

Don't Fear The Reaper

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Where Shall Your Mind Dwell At the Moment of Your Physical Death?

The fear of physical death is mankind's greatest anxiety. How about you? Do you fear death? Do you fear the Reaper? Do you fear the Angel of Death? Know this great truth. You won't fear the Angle of Death if you first deeply believe the Angel of Death is also the Angel of Birth. The death I'm talking about is mankind's physical death, which I also call "terrestrial death." Also, the birth I'm talking about is mankind's spiritual birth, which I call "celestial birth." But there's always a lingering anxiety that makes us uncertain if we're good enough for God's ability to forgive us of all our transgressions of Divine Law. This condition is called Mankind's Great Doubt. In spite of this great uncertainty, do not worry and do not be anxious. Nevertheless, this Great Doubt is a very natural condition of the human experience. The Apostle Paul addresses this great lesson about mankind's natural internal conflict, that being the conflict of mankind's two natures – the good and loving nature versus the evil and fearful nature. This message is recorded in Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 7, verses 18, 19, 24 and 25.

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Jesus also addressed this issue in a simple manner: **"The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."** This is a Christian response to mankind's natural fear and dilemma regarding personal judgment and eternal death. I've also read that a similar response is embraced by most manmade religions, if not all manmade religions. I truly believe this is a universal, spiritual conflict that is best resolved and conquered in our terrestrial world. Overcoming this natural fear isn't just a matter of faith, but is ultimately a matter of love. This emancipating love is almost always preceded with hope and faith. Always remember this. **Hope, faith and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.** God is perfect love, thus loving all His children and giving them the benefit of the Great Doubt! I hope the reader enjoys and embraces this most important message. Truly and seriously, don't fear the Reaper!

This feature is presented in four parts.

Part 1

Live Life By The Ideology of Love

Maybe you haven't fully bought into the power and glory of true-love. Are you on the fence, tending to totter between love and antilove. I know for many people, antilove is a very viable choice, but that's only because they don't believe in the living reality of mankind's Creator. If this is the case, then please consider one more very important element of life. I know life is a very difficult struggle, and disadvantaged citizens have a far greater challenge than the fortunate citizens who are blessed with life's abundance. Nonetheless, all citizens need to focus upon the big picture of life, which includes the ultimate prize for the Children of Humanity. **What is the ultimate prize of life? The ultimate prize of life is the continuing existence in the world-to-come; that is, life in the Kingdom of Love.** True-love shall lead you to the freedom of the fear of death, and the freedom of the fear of death is the greatest gift you can obtain in our terrestrial world. This is true whether you're a disadvantaged child of God or an advantaged child of God.

In the event you perceive yourself as being a disadvantaged child, then consider this great truth. Being poor doesn't diminish a person's ability to live life by The Ideology of Love. Growing up in a low income neighborhood that's riddled with violent crime, dope dealers, dope addicts, and prostitutes doesn't reduce a person's ability to live life by The Code of Love. Growing up in a single parent family doesn't decrease a person's ability to live life by the principles of love. And growing up in a family where one or both parents are defective and toxic doesn't negate the ability to live life by the life principle of love. Ultimately, there's no cosmic excuse for failing to live life by the power and glory of love. While antilovers may misguide a person along life's path to loving enlightenment, all of God's children are presented with many invitations to the fruits of love. It all a simple matter of a person choosing love over antilove. It's all a matter of personal will, and where there's a will, there's a way.

Now, consider this fact. The power and glory of true-love includes immediate short-term rewards and blessings as well as future long-term rewards and blessings. Love is the most satisfying ethereal substance known to mankind. Selfish desires may promise immediate gratification, but these selfish gratifications don't satisfy and fulfill the deep longings of the soul. These false promises of immediate gratification are black lies, and they're usually made with the intentional purpose of deceit and deception. They're looking for the spiritually weak who can easily be trapped by the lure of selfishism. Ultimately, selfishism leaves a sour and bitter taste, thus forging the person into a sour and bitter state of being. Surely and truly, everyone must consider this great and wise question regarding the reality of life: ***“What does a man profit if he gains the whole world but loses his soul?”***

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True-love is impartial and indiscriminant. With true-love, it doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, or if you're highly intelligent or simple minded. With true-love, it doesn't matter if you're male or female, or if you're straight or gay. With true-love, it doesn't matter if you're Christian, Jewish, Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist, or any other earthly religion. And with true-love, it doesn't matter if you're capitalist, communist, socialist, or any other political ideology. True-love is for all, but not all are for true-love. This is very tragic when you consider the personal value love is to the sentient human being. And it's all a matter of personal choice. **Love is never an accidental occurrence, but it's always an intentional exercise of those who willfully chose to live life by the power and glory of love.** Sure, the world may be in total turmoil, but true-love is always creative and always finds the good rewards of life. Now, how about you? What shall you choose? Do you choose true-love and celestial life, or do you choose selfishism and celestial death? I hope you chose love and life! Finally consider these questions. Where shall your mind dwell at the moment of your terrestrial death? What do you think the Angel of Death really looks like?

