

# BUILDERS of the adytum

## The Meaning of Life

By Reverend Lisa Voisen, Prolocutor General

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What is the meaning of living here on this earth? Why do we incarnate here and what is our purpose? These are the big questions every human will ask at some point in his or her evolution.

"In the beginning, God created the earth, and he looked upon it in His cosmic loneliness.

And God said, "Let Us make living creatures out of mud, so the mud can see what We have done." And God created every living creature that now moveth, and one was man. Mud as man alone could speak. God leaned close to mud as man sat up, looked around, and spoke. Man blinked. "What is the purpose of all this?" he asked politely.

"Everything must have a purpose?" asked God.

"Certainly," said man.

"Then I leave it to you to think of one for all this," said God.

And He went away."

— Kurt Vonnegut, *Cat's Cradle*

This is an interesting quote, for it questions the validity of needing a purpose or meaning in life. But do we? I think we do, so let's explore some ideas.



Let us then look at Key 0, The Fool. Here we see this figure stepping off into an abyss, which is the valley of incarnation or experience. As we leave Kether, we enter into the Path of Key 0. This is the first stepping off into an incarnational experience of form, which may not be physical. As we descend down through the Tree of Life, we experience many forms, such as water, fire, gas, and eventually we experience consciousness as a more solidified physical form, such as a rock or a tree. Then, moving up the evolutionary path, we become part of the animal kingdom, such as a snail, frog, dolphin, and eventually we are ready to experience a sentient being, such as a human, who is now self-aware. We have now descended into Malkuth, fully experiencing the physical plane, but now fully aware of self and having a level of

intelligence to begin to question why we are here at all. At this point we experience multiple lives as a sentient being through both genders, all races, all religions, and every experience of this level of being as we can, for our soul is searching for all possible experience at this level of evolution.

At this point we start to ascend up the Tree and enter into the Administrative Intelligence, the first Path out of Malkuth into Yesod, Key 21. Here we begin to search for the meaning of life and the why of existence. Here we eventually find a spiritual path, and begin to question everything, for we must question to find answers to our quest. As we continue up the Tree, we find a spiritual practice, such as Builders of the Adytum, to help guide us to find the meaning of life. It is at this point that our souls have achieved a level of awareness that we wish to give service to others, instead of previous incarnations where we experienced only service to ourselves.



In *Tarot Fundamentals*, lesson #1, Paul Case reminds us of our purpose in taking these lessons, as the objectives of such an Order as B.O.T.A. become our objective, our reason for these studies and eventually the meaning of our life. Paul Case says:

*“Every true occult Order, such as B.O.T.A., has as its major objective the promotion of the welfare of humanity. Before any member can qualify to participate in the inner work of the Order, he must have pledged himself irrevocably to do all in his power to promote that welfare. The great Masters of Wisdom, from whom flow the inspiration and spiritual impetus of this work, refuse to have anything to do with any Order which fails to recognize the primary importance of this great objective, for they devote all their energy and influence to that end. Our conception of the meaning of “the welfare of humanity” is embodied in the following seven-pointed program:*

1. *Universal Peace*
2. *Universal Political Freedom*
3. *Universal Religious Freedom*
4. *Universal Education*
5. *Universal Health*
6. *Universal Prosperity*
7. *Universal Spiritual Unfoldment*

*All these principles are based on a single truth. Knowledge of this truth is innate in every human being, but not until it has been brought into the light of consciousness is it available for use. Over the portals of ancient temples, therefore, was the motto, “KNOW THYSELF.” For the same reason it is written: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God,” and, “The kingdom of God is within you.” Therefore, know thyself and all else that you require will be added unto you.”*

The coursework we study in the lessons teaches and guides us toward all these objectives in service to humanity, which also lifts our own personal consciousnesses up the Tree back to Kether. But now we enter the Higher realms, becoming more and more aware of the Truths of nature, of God, or our own Higher Self. We start to realize that we create our own sufferings as well as our own joy. We learn to become responsible not only to ourselves in creating a beautiful reality but we, in turn, lift up our fellow human beings. Every experience we now have, we realize that we have created it through our own

personal beliefs. If our experiences are unpleasant, then we only have ourselves to blame. For we understand that all we experience is a direct result of our thinking, whether false or true. This is why Paul Case created the first course, *Seven Steps in Practical Occultism*, so we could use the symbolism of the Tarot more powerfully when we learn how to use the power of our minds to create a reality of beauty, love, and joy instead of suffering, pain, and sorrow.

This quote is something to think about, for it reflects the ideals of our Order, that is to serve humanity and bring all beings into the Light.

“Beyond work and love, I would add two other ingredients that give meaning to life. First, to fulfill whatever talents we are born with. However blessed we are by fate with different abilities and strengths, we should try to develop them to the fullest, rather than allow them to atrophy and decay. We all know individuals who did not fulfill the promise they showed in childhood. Many of them became haunted by the image of what they might have become. Instead of blaming fate, I think we should accept ourselves as we are and try to fulfill whatever dreams are within our capability.

Second, we should try to leave the world a better place than when we entered it. As individuals, we can make a difference, whether it is to probe the secrets of Nature, to clean up the environment and work for peace and social justice, or to nurture the inquisitive, vibrant spirit of the young by being a mentor and a guide.”

— Michio Kaku

So what is the meaning of life? Each experience trains us to have more awareness of our self and our reaction to each experience. This, in turn, gives us the opportunity for the growth of our soul. There is no reason for us not to have joy, love, beauty, and fulfillment in our lives when we understand the truth of experience, which teaches us to become more full of Love and Light. In lesson #46 of *Tarot Fundamentals*, which discusses Key 21, Paul Case reminds us of what is possible now:



“A life so lived is a life of perfect freedom, perfect health, perfect joy. It is a life in which there is no trace of want or insufficiency. It is a life in which every circumstance of daily experience affords an opportunity for the demonstration of what is termed, in connected with the letter Tav, the Administrative Intelligence.”

Of course, each of us must seek our own meaning of life to make it real for ourselves. But here we have a map to discover this realization of a true meaning for our incarnate life. Let us choose a more joyful and radiant life, which will not only bring ourselves to a higher level of happiness, but when each of us embraces this reality, then all of humanity is also raised in consciousness. This is the goal of the Aquarian

Age, which we have just entered, and let it be so.

Shalom in L.V.X.,  
Soror Lisa  
Prolocutor General