

## **PLATO on A LIFE WORTH LIVING**

### **Letter VII, 340 C-D**

"For anyone who hears this, who is a true lover of wisdom, with the divine quality that makes him akin to it and worthy of pursuing it, thinks that he has heard of a marvelous quest that he must at once enter upon with all earnestness, or life is not worth living; and from that time forth he pushes himself and urges on his leader without ceasing, until he has reached the end of the journey or has become capable of doing without a guide and finding the way himself. This is the state of mind in which such a man lives; whatever his occupation may be, above everything and always he holds fast to philosophy and to the daily discipline that best makes him apt at learning and remembering, and capable of reasoning soberly with himself . . . "

### **DAMODAR on**

## **HOW TO DISCOVER THE *ESSENCE* OF A PROBLEM**

"The student must first learn the general axioms. For the time being, he will of course have to take them as assumptions, if he prefers to call them so . . . What the student has first to do is to *comprehend* these axioms and, by employing the deductive method, to proceed from universals to particulars. He has then to reason from the "known to the unknown", and see if the inductive method of proceeding from particulars to universals supports those axioms. This process forms the primary stage of true contemplation."