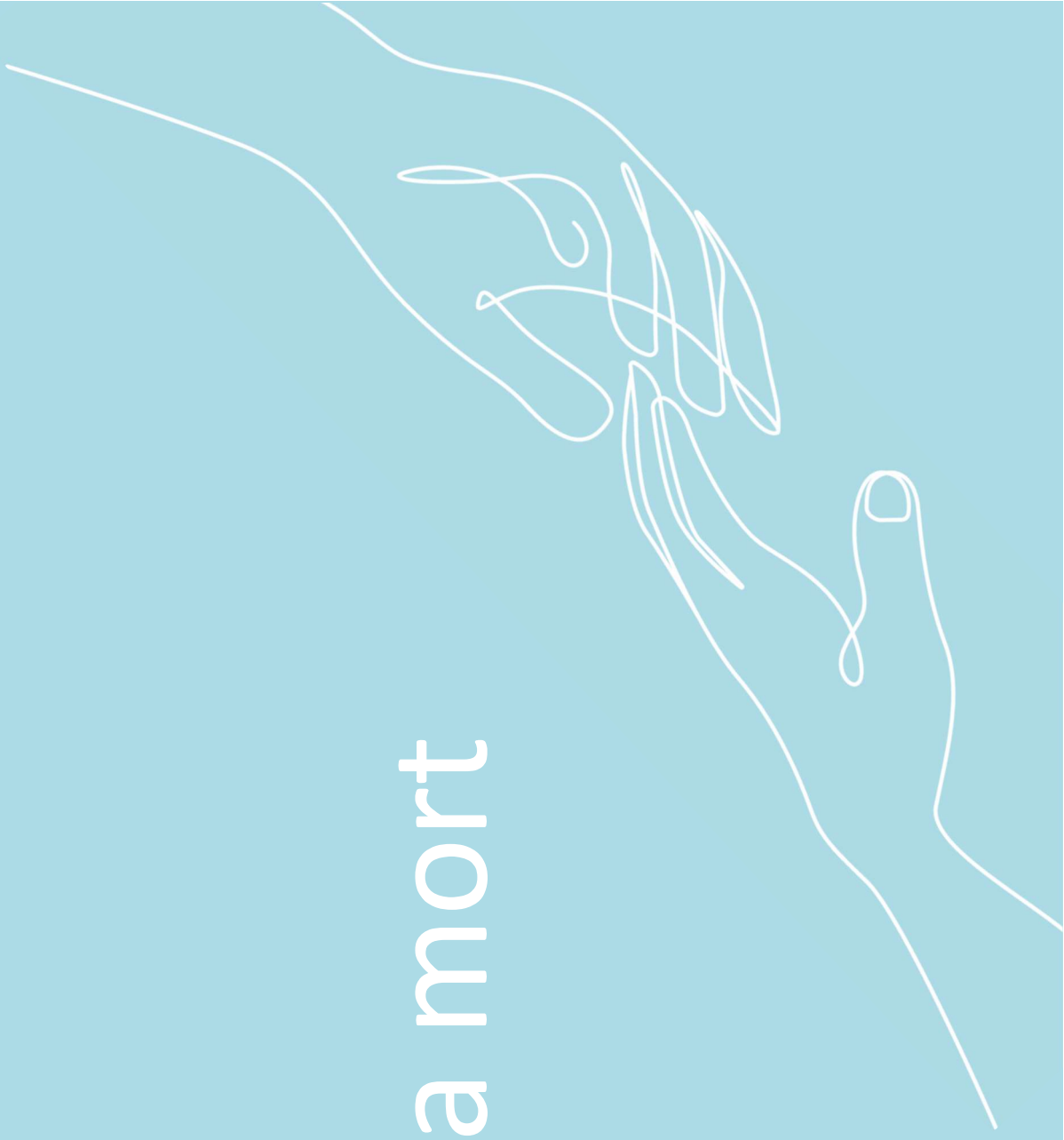


Parlons de la mort

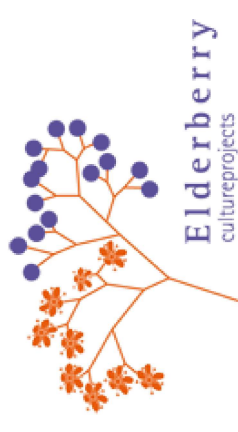
David **Powell** (Elderberry)



Let's talk about death!

