

The Meaning of Life, As Interpreted by the Fairies

In the realm of *The Fairy Chronicles*, the fairies are also human beings who very much seek to find meaning and purpose in life. Their quest begins with *Marigold and the Feather of Hope* when, upon rescuing the Feather of Hope from gremlins, the fairies read a short journal entry describing the two most important things in life. The journey continues throughout the saga, and in *Swan and the Realm of Hollowness*, the fairies are forced to rely on something much more powerful than magic, namely the gifts hidden inside them, to escape the Realm of Hollowness. In this adventure, they learn that one of the most important things in life is to find our inner gifts and share them with others. In *Jasmine, the Journal, and Magnolia's Sacrifice*, Magnolia reveals the true meaning of life, which involves the one race of humanity, tied to the one purpose, the reason human beings exist on earth – to help one another. And related to this, as revealed in *Marigold and the Feather of Hope*, are the two most important things in life: how we treat other people and what we teach to children.

Most of the fairies do not believe that they have any “grand purpose” to achieve greatness and recognition individually in life. Rather, they hope to act more behind the scenes, as catalysts to help others achieve success and greatness. But they also recognize that this is a fairly common fantasy for many people of the earth – to be the “wind beneath someone else’s wings.” However, this is

an acceptable aspiration since the fairies actually live in a fantasy world.

The fairies also have a strong belief in basic karma and the need for all to follow the Golden Rule. They also recognize and have great awe for mankind's constant angst and soul searching to find the meaning in our existence, as evidenced in the fairies' admiration for the actions of those who do selfless good deeds and those who do not take an easy path but choose to do what is right no matter how difficult. They also believe that the world needs fewer bullies and more heroes, and their actions often speak to this premise.

Note: *Jasmine, the Journal, and Magnolia's Sacrifice* is the saddest of all *The Fairy Chronicles* stories. Magnolia – who lost her fairy spirit in *Firefly and the Quest of the Black Squirrel*, which we were led to believe was due to bad behavior – makes a sacrifice to save the life of another person, someone she has not even met. Magnolia is able to consult a seer and is allowed to ask him one question. The seer is surprised when she doesn't ask about the meaning of life, as so many others do with their one question to him. Instead, she asks, "Am I as important to the universe as I think I am, or as insignificant as I sometimes feel?"

His answer to her is "*Both*. Each and every person is extremely important to the puzzle and working gears of the machine that is the universe, but all people are

equally important. No one person is more significant than any other.”

Magnolia did not need to know the meaning of life, or her purpose for existing, because she already had that figured out. She is also smart enough in the story not to self-fulfill the prophecy, since she recognizes that she has choice and free will. In choosing to give up her fairy spirit, Magnolia’s memory is cleared of all fairy knowledge, and this keeps her from engaging in certain actions that might cause the prophecy to come true. (Who truly knows if a future different than a predicted one could actually happen?) Since Magnolia did not remember the prediction, she wasn’t able to manipulate her future as many others might in her situation due to the nature and influence of prophecy: Some might feel it is their destiny and they must fulfill it (a la *Macbeth* and *Throne of Blood*), instead of recognizing that they have choices and do not necessarily have to listen to seers and prophets who may have their own agendas or who may be extremely manipulative for reasons unknown, possibly relating to evil or mischief. Magnolia was intelligent enough to give up her fairy spirit and gain control over her destiny in this way.

Many additional *Fairy Chronicles* books express the fairies’ ideas on the meaning of life including the stories of Firefly, Spiderwort, Mimosa, Luna, Dewberry, Snapdragon, Cricket, Blue, Heather, Ginger, Bumblebee, Fern, Pennyroyal, Lilac, Quince, Dandelion, and Hollyhock