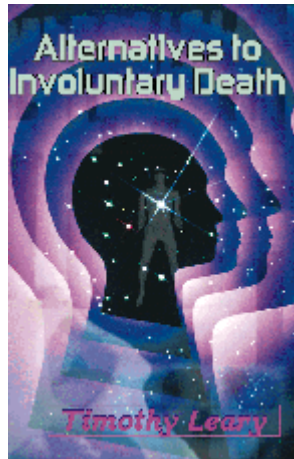


**Alternatives to involuntary Death  
Timothy Leary  
Ronin Publishing  
(Print and Ebook available)**



Death is the ultimate taboo. We are happy to discuss sex, our private relationships, politics and social issues but when the subject of death is brought up friends and family go quiet, it is also a good way to bring an active dinner party to an immediate end, it is a true conversation killer.

*Instead of treating the last act in your life in terms of fear, weakness, and helplessness, think of it as a triumphant graduation.*

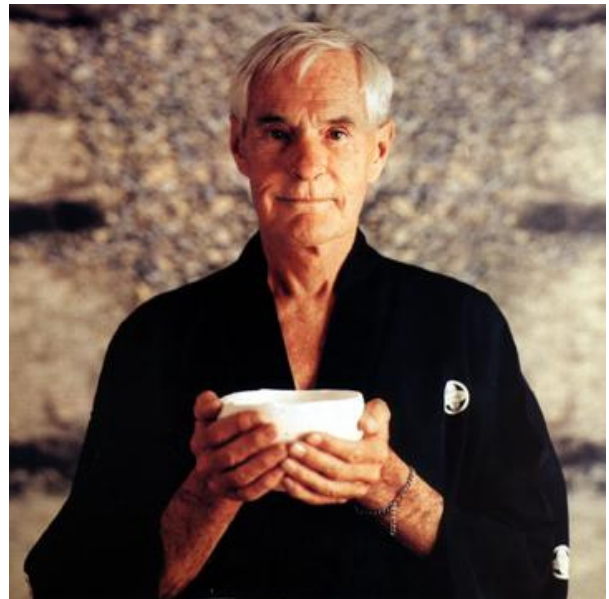
**Timothy Leary  
Design for Dying**

Leary, celebrated sixties counter culture figure, father of psychedelics and exponent of cyberculture, gives us a different perspective on this significant subject. He explains how a society which is based on collectivism and a fear of individualism uses the fear of death as a means of control. In our modern world religion certainly plays its part; if you do not behave in this way or that and donate and support their "pyramid insurance" scheme, you will not make it to a specific afterlife location. Worse, you may even end up in a place of eternal punishment.

These models of control are based on removing the right of an individual to makes decisions about the use of their own mind and body. These battlegrounds tend to be found in such arenas as cognitive liberty (i.e. the use of drugs), sex and death.

In this fascinating work, edited by Beverly Potter and published by Ronin Publishing, Leary argues for taking active control of our own personal death process. The book is nicely published, well-illustrated and packed with pithy and significant quotes from a variety of authors.

Leary states by discussing the way in which we are disempowered by religion and not allowed to control our own death and then discusses



ways in which we can gain control through a variety of means. Leary is not only a humanist but someone who believes in an open exploration of any subject. Accordingly he takes a scientific approach to the subject but offers a wide range of alternatives.

Since science has not, as yet, developed the means to extend life indefinitely some of the solutions offered include: Life extension diets and drugs, life extending lifestyle changes, cryonic suspension, mummification and various others. He also discusses options currently at the edge of modern science including uploading our memories to a computer network, into a cyborg or having ourselves cloned.

Leary also discusses pre-death preparation, preparing our own funeral, recording life stories and the use of various techniques to stimulate the death transition.

There is also an interesting section on Andy Warhol and his choice of cryonic suspension. There are various methods including whole body or just suspending the head.

This is an excellent volume which takes a proactive approach to death. While modern man has taken control of many aspects of his life, it seems death is the final frontier and Leary, once again, had admirably led the way.

**Ronin Publications**  
**Web:** <http://www.roninpub.com/>