The changing language of
death, traditions, rituals, and
Taboos

*David Powell MA, M.Des, B.Ed. Managing
Director Elderberry AB*



The iconic turn. Humans now communicate more with images than with the written or spoken word. Humans are also different in how we most easily perceive guidance in communication - some people absorb images more easily than words. Images, visual impressions can also help start a communication about something that can be as charged and difficult as talking about death. Cemeteries and the rituals around burials are almost the single place and time that people can associate and openly talk around death. Where it is legitimate to talk about death when we are there. In Sweden, apart from the Halloween celebration (which has recently become quite a fun way of talking about death), we do not set aside much time or place for conversations about death except when someone dies, and you attend the funeral. All other occasions in life are more charged with anxiety, taboos and fear of death and therefore we may prefer to start talking about what burial grounds and urns etc.

about what burial grounds and urns etc. can communicate outwardly and at the same time raise an additional way of communicating in images without words, which can include many who have difficulty expressing themselves in words. This could even be used as a method in preparation for "conversations" about death. You could introduce a person by presenting, art, pictures or artifacts, which were important in life already while you are alive and start from the visual impression of the loved ones. The example of Swedish death cleaning youtube attached shows how we could start talking about death with people on a practical level. What do they want to do with their belongings, who gets what, why not now? Lets' go! In one of the images, the symbol of death and eternity is explored. In my opinion, the concept of eternity can be a bit misleading in this context. If we are to believe in eternity, then maybe we will never start preparing for death :

Dr. Jelena Mossiaguine

We will start by looking a commission I carried out about 15 years ago to design several series of funerary urns.

The concept revolved around contemporary design to reflect contemporary architecture.

The funerary urns available had designs from 3000 years ago.



Ancient Roman Funerary Urn

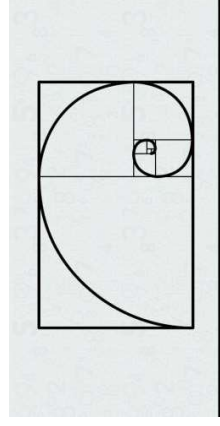
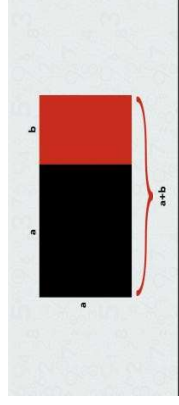
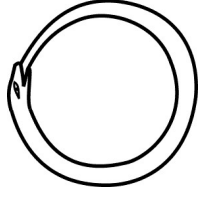
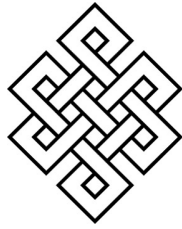


Contemporary design inspired by the impression the tide leaves on a beach.

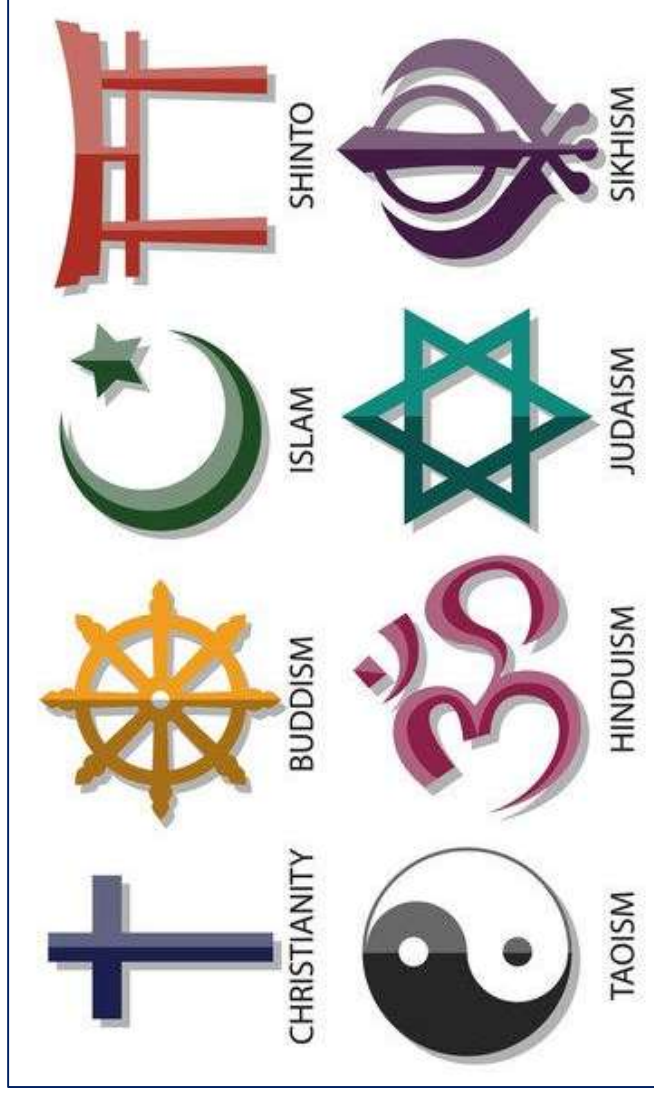
We want to reflect at how people lived today.



