In "The Meaning or Purpose of Life" in the May 1989 Word Ways, John Henrick generated five anagrams of WHAT IS THE MEANING OR PURPOSE OF LIFE, and invited readers to "extend what one hopes will become a significant collection in its own right." Accepting his challenge, I constructed 206 more anagrams, arranging them in 52 rhymed quatrains beginning with his original phrase and ending with his WINNIE-THE-POOH, SUFFER PIGLET'S AROMA. None of my anagrams surpasses the verve of Henrick's masterpiece. It says it all: if a fictitious bear can bear a fictitious pig, why not men men, men women, and women children?

The rhymes, I feel, add interest in the face of obscurity. I tried to maintain the original meter, which happens to echo the decasyllabic line Shakespeare used (no comparison intended!), making the task more difficult, challenging, and pleasurable. An obvious bonus in grouping lines is that, while each stanza must be an entity, lines need not form sentences; readers will note several instances of deliberately broken words dipping to the line below. Stanzas are grouped as to subject: philosophy, religion, environment, general, exploration and discovery, conquest. The last two categories are in date order.

Some words need explaining. Whorehouse at 1d reflects my view that marriage for money is legalized prostitution. It was a good idea, I think, to get all the bawdy stuff up front, ensuring that at least one stanza will be read. Tempura at 23d carries an unintentional racial slur. Japanese mountaineers may well be the only team not to have left garbage at Everest, but how does one write pork and beans with no B, D, or K? I was happy to resurrect many archaic and obsolete words: afame, afore, affeir, enow, Ethiopia, fain, fane, ferosus, hewen, hore, mew, ope, paw, phare, prise, pule, wopi; these are explained in the text.

I thank Henrick for Me generation at 11a and learn from the past at 12a. I welcome suggestions on how to improve the syntax and/or meter of any line. Ideas for additional stanzas are also acceptable, as are incomplete, screwed-up, or unworkable anagrams. All help will be acknowledged. Write to Box 113, Harcourt, Ontario KOL 1X0, Canada.

What is the meaning or purpose of life?

Aphonous tales of whimpering strife?
Phenomenal strip of a righteous wife
In lap of whorehouse as tempting rife?
To merit a hue of happiness flowering
In futile haste for a posh empowering?
Enfief (lo!) a seraphim host uptowering
To enhance a frame of pulpits showering?
To free up a wealth of promise shining?
To ape the remorse of a wishful pining?
To repel pious hest for fame awhining?
To share with people a sum of refining?
Whop pious lean off mithering teaser?
Mire push of the Leaning Tower of Pisa?
Offer up wee insight pro the Mona Lisa?
Wish poulpeful faining o’ Mother Teresa?
The selfish importune a gain of power,
Regal pomp I see offset within an hour;
Sleep, whimpering Fate, to fashion our
Show-faith preemption, flee gain sour.
Reign of happiness I hew to formulate,
Rout awing philosophies effeminate,
Propositioning where shameful Fate
Weighs off the proper soul inanimate.
Oh, ignite a flame of upper worthiness
Writing a poem of hopeful earthiness,
We alemen of far-out hippo girth-iness
Weigh off one-upmanship, alert to rise;
Push off game I won, the anterior flies;
If we plum the air of anthropogenesis,
Paint awe of life thru morphogenesis,
In offer with popular hematogenesis,
We mirth painful ore of pathogenesis.
A flight of purpose we aim to enshrine,
Go separate off ore within plush mine,
Rough aim of witless happen to refine:
High of mine to put pearls afore swine!
Me generation: pious piffle has worth,
Egotism offers up pain while on earth,
Wee faith spooning pleasure of mirth,
Emphasise fun, whoa repletion of girth!
Of pious hieing, we learn from the past
How to shape up religion, fire men fast!
Mine of elapsing firepower thou hast:
Upflow of reprehension I emit, aghast!
Wistful men see ire of anthropophagi
Shunt off pep religion, stow haeremai,
Mew fretful opposition ere Shanghai
Proofs rue; a fine meal in stewpot high!

Man's flowering faith I hope to peruse,
Tempering fat hope of hilarious news;
Feel right of worship in paeon to muse
A harmonious profile feting the pews.

Rue a riot of Mephistopheles' fawning,
Prime hope o' Faust to flee his warning,
Await philosopher's effete mourning
For hate epitome, our selfish pawning.

Wolfish eruption fog eerie phantasm;
To weigh the prise of unfair pleonasm
We fine up the relationship of orgasm,
Inhere a wee hit of fusing protoplasm.

For an upright awe of timeliness hope,
Fight female punisher to wire "no soap";
Hew human realities' spin-off to grope
Worthier aim: fetus' life hangs on Pope!

Perish elfish power of augmentation
Htp wolf of a huge misrepresentation:
Waspish replier of huge fomentation
If sheep peril show of argumentation.

Eat, whale, of perishing mites; poor fun
Pie for giant of whom his tales're spun:
Meat grope l flee, swift harpoon l shun,
Shape Fate, fight enormous peril -- I won!

Hap see enriping of wishful amoretto,
Supine hero of a whimpering falsetto;
Hushing of ire as per wine of palmetto,
Pair loon waifs, hem superfine ghetto!

We offer shipshape ego malnutrition,
Saw off high trees, pule rape monition,
Shew sour rain, off game, help petition
Hope, mewing fearful Earth's position.

Famishing prone to shape woeful rite:
Hewen forest arena of impious plight,
Atmosphere suffering in hoopla; wite
Woeful Mother rape in shaping of site.

Pen hew of thine imperial loft, Sagar-
Math', shining foe of wee rites popular;
Herewith an oft impious spleen of gar-
Nishing waste: pile of hore, of tempura.