Part 2

The Three Types of Death

There are three types of spiritual disposition in regards to the sentient human being: the atheist, the agnostic and the theist. As a general condition, each spiritual disposition type has a unique response to the reality of terrestrial death. Consider the following.

The Death of the Atheist – The Bitter End

For atheists, terrestrial death is the final ending of all life, and it's called the bitter end. Death is the ultimate finality of the human being, thus destroying the body, the spirit and the soul. And a new state-of-being begins; that is, the state of nonexistence, or the state of non-being, and also called the state of oblivion. From oblivion you came, and unto oblivion you shall return. Who are the oblivious? They are the forgotten ones. When faced with the certainty of physical death, the atheist thinks: "This is my end – my bitter end. My life is over and finished, and I shall be no more! Alas! The non-sensation of a deep sleep now awaits me, whereby I shall never be awakened." Now, tell me truthfully, where shall your mind dwell at your moment of physical death?

The Death of the Agnostic – The Anxious End

For agnostics, terrestrial death is the anxious ending of life and it's called the anxious end. Beware! The Anxiety of Death can kill you! An agnostic approaches death with an uncertain wish and an uncertain hope, thus thinking: "Maybe the theists just might be right about mankind's loving Creator

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and utopian life after physical death? Maybe the Creator is real, and life is a continuum? I sure wish and hope that's true! But what will I do if it's not true? What will I do if I'm not good enough to pass through the gates of heaven? What will become of me? Why didn't I use the power of my belief instead of allowing my unbelief to govern me? Oh God Almighty, please forgive this old wretched soul and let me live in your Kingdom of Love. I really want to live in a Kingdom of Love." Now, tell me truthfully, where shall your mind dwell at your moment of physical death?

The Death of the Theist – The Bittersweet End

For a theist, terrestrial death is both an ending and a beginning – and it's called the bittersweet end. When faced with the certainty of physical death, the theist thinks: "My terrestrial career is finally over and my celestial career is now beginning. Because I love, I'm victorious in both life and death. Oh Death, now where is your sting? And I look forward with great confidence, certainty and jubilation to be reunited with my loved ones who physically died before me. But I also know with all my heart that I shall deeply miss the loved ones I shall leave behind on earth. Truly, parting is such sweet sorrow. In spite of this sweet sorrow, I know deep within my being that one day we too shall be reunited. And what a great and glorious day that shall be! O gracious and benevolent Heavenly Father, into your loving hands I commend and entrust my spirit. Amen! Alleluia! And Yippee!" Now, tell me truthfully, where shall your mind dwell at your moment of physical death?

Part 3

Additional Reflections Of the Atheist and the Theist

I'm always amazed by how much and how quick atheists talk about God and religion. And they're extremely adamant in having other people agree with their life-ideology. It also seems to me the vast majority of atheists would totally abolish religious institutions and spiritual beliefs if they had such power. But what really concerns me most about atheists is they're **hope bashers**. Atheists have the right, the privilege and the prerogative to believe sentient human life ends at the moment of physical death. If atheists want to live under this dark cloud of despair, then so be it. Nonetheless, I personally shall always choose hope and life over despair and death.

In the advent human life expires at the moment of physical death, then the theistic belief in life after life would truly be folly. And if that is true, then so what? Let the theistic fools have their joyful folly. What does an atheistic loose if theists live life by a hopeful folly? They lose nothing, absolutely nothing! How is an atheistic harmed if theists cling to an erroneous optimistic belief that life's best is yet

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to come? An atheist isn't harmed just because a theist believes in the living reality of a patient and kind Creator. In the event atheists can rightfully gloat in their adamant belief of oblivion, then theists lose nothing and they're not harmed in any manner. Theists will actively live life with hope and joy, and with satisfaction and fulfillment. For I know my hope, my faith and my love allow me to endure, preserve and prevail over all of life's hardships, trials and tribulations. I shall review all the meaningful events of my life, and I shall then smile with a glowing contentment. I've lived a good life, and I know that's true because I lived life with hope and optimism, and with a positive and proactive disposition. I would never be an atheist because its despair would destroy my soul and kill my spirit.

I do believe in the living reality of mankind's Creator simply because it provides hope. And as a collective, America believes in the living reality of a gracious, benevolent and loving Creator simply because this profound belief provides the nation with a living hope and a collective optimism. Now, tell me truly, what's really bad or wrong about living life with a living hope and an optimistic disposition? I personally would rather live life with an erroneous but very hopeful belief than live life that's founded upon a devastating truth that sucks the joy right out of life. **I don't want to live life in a world without love, but I especially don't want to live in a world without hope. What's the meaning, value and purpose of life if it's constantly lived under a dark and foreboding cloud of absolute despair? Again I say, I'll choose hope over despair any day and every day.**

Now, in the event the atheists are correct in their belief of the nonexistence of mankind's Divine Creator, then what has the theist really lost? Nothing! Absolutely nothing! Theists at least live their terrestrial life with hope, which surely makes anyone a better person and a better citizen. On the other hand, if the atheists are wrong in their belief of the nonexistence of mankind's Divine Creator, then what have they lost. Everything! Absolutely everything! I gladly hitch my wagon to the star of our gracious, benevolent and loving Creator. And I'll follow that star until someone proves to me there's a better star to follow. **Truly and seriously, where shall your mind dwell at the final flicker of your life's ember?**

I'd rather be a sparrow than a snail.
And I'd rather be a hammer than a nail.
I'd rather be a tree than a log.
And I'd rather be an angel than a dog.
I'd rather know the truth than be misled.
And I'd rather be alive than dead.

