

Stop! Are You Sure You Want to Throw Grandpa’s Body Away?

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First, it is primarily conceptual. That is, it does not emerge from traditional research; its footnotes are a partial attempt to anchor the text, but no attempt is made to be exhaustive.

Second, I have purposefully embraced the new, and most citations are to websites. This has both advantages and disadvantages. I believe this approach allows the essay to be broader in scope. Among other things, many web sites have no paper analog. Also, I am no historian, academic philosopher, theologian, etc., and certainly am not familiar with each discipline’s research base. But indirectly through Google-mediated research, I can generally tie down specific assertions to relatively reliable secondary citations in disparate disciplines. The main disadvantages are that the citations are both less permanent and less authoritative. I have no control over “permanent.” As to “authoritative,” I have tried, undoubtedly not always successfully, to pick web cites that seem relatively authoritative. If this approach is troubling, please save yourself the aggravation and pass over this essay to others more suited to your scholarly tastes.

Third, I have tried to be honest, addressing and suggesting solutions for an age-old problem: death. My analysis may upset the religious. Sorry about that, but it seems to me that challenging established beliefs is part of the job. Again, if this is troubling, pass on to something more traditional and less threatening.

Finally, fourth, I’ve been thinking about these concepts for many years and can no longer easily attribute the various strands accurately. Therefore, I apologize in advance to those who should be cited for their contributions herein.

I want to thank Patrick Gudridge for his comments. Sue Ann Campbell and Barbara Cuadras of the UM library were very helpful. Errors are mine. The images in notes 7 and 29 *infra* are the property of AFP and Getty Images respectively and may not be reproduced without the copyright holders’ express prior written permission. For other reproductions, please e-mail requests to lawreview@students.law.miami.edu, which will grant your requests or forward them to me.