



RE-BIRTH OF DEATH: A PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTION

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Abstract

Probably one of the themes least explored in the social sciences is the fear of the unknown and the fear of the invisible. It was Sigmund Freud in his celebrated essay 'The Uncanny' who explored this theme saying that these terrains of the "unknown" and the "invisible" create the feeling of dread and anxiety. It is this theme that we are extending in the phenomenological reading of Death.

In this essay we have analyzed what Death means through a philosophical exploration. The philosophical figures of J. Krishnamurti and Osho Rajneesh are brought in the reflections of Death. This essay claims that there is a philosophical path to the understanding of Death which could be called a new philosophy of life.



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There are many fear factors that exist in human life. The most significant fear factor is Death. We are experience of all visual things which are related to our daily life like humans, motor vehicle, animal, birds, fish, sky, rain, darkness, light and trees, etc. We are not afraid of all these type of visual things. But we are frightened of invisible things like God, Soul, Devil, Demon, and Death along with different ideas like rebirth, heaven and hell etc. Therefore in the matter of fear we search the causes behind the fear of all invisible things. When we try to think deeply of this kind of fear, we can see here our thoughts crate a fear in our mind. It means that fear emerges from our thoughts. In the context of Death, the fear of Death is also comes from individual logic. Therefore there is need to describe here the phenomenology of Death, which is the most powerful fear factor.

We cannot avoid Death, but we behave like we are immortal. We all are not permanent on this planet, but we do not accept it. Death is inevitable. In the words of Osho Rajneesh Death is a way of nectar. Apart from this some spiritualists claim that Death is the way to heaven.

We are not thinking of Death when we are alive and when we are living in the alienated world of false needs and infinite greed we can think neither of Life nor Death. Need and greed arise from our instinct motivation. We cannot avoid our mental and physical needs. But the human concentration on that need is unbreakable. And because of this we cannot make time for thinking on Death. We ignore Death when we are living with our hopes and dreams. Our greed and increasing needs have prohibited our thinking about Death.

But the way we live makes it difficult to understand that Death will not come. We have devoted all our time in life to education, job, relations and other mundane things. So we have no time to think about ourselves and Death.

Some statements can explain about Death:

1. Death is invisible
2. Death is inevitable
3. Death is the Ultimate Reality
4. Death is mysterious
5. Death is accidental, and
6. Death is unpleasant

The feeling of Death is traumatic. But this can be a misunderstanding. It is not as though death is painful. But it is true it is certainly scary for all animate beings.

A philosophical reflection on this is necessary. For this, we turn to the Buddha. According to the Buddha, the person who wakes in the morning is different from the person who slept last night. In the sense, we discover the philosophy of dialectical movements. We here recall J. Krishnamurti who said that there is no reason to fear Death, because every past moment of life is Death. This is because all moments have come and gone. And we are dying with every moment passing by. Because, the moments that pass away from life cannot be our present or future. Therefore, we should leave the fear of Death. We have taken experience of Death in every moment.

And that is why it is necessary to repeat the Buddha who said that as the person who slept last night and woke up next morning was not one. It means sleep is a temporary Death.

J. Krishnamurti said that life has no meaning, life is life itself. Thus one should not criticize life. It is for only living with every kind of acceptance like problems and challenges, that life has got meaning, beauty and pleasant because of Death. Without Death, life would be meaningless. We can experience the beauty of life with our lifestyle. Life can be made meaningful with our acts. Life is a journey between birth and Death. We should make this journey meaningful and pleasant.

With above analysis we can learn here that Death is not the only part of life and Death is also life of a certain kind. Turning back to the philosophical analysis of life we learn that there is another meaning of life which is to live innocently with all humanity and relationship with human kind. If the relationship ends, it is a kind of Death. This type of Death is very

painful like a divorce. In cases like divorce, individuals are alive, but they are considered dead for each other. But they can re-incarnate their life once again separately after the Death of their relation. We have often experienced this kind of Death in life.

Some another dimensions of Death are as follows,-

We are dying with the time passing by.

Thoughtlessness gives the experience of Death.

Attachments arises the fear of Death.

De-attachment from worldly existence is a kind of Death.

Emotionless mind is a kind of Death.

Depression and failure are a kind of Death.

Competing in life is also a challenge to die.

Addiction of thoughts without any kind of action is a kind of Death. (See my article in *Mainstream Weekly* titled 'Interrogating the Captive Mind: Addiction of Thinking')

Addiction of relationship is also kind of Death.

Loneliness of mind is a kind of Death.

The denying mindset (the mindset that is never positive) is a kind of Death.

