**Death - Ponderings**

**Why seek ye the living among the dead?**

**He is not here, but is risen.**

**(St. Luke 24: 5-6)**

**Behold, I show you a mystery;**

**We shall not all sleep,**

**But we shall all be changed.**

**(1 Corinthians 15:51)**

**And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;**

**and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor wailing,**

**neither shall there be any more pain;**

**for the former things have passed away.**

***(Revelation 21:4)***

**Somehow I’ve adjusted to all life’s other changes, so I suppose I’ll adjust to becoming dead. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Some people, though dead, can still be very entertaining. What right have dead people to affect our lives? And yet they are constantly doing so. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**The day after you die is the first day after the rest of your life. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**As a general rule, I’m against death – but, if certain things didn’t die, I couldn’t live. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Death is the black backing on the mirror that allows us to see anything at all. *(Saul Bellow)***

**If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference. (Abraham Lincoln)**

**Don’t call me back and do not cry, I am so glad to go, I oft have longed to soar the sky and other worlds to know. Don’t call me back! A little while and I am far from earth, and I am leaving with a smile to face another birth. (Helga Stromberg)**

**Why isn't more being done about the most common cause of death: running out of time? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**One thing is certain: You can't die in the same world in which you were born. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**If death is certain, at least I don’t have to worry about possibly missing it. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Death and taxes may be the only certainties in life, but nowhere is it written that we have to tax ourselves to death. (Nation’s Buisness)**

**We do not die from the darkness. We die from the cold. (Miguel de Unamuno)**

**Communication with the dead is only a little more difficult than communication with some of the living. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**I am companioned though you are gone; from selfish yearning my heart is free. Still you are loving; still you are loved; veil of a moment hides you from me. How could I sorrow? Death is unreal, life has no vacuum; love has no gloom. Thronging the silence – angels of God fill with new gladness, your empty room. Beauty for ashes, laughter for tears, all this you gave me while you were here. Treasures of Spirit, friendship and love – I hold them precious, I hold you dear. Love’s compensation blesses this hour; tenderest Being knocks at my door. With or without you, God is my all. I am companioned forevermore. (William Aubert Luce)**

**Be careful when you dance around my grave – it might revive me. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Death is delightful. Death is dawn, the waking from a weary night of fevers into Truth and Light. (Joaquin Miller, in Even So)**

**Death is not greatly in demand – but still each person is usually allowed only one. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Death is a distant rumor to the young. (Andy Rooney)**

**That the end of life should be death may sound sad; yet what other end can anything have? *(George Santayana, philosopher)***

**Every man dies. Not every man truly lives. (Braveheart)**

**Somebody said to me, “I can’t believe Jerry Garcia is dead. And I thought, Doesn’t this guy know? Everybody’s dead. It’s all a matter of degree.” *(George Carlin, in When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?, p. 111)***

**Death is not putting out the light. It is extinguishing the candle because the dawn has come. (Unity in the Rockies newsletter)**

**If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live. (Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)**

**For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun? And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered? Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance. (Kahlil Gibran)**

**God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason. (Dag Hammarskjold)**

**It’s not healthy to look directly at death, without at least blinking. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**We give our loved ones back to God. And just as He first gave them to us and did not lose them in the giving, so we have not lost them in returning them to Him. For life is eternal, love is immortal. Death is only a horizon, and a horizon is the limit of our earthly sight. (Helen Steiner Rice).**

**Death destroys a man; the idea of Death saves him. (E. M. Forster)**

**Nothing dies so hard, or rallies so often, as intolerance. (Henry Ward Beecher)**

**Life is a process of becoming, a combination of states we have to go through. Where people fail is that they wish to elect a state and remain in it. This is a kind of death. (Anais Nin)**

**We are here to laugh at the odds and live our lives so well that Death will tremble to take us. (Charles Bukowski, poet)**

**I can only live until I die – that’s all anyone can do – yet somehow it’s not enough. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Loneliness in itself has never been known to cause death -- but it can make death more welcome. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**A great man's greatest good luck is to die at the right time. (Eric Hoffer, philosopher)**

**After I’m dead I’d rather have people ask why I have no monument than why I have one. (Cato the Elder)**

**Don’t let it worry you – death is just a natural part of the aging process. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**There is no Death! What seems so is transition; this life of mortal breath is but a suburb of the life Elysian, whose portal we call Death. (Longfellow)**

**There is no death, only Life, ever-continuing Life! (Dr. Ernest Holmes)**

**Nothing is dead. Men feign themselves dead, endure funerals and mournful obituaries, and there they stand, looking out the window, sound and well in some new disguise. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**You only die once, but you can spend your whole life doing it. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**If everybody has a right to life, why hasn’t death been outlawed? (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**Is there death on other planets? (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**As you live, believe in life. Always human beings will live and profess to greater, broader and fuller life. The only possible death is to lose belief in this truth simply because the great end comes slowly, because time is long. *(W.E.B. Du Bois, American author and reformer))***

**To have lost your reputation is to be dead among the living. *(Quoted by S. H., Simmons, in New Speakers Handbook)***

**Die for this sacred cause! What makes it sacred? All those who’ve already died for it. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**All sadness in relation to the experience we call death passes when we understand the truth of the universe of form -- that everything from the atom to the solar system is alive in God. (Nona L. Brooks, in Mysteries, p. 64)**

**As long as I have a want, I have reason for living. Satisfaction is death. (George Bernard Shaw)**

**Death is an enormously magnificent, dynamic teacher. It's democratic; it comes to everyone. And when you make your peace, truly -- not just talking it -- with the fact that you are mortal, and that you are not going to live forever, all at once things really become passionate. I cannot tell you how many people who, when they found out they had a terminal illness, all at once became great lovers of life. Death says to us don't wait! -- because it can come at anytime. You don't have to be 90 years old to die. Little children can die. It can come at any time in your life. Knowing that, step aside from it and live! Life is the gift you're given while you're waiting for death. It doesn't matter who you are, how famous you are, or how many people you've influenced -- you're going to go! If you can look at death as a positive experience suggesting that you live life, then anything else is insignificant and pales. (Leo Buscaglia)**

**The timing of death, like the ending of a story, gives a changed meaning to what preceded it. (Mary Catherine Bateson, author)**

**Death is always and under all circumstances a tragedy, for if it is not, then it means that life itself has become one. (Theodore Roosevelt, American president)**

**If you treat every situation as a life-and-death matter, you'll die a lot of times. (Dean Smith)**

**Let thy vices die before thee. (Ben Franklin)**

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