

Woody Allen's view of life and death (excerpt from Woody Allen interviewed for BBC R4 Front Row, broadcast Thurs 5th Jan 2006) ...



“No I don't think that, I think the universe is chance, there's no design to it, and the more that physicists learn, whether they're quantum physicists or astronomers, they seem to be coming to the conclusion that the universe is a random event that had a random beginning, not an intelligently designed beginning but a random beginning, and it will expire one day and be completely gone ... there's nobody out there to punish you if you commit a crime, you strictly have to fall back on your own sense of morality, and if you don't have a sense of morality and you're willing to commit a crime you either will pay for it if you're caught or you won't pay for it if you're not caught and a million crimes occur everyday of the worst kind and no penalty is paid because there is nobody out there that's going to do anything if you yourself can live with it. So my view of the universe is pitiless and bleak and pessimistic and uncommercial.

“There are all these little oases of pleasure in the sea of sadness, everyone's life is tragic there's no question about it, you're born and you don't know why and you come to the same grim end rich or poor or brilliant or mediocre, you come finally to the same grim end and so, along the way there are moments that you are able to put it out of your mind and have some laughs, or have some enjoyment, have some intellectual enjoyment, or sensual enjoyment or family fun or some nice moments but always it's against the background that you're moving inexorably with this what Tennessee Williams called this “dark march”, and that really takes the fun out of a lot of it.”

The Bible's view of life and death ...



“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ... God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1v1,27)

“Man is destined to die once and then to face judgment” (Hebrews 9v27)

“Jesus said ... ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though He dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die’” (John 11v25)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life ... Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the Name of God's One and Only Son” (John 3v16,18)