

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

SO THAT'S IT? NOTHING ELSE?  
NO PURPOSE?

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR  
CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER DEATH?



IEAAH  
INLAND EMPIRE ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS & HUMANISTS



Freethinkers Around Redlands



Victor Valley



Atheists & Agnostics

# DEATH

AN ATHEIST  
DISCUSSES DEATH

## What happens when we die?

What happens to what? A prevailing thought is we have a soul, and it lives on after our death. I'm not aware of any Objective Evidence for the existence of a soul. If a soul doesn't exist, then it can't continue. "Death" is cessation of life, saying 'life after death' is like saying 'race after the finish line'. If you're still racing, then you haven't gotten to the finish line and if you passed the finish line whatever you're doing afterwards can't be the same race.

Religions' claim of "life after death" is trying to have it both ways. Life is not a substance; it's more like a process. Consider this -> ice turns into water with the addition of energy and water turns into steam; 'Phase transition' is what this process is called. Wax can turn into candles and when lit, burns into a gaseous phase. Atoms make up our bodies just like ice/candles, and 'life' is the process happening to them in the same way 'burning' is a process which happens to a candle. When the flame on a candle goes out, it doesn't go anywhere, so the phase transition just stops. No one ever feels compelled to ask, "where does the flame go?" when a candle burns out.

## So that's it? Nothing else? No purpose?

Quite the contrary; life is a finite resource, and it's ending one second at a time. We must make the most of it while we can because if an afterlife exists, we are currently living a dry run. If an afterlife doesn't exist we will only live on in the memories of the people we influence during our lives, and in the record we leave behind. We have to cherish them while we can and do a maximum amount of good with the time we have. Purpose only comes from conscious purpose-givers, your life has whatever meaning you ascribe to it. If you assert your purpose comes from your claimed version of a god and they don't exist your alleged source of purpose comes from either yourself or whoever fabricated the myth.

## What happens to our consciousness after death?

Atheists and the religious typically differ in what they believe happens to the personality after death. The belief in the permanent loss of consciousness after death is often called *eternal oblivion*. Belief that the stream of consciousness is preserved after physical death is described by the term *afterlife*.

Because atheists often understand the incredible unlikelihood of ever being born, life can be seen by atheists as a much more precious and profound "gift" from the universe. Thus encouraging a full life well spent. So instead of waiting for a reward or justice in an uncertain or unlikely afterlife, atheists may appear strongly bent on universal justice and equality now in this life.

If sound evidence gained from the scientific method ever revealed that there is indeed an afterlife supplied by supernatural being/beings for humans' personalities or "spirit/-soul", there would be few atheists who would not embrace this new evidence. However, extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.

DISORIENTED

BEWILDERED