

For a good many people, life seems to have no point, no meaning, no value; and so it gets to be a burden, a chore, a seemingly endless round of sameness in which nothing matters. One day is just like all the others, and none of it makes any sense!

What a dull, boring, tiresome, meaningless thing life is for such people! They dream of something better, they wish for something better, but their dreams and wishes seem to have nothing to do with reality! And this causes them anxious care, ultimate concern, over their welfare and well-being.

C. Some human beings experience ultimate concern over the uncertainty, contingency, and finiteness of life

Day in and day out we are bombarded with news of people who are starving (think of the faces and emaciated bodies of some of the children we have seen in Somalia!), people who have had heart attacks and strokes, people who have been struck down by deadly diseases, or who have suffered serious accidents. Life sometimes seems so fragile and uncertain!

When we think of how our well-being is so interwoven with that of others, and how many times our welfare depends upon external circumstances being positive instead of negative, we are impressed with the fact that life is so contingent.

And when I glance at the obituaries in the newspaper and look at the ages at which the people have died, or when I hear on the news that such-and-such a well-known person has died at what I think is a young age, I am impressed with the finiteness of life.

These thoughts can bring on anxious care over our well-being, crucial concern about the future, especially to those of us who are older.