

AFTERLIFE and IMMORTALITY (adapted from the session created by the River Grass UU Congregation)

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

“I don’t want to achieve immortality through my work ... I want to achieve it by not dying!”

-*Woody Allen*

“Life is a great surprise. I don’t see why death should not be an even greater one.”

-*Vladimir Nabokov*

PURPOSE: We come together to build connections and to talk about what deeply matters.

CHECK IN: What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing. What are you leaving behind to be here today?

READING OF GROUP COVENANT

FOCUS: *Afterlife and Immortality*

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted; if time remains, general response and conversation are welcome.

“Being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead.” -*Kurt Vonnegut*

“In sorrow we must go, but not in despair. Behold! We are not bound for ever to the circles of the world, and beyond them is more than memory.” -*J.R.R Tolkien*

“The real question of life after death isn’t whether or not it exists, but even if it does what problem this really solves.” -*Ludwig Wittgenstein*

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Do you believe in an afterlife? Do you believe in heaven and/or hell, immortality of a soul, communion with God, resurrection, reincarnation?
- Is such a vision conditional upon the goodness with which we live this life?
- What are your hopes for yourself and your loved ones after death?
- Why is it that you do or do not believe in heaven or in some sort of life after death?

CONFIDENTIALITY CHECK: Is there anything that you shared here today that you would like held confidential? Otherwise, this is a reminder that we treat each other’s sharing with kindness and respect.

CLOSING WORDS:

We give thanks for one another, for the chance to share our lives, to renew our spirits.
May we be enriched by our gathering, committed to living life fully and to supporting one another.