

## Death

### Epictetus

“Keep the prospect of death, exile and all such apparent tragedies before you every day—especially death—and you will never have a hopeless thought, or desire anything to excess.”

(Handbook, 21)

“What would you be found doing when overtaken by Death? If I might choose, I would be found doing some deed of true humanity, of wide import, beneficent and noble. But if I may not be found engaged in something so lofty, let me hope at least for this—what none may hinder, what is surely in my power—that I may be found raising up in myself that which had fallen; learning to deal more wisely with the things of sense; working out my own tranquillity, and thus rendering that which is its due to every relation of life. . . .

If death surprise me thus employed, it is enough if I can stretch forth my hands to God and say, "The faculties which I received at Thy hands for apprehending this thine Administration, I have not neglected. As far as in me lay, I have done Thee no dishonour. Behold how I have used the senses, the primary conceptions which Thou gave me ...—If a person departs thus minded, is it not enough? What life is fairer and more noble, what end happier than his?"

(Handbook, 189)

## Jesus

“About the day or hour no one knows ... Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. . . What I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

(Mark 13:32)

Compare:

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”

(John 5:24)

“Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

(Matthew 8:21-22)

“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.”

(John 11:25-26)