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**3rd Edition  
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# EXPRESS YOURSELF 3

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*Written by LIS KOREA Editorial Staff &  
Duane Vorhees*



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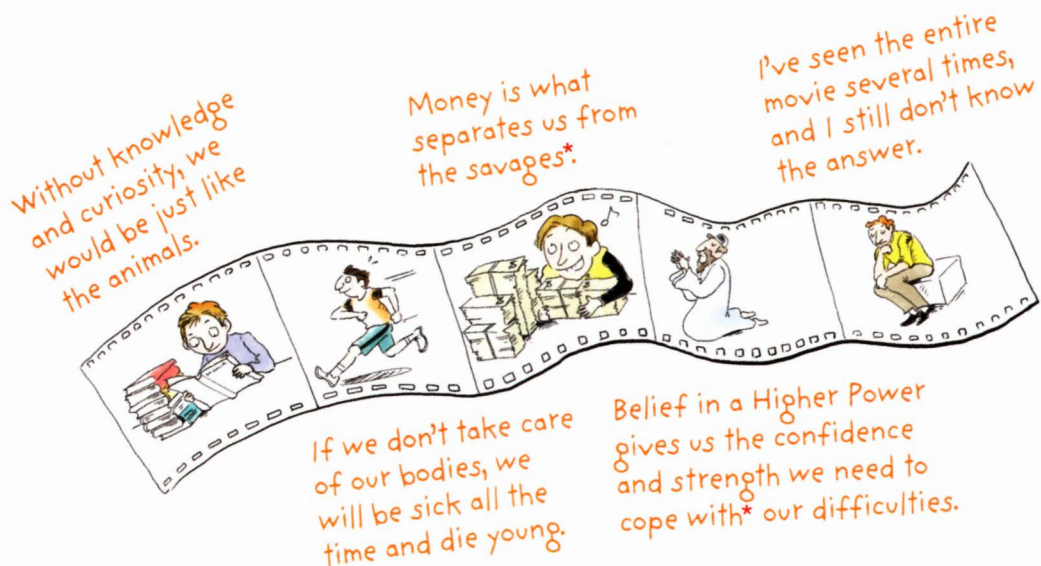
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# "Everything" in Life. What is It?

What is important to me may be unimportant to you. For some, ego\* gratification is what drives\* them. Others are motivated by material possessions and economic success. A very few are primarily activated by artistic or literary or musical expression, even though they realize they are unlikely to ever make much money (or even many friends) by doing so. Many place\* the primary value on their family and close friends, and some put social welfare at the center of their existence. It is not a question of "right" or "wrong" values, and it is extremely rare for anyone to have a single motivation, but these various interests are what define us as individuals.



**ego** : opinion you have about yourself   **drive** : cause (sb) to behave in a particular way   **place** : put (sth) in a particular state, condition, or situation   **savage** : (sb) who has a way of life that is simple and not highly advanced   **cope with** : deal with problems and difficult situations and try to come up with solutions  
**saint** : (sb) who is officially recognized by the Christian church as being very holy because of the way he or she lived   **tycoon** : (sb) who is successful in business or industry and has a lot of money and power  
**commentator** : (sb) who knows a lot about a particular subject, and who writes about it or discusses it on the television or radio   **altruism** : feelings and behavior that show a desire to help other people and a lack of selfishness   **crave** : have a strong desire for (sth)   **in need** : state of not having enough food or money  
**plight** : very bad or difficult situation   **philanthropist** : wealthy person who gives money and time to help make life better for other people   **unscrupulous** : not honest or fair; doing things that are wrong, dishonest, or illegal  
**impecunious** : having little or no money; poor   **condemn** : express strong disapproval of   **nanny state** : state regarded as interfering and overprotective   **laissez-faire** : noninterference in the affairs of others

## C omprehension

1. Are saints\* better than tycoons\*, according to the writer?
2. Some commentators\* say that genuine altruism\* does not exist, that everything we do is aimed at ego gratification. Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. What is "everything" in your life?



## E xpress

## Y ourself

1. What is your opinion about people who crave\* only top-brand goods?
2. Are you willing to help others in need\* even though you can hardly afford to do so? When will you be rich enough to help them?
3. Can we blame rich people for not being generous?
4. Are beggars and the homeless responsible for their own plight\*, or should the rest of us help provide for their needs?
5. Is family unimportant to someone who is rarely at home?
6. Should generous philanthropists\* who got rich through unscrupulous\* methods be praised or blamed?
7. If a painter is so impecunious\* that he cannot feed his family, should he be honored for his dedication to his art or condemned\* for his irresponsibility?
8. "Charity begins at home," it is said. Does this mean we have no obligation to look after others' needs as well?
9. Which is better, a "nanny state\*" or a laissez-faire\* system of individuals taking care of themselves with no governmental interference?
10. What's wrong with selfishness (if anything)?

