives me, unity
itself divided by zero will give infinity.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 2842 This span of life was lent for lofty duties, not for
selfishness; not to be wiled away for aimless dreams,
but to improve ourselves, and serve mankind.
Aubrey De Vere (1814-1902)
- 2843 Live neither in the present nor the future, but in the
eternal. The giant weed (of evil) cannot flower there;
this blot upon existence is wiped out by the very atmosphere
of eternal thought.
H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)

- 2844 The great use of life is to spend it for something that
will outlast it.
William James (1842-1910)
- 2845 For life is the mirror of king and slave,
'Tis just what we are and do;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.
Madeline Bridges (1844-1920)
- 2846 Let your life lightly dance on the edges of Time
like dew on the tip of a leaf.
Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)
- 2847 I worked for a menial's hire,
Only to learn, dismayed,
That any wage I had asked of Life,
Life would have gladly paid.
Jessie Rittenhouse (1869-1948)
- 2848 Serenity, regularity, absence of vanity,
Sincerity, simplicity, veracity, equanimity,
Fixity, non-irritability, adaptability,
Humility, tenacity, integrity, nobility, magnanimity,
charity, generosity, purity.
Practise daily these eighteen "ities"
You will soon attain immortality.
Sivananda (born 1887)

7. POTPOURRI

- 2849 ...The root of life was in every drop of the ocean of
immortality, and the ocean was radiant light, which was
fire, and heat, and motion. Darkness vanished and was no
more; it disappeared in its own essence, the body of fire
and water, or father and mother...
Book of Dzyan (B.C. 3000?)
- 2850 Life is the fire that burns and the sun that gives light.
Life is the wind and the rain and the thunder in the sky.
Life is matter and is earth, what is and what is not,
and what beyond is in Eternity.
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)

2851 He who knows wrath, knows pride; he who knows pride, knows deceit; he who knows deceit, knows greed; he who knows greed, knows love; he who knows love, knows hate; he who knows hate, knows delusion; he who knows delusion, knows conception; he who know conception, knows birth; he who knows birth, knows death; he who knows death, knows hell; he who knows hell, knows animal existence; he who knows animal existence, knows pain. Therefore, a wise man should avoid wrath, pride, deceit, greed, love, hate, delusion, conception, birth, death, hell, animal existence, and pain.

Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)

2852 But helpless Pieces of the Game He plays
Upon this Checker-board of Nights and Days;
Hither and thither moves, and checks, and slays,
And one by one back in the Closet lays.

Omar Khayyam (fl. 1100)

2853 For in and out, above, about, below,
'Tis nothing but a Magic Shadow-show,
Play'd in a Box whose Candle is the Sun,
Round which we Phantom Figures come and go.

Omar Khayyam (fl. 1100)

2854 That everything throughout the world,
everywhere, end to end,
Is but a reflection of a ray
cast from the face of The Friend.

Ni'matullah Wali (1331-1431?)

2855 Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

2856 Our life so fast away doth slide
As doth an hungry eagle through the wind;
Or as a ship transported with the tide,
Which in their passage leave no print behind.

John Davies (1570-1626)

2857 A little rule, a little sway,
A sunbeam in a winter's day,
Is all the proud and mighty have
Between the cradle and the grave.

John Dyer (1700-1758)

- 2858 Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought!
Longfellow (1807-1882)
- 2859 Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.
Longfellow (1807-1882)
- 2860 Life is a magic vase filled to the brim; so made that you
cannot dip into it nor draw from it; but it overflows into
the hand that drops treasures into it - drop in malice and
it overflows hate; drop in charity and it overflows love.
John Ruskin (1819-1900)
- 2861 We are the voices of the wandering wind,
Which moan for rest and rest can never find;
Lo! as the wind is so is mortal life,
A moan, a sigh, a sob, a storm, a strife.
Edwin Arnold (1832-1904)
- 2862 I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder
I work, the more I live. Life is no brief candle for me.
It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for
a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible
before handing it on to future generations.
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 2863 One should absorb the color of life,
but one should never remember its details.
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 2864 Welcome, O life! I go to encounter for the millionth time
the reality of experience and to forge in the smithy of my
soul the uncreated conscience of my race.
James Joyce (1882-1941)
- 2865 Life is short. Time is fleeting. Realize the Self.
Purity of the heart is the gateway to God.
Aspire. Renounce. Meditate.
Be good; do good.
Be kind; be compassionate.
Inquire, know Thyself.
Sivananda (born 1887)