

Appendix

The Death Transcendence Scale

Please respond to each of the statements below using the following rating scale.

1 = strongly disagree 3 = agree
2 = disagree 4 = strongly agree

1. I have had an experience in which I felt everything in the world to be part of the same whole.
2. I have had an experience in which I realized the oneness of myself with all things.
3. I have never had an experience in which all things seemed to be unified into a single whole. (R)
4. I have never had an experience in which I became aware of the unity of all things. (R)
5. I have never had an experience in which I felt myself to be absorbed as one with all things. (R)
6. My death does not end my personal existence.
7. Death is a transition to something even greater than this life.
8. I believe in life after death.
9. Death is never just an ending, but is part of a process.
10. There is a Force or Power that controls and gives meaning to both life and death.
11. Only nature is forever.
12. Death is as natural as anything else in nature.
13. I may die, but the streams and mountains remain.
14. No matter what, all of us are part of nature.
15. Streams, trees, and people are all one in nature.

16. Meaningless work makes for a meaningless life.
17. It is important for me to do something in life for which I will be remembered after I die.
18. If I never do anything significant, my life will have been wasted.
19. If others I love do not remember me after I die, my life will have been wasted.
20. To be creative is to live forever.
21. After death much of myself lives on through my children.
22. Without children, much of what is most precious in life would be wasted.
23. Without children, life is incomplete.
- *24. My life may end, but that which is important will live on through my family.
- *25. Solid relationships with family and friends is a lasting value.
- *26. Relationships with family and friends are among the most lasting values.

(R) indicates reverse-scored item.

The last three items are added by VandeCreek and Nye. All items should be placed in random order.

Mysticism Subscale = Items 1–5
Religious Subscale = Items 6–10
Nature Subscale = Items 11–15
Creative Subscale = Items 16–20
Biosocial Subscale = Items 21–26

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