### More Talking Points

Can we judge people on the basis of:

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. how they spend their time?      | 8. the way they talk?               |
| 2. how they spend their money?     | 9. the way they eat?                |
| 3. how they treat others?          | 10. what kind of cars they drive?   |
| 4. how they treat animals?         | 11. the way they drive their car?   |
| 5. how they get along with others? | 12. what kind of jobs they have?    |
| 6. how they look?                  | 13. what kind of hobbies they have? |
| 7. the way they dress?             | 14. what kind of friends they have? |
|                                    | 15. what kind of books they read?   |

## Opinion Samples

**1.** I mean to be generous and charitable, but right now that is not practical. My income barely meets my current obligations. I have a mortgage, a car loan, college tuition, and healthcare costs that must be paid for. And I need to have some cognizance\* of my future retirement. However, once my income and expenditures\* are stable, I hope to be able to do some good in the world. I know a lot of worthy causes\* need my support, and I look forward to the time when I can help them. I just don't know yet when that will be.

**2.** I have worked hard my whole life to get where I am. I studied at school and assiduously\* applied my knowledge in pursuit of my profession. Every day I worked overtime and took care to do my best at every task, always aiming to accomplish more than the basic requirements. "Adequate" was never good enough for me. Like everyone, I met many hardships\*, but I overcame them all, one way or another. Along the way I made many personal sacrifices and perhaps many enemies, but in the long run it was all worth it. It took decades of toil and persistence, but at last I can say that I am a rich person. I intend to spend the rest of my life enjoying my wealth. I say, let other people look out for\* themselves, as I have. I don't see that I have any responsibility, beyond my own free choosing, to subsidize anyone else or contribute to any cause. I earned my own money and should be able to spend it as I see fit.

## Dialog

### Why Can't We Promote Ourselves?

**Janet :** I can't understand. I was passed over\* for that promotion today

**Carlos:** Really? Why?

**Janet :** I don't know. I'm certainly better qualified than the one who got it.

**Carlos:** Who got it?

**Janet :** Rita. She must be intimate\* with our boss or something. Nothing else can explain why he picked her instead of me.

**Carlos:** Personnel\* decisions are always tricky\*. There's usually more than one factor that's determinative\*. Most of the time there are numerous people who are all just as qualified, so the final choice ends up being rather arbitrary\*.

**Janet :** Don't be so philosophical about it. I know I deserved it and Rita didn't.

**Carlos:** How so?

**Janet :** I have been there longer. In my whole time there I have consistently had the best sales statistics in the company. I've never had a black mark\* in my evaluations. But she's only been there half as long as I have and used to do a lousy\* job. It's a

**cognizance :** knowledge or awareness of (sth)    **expenditure :** amount of money spent    **cause :** goal or principle served with dedication and zeal    **assiduous :** showing great care, attention, and effort    **hardship :** (sth) that makes your life very difficult, esp. not having enough money or food; severe suffering or privation  
**look out for :** take care of    **pass over :** not choose (sb) for a job, position, etc.    **intimate :** having an extremely close relationship    **personnel :** department within a company that deals with the people who work for it  
**tricky :** requiring caution or skill    **determinative :** serving to determine; determining  
**arbitrary :** not based on reason or evidence    **black mark :** indication of failure    **lousy :** very poor or bad

wonder she wasn't fired long ago!

**Carlos** : How has she been doing lately?

**Janet** : I have to admit that she's gotten much better recently. I've had to work harder to stay ahead of her. But I still deserve that promotion more than she does.

**Carlos** : What are you going to do about it?

**Janet** : I don't know. I already expressed my disapproval to my boss. After I was through\* with him, he certainly knows how dissatisfied I am with his ridiculous decision.

**Carlos** : What did you tell him?

**Janet** : I pointed out my superior performance and ability and contrasted it with her incompetence. I told him he was stupid for picking her and would soon have cause\* to regret it.

**Carlos** : Is that all?

**Janet** : I should have called him out\* for having sex with her, but I saved that for my report to his superior. That'll show him!

**Carlos** : Don't you think your reaction is part of the reason you were passed over? Maybe your boss doesn't like you.

**Janet** : You mean he likes her better because she sleeps with him and I don't!

**Carlos** : No, I mean he doesn't appreciate your egocentric\* attitude toward him and your colleagues. Nobody likes his shortcomings\* to be pointed out constantly.

**Janet** : Subjective considerations of my personality should have nothing to do with it. My superior performance should be the only rational\* criterion.

**Carlos** : Maybe so. But the real world doesn't work that way. Lots of irrational factors play a large role at every level. That's just the way it is\*.

