Editorial

Facing death, the final cessation of life, represents the most radical anthropological challenge that comes with the very existence of humanity, which has always engaged in the attempt to find a meaning to the inevitability of its own end.

The narratological approach that helps the sick to express their experiences, stories, and emotions, through different and multiple artistic forms, reminds us of the importance of supporting the person along a path of gradual understanding of the meaning of their own existential and care path, of their own limits, and of the imminence of their passing.

Despite great scientific progress, death continues, in fact, to be a final boundary, an inexorable transition, one that also requires profound reflection on the values and meaning of our existence.

The ambiguity of contemporary man in the face of death is a reflection of the complexity and contradictions of the human condition. Accepting and understanding death as an intrinsic part of life can offer a sense of inner peace and a greater awareness of the value of our own existence.

As digital technology advances, the issue of digital death becomes increasingly relevant. Our online profiles, social media, emails, and other personal data accumulated during our lives can remain accessible even after death. This raises ethical questions about privacy, the preservation of digital memories and the management of our digital assets after we are gone. People should have the right to decide how their digital data is managed after death, and technology companies need to develop clear policies and procedures to address this issue in an ethical and respectful manner.

The practice of cremation has gained popularity in many parts of the world, but still raises doubts and ethical debates. For some, cremation represents a personal choice that may reflect their religious beliefs, connection to nature or a preference for a simpler ritual. However, for others, cremation may clash with cultural traditions and deep-seated religious beliefs. The ethics of cremation require a profound respect for different cultural and religious perspectives, along with appropriate regulation to ensure that bodies are treated with dignity and respect during the process.

Post-mortem body donation for scientific or educational purposes can be considered an altruistic act that contributes to the advancement of medicine and medical education. However, even in this case, significant ethical issues arise. It is crucial to ensure the informed consent of the donor and to respect the wishes of the deceased. In addition, it is important to establish clear guidelines to ensure that institutions receiving such donations operate transparently and ethically when handling bodies. The balance between the collective benefit of medical research and respect for the individual is essential.

In pursuing ethically sound solutions, we must ensure respect for individual autonomy, diverse cultural and religious perspectives, and the proper use of new digital technologies. The ultimate goal is to promote a society that recognises the dignity and value of human life, even when confronted with death.

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