

Life Journey: recovering, dying
and other awakenings



that, finally, is all it means to be alive:
to be able to die (j.m.coetzee)

Death in Indonesia (cremation)



Indigenous Australian death



Indo death: cracking of the skull

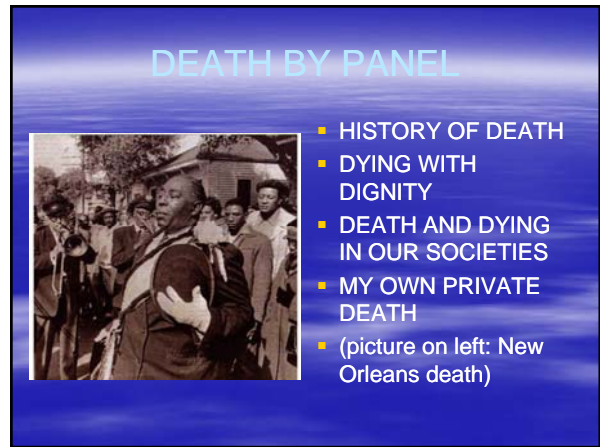


Our death of everyday





- And though our fathers' fathers slept in stolen houses
All that's over now
And our babies never cry
And we can look you in the eye
And say, "We're not afraid to die"
And yes, our mothers' mothers saw in black and white
But all that's over now
And our children never lie
And no matter how we try
We are not afraid to die

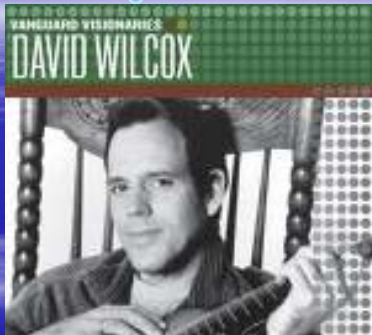


“there is a time to laugh and a there is a time to weep” marc twain



our birth is nothing but our death begun (edward young)

Starting with the end



When I was born

- What kind of food you wanted to be served (if any) when you were born? (be specific if you can)
- What kind of music? (be specific if you can)
- Do you have a poet or a famous poem or saying or religious passage that you wanted read at the time you were born?
- How about decorations? Balloons? Your favorite color?

Tamed and Mellow Death

- “I shall not live 2 days” (Thomas Malory, death of King Arthur)
- “he understood he was going to die” (Bedier, le roman de Tristan et Iseult)
- “I feel death is near” Don Quixote
- Knowledge and Preparation for Death (lie in bed facing heaven, Jews facing a wall)

Calmed Departure

Western Judaic Christian Near Death Prayers:

- Culpa (forgive me...)
- Recommendaces (...save my soul)
- Absolution (libera)

(own private death)



Place of Burial



- Familiar but fearful – cemeteries (far away – Romans: no death in “urbe”)
- Medieval Times – martyrs and monks in churches
- Cappuccinos Catacombs in Rome and Paris
- Till 1231 cemeteries were places for dances, gambling, circus-like, theater
- Hamlet Y La Calavera – familiar with dead and their own death

My Own Private Death (second part of the Middle Ages)

- Last Judgment (end of life at death)
- Macabre themes
- Funeral inscriptions, personalized tombs
- Balance between good and bad deeds
- Time between end of life and end of the world
- Death Bed – between Man & God
- Entire life flashes
- Funeral art, dance of the dead, day of the dead, Amazon death
- Cadaver as a transition
- Coin to pay the boatman

Dia de los muertos in a Mexican pueblo



Thy Death / Dying for Others

- We all die / death of the other more important than our own
- Thanatos + Eros (death and sex)
- “death rape the living” Marquee de Sade
- Romantic Death, Goth, back to macabre
- “admirable beauty” (Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain)
- 19th century – from solemn, boring, holiday like to crying, screaming, praying
- Protestant English Widows versus Catholic Italian Widows
- The Tibetan Book of the Dead
- Irish awake, return of the day of the dead / Halloween
- Loss of trust on family and church
- Wills – no longer a disposal of properties
- The death bed and dying for others
- Legal death

Mourning



Death as a Rape and the Dead Dance



Cavalheiro da Morte / Death Knight



Get me out of here, I want to die at home



I don't want to die in a hospital

■ Conor Oberst



Dying with Dignity

- The American Way of Death (Jessica Mitford) – six feet under – the funerary business
- Pre Revolution War – powder & wigs : the pretty old, the old pretty
- The Denial of Aging (disdain from 1820 on)
- Perpetual youth, eternal life and other dangerous fantasies
- The prostate cancer example: medical model versus holistic approach
- I don't want to die in a hospital
- Quality of life versus quantity of life



Death of a Member



Letting it go



The Hour of Our Death

- Back to our own private death
- The final crossing – learning to die in order to live (Scott Eberle)
- Advance Directives
- What's a death panel?
- Near death counseling
- My own death
- Q & A

The final balance check



Black Death (bubonic plague)



Viking last crossing



Bibliography

- The denial of aging by Muriel Gillick
- How we die by Sherwin Nuland
- The final crossing by Scott Eberle
- The sacred art of dying by Kenneth Kramer
- The art of aging by Sherwin Nuland
- On death and dying by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
- The American way of death by Jessica Mitford
- Western attitudes towards death by Philippe Ariès
- The hour of our death by Philippe Ariès
- The Tibetan book of the dead
- The thing about life is that one day you will be dead by David Shields

the difference between sex and death is that
with death you can do it alone
and no one's going to make fun of you
(Woody Allen)

Family Reserve

- Lyle Lovett



Thank you and till death push us
together!

