

DEATH, CREATIVITY

Knowing the inevitability of our own death makes us creative. We've been blessed with an impulse that uses persistent intelligence for survival. We hunt, but we also grow food. We have developed the sciences of chemistry and biology enabling us to most effectively utilize food. We created psychology and sociology so we could more fully understand our own personalities and how to manage our relationships with others. Most of all, our common sense has processed daily experiences to help us know how life works and that no reward comes without risk. If death were not inevitable, the knowledge that creativity brings would matter how? The impulse to know would become just knowledge, and we would have an infinite amount of time in which to know.

Then there's the matter of meaning. If we knew we would never die, how difficult would it be for us to imagine an unending sequence of days with nothing pressing to strive for or contend with? Why would we perceive a need to sleep for restoration and rejuvenation when nothing we would do the next day would make immediate demands on us; any action or endeavor could wait, and wait, and wait.... There would be no awakening in order to "take on the day." Only the need to eat, excrete, mate, and rest would remain.

The greatest gift of death is not creativity. Our ingenuity has fed and given us at least the belief that we know how to live meaningful lives. With limited time, though, we better find ways to know and to understand Who created us. That's where faith comes in.