

## FRIENDS FOR LIFE: A STUDY ON BRUCE CAMERON'S A *DOG'S PURPOSE*

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**Abstract:**

This paper is entitled "Friends for Life: A Study on Bruce Cameron's A Dog's Purpose" is a brief sketch of the companionship between a Dog and a Man. However, this paper flings to bring the role dogs to play in every aspect of human life. Naturally, some Dogs are considered for their loyalty, faithfulness, and love towards their companions. William Bruce Cameron is an American author, columnist, and humourist who is most famous for his novel *A Dog's Purpose*, which spent 19 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. The novel signifies that every dog has a purpose, just as every human does. Eventually, it describes the relationship between man and dog by laying stress on the values of amity with fellow human beings. Thus, the paper examines the love shared by canines and their people from the canine's point of view. Cameron's puppy protagonist takes readers on a journey through his life, or rather, lives, because this extraordinary dog lives and dies several times, always searching for his life's purpose.

**Keywords:** friends, bond, companionship, love, behaviour

The phrase 'man's best friend' has existed for a long time. Every dog has a purpose. Every dog has a meaning in this world, just as every human does. Dogs can be the most loving and supporting animals, as seen in the novel *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron. For years, dogs have been considered man's best friend because of their loyalty and faithfulness to their companions.

The dogs of our childhood often serve as substitute siblings or playmates. As adults, we may see our pets as exercise buddies, playmates for our kids, or beloved surrogate children. In his *A Dog's Purpose*, Bruce mentions a dog Bailey and the owner of the dog Ethan, a small boy who lives with his parents. Once Ethan got Bailey in his hands, he was thrilled because Bailey always showed his love towards Ethan. Ethan is a single child of his parents, so he got a sibling too.

In the olden days, pets are often steadfast friends guarding us against loneliness. For older individuals, this relationship is quite important because older people tend to become more isolated. Bailey also becomes their best companion of Ethan. He is not married until his old age. During their Adult age of Ethan, Bailey passes away, but Bailey come back as a new dog in his old age, but in a different dog's body and makes to realize Ethan he is Bailey and makes him happy. Maybe this is a supernatural thing. Some of us do not accept this, and they ask how a dog should be reborn. In reality, rebirth is also possible if we take The Bible as the primary evidence. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (I Peter 1:3).

Ancient people valued the profound connections between humans and animals. In current years, the research evidence confirms the physiological, emotional, and social benefits of relations with animals and the healing potential of animal-assisted programs in many settings. In primordial times and cultures worldwide, animals have been appreciated as indispensable partners in human survival, health, and healing. Many spiritual traditions have honoured people's relationships to animal forms of life as part of the interconnectedness of the natural world and a linkage to the spirit world. Animal companions and guides have assumed influential roles in animist beliefs and shamanic practices.

*A Dog's Purpose* was very well written; it flows well and is highly insightful. Cameron uses detail and logic from the points of view of a man and his best friend, the dog, and their bonding. The novel is one of a kind, especially considering he wrote it from a dog's perspective, which is considerably complicated since we cannot precisely communicate with them or hear their thoughts. Plus, he wrote the book from the eyes of the same dog through multiple lives, making his novel far more complex than other books told from the point of view of animals. Every dog in this novel expresses their love towards humans, especially the dog Bailey, was deeply bonded with Ethan. Once Ethan falls in love with Hannah, Bailey shows an equal amount of love towards Hannah. This shows the love of dogs towards humans.

There have been many stories about the love of dogs towards human beings, and there is a story that is so dear to the hearts of many, the story of Hachiko. Hachiko was an Akita dog born on a farm in Japan. He was the very loyal pet of Professor Ueno, who worked at the University of Tokyo. Every day, Hachiko escorted Professor Ueno to the train station, where he would catch a train to work, and Hachiko would meet up with him at the end of his workday at the station. Unfortunately, tragedy struck, and their daily routine abruptly ended when Professor Ueno tragically suffered a cerebral haemorrhage and died. He never returned to the train station

where his loyal companion Hachiko was waiting. Every day for the next nine years, Hachiko went to the train station at the exact time to pick up Professor Ueno. This shows the unwavering loyalty, love, and companionship of the canine. Like Hachiko, Bailey and Elle also show loyalty towards Ethan and Jacob in *A Dog's Purpose*.

