The power of purpose

An essay explaining my internal development (both personally and professionally) and the role my purpose has played in my evolution

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My purpose[1]

An essay explaining my internal development (both personally and professionally) and the role my purpose has played in my evolution.

As I reflect back on my journey to reveal my purpose, I find that I had to ask myself two thought provoking questions – Who am I and why am I here. To answer these questions I needed to journey back to where my life first began (sometime in July 1946) and track my progress.

The first nine months were spent snuggled up in my mother's womb, where I am sure she did her best (as quickly as possible) to advise[2] me (just as she had been) all I needed to know in order to survive. I believe she advised me of sixteen purposes I needed to understand to assist determine my purpose and my life's needs and wants.

I believe she also advised me that for every purpose there was a counter purpose[3] and that it was important to know the difference between the two. The differences would help me determine right from wrong.

No small task, but what else was I to do for the nine months. I could either choose to listen or not to. I believe I chose to listen and even though it took me nearly forty years I was finally able to put these lessons down on paper.

I am sure that others would have had the same experience as me – If one paid close attention to what their mother was saying and if their mother was a good enough communicator, and if their environment was friendly enough, they too would have been able to realize what their purposes were.

No mean feat for a fetus, however if the spirit is willing and one's belief strong enough, an insignificant body should not present too much of an obstacle.

Let me share with you what my mother shared with me in the hope that it will rekindle your purposes, dispel the counter purposes and leave you with a sense that peace[4] and goodwill can emerge from the turmoil currently facing all of us.

The most important (prime) of the sixteen purposes is the purpose of spirit closely followed by the purposes of mind, body, soul and ego. The remaining eleven will be revealed in due course.

The prime purpose was relatively easy to learn but probably the most difficult to comprehend – *To be a part of the universal spirit*.

I now basically understand that this goal[5] could only be successfully achieved once I understood the benefits of this goal (i.e. the four other purposes) and the hardships I could face should I fail to achieve it.

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[1] An aim or goal; An object to be attained; a thing intended; To aid ones survival
[2] Inform; Remind; Teach
[3] An aim used by oneself or by another to thwart ones own purpose, or to thwart another's purpose
[4] An acronym for **P**lease **e**veryone, **a**lign **c**ommon **e**lements
[5] A synonym for purpose

However, to fully comprehend the values these benefits delivered as well as the demerits associated with the hardships, took a lot more of my lifetime. This would require a lot of practice[6] and reasoning[7].

The table below contains the results of my experiences, observations and reasoning. It reflects my understanding of the four benefits together with their values – the underlined words:

The purpose of	My understanding of the purpose
Mind	*To be able to gain wisdom*
Wisdom	*To utilize technology, plan and be capable of communicating*
Body	*To maintain a healthy environment*
Healthy environment	*To be productive, have sufficient resources to meet my needs and be capable of sharing/distributing that which I have or offer*
Soul	*To give and receive love*
Love	*To be benevolent to myself and others and to provide quality of my time, myself, my possessions and offerings*
Ego	*To accumulate sufficient wealth to sustain my needs*
Wealth	*To make sufficient profit, have a sound following/audience and to demonstrate my uniqueness as an adult human being*

Having achieved this understanding, I was able to use the values to balance my needs and wants in order to identify where my weaknesses lay. However, before I could achieve this balance, it was important for me to understand the counter purposes and how they could inflict hardships and demerits on myself by others (or myself), and/or on others by myself or others. The following table shows my understanding of the counter purposes:

The counter purpose of	My understanding of the counter purpose
Spirit	*To be apart from the universal spirit*
Mind	*To remain ignorant*
Wisdom	*To utilize inefficiency, reactivity and concealment*
Body	*To promote and spread* disorder
Healthy environment	*To remain incompetent, to create a lack of resources and to withhold things (ideas, goods and services)*
Soul	*To inflict malice/hate*
Love	*To be malevolent and maintain mediocrity*
Ego	*To enforce poverty to boost greed*
Wealth	*To inflict losses, to isolate and reduce myself or others to a*

[6] Empirical – Regarding sense data as valid information; Proceeding from effects to causes
[7] A priori – Logically independent of experience; Proceeding from causes to effects

	mundane level

Once I understood the sixteen purposes and their counter purposes, I set my sights on achieving at least fifty five percent of the benefits.