Maori greeting
move
kidnapping
tests compassion
reproof
lucky chance
of unborn child
seek
intractable
sadden
plankton
high
nail (hook)
loon watcher
loon's cry
protect
whimper
acid
assuming new aspect
hewn
blame
Earth
Brazil
slaughter
Sagarmatha (Everest)
spite
filth
Ram huge ship on reef, swipe flotation; Oil efs up heap -- weigh remonstration, Offer wheelers shipping automation While fishermen gasp out: "F----- operation!"

Owe hopeful heir is giant step for man, We set our aim for life, hoping the span Of others rimes: of wapiti, gnu, elephant; Of fisher, mistle, hippo, ewe, orang-utan.

Manifesto of hunger, wopi peril haste, Hail free prompting of heinous waste, Whimpering phare of felonious taste If poor men hewing failure posthaste.

Oh, go weep fair fulmination! The press Pooh off a wee prurient almightiness, Woo pain epitome, hare frightfulness Of pigment ire to whale our happiness.

Oft hurl praise of poets, hewing a mine Of literature; who, shaping poems fine, Flesh our heart, sipping a mote of wine, As tho hap to rime power-effusing line.

Ah, whelp of germination pestiferous, Hw me plethora of giant spiniferous, Paw to mithering of sheep laniferous, Hap wlt hope of mines argentiferous.


A few hip-hops of ego, ire instrumental, Fit up fashion sphere, woo regimental; I gee up worship of fetish ornamental. Or purpose high of a wife sentimental.

To win fee or fame our happiness light, Wintario sheep mouse pelf for a night: Misering half-hours of enow appetite -- A fee to help new parsimonious fright.

Opportunism alight whereof fain see How fights real aims inopportune fee; Hap fish fool ruin, we impotents agree: A finish of pleasure, whetting poor me!

Mesh free outing of Italian whopper: We son of sun? Fight a hie tale improper! Outing of Earth, inflame wise shopper; In whine of foe, ultimate grasshopper!
Smith: peruse region of Powhatan lief
Whose foppish gem, "True Relation," naïf?
Showmanship reputation lee of grief,
See wealth potpourri shaming no lief.

Ship Raleigh for fun to spot a wee mine?
Hew gelt, spur aspiration fine?
No, pal, he met grief for a poutish swine,
For tame shaper of guile with no spine!

Go fresh faith, imperious Newton plea:
1, shaping the laws of pure motion, free
Up show-off omens, horripilating a tee-
Ming sphere of awful parison, 1 to thee.

Pep fame of rough-hewn sterilisation,
Ref whelming hope of pasteurisation,
Plan huge free shew for optimisation,
Enfief pep shew thro glamourisation.

Shun woe of airmen re opposite flight;
Re hue, people moan: "If Santos... if Wright..."
Who'e'er put aim, rose off in "plane" sight?
In spur of pioneer, who set fame alight?

I fit up goals where no men shipt afore,
Homing thru sweep o' planet lief I soar
Some parish of a Neptune flight; 1 wore,
Sweeping fore path, aim of unlit shore.

From a hue of Persia, thin legion swept,
Unhoof the foreigners, limp Asia wept:
Fear Mogul hath iron, swipes foe inept,
Hail a new home, profiting ferous sept.

Galiots up from Spain, wherein the foe
Hap it up to effeir English men-o'-war so;
Spuming a spiel of fire to warn The Hoe,
Triumph of English to fire España woe!

Fair triumph of Nelson, go wipe the sea,
Off enemies' growth; hit Spain, our plea;
Won mother Utopia, fearing ships flee:
Horatio wopt shipmen suffering alee!

Wish up misfire of Napoleon the great,
Whop master of Europe, finishing late;
Punishing him, Waterloo spree of Fate,
Iron man, high peer, to wipe us off slate!

Oft hail Rasputin, he of seeming power:
Hip muse of Tsarina, get hope in flower,
Fan moue of hippie in the Tsar's glower;
To oust hep imperial -- an effing shower!
Hie, pen up worth of fat generalissimo,
Erupt new fane of Ethiop larghissimo,
Hap to flee huge pen in war fortissimo,
When fat thug peer of role pianissimo.

How fateful operations, miring sheep,
Are mounting, thro Polish fief, a sweep
Of arms, hewing ope ruin to faith, sleep,
Polish heart; gain of misfortune weep.

A pompous Hitler, he of waste refining,
Foetal whipmaster of Europe shining,
Thema of woe oats Fuhrer’s pipelining;
Hoof afar, thru Semite people swining.

Spitfire whine flouts a German hope:
Sewing up foe of a Hitler misanthrope;
Pious shew of faith, German interloper --
Mewing feat of serious philanthrope.

Fuel high priest of insane atom power;
Ah, see pout of shining flame rip tower,
Singe pent-up fate of Hiroshima; lower
Plite to afame prof’s wee shining hour!

Sense of imperial power, though faint,
Sweep open flame of rough Irish taint
Whereof, if poor meet anguish’s plaint,
Hew heels-up import of a foreign saint!

Herewith fine purse to sing of paloma,
Hew praise of life thru opening stoma,
Upwaiting (I hope) an effortless homer:
Winnie-the-Pooh, suffer Piglet’s aroma!

CALL FOR HELP

Kent Babcock, PO Box 423, Woodstock NY 12498 is working
on a transposal research project and would like to have the
following input from Word Ways readers: (1) your 5, 10 or
15 all-time favorite transposal-pairs (or -sets); (2) what
you like about them; (3) what you like about transposals
generally; (4) whether you have envisioned any categoriza-
tion for the different types or styles of transposals. Part
of his project is to classify or categorize the “species” into
as few as possible logically satisfying categories.