Dogs and humans have shared a bond for a very long time. They consider the dogs as part of their own family. Families do not see the dog as an alien. According to John Archer of the University of Central Lancashire, who has conducted a detailed study of dog-human relations from an evolutionary perspective, about forty percent of owners identify their dog as a family member reflecting social compatibility between our two species.

Animal friendship is a vital aspect of life in the United States and all over the world, with roughly about seventy million homes claiming at least one pet as a family member. Humans have many reasons for owning pets. Brickel implies that animals provide "one highly reliable association in a person's life ... more consistent and reliable than human-human." Pets are said to go into a 'relationship of mutualism' with their owners. That is what pet owners acknowledge as accurate they not only give but receive love and warmth from their pets. Bruce, too feels the same in the novel *A Dog's Purpose*

The job of a good dog was ultimately to be with them, remaining by their sides no matter what course their lives might take. All I could do now was offer him comfort, the assurance that as he left this life, he was not alone but rather was tended by the dog who loved him more than anything in the whole world. (71)

Domestication led to taming of animals for their purpose of serving humankind and being with them. Though it led to closeness with human beings, it affected them in other ways. If a human being is dislocated and shifted to an entirely new environment with a new set of policies and rules, he will suffer from emotional seclusion from his homeland, and deep inside, he will always be longing for his home. Similar to the state of humans, the moment when dogs have domesticated, their behaviour, their duties, and their acts are all determined by their owners. In *A Dog's Purpose*, Ellie brings out a similar state in the hands of the owner Jakob,

Dogs are not just physical beings but also emotionally indulged with the individual. Bailey also has a great bond with Ethan. Once Ethan goes for higher studies outside of his country, Bailey waits for Ethan. After Ethan comes, Bailey dies in his lap.

Dogs can understand the feelings and emotions of the individual. Dogs have the same hormones and undergo the same chemical changes humans do during emotional states. Dogs even have the hormone oxytocin, for humans involved with feeling love and affection for others. With the same neurology and chemistry humans have, it seems sensible to suggest that dogs also have similar emotions. On the other hand, it is essential not to go overboard and straight away assume that the dynamic ranges of dogs and humans are the same. This means that a dog encompasses all of the basic emotions as humans, such as joy, fear, anger, disgust, and love.

In the present society, facts point to the role dogs play in satisfying human needs for companionship, friendship, unconditional love, and affection. These have become gradually

harder to satisfy in our nuclear families living impersonal suburban lifestyles. Most importantly, in a world with tensions and problems, dogs are essential in providing comfort to the owner and the person who takes care of them. In this novel, *A Dog's Purpose*, Bailey says, "All I could do now was offer him comfort, the assurance that as he left this life, he was not alone but rather was tended by the dog who loved him more than anything in the whole world" (37).

Loyalty is one of the essential qualities attributed to a dog. Animal experts frequently attribute the loyalty of dogs to a shared history. Dogs are also naturally affectionate. Their instinct is to want to bond. Humans have trained dogs that fight or attack to be that way. Dogs want to love and to be loved, which can be agreed that deep down in the human heart, that is what everyone wishes for. They want to be part of a family, contribute to those who care for them, and protect their fellow family members.

Since becoming man's best friend, dogs have become emotionally linked to humans since the early days. Many dogs pick up on human moods and can tell when the owners are depressed or angry. Moreover, humans understand dogs in return. We can read their expressions and tell when they are scared, upset, or joyful. In *A Dog's Purpose*, Bailey observes Ethan's mood, and he makes him a happy man. Every dog in this novel has a deep bond with its owners. That bond makes them fulfil their purpose to live in this world.

The human-canine bond is a special relationship that has developed over thousands of years of domestication. Dogs have been bred to be loyal companions and protectors, and as a result, they have evolved to be highly attuned to human emotions and behavior. Studies have shown that dogs can have a positive impact on human physical and mental health, including reducing stress, loneliness, and depression. Furthermore, the bond between a human and their dog is often described as being very strong and emotional. In conclusion, the human-canine bond is a unique and mutually beneficial relationship that has evolved over thousands of years, and has been shown to have positive effects on human physical and mental health.

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