

Matura bez problemu – zadania tekstowe 22

Przeczytaj fragment tekstu, a następnie wybierz poprawna odpowiedź lub odpowiedzi do każdego z pytań.

The concept of being resurrected from the dead is not a new one. The quest for human immortality has been demonstrated in many ways: resurrection, heaven, re-incarnation, mummification. Humans have a natural tendency, using a rational mind, to want to be immortal as exemplified by rituals and religious concepts.

1. Rituals like mummification and beliefs in eternal life prove that

- a) the idea of immortality does not have any logical explanation.
- b) in many societies the perception of eternal life has been different.
- c) humans have for ages relied on the concept of life after death as being possible.

The desire to be immortal is an extension of self-preservation, which humans as well as animals have been equipped with. When we are placed in critical situations, our body responds chemically with the 'fight or flight' adrenalin rush, and we choose one in an unconscious response to preserve our lives. We take medication so that we may be healthier or to treat a disease and many people stop smoking hoping that it will add a few years to their lives. As we advance in medicine and technology there are more options available to extend our lives.

2. When in danger people

- a) automatically choose to protect their life because they are so programmed by nature.
- b) make choices that radically change their approach toward life.
- c) start acting in a way that is close to animals' instinctive reactions.

As early as the sixteenth century small organisms were known to be revived after being frozen. Robert Boyle, an English scientist, reported successfully reanimated frogs and fish that had been frozen. In 1965 a cat's brain was removed from its body, filled with glycerol and frozen for six months. After the brain had been brought back up to room temperature, it demonstrated brain activity. In 1967 the first man to be successfully placed in cryonic suspension was James Bedford a psychology professor, who died of cancer at the age of 73. Since that time more cryonics companies have been developed and over 100 people are now in the state of cryonic suspension with about a thousand more who are currently signed up for cryo suspension at the time of their death.

3. The companies that offer cryonic suspension

- a) base their activity and experience on experiments that were first carried out on animals.
- b) are now facing bankruptcy because of loss of interest in their services.
- c) have already 'frozen' about one thousand 'patients' altogether.

No one has been revived yet. For one to be revived would require to repair what killed the person: a disease, the effects of aging as well as the freezing damage. A person who signs up for cryonic suspension has the hope that future advanced technologies will be able to bring them back to life. For the most part, the emerging science of nanotechnology is a good candidate. With such an advanced technology that could reanimate a cryonic 'client', there is also the consideration that they could live for an indefinite amount of time, in a youthful state.

4. The clients who have signed up for cryo suspension

- a) may never be revived unless technological progress helps remove many complex obstacles.
- b) first need to undergo advanced medical treatment to make sure their bodies are free of any disease before 'freezing'.
- c) hope that modern technologies will solve and eliminate the problem of ageing.

Medical ethics presupposes that it is good to provide good health and with that, as much life as possible. This is what cryonics wishes to provide as well, and yet mainstream medicine often concludes cryonics is a trickery. Cryonists provide honest information for the prospective 'patient', so that they may choose if they are willing to take the chance. If cryonic suspension does not work, then there is nothing lost and the dead will simply continue to remain dead. If it does work and those who sign up are willing to take the risk, they ultimately have everything to gain.

5. Although 'patients' are well informed of the risks and benefits of being 'frozen'

- a) the cryonic companies guarantee a successful revival in future.
- b) the practice of cryonic suspension is not considered to be a serious method of 'treatment' by traditional scientists.
- c) their dead bodies may remain in the state of suspension for ever.

The vision of the reanimated cryonics patient is a symbol of hope for what the world may one day become, a world without disease. Perhaps one day humans will reawake from death and make a giant leap for all of humanity in the process. With continued research in understanding of the brain along with future technological advances, the best outcome would be the return of the cryonic patient's memories and self.

6. Cryonics could be considered a successful venture if

- a) cryonists not only succeeded in reviving their 'patients' but also in restoring their complete awareness.
- b) all the dead people were brought back to existence one day.
- c) revived 'patients' lived much longer than people live these days on average.