Ancient Atheists

There must have been ancient people who did not believe 'the gods' existed. Assuming so, what would it be like for them to be near death?

They might consider all the memorable things they had done. Then they might realize that all people who had memories of them would themselves die. They might acknowledge that there would eventually come a time when all physical evidence of their existence would be gone or unrecoverable.

Would they not believe themselves to be completely dead, that others would never know they had ever existed. What would such a person think about their own personal significance during their last exhale?

