

# Viktor Frankl. Man's Search For Meaning.

Toronto, Ontario. Canada.



They wish to make a lot of money! In Europe, every American student, even more American adult is regarded as someone who is just out to make a lot of money. Really?

Well, sixteen percent, 16 percent of these students regarded their main goal and concern in life, to make a lot of money. I'm quoting literally, *make a lot of money*. And you know what the top guess, the top category we say category, categorical, what do you say? Category was among ... Excuse me but I know I'm speaking in marvelous accent without the slightest English.

Now, you know, you know what the top category was? 78% of these American youngsters we're concerned, as they expressed it themselves, with finding a meaning and purpose in their lives. So this is realistic, a realistic view of man.

And you know, you won't believe it. Gray, gray hair of my age, I started taking flying lessons recently. Do you know what my flying instructor told me?

If you are starting here, wish to get here, say east, heading for this, and you have a crosswind, you will drift and you will land here; so you have to do what the pilots call a crabbing, he told me, C-R-A-B, crabbing. You have to head for north of this airfield, and you have to fly that way. You see? If you are headed in this direction. If you are heading here above this airfield, then you will actually land here, but if you head for here, you are landing here.

This holds also for Man, I would say. If we take Man as he really is, we make him worse, but if we over-estimated him ... It's premature your applause. You will soon know why.

If we seem to be idealists and are over-estimating, over-rating man, and looking at him that high, here above, you know what happens? We promote him to what he really can be. So, we have to be idealists in a way, because then we wind up as the true, the real, realists. You know who has said this, "If we take Man as he is, we make him worse, but if we take Man as he should be, we make him capable of becoming what he can be."

This was not my flight instructor. This was not me. This was Goethe, he said this verbally. And now you will understand why I, in one of my writings once said, this is the most apt maxim and motto for any psychotherapeutic activity.

So, if you don't recognize a young man's way to meaning, man's search for meaning, you make him worse. You make him dull. You make him frustrated. You steal and add and contribute to his frustration. While if you presuppose, in this man, if in this so-called criminal or juvenile delinquent or drug abuse and so forth, there must be a, a ... what we call it? Spark. Yes, spark of search for meaning.

Let's recognize this. Let's presuppose it. And then, you will elicit it from him and you will make him become, what he in principle is capable of becoming.

Viktor Frankl, 1972. Toronto Youth Corps. Toronto, Canada.