

[Thanksgiving Thoughts](#)

Monday, October 13, 2008 at 12:46am

It all started when I [stumbled](#) upon a [video that put a lump in my throat](#).

It was yet another affirmation that an animal's experience through life is relatively the same as that of humans. That is to say, that we seek security, purpose and maybe a bit of love. Back in March, [I wrote](#) about this very subject. Since that time, I have lived in Costa Rica and have found nothing but the same. I think this is why I have become such an animal lover—I'm one of the rare people that wince when they see someone squash an insect. I no longer hunt, as I did when I was a child. I can't watch sport hunting shows, it just kills me.

This morning, on TV at work, there was a hunting show in which you could see moose get shot all over the country. I would have felt better if it was more out of need, but it was a clear case of [sport hunting](#), even if they eat the meat. The same goes for people who are afraid of spiders - I'm realizing that the spider has no effing clue that it's not okay to be in the warm boundaries of someone's apartment, and that it's probably scared shitless, like all the scorpions I had seen in Juanilama, when faced with a huge monster such as a human being. I think [these Alaskans](#) would agree.

Why do I bother with this drivel?

I write about this because I think a little more empathy on our part would go a long way toward not only other animals, but the huge monkeys that we ourselves are. I feel that understanding others, by having the maturity to put yourself in their shoes, would alleviate many of the world's injustices. For instance, two days ago I was speaking with a friend who sometimes felt patronized by other students who usually had better school marks than him. He was feeling down about it—I could see why. You could break this down into two perspectives, my friend's and the other student's, respectively *X* and *Z* for clarification.

1. *X*:
 - There are [8 different types](#) of intelligence. The teaching methods found in university may not suit *X*'s learning style
 - *X* may not be very motivated by what he's studying, and therefore not really trying.
2. *Z*:
 - He may not have had any difficulty in school before, and cannot understand what it's like to have trouble grasping new information
 - Doesn't know that marks are, according to some who may even [regret getting Straight A's](#) in college, not that important unless you are seeking to pursue graduate studies

I told *X* not to sweat it, because *Z* probably never had to relate to his situation and otherwise wouldn't be patronizing. I often wish we would take the time to think about how our actions affect others, even passively.

Another example is when I feel hostility toward people who label Barack Obama as a terrorist. I put myself in their shoes and guess that the world, as they know it, is different than the one I see. I guess that I would do the same in their situation. Here, I'm going to preempt Mike Leukert by saying that this is not something I'm only going to talk about, but I am now acting in small ways that will hopefully contribute. I signed up to become a Big Brother, and I will be volunteering at a center for youth in downtown Moncton, similar to the Boys and Girls Club.

The more I think about anything really, I find that my point of view represents the school of thought that best represents my own answer to **my big question: Why Are we here?**.

I think our goals are to ever more mature, as a race, in a way that respects the nature of all life. This would be best achieved through learning, or an end to ignorance. In essence, we would strive to become wise, while appreciating the fact that we are living entities for a very finite time. Live and let live.

Naturally, this answer is not the same for everyone. But from my current perspective, it seems most fitting. It's taken me a few years to wind down to something so simple. It will always be subject to change.

This weekend, like every other weekend, I will be thankful for the fact that I'm alive, that I have my health, that I'm loved, that I learn more and more every day. I'm thankful that I'm not in a position where someone can end my life if they find me as ugly (beautiful) as a spider. I'm incredibly thankful for all the opportunities I've had and the people I've met. I thank TD Bank and Sobey's for providing the spaghetti on my table tonight. I'd like to thank my brain for making healthy decisions like dragging my ass to the gym and pumping out healthy amounts of dopamine, oxytocin and adrenaline.

I would also like to thank you, my friends, for reading my thoughts and contributing your own. Have a safe Thanksgiving weekend.

Cheers!

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[Amie Geall](#) at 2:01am October 14

YOU ARE A RELENTLESS BLOGGER!!! I DO NOT KNOW HOW YOU DO IT!!!!
Hahahaha.....seriously a lot of effort must go into this. That alone is respectful. You should blog on love, sex and relationship addiction. That is something that has been

interesting me lately. It is a rather intense topic...getting into things like dependencies of the heart. Reading on it right now actually.