



EDITORIAL

## PURPOSE

So what difference does this story make – to you, to the audience, to Malta and beyond? Every writer in **THINK** answers this question. Researchers are driven by a purpose to find things which no one else knows, to build on the passion and knowledge of others. We at **THINK** are driven to share these stories with you.

As we close a year of discussions about home, health, love and, now, purpose, we distill the compelling drive in our protagonists to do what they do. Purpose differs from the other ideas about quality of life. Having a purpose does not always translate into happiness. As summarised in an excellent web comic, *The Oatmeal*, it's not about smiling and feeling positive all the time. 'I want to be busy and beautiful and brimming with ten-thousand moving parts,' the comic's author wrote over a character nested in a bizarre flower with two light bulbs.

It hurts our protagonists to do what they do. From sweating inside a prosthesis (p.22) to coming home exhausted by classroom social issues (p.24), from getting out of bed despite a life-draining condition (p.47) to seeing one's beloved city sacrificed to consumerism (p.34), neither research nor activism nor excellence is an easy ride. Still, purpose is what brings out the best in you, and it's worth the trouble.

Explaining *ikigai*, the popular Japanese concept of 'value in living', Yukari Mitsuhashi stressed finding a purpose in action throughout daily life. We hope that even if you are swamped in routine, our stories will help you see a purpose in your own life as well, and that purpose will propel you forward.

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