Munroe, Myles
In Pursuit of Purpose

8. Preface: The Pursuit of Purpose

The preface frames the book's central claim: every human is driven by a deep craving for significance and meaning. The author argues this universal search is really the pursuit of purpose, and the book shares what he learned discovering his own.

Key takeaways

- The real tragedy is not death but living without knowing why — a life without a reason.
- The need to feel significant drives all human behavior, for rich and poor, king and peasant alike.
- Unmet, this need turns destructive: it fuels suicide, prejudice, tyranny, and the sacrifice of integrity for status.
- The craving itself is not bad — it points to an inner vacuum meant to be filled by purpose.
- Purpose is the only true source of personal and shared fulfillment; the book invites the reader to pursue it.

Passages worth keeping

> *"The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but life without a reason."*

States the book's premise — purpose matters more than mere survival.