

The Meaning of Life

Imagine a serene summer night: you lie in your bed, your eyes opened. The crescent moon hangs up in the sky, casting soft, silver glow thorough the window. You can hear crickets chirping, wind blowing. The breeze caressing your skin like silk. You want to sit up and take a glimpse of the tranquil night. But no matter how hard you try, you can't. In fact, it takes great effort even to raise one finger. This is ALS. This is what the protagonist in Tuesday With Morrie suffers from.

Tuesdays With Morrie is a nostalgic chronicle written by Mitch Albom, the renowned writer of The Five People You Meet In Heaven. It seems unbelievable to put the true meanings of life in a 192 page book. However, after reading the book, I meditated about the story, feeling the emotions when I went through the lines, and I was deeply touched by the words of professor Morrie.

Despite being successful, rich and young, Mitch, a famous sports journalist, was plagued by the inadequacy in his life. He later saw his old professor Morrie on a talkshow sharing stories of himself. The 78-year-old suffered from ALS, a disease that caused muscle weakness and eventually paralyzed the whole body. Mitch took the initiatives to visit Morrie, who still remembered his student even after 16 years. Every Tuesday after the visit, they spent time talking about the meanings of life: family, money, love, etc. It was in those precious hours that Mitch gradually learned to embrace his life. Simple and plain though they were, Morrie's words made me brooded about my life. I looked upon him as my spiritual teacher, hoping to have some special features Morrie possessed.

First, I esteemed his bravery, which lasted so long and kept him from losing his faith. Even ALS has kept him from walking or moving his fingers, he insisted on eating on his own instead of using a tube; he would try his best to prop himself up, often taking some time and energy. He even considered himself fortunate for he had a wealth of time to spend with his loved ones.

The second thing I admired was the strong contentment Morrie enjoyed. I still vividly remembered what Morrie wanted to do if he only got a day left: stroll down the streets, have a nice breakfast, talk with friends, dance in public. He didn't wish for a trip to foreign countries or to meet some celebrities; instead, he asked for things in a person's daily life, hoping to seize the only chance to be with people around him.

Of all the exceptional personalities of Morrie's, the one that inspired me the most and moved me to tears was his infinite love for others. In almost every talk with Mitch, Morrie showed his compassion for people and things around him: his family, his acquaintance, birds that sang beautifully in the dawn. Morrie believed that one could never be dead, since our love and memories would stay in the world, lingering in people we loved. Thus, he was not afraid of dying- he accepted it with a bright attitude.

The book gave me a chance to contemplate: what do I want to accomplish before I die? If you asked me before I read this book, I would undoubtedly give you answers like, "Travel around the world ." or "Buy anything I have ever wanted." If you ask me the same question now, I would answer you: Make ever second count. All I wish for my last day is to be with people that once loved me, cared about me or influenced me. In that 24 houer, there will be no tears and grief, only some nice and warm hugs. Then, when my life is finally coming to an end, I will tell them: "It's good to have you all here. It's my pleasure to meet you in my life, Thanks!"