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## Life and How to Live It

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## Life and How to Live It

TO LIVE IS TO DIE, IS TO DIE IS TO LIVE.  
Did Socrates know more of this than he would give?  
A simple arrangement of verbs and nouns?  
Somewhere encased in the words is a meaning more profound.  
The same as the daystar means more than warmth and a tan.  
Did Socrates imply that we are more than simply man?  
To live each day without a thought  
as to how our time is spent or bought?  
Many exist in each moment with no true regard  
to all the events occurring around them by and large.  
The sun does rise each day as the eternal cycles churn-  
witnessing the fire but never noticing how less it does burn.  
Each day brings them closer to their earthly demise.  
The balance will only fall - never rise.  
I banter the question until I can cogitate no more.  
Is my mind too soft to enter Socrates' door?  
I think what he meant is simple to overlook.  
As misguiding, perhaps on purpose, as the cover of a book.  
The title states one thing while the contents are quite contrary.  
The simplistic truth in his statement is almost too scary.  
It's arduous to find the perfect anthology  
to explain the meaning of his great apology.  
But here it is in black and white  
and I hope my explanation is somewhat right.  
"TO LIVE IS TO DIE", I must say  
was meant to be grasped in an extraordinary way.  
Socrates introspection's were so different from the rest  
but the Senate decided their thoughts were the best.  
He lived with his mind opened and seldom contained.  
A life so unique as to be deemed that of insane.  
To instill in the people their notion of norm  
the Senate descended upon Socrates ideas like a storm.  
A wrath with fury that would not lessen or end  
until away his frivolous thoughts they could send.  
The only way to end Socrates malicious lie  
was to kill the man to make his ideas die.  
His thinking was distinct, so strange and unique,

but by living life fully he died at his peak.  
Things aren't so different from then as to today.  
If you think different-  
people will either embrace or push you away.  
Believe in yourself and the soul's internal Power.  
Stand for your thoughts until reached is the final hour.  
If you do this, to yourself you will give  
the ability to breathe, think and truly live.  
That's all I can do to answer the first part please.  
It's not easy to interpret the great Socrates.  
Now to the part that leaks in my mind like a sieve.  
What is the truth in "TO DIE IS TO LIVE"?  
Socrates knew the truth, not shallow but deep.  
He knew that his soul and ideas would indefinitely keep.  
The Senate so puissant, mighty and high,  
could not stomp out his ideas and make them die.  
Socrates ideas withstood the anger of the storm,  
and by his death, made the ideas become reborn.  
So with a hearty hand he welcomed death at it's best  
as a well deserved vacation - a chance to get some rest.  
The jury which convicted him of his crimes  
certainly didn't discern the reason and the rhyme.  
Without certain, the death penalty to him they did savor,  
but in Socrates mind they were possibly doing him a favor  
He knew that there is so much more to this life,  
and always it is worthwhile to work through the strife.  
Socrates understood life wasn't as easy as a fall and a slide,  
but he knew the resulting prize was worth the rocky ride.  
The prize was security in knowing nothing at all.  
What we see with sight as short may actually be tall.  
The Senate desired Socrates ideas to perish  
but in murdering the man, the ideas became cherished.  
So just like a communication in a bottle cast out to sea,  
many centuries later, Socrates ideas came to me.  
The man endured and beat the Senate, the lot.  
The man, the ideas, will not be forgot.

-Brian Reedy

"He who sees what is now has seen all things, whatsoever comes to pass from  
everlasting and whatsoever shall be unto everlasting time."

-Marcus Aurelius A.D. 121-80