

Conversations with Dog



By Elizabeth Chandler

The other night as I was watching my hound-shepherd mix, Rocky Balboa, clean himself, I wondered to myself “what’s it all about, this thing called Life?” At that precise moment, Rocky looked up and spoke to me in clear English. The following is a transcript of our conversation.

Rocky: Yes? You called?

Me: Rocky? Is that you? When did you learn to talk?

Rocky: Actually, I’m borrowing Rocky’s body for the moment. I don’t think he’ll mind.

Me: Wait a minute ... are you who I think you are?

Rocky: That’s right ... I’m DOG. At your service.

Me: DOG? I always suspected that a dog was the higher power, but I thought others would think I was crazy so I never said anything.

Rocky: Not “a dog,” “THE DOG.” Anyway, you’ve heard the saying Dog spelled backwards is God, right? Well, it’s the other way around.

Me: Wow!

Rocky: That word works both ways, too.

Me: No, I mean WOW, that’s amazing news.

Rocky: You humans are so easy to impress. So, now that we’ve handled all the introductions, how can I help you today?

Me: Well, um, DOG, I just was wondering what is the meaning of life?

Rocky: That’s actually a very easy question to answer. You have dogs, right? What do your dogs do when they see a squirrel?

Me: They chase it, of course.

Rocky: Right. There’s your answer.

Me: Huh?

Rocky: Next time I create a “higher” species, remind me to make them just a skosh smarter. Do they ever catch the squirrel?

Me: Come to think of it, no.

Rocky: Do they appear to you to be having fun while chasing the squirrel?

Me: I dunno. You’re the higher power here, what do you think?

Rocky: Note to self: Delete sarcasm in next “higher” species. Yes, they are having fun. Are you starting to get it?

Me: In a nutshell, pardon the pun, are you saying that it’s the chase that matters and all that matters is that the chase be fun? That catching the squirrel isn’t important and, in fact, it’s anticlimactic?

Rocky: Bravo. Don Pardo, tell her what she's won.

Me: What about the squirrel? Is it having fun?

Rocky: Yes. It's having fun, too.

Me: OK. I can see how it'd be fun for the dogs, but why is it fun for the squirrels? Aren't they the victims in this game?

Rocky: It's their choice to participate in the game. Haven't you noticed how squirrels outright taunt dogs? Why do you imagine they'd do that if they didn't want to play the game?

Me: OK. Let me get this straight. The meaning of life is to have fun, to fully experience "the chase" or whatever it is you are experiencing. Is that right?

Rocky: That's it. That's all there is. You humans make it all so difficult. The animals get it. There is much your species could learn from the animals. But few humans take the time to learn from them, and many humans disrespect them entirely, which, of course, is the same as disrespecting me.

Me: I've always felt a strong spiritual connection with animals and that helps to explain it. Since I've got so many dogs and cats living in my home that I care for and love, does that mean I get special dispensation in heaven?

Rocky: I'll take it under advisement. Next question?

Me: OK. Why is there so much suffering in the world?

Rocky: Another easy answer that humans once again in their finite wisdom have overlooked. There is suffering in the world because humans accept it as the way it must be. Not only that, you humans have managed to make your awareness of suffering such a daily occurrence in your lives, you have become lulled into spiritual complacency about it. If you were really riled up about suffering, your consciousness would change it.

Me: So we should turn off our TVs? Is that what you are saying?

Rocky: No, just turn off the news. You can watch Animal Planet and Discovery. I personally enjoy watching Sonia the Pet Psychic. Just don't watch anything that feeds the cosmic consciousness with negativity. Go out in your yard and dig a hole, chew a stick, chase some lizards, roll in something stinky. Do anything but do something! Think for yourselves and quit letting the purveyors of fear create your reality.

Me: That's really good advice. I think we humans are so wrapped up in the drama of the world that we actually perpetuate the situation.

Rocky: You are starting to get it. But, let's take it up a notch. Can you accept the fact that the good or bad drama in life is neither good nor bad? Can you let go of judging and quantifying everything and just know that everything IS simply because it IS? If you humans had any idea about the other forms of consciousness that open to you upon the conclusion of your incarnation on this plane, you would begin to recognize that death is not something to be feared and that there is no such thing as a bad thing. All of it, everything, it's all part of the chase, meant to be experienced to the full degree you can experience it in this life and with no judgment.

Me: You know, DOG, in some way I feel that I knew the answers to these questions already. But I'm so glad you've come through Rocky tonight to talk with me. It makes me feel so much better to know that there is more to life than what I can perceive with my physical self, which I suspected all along. And it makes me feel less alone in this universe to know you are really there.

Rocky: I am always here. For you, for all. You can count on it. Now, can you let me out in the yard cause DOG has to pee.