

TED Talk

Caitlin Doughty: *A Burial Practice That Nourishes the Planet*



End in Mind

1. Caitlin Doughty has a way of talking about death that is unabashed and direct. She takes the same approach to speaking about how her approach to her body after death. What was your initial reaction to her statement about wanting to be eaten by animals after death? As you reflect on this statement after watching this TED talk, does it seem any less shocking?
2. Have you had an experience at a funeral where the protection sanitation, beautification just didn't work? Any experiences where it has?
3. What might be your personal attachment to the protection, sanitation, beautification of the funeral industry? What would comfort you in changing some of that process to be a little more natural and sustainable?
4. Culturally, there seems to be a deep-seated sense of ritual and honor that people feel when they celebrate a loved one at the wake, funeral, and/or burial. How would you feel if this ritual was changed to become something more sustainable, less rigid, and included a final resting place in a Conservation Burial Plot? How do you think your loved ones would feel about this? Would any of them consider a Conservation Burial?
5. At the end of the TED talk, Doughty states "being sanitized and beautified just doesn't reflect us." Even though we have centuries of tradition in burials, what does this statement mean to you and how would you consider talking with your loved ones about it?