Part 4

The Angel of Death, Mankind's Greatest Fear And Anxiety

There's no greater faith than the confident belief that your terrestrial death is also your celestial birth. The person who diligently and consistently exercises true -love steadily evolves in spirit and faith. Eventually you attain an enlightenment that reveals your spiritual entity shall continue to live after your physical death. Thus, you have the ability to live your terrestrial life with confidence, joy, optimism and a positive anticipation that the best is yet to come. And what is the source that creates these inner personal sensations of confidence, joy, optimism and positive anticipation? It's the three great sentient promises our Celestial Father has revealed to His Children of Humanity.

Sentient Promise #1: All things work to good for those who truly, sincerely and genuinely love their Creator.

Sentient Promise #2: Things which the eye has not seen, things which the ear has not heard, and things which cannot be conceived in the hearts of mankind is what awaits those who truly, sincerely and genuinely love their Creator.

Sentient Promise #3: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things past, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate the Children of Humanity from the love of their gracious and benevolent Creator.

O' Mighty and Frightful Angel of Death, Would You Please Be My Friend and Neighbor?

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of Death, I shall fear no Evil, for my loving Creator is always with me. His powers of love comfort me, and my cup of abundance runneth over. In His infinite grace, He prepares a great feast for me in celebration of my life. Surely, goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. And I shall dwell forever in the Holy Mansion created by my gracious, benevolent and loving Creator. Because my benevolent Creator's love is absolutely perfect, His love casts out all my fears and anxieties, and my soul is liberated

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to soar like an angel on high. With great joy, I now make the Angel of Death my good and comfortable friend. O' mighty Angel of Death, my true forbearing and foreboding friend, where now is your sting? And to my all powerful, all knowing, and all present Celestial Father, into your hands I entrust my soul and spirit. When you truly love your gracious Creator, then every day is a good day to die!

The Near Death Experience (NDE)

The near death experience has always fascinated me, and from my personal pursuit of the truth, I have come to be more of a believer than a skeptic. Nevertheless, I retain an element of skepticism, knowing that I'll have to truly die in order to learn the absolute truth regarding the phenomenon. In the mean time, I encourage the reader to learn all one can readily learn about the NDE. Be sure to learn from the skeptics as well as the believers. There's a large reservoir of information available from the internet, including many videos. The internet also includes NDE's that are very negative and fearful. Just as there are many people who have defined very loving and accepting experiences, there are also people who have defined very frightful and revengeful experiences. I recommend the reader apply a reasonable element of skepticism while seeking the truth of the matter. To find these various websites simply do a search for "near death experiences." For the reader's convenience, here are some website addresses I quickly found.

1. Dr. Ramon Moody, pioneer researcher of NDE's: www.LifeAfterLife.com.
2. Wikipedia's NDE's Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near-death_experience.
3. The Huffington Post Website: www.huffingtonpost.com/news/near-death-experiences.
4. The Near Death Organization: <http://near-deathexperiences.org/>.
5. God Reports Website –A Christian website that includes hellish NDE's:
<http://blog.godreports.com/2012/03/atheist-professors-near-death-experience-in-hell-left-him-changed/>
6. ABC News has covered various NDE stories: (1) <http://screen.yahoo.com/2020-sixth-sense-proof-heaven-080000098.html>; and (2) <http://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/beyondbelief/experts-death-experience/story?id=14221154>.
7. Christian near death experiences stories videos: Google "Christian near death experiences stories."
8. International Association for Near Death Studies (IANDS) –NDE's common characteristics:
<http://www.iands.org/about-ndes/characteristics.html>.
9. International Association for Near Death Studies (IANDS) –NDE's common after effects:
<http://www.iands.org/about-ndes/common-aftereffects.html>.
10. Horizon Research Foundation: http://horizonresearch.org/main_nav_pages.php?cat_id=9.

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The following well known poem is by the acclaimed author and poet Colleen Hitchcock, and by her kindness, it's used by her permission. Ms. Hitchcock's website provides very interesting information about her and her literary work. Colleen's website biography defines her to be a most remarkable talent in many facets of life. She is also the author of the well know poems "Soldier's Prayer" and "Soldier's Salute." Associated inspirational gifts are also available from the website. The reader is strongly encouraged to visit Ms. Hitchcock's website and peruse the available products and services. Her website is: <http://colleenhitchcock.com/index.html>

Ascension

And if I go while you're still here...

**Know that I still live on
Vibrating to a different measure
Behind a thin veil you cannot see through.**

**You will not see me,
So you must have faith.**

**I wait the time when we can soar together again,
Both aware of each other.**

**Until then, live your life to the fullest.
And when you need me,
Just whisper my name in my heart...**

I will be there.

**By
Colleen Hitchcock**

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