

An Essay on H.W. Longfellow's Poem A Psalm of Life

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“Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;”

This phrase from “A Psalm Of Life” written by H.W. Longfellow has inspired many people in their lives when they have surpassed their tolerance level of waiting for the desired results. Often in one’s life, there comes a moment, when you have given everything you have to achieve that one goal that you have set for yourself and when the result is not as per your expectations you find yourself in such a dark place where only sadness and misery consumes you.

This phrase uplifts us from that darkness and reminds us that death is no solution to our problems. It tells us that our life is not based on that single goal or project. Life is beautiful with all its colours and ups and downs. Yes, there may come time in your life when you begin to question your existence or your goal in life but in that dark moments you have to bear in mind that if you don’t succeed it’s because God has even grandeur plans for you. This does not mean or imply that you should stop working and leave everything to fate but work so that each day brings us closer to our goals as H.W. Longfellow says,

“Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.”

Trying to give our best effort towards every aspect of our life is what we should strive for in our lives irrespective of worrying about the end results of our endeavours. Hard work is key to success, but you should not forget to enjoy the small joys of live chasing after the your dreams. I do not mean you should not focus singularly on the goal, but you should not set that goal as your sole objective that you forget people around you who have helped you come this far in your life. Always be grateful for the love that Almighty has showered upon you in form of parents, relatives, friends and other people who care about you. It does not matter to the whether you score first division or succeed in your job or not, they’ll love you for what you are and not for what you have done. Yes, they will be happy in your success but truthfully they’ll support you no matter what you decide to do with your life.

So cherish and behold the love bestowed upon you by Him because you are lucky enough to receive it. Yes, life may not be perfect in your eyes but then nobody is perfect. Your abilities and faults is what makes you the person you are today. As each failure you face builds your inner strength and each success boosts your confidence to yet another level. Life is a adventure or a journey and you have to decide, to make that journey count or to be just another person.

So, keep working hard and keep trying to reach for your goals but at the same time never forget to enjoy and be amazed with small wonders that life offers along the journey because you never know how long that journey will last. Make each moment count and fulfil all your desires because life is too precious to be wasted in worrying about what the future holds for you. As H.W. Longfellow rightly said,

“Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.”