Just as in modern times, food, clothing and home are the essential requirements for human being—and thus the essential needs—so to primitive humanity had sleep, sex and fear as the basic need. But today *fear is a kind of Death and the fear of Death is also the Death of life.*

Attempt to flee from Death produce greater fear.

Attempts to maintain one's existence from Death instill more fear.

We are afraid of the dark, afraid of strange pictures of the mind, strange ideas and the fear of insecurity about life. More than that, we fear Death.

If we do not have money; we are afraid, reputation give us fear, we are afraid of officers, we are afraid of teachers in school and elders at home. This is how we often die. Such kinds of Deaths have become our habit. But yet we are afraid from the word 'Death'.

We face many problems from birth to Death. Some problems are accidental, some are self-generated. Problems in life and struggle to solve them are also a kind of Death. In this case we are not living a real life. Death ends all life's problems, and ends also the person.

Death is inexperienced and unknown. But there are a lot of things in the world, which are well known for us. Death is unknown but we are more afraid of the unknown things than the real thing

Thus we are not afraid from Death only, we are afraid from which we know in the world. Because Death is a time to leave all well known things. And we are afraid to leave those things—that's the reality.

Life is in innocence, not in selfishness; selfishness is a type of Death.

There is life in love, loss of love is Death.

There is life in sacrifice, Death in greed.

There is life in non-violence, violence is Death.

There is life in peace, warfare is Death.

Life is in act (*karma*), rest is equal to Death.

Death is in corruption of money and in relation fornication.

Death is in addiction of some things like more thinking—or “surplus thinking”—more care or disquiet in behavior and drugs.

The weariness and withering is a type of little Death.

Death is in competition and conflicts, Death are in lies and baffle.

Knowledge less is also a one type of Death.

We die because of our blindness and errors and betrayals in life, thus we shall always die every time in life.

Therefore, we should try to search for Death in life then only, we will not have feeling of fear of Death. Because we all know we are not permanent and eternal here.

Death is defined by many thinkers as follow:

- To the well-organized mind, Death is but the next great adventure— J. K. Rowling.

In the context of J. K. Rowling where there organized mind exist, then we don't have a need of fear of Death. This kind of mind is not frightened of Death.

- I'm not afraid of Death; I just don't want to be there when it happen — Woody Allen.

Woody Allen described Death as the thing that is terrifying. But he wants to make a distance from Death.

- I'm the one that's got to die when it's time for me to die, so let me live my life the way I want to— Jimi Hendrix.

Jimi Hendrix told as we will all die, therefore we should have to live with happiness and as the way we feel.

- The fear of Death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time — Mark Twain.

In the view of Mark Twain we should have to live with full liberty for the fearless Death. Death ends a life, not a relationship.

- Death's got an Invisibility Cloak? —Harry Potter.

Harry Potter told that as we are afraid because Death is invisible. We all are fearless about the visible substance. Death is very painful for others but it is not painful for who have died. Therefore, we can say here Death is eternal peace without pain. And thus peace cannot be painful. We can say again the new definition of Death '*Death is eternal peace*'.

- A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it— Oscar Wilde.

Oscar Wilde told that we always die for false a thing which is not essential for human life.

- Living with the retention is Death— Prakash B. Salavi.

What is necessary to understand (and this is the leitmotiv of this essay) that living with all retentions like God, religion, impacts, ideals and fixed ideas, ego, impressed thoughts, captive attitude and the slave mind is also Death. When we are living in retentions of ourselves, we cannot see other beautiful worlds. In this time we shall not live in real life, we shall be living in the imaginary world and this is the kind of Death.

- I do not fear Death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience from it— Mark Twain.

Mark Twain has explained Death as a life. Life has existed before the birth and after Death. It means the Death is not end of all. It is a life itself. Therefore in the view of Mark Twain Death is not an inconvenience. And this thought is similar to Osho Rajneesh.

- Kills me sometimes, how people die— Markus Zusak.

Markus Zusak has curiosity about Death. He said how people die. It means that Death has no existence. When we live with many related people they kill us because of many reasons like there misbehavior, lies, corruption, disturbance in daily life, demands and needs, domination, their authority and different other things. What is thus depressing is how unnecessary things like anxiety, lake of confidence, refuses to let us live properly. *We die when we are alive.*

- Unbeing dead isn't being alive— E. E. Cummings.

It means who is living with the fear of Death, he is not alive. Again here the reference is being afraid of Death as the fear is equal to Death.

- Life is for the living. Death is for the dead. Let life be like music. And Death a note unsaid— Langston Hughes.

