

ABOUT DEATH

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Abstract

I'm thinking more about death lately, now that I'm in my mid 60s. Several of my close friends who were a decade older than me have died in the past few years. My father is in his 90s and sooner or later he will die too. All this makes me reflect on a fact that we all know about but tend to hide, namely that we all will die, and then those who knew us will also die, so that for nearly all of us who have contributed nothing to human posterity, we may as well not have existed. The starkness of death is something most people shy away from and don't take to heart. This essay tries to bring the emotional reality of death closer to home – a difficult task – for anyone.

1. Introduction

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