### The Carter-Jenkíns Center presents "The Memoríal to Anna Freud Seríes"



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**The Denial** of Death by Humberto Nagera M.D.





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- Among the factors intrinsic to human nature are :
  - 1) The phase of animism (p.29)
  - 2) The inherent narcissism (narcissistic phase) (p.28)
  - 3) The Instinct of self-preservation (p.31)
  - 4) The question of egocentrism (p.30)
  - 5) Difficulties in understanding death in children and adults (p. 32)

6) Types of defenses used against the idea of death\* (p.2)

7) The factor of timelessness in the unconscious

8) When is a person alive ? When is a person dead? What dies body or soul? (p.1)

9) We know from the analysis of patients of the immediate real presence of dead parents, grandparents, siblings etc as if they were alive which further obscures the fact of death and dying (#8, p 413)

10) Freezing of the body for a later resurrection

11) Cults and mass suicides to join or continue life somewhere else. p 3

12) Issues of cremation (according to religions). Some condone the practice of cremation (Hinduism) while others (Catholicism) oppose it

13) Psychoanalysts themselves frequently tend to reduce the fear of death to something else such as castration anxiety, fear of separation etc(#8, p 413)

14) The difficulties we have in replacing a valued but now dead object (an innate refusal to accept their death that leads and requires a long process of mourning) (F p.294)

15) Death of important objects is always felt as an abandonment and since no one wants to be abandoned we try to deny death in our valuable objects including ourselves

16) Dead objects reappears in dreams. Meaning of this to children and adults

17) Belief of many savages that they will never die if their lives were not cut short by sorcery

18) Role that religion plays in the denial of death

19) Role the concept of God plays in the denial of death

 Our childhood belief in the omnipotence and omniscience of our parents, evolving to the superego and the idea of a major power out there i.e., God

- 1) Exceptions to self-preservation (not necessarily accepting the idea of ceasing to exist). Examples
- 2) Further links the idea of a Creator, an immortal god etc

#### Some present views on death of our American Indians

-There is no death, only a change of worlds (Duwamish)

-When you die, you will be spoken of as those in the sky, like the stars (Yurok)

-In death I am born (Hopi)

-They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind (Tuscarora)

-All who have died are equal (Comanche)

-Life is not separate from death. It only looks that way (Blackfoot)

#### Some present views on death of our American Indians

-Death always come out of season (Pawnee)

-Life is as the flash of the firefly in the night, the breath of the buffalo in winter time (Blackfoot)

-It is good for the living to perform ceremonies for those who have died (Winnebago)

-One has to face fear or forever run from it (Crow)

-Men in search of a myth would usually find one (Pueblo)

### **OTHER EXAMPLES OF THE DENIAL OF DEATH**



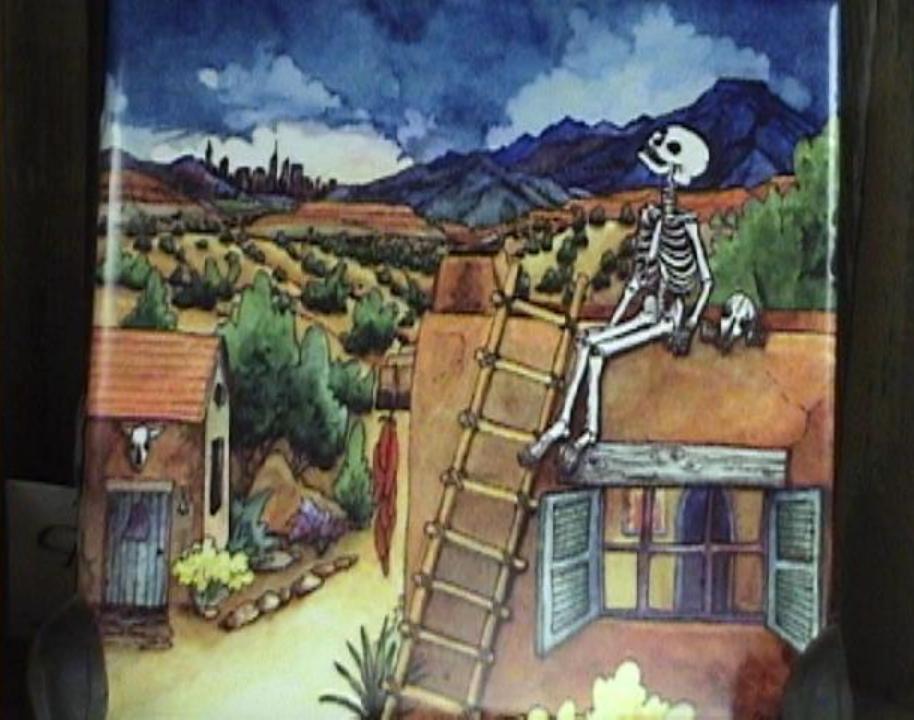
















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## The End

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