
PERSPECTIVES ON DEATH

Human Lifespan - Endings

Presented by Dr. Anupam Goyal and Soly Paterson, MBA

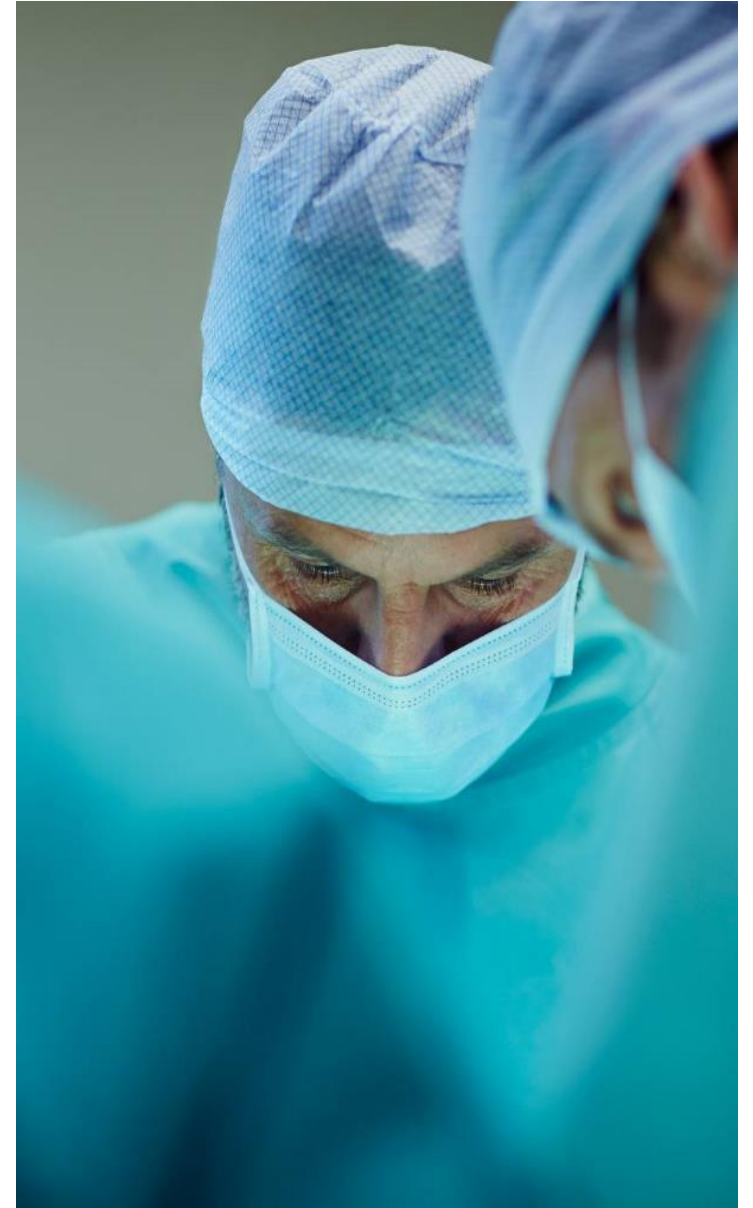


OUTLINE: THREE PERSPECTIVES ON DEATH

- The Buddha
- Gandhi
- President George W. Bush

Q & A

Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral
Fellowships: Interests and
Products



INTRODUCTION

(I will introduce each person, present their perspectives, and then comment on each perspective.)



BUDDHA



Siddhartha Gautama, aka the Buddha ('the awakened'), was a South Asian religious teacher in the 5th or 6th century BCE and the **founder of Buddhism**.

From THE BUDDHA (as he was approaching death):

It is not appropriate to grieve in an hour of joy ... You weep, but is there cause for grief? View a sage as someone who has escaped from a burning mansion ... It does not matter whether I am here; your salvation does not depend on me, but on practicing the Dharma* ... All lives are subject to the laws of impermanence. ...

When you see the world as without substance, you see the end of life as peace – a cure to a disease. All that exists is bound to perish.

*Dharma refers to spiritual teachings of the Buddha.

--Hinduism Today, Jul-Sep 2018, p. 41.

Comments:

The Buddha denies the importance of his own life and its ending. He tells his disciples to practice what he taught them. He teaches that all living things are impermanent, and that death brings peace.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

(who said it pained him be elevated above others or to be called a Mahatma)



My life is my message.
- M.K. Gandhi

He sought the means of “Truth” and “Non-Violence” for making progress for his country’s (India’s) freedom as well as for reforming his religion (Hinduism).

Following are excerpted from “Bapu’s Letters to Mira”, 1949, Navajivan Press, letters 125, 127, and 128.

(From the first morning prayer:)

I am that immaculate Brahma* which ever notes the states of dream, wakefulness and deep sleep,

not this body, the compound made of earth, water, space, light, and air.

In Hindu religion, Brahma in charge of creation, and one of the three main deities..

Gandhi: “This is a solemn declaration that we are not the changeful bodies that require sleep, etc.

Deep down, we are the Being, the witness pervading countless bodies.”

“I shall at once reduce myself to dust and rejoice in establishing kinship with the lowliest of human beings and with the lowest forms of creation, whose fate — reduction to dust — I must share with them.”

Comment:

Gandhi's message is *also* that bodies are impermanent and that the ultimate destiny of and all bodies is “reduction to dust”. He identifies himself with that ultimate reality which is witness to experiences of all living beings, rather than his changing body.

President George W. Bush



George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States of America, was greatly inspired by the poem and painting “A Charge to Keep”*, that starts as “A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify, a never-dying soul to save, ...”

*The poem is by Charles Wesley, pub. 1762

President George W. Bush (in an eulogy to his father)

“We are going to miss you. Your decency, sincerity, and kind soul will stay with us forever. So, through our tears, let us see the blessings of knowing and loving you – a great and noble man, and the best father a son or daughter could have.

And in our grief, let us smile knowing that Dad is hugging Robin and holding mom’s hand again.”

-- From his eulogy to his father, President George H. W. Bush, at the Washington National Cathedral on December 15, 2018.

Comments:

President George W. Bush, in his grief, finds happiness in the belief that his father is being reunited with his daughter and wife.

He also notes that his father's kind soul and other qualities remain with them.

THANK YOU!

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Glad to take questions!



The Process of Graduate Education

What I have found to be exciting about pursuing Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Fellowships?

1. Questioning existing knowledge - “Maxwell’s Equations”
2. Creating new knowledge - “An exam - bring anything”
3. Solving interesting current problems of practical significance
- “Lifelong Phone Number” and “Global Postal Code”
4. Developing novel technologies - “Knowledge Concierge”
search engine

The Products of Ph.D.s and PostDocs

1. Publications
 - a. Conference
 - b. Journal
2. Patents / Technical Disclosures
3. Presentations at conferences and other venues
4. Peer review of manuscripts submitted for publications
5. Assisting faculty with grant applications to agencies such as National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health