

# The Realization of Death



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In a sense comparable to the physical autopsy or postmortem examination the psychological autopsy is the fulcrum for a scientific study of the psychology of death dying and re-threatening behavior a field called thanatology. The present book is the first ever to systematically expound the piece-by-piece reconstruction and synthesis of events surrounding the terminal phase of life.

The author shows that to reanalyze death we must penetrate our habitual fears, platitudes, formulas, and pretenses. In reaching these goals, we should understand that there is a difference between strivings and significant survival, between dying and an appropriate death, and between sickness and responsibility. These questions are posed and then carefully dissected and defined in terms of plausible answers.

As Dr. Edwin S. Shneidman says in his fascinating foreword to the book: "The psychological autopsy is no longer an infant. It comes of age in Dr. Weisman's book. The special features of it lie in its multidisciplinary spirit, the involvement of several strides of social and behavioral scientists in the retrospective creation from as many sources as possible, of the tangible features of a now-dead fellow human--to bring him to life as it were and then try to divine his motivations, intentions, attitudes, and ambivalences in relation to one specific temporal span of behavior which in itself had extreme consequences in his dying. Dr. Weisman aptly terms this the "local event... .

作者介绍:

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