

EDITOR'S NOTE

When this special issue was in preparation, MOSAIC received a letter from a scholar who was highly supportive of the project but who also strongly urged that the title be reversed—arguing that logic requires that the order be “Dying and Death,” not “Death and Dying.” Although this objection/suggestion was given serious attention and admitted to be valid, the journal decided to retain the original working title for two reasons. First, “Death and Dying” seemed to have the weight of both consensus and the unconscious behind it: invariably, those involved in the planning stages would refer to the special issue as “Death and Dying,” just as this was the way in which the subject was referred to in virtually every essay that was submitted. Whether such a situation is symptomatic of a pervasive “death denial” tendency, it nevertheless suggests that for most individuals “Death and Dying” is a phrase that comes more naturally than “Dying and Death.” Second, it can be argued that “Death” actually does precede “Dying” to the extent that the conventional connotations of the latter term are dependent upon an experience of the former: without the context and concept of “Death,” “Dying” is really a phase of “life,” and “life” in its broadest terms *includes* “death” rather than being *concluded* by it.

No one, perhaps, better understood and articulated the problematic dimensions and implications of this death-dying controversy than e. e. cummings, and it is for this reason, in turn, that instead of an introductory essay, this special issue features one of his poems as an epigraph.

EJH

dying is fine)but Death

?o
baby
i

wouldn't like

Death if Death
were
good:for

when(instead of stopping to think)you

begin to feel of it,dying
's miraculous
why?be

cause dying is

perfectly natural;perfectly
putting
it mildly lively(but

Death

is strictly
scientific
& artificial &

evil & legal)

we thank thee
god
almighty for dying

(forgive us,o life!the sin of Death

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