

1. Why are men obliged to leave their bodies?

Because they do not know how to keep up with Nature in her progress towards the Divine.

2. Should one respect the body of a dead person? If so, how?

One should respect everything, living and dead, and know that everything lives in the Divine Consciousness.

The respect should be felt in the heart and the inner attitude.

3. Is the Divine there in the body of a dead person?

The Divine is *everywhere*; and I repeat that for the Divine there are no living or dead — everything lives eternally.

4. What should we do to make the soul happy, so that it reincarnates in good conditions, for example in a spiritual environment?

Have no sorrow and remain very peaceful and quiet, while keeping an affectionate remembrance of the one who has departed.

5. Do souls weep?

When something separates them from the Divine.

6. How can one stop someone from weeping?

Love him sincerely and deeply without trying to stop his tears.

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Normally the consciousness of the departed ought to feel no pain for what happens to the body after his or her departure.

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But there is in the material body itself a consciousness called the “spirit of the form” which takes some time to get completely out of the aggregated cells; its departure is the starting point of a general decomposition, and before its departure it may have a kind of feeling of what happens to the body. That is why it is always better not to be in a hurry for the funeral.

13 November 1966

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You say that it is through a newspaper that the news came of your nephew’s death. So the child died a few days ago. Did X and Y find any difference in their atmosphere, their feelings, their thoughts, their sensations — a difference, an uneasiness or a sense of loss, which would give a real ground for their sorrow? I am pretty sure that they did not. So their sorrow, if they have any, is not *true* but the result of conventional thoughts and feelings; it is all illusion coming from the family idea, which is one of the most artificial and false of all conventions.

In truth the child was *not* in their atmosphere, otherwise they would have become aware of his death without needing to receive the news of it; he was no more in their atmosphere than any one of the two hundred thousand human beings who die every day — for the average death of human beings is two hundred thousand a day. Do they know that? Is not death the most common and everyday happening and can they reasonably expect that none of those they know will escape this general law?

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Your father died because it was his time to die. Circumstances can be an occasion but surely not a *cause*. The cause is in the Divine’s will and nothing can alter it.

So, grieve not and surrender your sorrow at the feet of the Divine. He will give you peace and freedom.

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(To someone whose friend had died)