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## Is That All There Is?

By **THE EDITORS**

Happy Days is a series about the search for contentment, written by those striving to come to terms with the lives they lead.

### Reader Comments

*Readers who commented on Todd May's post, "Happy Ending," wrote the role that death plays in their attitudes towards life, and some posted final thoughts on the Happy Days series. Excerpts from some are below.*

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### Happy Together

My partner (now spouse) and I are in our 55th year together; we're two men, 72, closer to death than birth. Because we truly thrive in our life together and are never bored (thanks, in part, to a solid liberal arts education at Trinity, Hartford), we would choose to continue to evolve as individuals and as a couple indefinitely — yes, for 10,000 years and more. If there is a personal "life after death," we would still like to continue as a couple in whatever mode(s) that might be.

It is not death that gives our lives meaning in any sense, but the wonder-filled experience of mutual love for as long as possible. Yes, we shall both grieve profoundly when we are separated by death (even if both of us continue to live for a while in separate realms). Nonetheless, regardless of our hopes and speculations (however fanciful), a significant, continuing emotion for as long as we are self-aware (together or separately) will be nurtured by our gratitude of having found each other in 1955 and having lived and loved together during whatever existence is available to us.

A bit heady for 4 a.m., but there is it — for us, mutual love is the answer, not the prospect of our inevitable deaths, whatever that involves.

— *Posted by Richard T. Nolan*

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**The entire Happy Days series can be read at [happydays.blogs.nytimes.com](http://happydays.blogs.nytimes.com).**

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