

What I Will Live For?

Four goals. Four objectives. Four things I am striving to attain and understand in the future. Like a kid trying to grab the cookie jar from a high shelf, despite a step stool or jumping as high as they can, they are not able to reach it. Like the kid, often times people take shortcuts or rush themselves to grow up fast in modern society due to cultural lag. However, is anyone truly prepared for adulthood? I had chosen to enjoy the moments in my life when I wasn't worried about how others perceived me. Growing up slowly has allowed me to be grateful for what I have but capable of recognizing when I need to grow. I strive to gain more knowledge, love myself, become more humane, and have closure as chapters of my life are completed. Although I may not use these attributes all of the time, and these things may not help me through every challenge in life, they will act as tools that will help me learn from experiences myself and others I surround myself with may go through.

Albert Einstein once said, "Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it." Knowledge is like a tree constantly growing due to two things: water and sunlight. My source of sunlight is supplied through positive experiences that are shared with the people around me. Water is supplied from the glistening, glorious, and giant waterfall that is flourished with ice cold water. The sunlight gives the fresh water a glistening appearance as it cascades from the top of the mountains to the deep sea of knowledge yet to be discovered. The water comes from when I learn from my mistakes. Despite the fact that I will not make mistakes all of the time, that doesn't mean it will never happen. For I will learn from these mishaps and not make the same decisions as I did before. As the water is fed to the tree of knowledge, it is strengthened, aging with wisdom and beauty. With all of these elements, the tree is able to live a life to its fullest potential.

Love is not something that can be rushed into without a second thought, especially in a society where people do not accept everything willingly. Whether it's your sexual orientation, what ethnicity your partner is, or beauty standards our society expects from men and women. Love is not something that can simply be censored because some may be offended or disgusted. Is love true if someone is in love with only the idea or image of you? One should love themselves before loving someone else, not love someone else so they can love you. It's almost as if you are playing a role to a sold-out audience, but what happens when the lights go down and the show is over? Will the people who only knew the image you presented stay once your facade breaks? I hope to never be in a position where I must put on a show to be accepted, for that not is love.

Mahatma Gandhi once stated, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." It's very rare these days to see someone display an act of kindness that has no personal benefit except a rush of happiness. This rush of happiness is like a child getting their favorite candy. Their eyes light up and widen with joy and they can't seem to wipe off the smile on their face. It's almost like your heart swells up with joy and you can hear your heart pounding against your chest, ready to

burst. This feeling can only be replaced by love, which is hard to come across. I want to be able to wake up and go to bed knowing that before I leave the earth, I have impacted people for the better. I would rather use my power to help others than help others to gain power.

Shannon L. Alder stated, "Nothing changes until people decide to do the things they must, in order to bring about peace." The truth is that nobody is really prepared for relationships or chapters of your life ending. Sometimes, we get so comfortable in the positions we're in that we don't want change. Like you being stuck in traffic while everyone is driving away from you, you might want to stay at a stage in your life because you don't want to get out of your comfort zone. If you don't change your life, how do you expect your life to change you? A new chapter in life should be seen as a gift, as it denotes starting fresh but connotes reflection, self-improvement, and better decision making. I would like to make mistakes but also make corrections throughout the chapters of becoming an adult ahead of me.

These four qualities are all tools that you and I can use to grow as individuals. Maybe I won't find love anytime soon, use my knowledge for the greater good, be humane to others, and know when it's time to start a new chapter in my life all of the time, but every day brings me a step closer.