

LIE. “For whatever reason you refuse to feel this space we’re in, to know it’s insanity, really know it; whatever your particular anaesthetic is, that you hold on to so desperately, the thing that makes you THINK you know who you are; whatever that thing is you allow to keep you sane, your ace-in-the-hole; whatever keeps you from screaming out at this very moment, in absolute and sheer horror; whatever you fuck your mind with, WHATEVER that is: **It’s a lie.**”

*after the preamble to the song Peace in the Valley
by Alabama 3*

LIFE 1. Once a friend and I went to a café and ordered coffee. When her long black came, she sent it back ... it was too hot. **A**nother time I travelled through Afghanistan. Each village was advised of our approach by radio. Along the way we met four armed horsemen. We tried to talk to them, but they argued amongst themselves and finally rode off, somewhat reluctantly. At the next stop our arrival was greeted with astonishment: A group of four bandits had gone off to ambush and rob us. **O**nce I was to be murdered ... another time the coffee was too hot.

*John Lennon was right:
“Life is what happens to you while you make other plans.”*

LIFE 2. I’ll stretch your imagination now, please bear with me. Imagine you’re a space traveller from a faraway solar system. Your spaceship travels at near light speed. You can hibernate for thousands of years. Your world is in decline. **Y**our objective is to find a civilisation you can study to learn survival techniques. So far you have not been successful. Your technology can scan a solar system for life in an instant. But the confluence of conditions that allows life to arise is complex - among millions of stars and planets in your galaxy, your civilisation is the only one recorded; you are aware the likelihood of finding life elsewhere is slim, thus your race recognises life - as rare as it is - to be precious. **T**hen, after millennia-long searches, your spaceship’s instruments record a positive reading. At the edge of your galaxy there is a solar system with a few planets - one of which bears that immensely scarce commodity: Life. The object you are observing is astoundingly beautiful, with a myriad of life forms: Botanical and zoological - in water, on land and in the air. **N**ext you find out the dominant species fight wars and kill one another.

LOGOS. (Greek: the Word) ... is the Stoic view of the cosmos as a living organism endowed with reason. In modern life, logos is the persuasive technique - ‘the logical appeal’ - that aims to convince, by adding logic to reason. **I**n Western philosophy - beginning with Heraclitus (535 - 475 BC) - the term was used for a principle of order and knowledge. In the Bible, The Gospel of John identifies the divine Christian Logos, through which all things are made.

*rea·son
is subject to personal opinion
log·ic
follows clearly defined rules and tests for critical thinking*