**We explored and researched
the visual and mathematical
language of death or
eternity.**



**Religious Symbols tell us
about beliefs of life and
death**



Non religious symbols?



Christian symbolism –which may be forgotten but remain in our subconscious.

A sword in Christianity also quite often symbolizes the power and might of the Lord. It also (symbolically!) separates good from evil. The necessary decisions for this act then symbolizes justice.

Fleur de Lis = culture, purity, light, virtue, and sometimes chastity

Cockerel = Christ and of the Resurrection

Anchor = hope of salvation

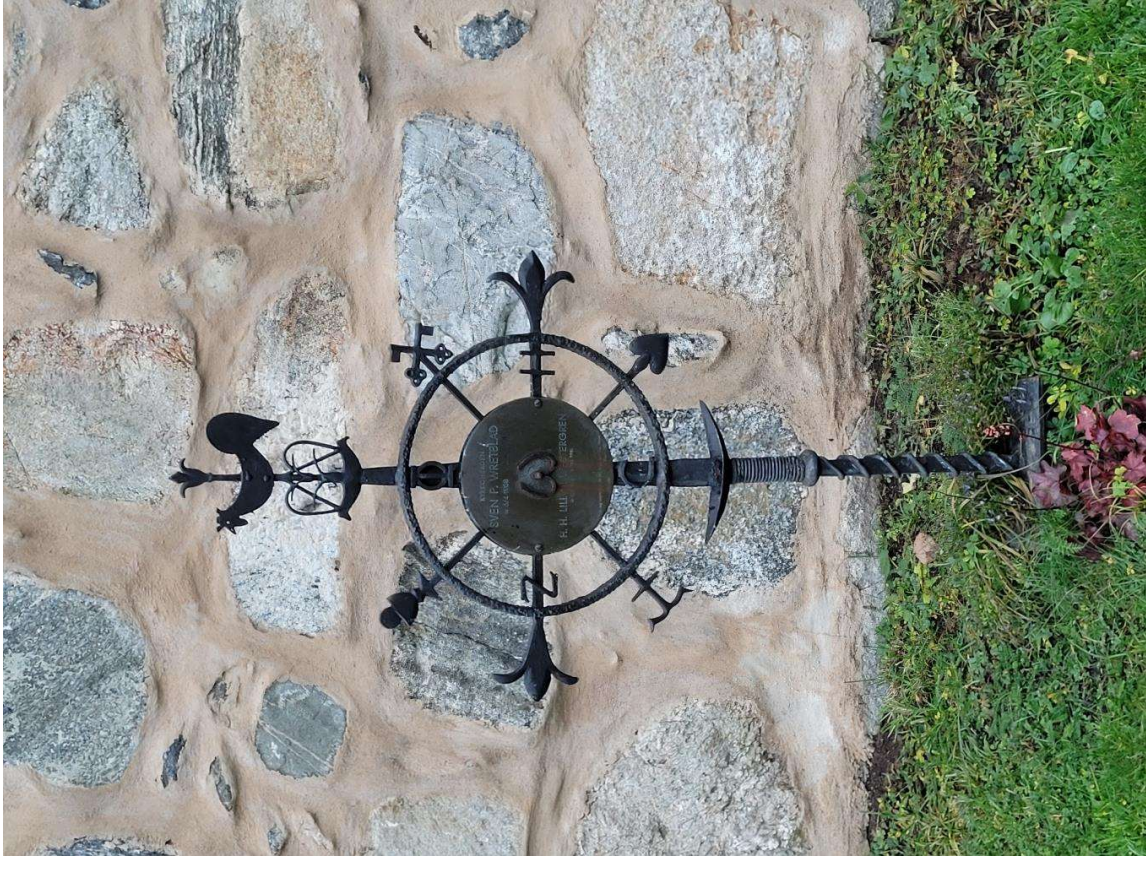
Cross = faith

Heart = charity, love

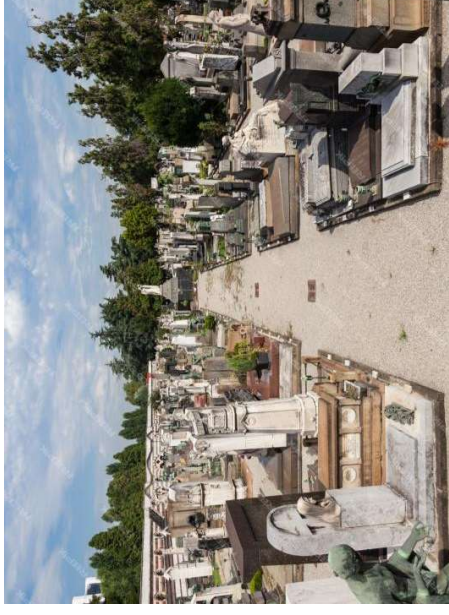
Keys of Heaven, the symbol of Saint Peter

Alpha Omega Life has beginning and will come to an end.

A chalice religious freedom from the impositions of doctrine by a hierarchy and openness to participation by all- (Protestant)



Portugal, Belgium, Italy and Sweden



Traditional Swedish visual language from cemeteries. 1900s A sunset/rise Birds Ships A rose



The next generations in Sweden.



**Lazer technology is
changing the visual
language of death.**



Lets talk about death on an industrial scale.

Do monuments help us to cope?
Sweden does not have war memorials.
