

## Can an Atheist Find Meaning?

Can a person find meaningfulness without God? Is the process of finding meaning in one's life ultimately a personal journey, as stated by psychologist Alicia Nortje [on this website](#)? On Nortje's site, well-known atheist Richard Dawkin's offers his advice:

There is something infantile in the presumption that somebody else has a responsibility to give your life meaning... The truly adult view, by contrast, is that our life is as meaningful, as full and as wonderful as we choose to make it.

If you read the advice on Nortje's site, you'll find her suggestions are geared toward helping a person find a sense of purpose or belonging in this life. Now that goal on its own is not a bad thing, but it is not meaningful, since it is not lasting. Ultimately, the atheist "solves" the problem of meaningfulness by removing the condition that a meaningful life be involved in a lasting purpose. Even the Buddhist Dalai Lama reduces meaningfulness to a daily activity:

Old friends pass away, new friends appear. It is just like the days. An old day passes, a new day arrives. The important thing is to make it meaningful: a meaningful friend -- or a meaningful day.

The atheist philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche advised people to find meaning by [replacing God with the humanities, by becoming a Superman \(Urbarmensch\), or by simply loving your life regardless of what it is like](#).

The equivocation and dishonesty displayed by atheists on this subject are similar to their duplicitous support of other ideologies, e.g. [Darwinism](#). The actual reality is that atheists reject God because they prefer their own feeling of personal independence, even if that reduces their life to meaninglessness. The "soft" atheist/mystic Hermann Hesse had enough respect for religious values to at least be honest about it:

I believe that I am not responsible for meaningfulness or meaninglessness of life, but that I am responsible for what I do with the life I've got.