Langston Hughes says in his poem that Death is an unsaid note. Don't think on the Death when you are alive. Because life is for the living and Death is for the dead. Thus Langston Hughes defines easily as when we are alive; there is no need to think on Death. We should have taken a pleasure of life, otherwise we can lose our life when we are alive. This strand of thinking is echoed in J. Krishnamurti's philosophy.

- That was the thing. You never got used to it, the idea of someone being gone. Just when you think it's reconciled, accepted, someone points it out to you, and it just hits you all over again, that shocking— Sarah Dessen.

This is a good definition of Sarah Dessen; the people remind each other about Death. Because of this we are living with the fear of Death. Therefore we learn here as we should have leaved the fear of Death and accept of the existence of Death. If the Death is the problem which comes in our daily life, humanity can solve it. But Death is not avoidable; therefore we should have accepted it. Another view is explored here as the problems of life as well as Death, which are fearsomely things in life we should have accepted these. Because the acceptance is more important for solve the problem whatever may be.

- We are all alone, born alone, die alone— Hunter S. Thompson.

We should have remembered that we are alone, who is born on the planet. We are going to die alone.

Therefore for getting pleasure from others we should note how one makes work the minds and hearts of others work for you. This should have been noted. It means that one should change oneself, for the happy mind of others. Because the happiness is the thing which is not getting itself, this thing is getting from others.

- Don't feel bad, I'm usually about to die— Rick Riordan.

In the context of above statement we can say here Death is eternal truth of all animate beings. If this is the eternal truth, then why we feel bad about Death? this is the most significant question.

To be or not to be that is the question of our mind itself. In the view of J. Krishnamurti there is no need to think on that. Life is itself and it is for living with the happiness. When we are alive there is no need to think on Death, we should concentrate on how we are living. We are living with goodness or sadness, living with the problems or living with the solutions, spent time to do something new, joyful and innovative, or creating problems in others lives. These are the main questions teaching us the meaning of life as life and Death together.

- Death is not a terrible as you think—Paramhans Yogananda.

In the view of Paramhans Yogananda, Death comes to you as a doctor for treatment on all physical and mental pains. And also sleep has comes like Death for some hours as remedy. Therefore sleep is a like a Death. We are free from all pains when are in sleep. Death is not different from the sleep. Death is a permanent solution on our every mental pains and the sleep is temporary solutions for our daily mental pains. When Death comes to us we are afraid without any cause. Because Death is eternal sleep and sleep comes as a Death for some hours.

- To die, to sleep -To sleep, perchance to dream - ay, there's the rub, For in this sleep of Death what dreams may come..."— William Shakespeare.

Shakespeare defines Death as dreams can comes in sleep but it does not come in Death-it is the difference between sleep and Death, otherwise Death and sleep both are similar.

- Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's troublesome— Isaac Asimov.

With the discussion in this essay we can see here life is pleasant and Death is eternal peace. But in the form of Isaac Asimov it is trouble, and this is painful to us because of differences between the pleasant and peace is made by us. We have no habit of peace. From birth we choose the path of troubles. The main cause of fears of Death is habits of troubles. We are not afraid to Death; we are in fear for the eternal peace which is comes in the form of Death. We deny peace because we cannot live without any troubles in life. It is habitual for us. The habit of peace can take us on the path of peace and the path of acceptance of Death because Gandhi told that *peace has no way, peace is the way*.

- The bravest thing I ever did was continuing my life when I wanted to die — Juliette Lewis.

This sentence of Juliette Lewis expresses the fidelity of life. When she was feeling that she will die, she was living the life with positives. We can learn here the living life is not easy. We should have a daring for it. The thinking on Death can be easy to all but the living with different challenges is the bravest thing. Therefore, life is for living with daring.

- Death is the most misunderstood phenomenon — Osho Rajneesh.

People have thought of Death as the end of life. That is the first, basic misunderstanding. Death is the ultimate experience of this life. Death is not the end, but the beginning of a new life. Yes, it is an end of something that is already dead.

There is nothing ugly about Death; but man has made Death ugly. People don't like to talk about it. They won't even listen to the word "Death". But Death is a superior experience of the innermost being.

Osho Rajneesh told that the Death is the door between two lives; one is left behind, one is waiting ahead.

- जातस्य हि ध्रुवो मृत्युर्ध्रुवं जन्म मृतस्य च।
तस्मादपरिहार्येऽर्थे न त्वं शोचितुमर्हसि॥ २.२७॥—Bhagvadgeeta

It means, Death is certain for the birth and birth is certain for the dead. Therefore, there is no need to feel bad because of Death. The acceptance of all challenges, problems and crisis in life is the superior path of happy living.