Does it have difficulty coping with catastrophies?



Belgrade Cemetary Namur



Elsie Mabel Gladstone



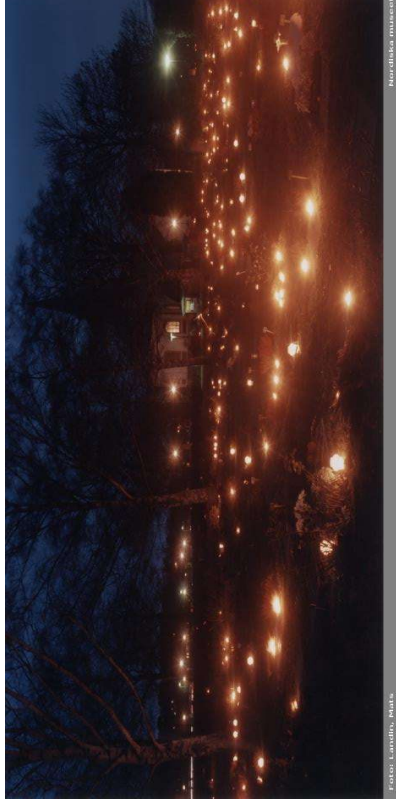
Stanly Spence Duffhill

Death Rituals, Ceremonies & Traditions Around the World.

Death rituals are nearly non-existent in the United States, Canada, and many parts of Europe, and death ceremonies often consist only of a wake or a funeral, and then — well — nothing.

This wasn't always the case.

The Plague is where some researchers point as a starting point for a decline in grief rituals in the West. So many died that it was impossible for grief rituals and last rites to be given to all who needed them.



The changing liturgy of Churches.
The black death, the counter reformation and the rise of the votive church. A place for reflection and conversation about death.

The Rise of Science: Families Exchange Priests for Doctors and Health Care workers



The end of the church as a place to talk about death? Where then?

St Olav's Pilgrimage



A personal reflection on pilgrimages through Portugal and Sweden

Camino Portuguese



The forest cemetery.
Skogskyrkogården .
A modernist language for death.

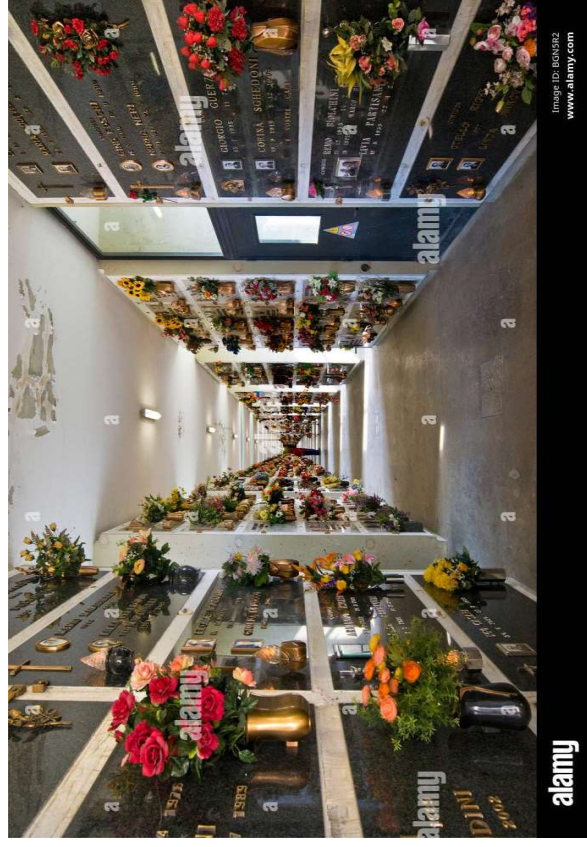
The architectural language and
humanist lithurgy is repeated in
crematoria all over the world.



