

Michael Basseler  
An Organon of Life Knowledge

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**Genres and Functions of the Short Story in North America**

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What are those times? Times, perhaps, when someone is feeling the need for a science of life.  
(Martha Nussbaum, *Love's Knowledge*, 283)

You ask "What is life?" That is the same as asking "What is a carrot?" A carrot is a carrot and we know nothing more.  
(Anton Chekhov in a letter to his wife, Olga Knipper Chekhov, 1904)

