

SECTION 1
CHAPTER 1

“Man dies but once in his life but a frog croaks every day” -
Unknown

HEY- WHAT’S GOING ON??

DARKNESS

Ring, Ring, Ring...

Ring, Ring, *click*... This is the Purpose of Life Customer
Service line. Please make a selection; please note that our
menu has changed.

Press or say 1 for Religion. Press or say 2 for Materialism.
Press or say 3 for Family. Press or say 4 for Work. Press or
say 5 for Pleasure. To repeat the menu, press or say 9. Press
or say zero for a customer service representative.

A voice from the darkness cries, ZERO!

You have selected... zero... Customer Service Representative. Please hold, your wait time will be... twelve seconds... Muzak plays and REM sings:

“It’s the end of the world as we know it.

It’s the end of the world as we know it

It’s the end of the world as we know it and I feel fine”

Srini: *Click* Purpose of Life Customer Service, Hello “I am operator twelve, my name is Srini, and How can I help you?”

Alex: Ughh– who are you?

Srini: I’m Srini from the Purpose of Life Customer Service Hotline, who am I speaking with?

Alex: Ummm, Alex ... Alex Pilgrim

Srini: It’s nice to meet you Mr. Pilgrim. May I call you Alex?

Alex: Sure, I guess so.

Srini: Can I get your email address where I can send a transcript of our support conversation?

Alex: **info@cognitionnet.com**

Srini: That’s **info@cognitionnet.com**. Thanks, now how can I help?

Alex: I’m not sure... I’m here, it’s very dark – pitch black, I’m all alone, I’m confused– where am I?

Srini: It appears your personal hard drive has crashed and your system bios has placed you into a diagnostic mode.

Alex: My hard drive crashed– that doesn't make sense... Wait a minute; we're not talking about my personal computer are we?

Srini: No– I'm referring to your *personal* hard drive.

Alex: I'm not sure I understand

Srini: Most folks who end up calling us don't- Your personal hard disk must have crashed– let's see if we have a backup of the last hours before... well, you know...

Alex: What do you mean: you know?

Srini: You know– before your heart stopped and you lost consciousness.