Music of Death.
From Requiem
to Death Metal



St Cataldo Cemetary, Modena, Italy



How far did the hold my hand project come in talking about death?

Module 1 use the word "validate" - it's more trade union language, replace it with a more popular variant so people can understand! As for the children's part - can you elaborate or give a link how exactly you can talk depending on the age of the child instead generalize with the word child.

Module 2 - I think that here there should be links to each country's laws and directives that contain information about what you can decide on in advance.

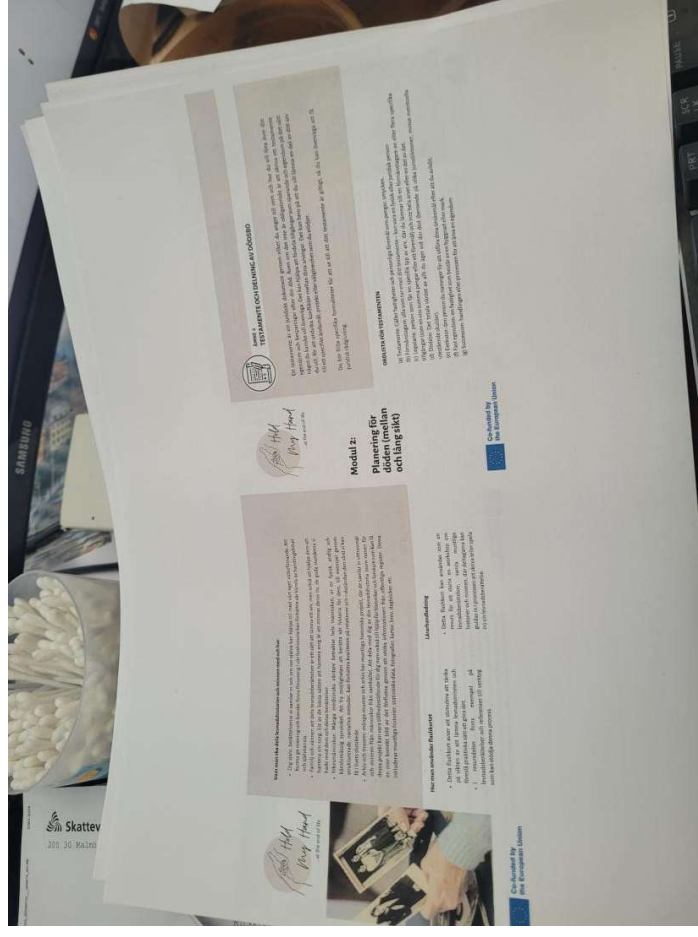
If the info is in Swedish, then it should be about Sweden. When it comes to making decisions about future personal treatment, it is difficult as you do not know in advance which diseases you will become ill with. One can perhaps say that I do not want to be rescued in the event of a cardiac arrest, but even that opinion can change over time.

Module 3 here is supposed to be rewarding to give concrete examples of conversation methodology - how a healthcare professional can start and open up conversations about spirituality. Healthcare staff know about pain relief, for example, but may find it difficult to invite patients themselves for spiritual conversation. And patients may not want to bother with it as they may think that the medical stuff takes a lot of time already.

Module 4 - great that you write and pay attention to cultural aspects! People grieve differently in different countries. In Sweden, loneliness is widespread and perhaps those who have moved from another country do not have many relatives close by their side when they grieve together!

In general, I would like to say that the material is very comprehensive, but it is good to have access to it long before you die in order to have time to gain knowledge about everything you bring up!

Should be used for general education!



Swedish death Cleaning. A new way of talking about death?

<https://youtu.be/LIW3ttZzfkI?si=q-DBxjT-RZ4VqE6d>



Dö bra – Go Wish

<https://codaalliance.org/go-wish/>

