

# Episode Thirty - Only A Limited Number of Combinations of Atoms Is Possible

Post by "Don" of August 8, 2020 at 6:55 PM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

Godfrey how frequently do you think that this condition ("nothing is interfering with this process") will exist? Frequently enough that it ought to be considered a default position, on the order of observing that all young things at birth pursue pleasure and avoid pain? Or infrequently, but important to identify as the general rule? Or somewhere in between? What does the answer tell us about how we should state the general rule. Or is it useful or not useful to state a general rule?

I think you raise good points, [Godfrey](#) , but I would posit that one's life doesn't have to be in shambles to need a philosophy of life to come back to. I'll freely admit that most people's default is simply to deal with life's situations at random as they arise. But how do we make sense of life's ups and downs? How do we deal with tragedy? How do we orient ourselves to have sustained pleasure? Do we experience pain and frustration and see no bigger reason for it?

I do think that as infants, animals (incl. humans) seek to have their basic desires fulfilled to achieve pleasure (look at the face of a sleeping infant when a full belly). But rapidly, humans are acculturated. We learn to rationalize, to sublimate, to hide behind facades. "Smiles, everyone," as Mr. Roarke used to say on Fantasy Island. I think the answer to [Cassius](#) 's question on how often there's no interference is rarely (if I understand his question 😊)