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# WHY ARE WE

## *Contemplations on the m*

*'Alright,' said the computer and settled into silence agian. The two men fidgeted. The tension was unbearable.*
*'Your're really not going to like it,' observed Deep Thought.*
*'Tell us!'*
*'Alright,' said Deep Thought. 'the Answer to the Great Question...'*
*'Of Life, the Universe and Everything...' said Deep Thought.*
*'Yes...!'*
*'Is...' said Deep Thought, and paused.*
*'Yes...!'*
*'Is...'*
*'Yes...!!!...?'*
*'Forty-two,' said Deep Thought, with infinite majesty and calm.*

*from The Hitch-hikers Guide To The Galaxy*
*Douglas Adams*

***We asked several people this question and got numerous responses. While we were unable to publish all the responses we find that these serve as interesting and thought-provoking reading. This feature shares what others think. Hopefully, it will get you as an individual to figure out just why you are here! Our questions were distributed randomly and we thank all those who responded to the question.***

I try not to think about it.

*Civil Servant*

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I'm here because I'm serving some sort of purpose. Everyone has a specific set course in life to do. The question is based on that there is a Higher Power. We contribute to things which happen in revelation to history. We must have some role to play. The role has already been decided. We are just pawns.

*Former UNB Student*

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Ah...! The eternal question that philosophers and lunatics beg to be answered. Barning any philosophical or spiritual garbage, I would be inclined to argue that our existence here is purely and utterly an accident. I do not feel qualified to speak for my "brothers and sisters." As far as my own existence is concerned, I am here to "sow and spill my seed," makes as much money as possible and have great joy doing both!

*Naren Krishndn*
*Bach. Pol. Science*

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We are here (inside space, time and numbers, said Pascal) in order to discover joy, taste love, to climb mountains, to swim in an ocean. Because we had no choice in the matter of our birth, the choice is given to us as adults to say YES to our neighbors, yes to sickness and aging, yes to self-discovery, yes to conflicts, disappointments and heart-breaks: We are here in order to make choices.

*Louise Harwood-Skrotzky*
*Student/Humanities*

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I am here because I am here. My thoughts go to the past and that is what keeps me happy. I think of my family and my accomplishments and I know I have lived a good life.

*George*
*Senior Citizen*

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Life does not have to have a meaning or any absolute purpose what so ever. Life like anything else, obeys a certain set of basic rules and within this framework many complicated, extraordinary things can happen , but any "meaning" we attach to life is in the end arbitrary. (of course, if there is a God in the classified sense the whole situation is very different.)

*David Donavan*
*Physics/Math*

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Why not?

*Steve Secord*
*Science*

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To bring joy and happiness into Brigitte's life.

*Debbie*
*University Club*

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I don't know! Why are you asking me that? I love to hug people. I hug everybody.

*Melvin*
*Senior Citizen*

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Life is just a logical way of energy conservation. Before life started on earth all free energy released by the sun or by oxidation of various materials, was dissipated into heat until systems evolved which were capable of absorbing some of this energy and to use it in order to maintain and improve on their own organization. Evolution then took place in the direction of higher and higher levels of organization, i.e. more efficient systems for storage and use of free energy. Mankind now rests at the top of the evolutionary ladder, but hopefully it is not the end product of evolution unless it succeeds in self-destructing. Even then other forms of life are likely to evolve in a world unencumbered by mankind's overpowering activities.

*M.O. Krause*
*Professor-Science*

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To question.

*C.P. Diduch*
*EE*

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