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- *Life is the natural extension of love*
- *Fulfillment is a commitment to being loving*
- *Negative energy can make space for love to follow*

The spirit, the energy, the presence of the loving reality that is God surrounds, comforts, affirms, and nourishes each of your souls.

Life is indeed precious. Life is also a school in the most profound and spiritual way, for you live your lives to grow, to become deeper, to become more understanding and ultimately to become more loving. The end goal for such a life is to become only pure love. That love that we speak of is the purest energy, the purest light that exists.

There are many questions that each of you has expressed or at least felt, but most of them ultimately center upon the most crucial question, the grounding comment, the grounding issue that is shared by all human beings, namely why do you experience human life and in dealing with the implications of “why” is the meaning of “how.” All that we share with you and that shall be shared with you in the future essentially revolves around the “why” and the “how.” The “why” is the most fundamental, but in understanding some of the “why,” the question of “how” is more easily approached.

You observe quite correctly that at times it seems humanity seems to be moving backwards, and you wonder what’s the purpose? Why is it that there is seeming little progress? Why is it that at times it feels as if one is only moving backwards and retreating from what life can be?

Why are you given life? You are given life because that is the natural extension of what the energy of love means. Love can only do one thing and that is to expand. Love extends outward. For it to continue to extend and to broaden and to become more present, you are given the experience of human life. The school of life that you are in effect only has one purpose, and that is to learn what it means to express love.

As in any school, there will be those whose progression is more rapid than others. Why should it be any different, one from another? It is different from one soul to another because each soul brings its own vision, its own sensitivity, its own perspective, its own context, its own experiences. You and a neighbor may live in the same community for the same length of time and yet derive altogether different experiences. For one, it may be artistic. For another, it may be scientific. For yet another, it may be spiritual. Each individual develops according to a particular pathway.

It is exactly the same way when you contemplate the development of spirit. Yes, your spirit is part of God, but we cannot assert that all spirits share the same development, share the same insights, share the same concerns, for until the spirit becomes all love, no spirit that exists within each of you can be considered fully developed and in all ways perfect. If that were the case, there would be no reason for

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your human lives. You would simply be fully God—end of the story. But that is not what love is.

As we have said, love's direction is to move outward, to expand, to reach out, to embrace, to let go and embrace again. Your souls have only a single direction and that is to expand. Each soul grows according to its needs. You cannot stop the growth, and you certainly do not spontaneously begin its growth. Your souls were growing long before your physical body, and your souls will continue to grow when there is no body attached or associated with your soul. But the combined growth of body and soul together can result in a greater realization of a life that is fully loving.

For many of you, your souls have experienced human life already, and the life that you are currently aware of is but a small component of a greater arch that when seen in its totality points inexorably to the reality of God's presence. It is true, events in your lives may seem regressive. That is what you observe, but for all that you observe, there is much more that is undetected. You may observe acts of great harm being brought toward others, but you will not know the full story of what lies behind those grievous acts. It is not your lot in life to fully understand what motivates every individual that crosses your path. Your closest neighbor will not know what illuminates, what challenges, what frustrates your own paths.

Often times you yourself will not fully understand why you react the way you do to various stimuli, whether events or people. It is not so essential that you be able to parse every element of your life in an attempt to describe and fully understand each event that you encounter. We can say with total clarity that even when acknowledging what seems to be worst behavior, great cruelty, each of you are still, with effort, capable of recognizing the growth, the spreading, the broadening impact that love truly has in your lives.

The human position relating to the primary purpose of life is not receiving. Humankind indeed is continuing and shall continue to maintain the natural progression of love. There are setbacks. There are challenges. There are threats. There is suffering and discouragement, but there is always progress, growth, the acquisition of lives that continue to become more loving.

Human life is a process; it is not a product. In no way can you perceive a human life as being totally filled with all that is good. There is no human life that is perfection. One may look back to Mohammed, the Buddha, Jesus, even secular leaders. There are none who were perfect. All whom you regard with respect and affection were flawed, for no human life can be perfection, but why is it that you revere certain figures in your faith lives? It is because of the examples that they represent of directions in life that provide meaning, purpose, and fulfillment.

Yes, there is a difference between being successful and being fulfilled. If you think of the word fulfillment, it is being filled with something, and that something is a commitment to being loving. It is the commitment to sharing who you are and why you

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are. It is the commitment of acknowledgment that another is, that another deserves to be, and that all belong to the overriding energy of love. That is a life of fulfillment, but it is only a goal, for the details of such fulfillment can never be fully matched.

When you see turmoil around you, when you experience dishonesty, when you see evidence of deception, of power-grabbing, of all kinds of chicanery, you must also bring to your awareness that what is seen as negative energy is in part a casting away of that negative energy that in turn makes space for the love that can follow.

Human beings are in one stage or another of purging themselves of the shadow by ultimately exposing themselves to the Light. That process is a lifelong effort. That process can be more than lifelong in its outward flowing momentum. It is easy to be critical and judgmental. It is easy to point a finger toward someone and think such an individual is the embodiment of evil or the full representation of darkness, but such is never really the case.

You are given life to affirm, to grow, to find meaning. That is the “why.” The “how” is the process of being open—being open to others, being open to yourselves, being open to the voice that is within, the guidance that is always present, being willing to change, being willing to grow, being willing to see good in what is not always evident. Understanding the “why” gives meaning to the “how.”

When you join our plane of existence, the process of your response to the “how” has an enormous impact on your awareness of the “what”—what is, what exists, what is truth, what is God, what is love. Understanding the “what” requires many opportunities to explore the “hows” of life. When joining our side one does not see God fully, for the light of God’s energy would be overwhelming. But you clearly see the reality of that Presence, and as you become more of that Presence, the vision expands because that vision is a vision of love, and the energy of love always expands for all souls.

The level of understanding is different. For some, the understanding is immediate; for others, not so immediate. But the comfort, the peace, that sense of being surrounded by love is experienced by every soul.

Life is full. It may not be measured as full when viewed in the number of years, but it is full in the opportunities for growth. The child who joins spirit-form at a young age is still experiencing a fullness. It is a fullness of awareness. It is a fullness of feeling loved. It is a fullness in understanding what love can mean, and it is always accompanied by a readiness, a receptivity. Lives are not measured by years but by growth, by vision.

Embrace the lives you are given. Embrace the lives of all others who accompany you on your path. Embrace your guides. Embrace their vision, their understanding of love. Embrace their expression of love, and embrace their presence in your own lives as permanent, affirming, and comforting. Rejoice in that embrace!

Amen.