OUR STRANGEST PROBLEM

What is this strange thing called life which we so indifferently take for granted? For centuries upon centuries it has existed and will continue to exist for many more. But what has kept it here? Why does not life suddenly cease? After all, the living body is merely a group of elements and compounds, practically any of which can be found on the chemists shelf or in the soil. Thus, why should life continue to exist? All living things come into life to grow, suffer setbacks, perhaps grow again, but eventually return to the soil from whence they sprung. And yet they keep struggling, reproducing, loving, hating, and continually striving for something better. Thus it always has been and thus it always will be. Why? We do not know. And do we care? Most of us do not, for we do not need to. We need merely to take life for what it is, for when man discovers the reason for his existence, then I believe, his existence will cease.

- Edward Hanson - '37