This race shouldn't count\*. You only won because I took a nap.



But I took the contest seriously and won fair and square\*. There are no redos\* in life.

## QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been unfairly passed over for a position or opportunity? In what way was it unfair?
2. Should qualified personnel\* be disallowed from promotions merely because they have close personal relationships with their superiors?
3. What is the fairest way of making personnel decisions that you can think of? Quantitative scores? Outside consultants? Seniority\*?

**I was through with him** : I talked to him, esp. in an unpleasant fashion   **cause** : reason   **call (sb) out** : speak to (sb) in a critical way about their unacceptable actions or behavior   **egocentric** : caring too much about yourself and not about other people; self-centered   **shortcoming** : weakness in (sb's) character; personal fault or failing   **rational** : based on clear, practical, or scientific reasons   **that's just the way it is** : particular situation cannot be changed   **count** : be accepted   **fair and square** : in a fair and honest way   **there are no redos** : there are no opportunities to do (sth) again   **personnel** : people who work for a particular company or organization   **seniority** : amount of time you have worked at a job or for a company compared to other employees

## Is Life Worth Living?

I am in good health and have a stable financial situation. My troubles are all relatively small and manageable, and it is easy for me to enjoy life. I look forward to spoiling\* my grandchildren with gifts and affection, and there are places in the world I hope to visit. Everything is good. But I wonder, what would happen if things changed? What if I developed an incurable\*, painful, and disabling\* disease that would rob me of my happiness and identity? What if I became bankrupt and dependent on others? What if I had nothing to look forward to except misery and despair? In those circumstances, would life really be worth living? Shouldn't I have the right to decide my own fate and kill myself rather than endure the humiliation and discomfort that awaited me, with no possibility of reversing or improving it? Right now, those are moot\* questions. But maybe I should consider alternatives, just in case\*.

- Do you think your life is worth living?
- I don't think so.
- Then why are you still alive?
- TO PROVE IT.



As long as I have bones to eat and fleas to keep me company, I'm happy to be alive.

## QUESTIONS

1. Can suicide ever be justified?
2. What about suicide bombers\*, who are willing to die in a cause they believe in — are they honorable idealists or misguided\* fanatics\*?
3. Depression is a psychological condition that may lead to suicidal tendencies. Should victims of depression have the same "right" to kill themselves as, say\*, someone suffering from cancer or Alzheimer's?

**spoil** : give a child whatever they want or let them do what they want   **incurable** : impossible to cure; not curable   **disable** : make (sb) unable to use a part of their body   **moot** : subject to debate, dispute, or uncertainty; arguable   **(just) in case** : as a provision against (sth) happening or being true  
**suicide bomber** : terrorist who carries out a bomb attack, knowing that he or she will be killed in the explosion  
**misguided** : having wrong or improper goals or values   **fanatic** : (sb) who has extreme political or religious ideas and is often dangerous   **say** : for example

### Wife Wears the Pants\* in This Marriage

**Doctor:** How long have you been hobbling\* about like this?

**Man:** Two weeks.

**Doctor:** Why, man, your ankle is broken! How you managed to get around\* is a marvel\*. Why didn't you come to me right away?

**Man:** Every time I say something is wrong with me, my wife declares\* I have to stop drinking and smoking.



- The doctor says I have to quit smoking or I'll get lung cancer. What should I do?
- Drink more and keep smoking.
- How will that help my lung cancer?
- You'll be so worried about your liver cancer that you won't notice the lung cancer.

That's the PURRfect solution!

### QUESTIONS

1. Are doctors or hospitals justified in refusing treatments to patients who cannot afford them?
2. Would you want to know if you only had a short time to live? Why or why not?
3. What does "the treatment is worse than the disease" mean? Can you think of any examples?

**wear the pants :** have the dominant role; be in charge

**hobble :** walk with difficulty, taking small steps, usually, because you are injured; limp

**get around :** move or travel to different places

**marvel :** (sth) that is extremely impressive

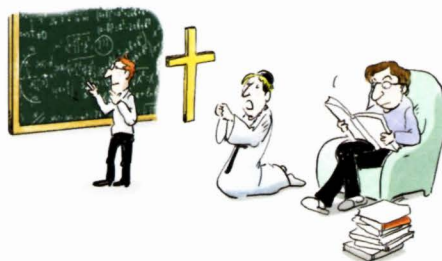
**declare :** say (sth) in a strong and confident way

1



When life is too easy, we must be on guard\* against the blows\* which sooner or later come to everyone.

2



Everything has been figured out\*, except how to live.

3



Bad things do happen; how I respond to them defines my character and the quality of my life.

4



You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind.

**on guard** : alert and watchful; cautious

**blow** : sudden event that causes trouble, damage, sorrow, etc.

**figured out** : understood