



A LIFE OF PURPOSE

A PRAYER TO BEGIN WITH

O my God! O my God! Unite the hearts of Thy servants, and reveal to them Thy great purpose. May they follow Thy commandments and abide in Thy law. Help them, O God, in their endeavor, and grant them strength to serve Thee. O God! Leave them not to themselves, but guide their steps by the light of Thy knowledge, and cheer their hearts by Thy love. Verily, Thou art their Helper and their Lord.

—Bahá'u'lláh

The purpose of God in creating man hath been,
and will ever be, to enable him to know his Creator
and to attain His Presence.

—*Bahá'u'lláh*

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

—*The Bible: Romans 8:28*

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

—*The Bible: Proverbs 19:21*

Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world; by devotion to selfless work one attains the supreme goal of life. Do your work with the welfare of others always in mind.

—*The Bhagavad Gita*

The 'Master Key' to self-
mastery is self-forgetting.

— *'Abdu'l-Bahá*



In order to act effectively during the present period of transition in human history, individuals must, above all, be imbued with a strong sense of purpose that impels them both to pursue their own spiritual and intellectual growth and to contribute to the transformation of society. These are fundamentally inseparable dimensions of a single process, for the standards and behaviours of individuals shape their environment and, in turn, are moulded by social structures and processes...

Yet perfection is not a requirement; what is required of us is a sincere daily effort to move towards this high standard. We are asked to tread a common path of service—supporting each other and advancing together, with sufficient humility to value the contribution of each person and avoid the pitfalls of self-righteousness.

Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.

—*Marian Wright Edelman*

Work is love made visible.

—*Kahlil Gibran*



By applying in one's life principles of fairness and equity, each person can uphold a standard far above the low threshold by which the world measures itself.

Humanity is weary for want of a pattern of life to which to aspire; we should aim for actions in our communities which will give hope to the world.

—Universal House of Justice

And the honor and distinction of the individual consist in this, that he among all the world's multitudes should become a source of social good. Is any larger bounty conceivable than this, that an individual, looking within himself, should find that by the confirming grace of God he has become the cause of peace and well-being, of happiness and advantage to his fellow men? No, by the one true God, there is no greater bliss, no more complete delight.

—*Abdu'l-Bahá*

Wert thou to attain to but a dewdrop of the crystal waters of divine knowledge, thou wouldst readily realize that true life is not the life of the flesh but the life of the spirit...

— Bahá'u'lláh



One must remember that the purpose of this life is to prepare the soul for the next.

—*Universal House of Justice*