

Great blog post by Bart Ehrman on Awareness of Our Death

Post by “Godfrey” of August 2, 2023 at 3:24 PM

Quote from Don

But more importantly...

Quote

Quote For me, these thoughts completely relativize everything I do. And they make me appreciate the good things I have and the life that I lead, life itself, so precious to me. They don't make me despair or turn nihilist. They make me love existence and want to do more to help others love it.

This is so interesting to me, and I totally agree with the sentiment.

Recently I had a relaxed, wide-ranging conversation with a neighborhood acquaintance and we got onto the topic of philosophy. I mentioned how the idea that we experience nothing after our death gives me great comfort. He responded, while noticeably tensing up, that an afterlife was "a line in the sand" for him: he couldn't consider any philosophy as legitimate that didn't include an afterlife. Unfortunately the conversation moved on and I never got back to follow up on this idea.

He and I both retired about the same time, and both got into thinking about "the big issues" at that time. He began a deep dive into his background of secular Judaism, which certainly influences his view on the subject. We both have visceral reactions to death, yet in such different ways.