The clear definition of each value enabled me to develop a ranking system to rapidly ascertain my so called 'survival potential'. In doing so, I managed to find a profound sense of inner peace[4] and my personal happiness[8] was ensured by maintaining the minimum requirement.

But I have jumped ahead of myself. I will need to explain why I sought to identify and define my purposes and counter purposes and how these assisted my evolution.

It took me nearly forty years to fully get a grip on what my mother was trying to tell me. During this time I was taught by so many others[9] that the purposes soon got lost in the sheer volume of the information I needed to assimilate.

Indeed one of the most confusing lessons some 'gurus' tried to teach me was that in order to succeed, I had to identify my vision of where I wanted to 'be' and to 'go for it'.

I would soon discover that a vision and purpose was not necessarily the same thing. I now understand that a vision has more to do about how I would like others to perceive me whereas my purpose has everything to do about how I perceive myself. The ideal situation is where the purpose and vision complement each other.

Prior to my being able to succinctly identify and define my purposes, I was involved in assisting others identify, define and develop computer systems to help them run their businesses.

As a computer programmer I found that even though I was able develop program logic from very rough specifications, the specifications were never clear enough, hence the logic became fuzzy the outcomes unstable and the requirements never realized.

The net result was that which I thought I understood the organization wanted, was often not what the organization needed. As a programmer I had to simply accept that this gap between the need and wants existed and did my best to bridge it.

At first I thought the problem lay in the way the data bases were designed. So I began to learn how to design better data bases in order to solve the problem. However, this proved to be only the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

I soon discovered that data base design was (and still is) a team effort that depends upon the overall knowledge of all the people in the enterprise. The 'team' needed to include not only the information technology personnel and potential operators of the system, but also all levels of management.

The next problem was learning how to communicate with the various levels of personnel in the organization. This was no easy task as each person had a different skill level and competency. However the task was made easier once I managed to sort out the three levels of my existence and saw how my purposes fitted into them.

[8] An acronym for **H**ealth **a**ffection **p**erception **p**rosperity **i**s **n**ow **e**asily **s**ustainable, **s**afely

[9] Parents, relatives, extended family members, friends, teachers, et al

After some research and experimentation I discovered that the three levels of existence covered the conceptual[10], logical[11] and physical[12] planes and that the purposes fitted quite nicely into one aspect of the conceptual level.

However, from a business perspective I felt uneasy about using the same objects or terms I applied to myself, so I looked for synonyms to help me overcome this problem. I discovered a pattern which has been extremely beneficial – the following list put these into perspective for me:

Purpose of	Personal	Business	Humanity
Spirit	Existence	Sustainability	Good will
Ego	Wealth	Prosperity	Contentment
Body	Health	Robustness	Grace
Soul	Love	Esteem	Compassion
Mind	Wisdom	Perception	Humility

Using the business sub purposes I formed the mnemonic[13] PREP are my benefits – or prepare my benefits.

The next hurdle I faced was to find a way to record my understanding of these elements as easily, effectively and efficiently as possible. I looked at the available computer software products only to find that they were not quite up to the task.

Drawing on my understanding of two of my purposes – namely planning and technology I was able to develop an automated tool to overcome this problem.

In over fifteen years of consulting, using this pattern and tool, I have developed a knowledge base of over forty definitions covering all of the purposes. I am sure there are many more definitions to be uncovered, but the ‘spirit’ of the definitions remains unchanged.

I am now better able to rapidly assist individuals and management identify and define their purposes in terms they feel comfortable with.

Then, by applying the ranking system to the eleven values for each member of the enterprise (balanced against their counter values) I am able to assist them identify possible weaknesses which could cause the enterprise to falter or in extreme cases, fail.

Measures can then be identified, defined and recorded to help overcome the apparent weaknesses, further empowering their purposes.

Finally I am now able to reveal what my purpose and vision are.

My purpose:

To once again be a part of the universal spirit by assisting others uncover their purposes.

My journey to fulfill my purpose continues.

My vision

[10] Spirit, soul, heart’s desires
[11] Mind
[12] Body
[13] A phrase designed to aid the memory

My purpose

That world peace[4] can be achieved if every adult human being on this planet was able to understand and align the sixteen purposes (1–4–11) and they then teach the adolescent within their sphere of influence to use these common elements to rise above their level of their incompetence and the child to best their mediocrity. So they too can once again be a part of the universal spirit.

My journey to fulfill my vision will require a lot of external assistance.