

5th Annual Conference of International Association for Education in Ethics
Conference Theme: Curricular innovations in ethics education
Hosted by Centre for Ethics, Yenepoya University, Mangalore India
15-17 November 2017

Keynote address 5: Living At the Edge: Reflections on Death in Ethics Education

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Abstract:

Ethics encompasses all fields of life comprising its physical, mental, social, economic, emotional and spiritual aspects as well in its multi-layer level of understanding and evolution. The walk of civilization from its pre-historic times to this modern era has always been a growth of a sum of values imminent in its being and seeking expression though various modes of life, be it philosophy, politics, arts or psychology. Today science has also taken a major place to play its role in alleviating the fear of the unknown. But still the greatest and most eminent forces of all is evidently religion, which caters to the need of people in the moment of distress and despair giving hope and light and thus relieving the mental suffering, agony and primarily the inherent fear related to dying.

How can we lead a more meaningful life and find out a dignified way of facing death free from its associated fear? How can we accept ourselves from the core of our being and embrace death in its fullness and totality? How can we free ourselves from the shadow self that we lead and act daily in our mundane lives and discover the joy of the symphonized orchestra playing odes from a different flute? These few pertinent questions trouble us day and night forcing ourselves to wear a mask to hide our insecure existence on this planet. This talk attempts to clarify these questions.