***Life of significance***

What is it like to live a life of significance? Or does one genuinely exist, and if it does, would we want to model our lives after that individual? But then, it's not even your life, honestly. We all have so many questions, and with those questions, I have done a lot of searching and have educated myself on the meaning of the phrase life of significance. Honestly, it is such a complex saying. It's a million people that I would look at and say, "yes, that guy has had a significant life." But my neighbor may think differently. So who am I to make assumptions? I am still left with the question, and I did what any teenager would do; I went to google. But doing so did not help. All it showed were basic ways to improve your life, and I thought—no way it is that simple. So I thought and thought and then realized.

Why can I not figure out someone I believe has lived a significant life and write down their qualities and accomplishments? The first person to come to mind is Eric Thomas, a famous motivational speaker and a fantastic person with a compelling story. In my eyes, he has all the qualities that would make him great and would be the literal definition of a life of significance. He was born to a single teenage mother. After many arguments with his parents and aunts, he dropped out of high school early and lived homeless on the streets of Detroit for two years. While lost and struggling in his mind, he met a preacher who inspired him to return to school and eventually change his life. I realized that he is what came to mind when I heard the meaning of a life of significance. So now I understand and learned that I base how significant their life is on the hardships they went through and how they still managed to be highly successful. And after thinking about that for a bit, I realized that not at all of it is correct. If a kid with the same career and amount of success with a much easier childhood, would he still have a significant life? Would he not? Yes, he would. So that is not the case. So I turned my attention to another person I keep up with, which I also think has a significant life, Jarred McCain. He is a kid my age that plays basketball, and his end goal would be to compete in the NBA. Jarred gained fame from TikTok and started getting recognition for his basketball talents. To me, he has a meaningful life, but he is only just starting his journey.

Some would say Jarred has not even lived his life. I tend to see people that I think have had a significant life, and I like to copy their habits. I have been doing this for a long time, and it has helped me in many ways, from my athletic progression on the track to the academic side. I think many people tend to find an idol and, in some way, try to replicate their life. But that is where it gets challenging for me. I want to be better than him. His accomplishments do not create a barrier for me. I like to think I can surpass all the achievements and not base my maximums on his. So I think that this mindset could only take me so far. After a while, I will need to live my own life and ask myself, what should I do right now? How should I look at this problem? And learn not to be so reliant on basing my life on a person living my definition of a life of significance. I have learned that a life of significance can be judged in various ways. I was listening to a podcast, and the speaker was talking about accomplishments. So are accomplishments all that we need to have a significant life? I would disagree with this. I believe it could help with the argument that your life is. But because those accomplishments could have made someone else's life slightly more complicated, that person would think the opposite. Wow, the phrase is so complex. It is so opinionated. Earl Nightingale said we are all self-made, but the successful will only admit it.

I feel as if that quote is very accurate. I also think that the quote has made me change how I view this question. If the successful are the only ones who will admit we are self-made, then how do the not successful think? How do they view the people with significant lives? Does it make them feel otherwise and find another way of judging someone with a significant life? I bet it does. So the jealousy they may have would be a substantial factor in determining if a person has lived a considerable life to be labeled as significant. Earl repeats himself, stating that we are all here based on our decisions. I feel that it all points back to us as a person. It is our choice and opinion on if your life is significant. Not others; if they think my life was significant, then yay; if not, it is not my problem. It is a subject you have to be somewhat selfish about. You can not let others tell you if you had a significant life. There are too many people with too many different outlooks on life. You can not make everyone happy with how you live your life. If you were even to try, you would be left with nothing but failure at the end of the day, and you would never feel any fulfillment, leaving you to live a life that's not yours. You will end up having identity problems, and you be alone and exhausted at the end of your life.

Nobody will ever know the real you, and you will never accomplish the dreams you wanted to achieve because you were too busy making others happy. So anyways, onto my definition of a life of significance. For my life, I would label it significant if I leave this earth better than I found it. It is straightforward for me. I want to make a substantial impact on many people's lives. And to do that, I must be assertive with my values and business plans. I need to become a significant public figure, for I will have the resources to make a change and be able to help people. In a way, I have to be significant in my crafts to have my version of a significant life. If I accomplish all my goals and am on the way to my dreams, I will get the opportunity to help people and maybe even inspire them. I would call that a pretty successful and significant life. This is where it gets complicated, though. Someone else could look at my life and say that that guy is not significant; even if he helped all these people, that's not enough to label it significant.

Maybe my life does not aline with his goals. So then, my life was not even near meaningful to him. Let us say that this guy is a supervillain. His definition of a life of significance is that he took over the world, and now everyone is suffering, and he is now happy with his accomplishments. Do you see how opinionated the phrase is? It all comes down to people's goals in life. After saying all that, I have concluded that living a life of significance is living a life that fulfills you and a life you can look back on and be genuinely proud of. A life full of fantastic memories and moments of you working and achieving your personal goals. You can not try too hard to make people think you have lived a significant life. It is based on your personal goals and the things you love. So do not be afraid to be selfish with your life at times. Make it yours and take control. Your life is significant because it is your life