

Live the Questions

"... be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

- Excerpt from: "Letters to a Young Poet" by Rainer Maria Rilke

If a question has come to us from an honest curiosity and desire to understand, then that question itself is already a great achievement, and Rilke, the author of the quotation above, suggests we cherish it.

If we are "living" the question, not just as an intellectual problem or puzzle that we are curious to solve, but as something that truly matters to us, then we are already on the road to understanding.

Philosophy may seem to be an endless series of questions, with each suggested answer leading only to more questions. Rilke invites us to see this not as a problem, but as a deep necessity of life, since "no human being anywhere can answer for you" those ultimate questions of life. Even if you could be led right to an answer, still it would not do you any good, and it would not be *your* answer, unless you could see it with your own eyes--answers "cannot be *given* to you because you would not be able to live them." So until the time we're ready to find an answer ourselves, the best we can do is to contemplate the question.

Taken from a website, [the daily philosopher](#), with excerpts from many sources to inspire reflection.