

A Close Shave with Death

Student's Name or Students' Names

Department Affiliation, University Affiliation

Course Number: Course Name

Instructor's Name

Assignment Due Date

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Life is a sequel of events where human beings are the main characters who shape the events as they happen. However, sometimes the sequel does not follow a linear motion, and the outcomes can be positive or negative, sometimes perplexing to the author of these events. One fine morning, I was standing on pavement waiting for my ten o'clock bus to enable me to make a transit across town. Suddenly, a reckless driver mounted the curb and missed me by inches. I was in utter shock! My body froze, and my heart raced. I had numerous flashbacks about my life and what-if questions that kept ringing in my head. From one side, I was happy and grateful to God for the opportunity to be alive, and from another, I was scared thinking of what could have happened. I sat down at a nearby bench as I struggled to come to terms with what had happened. The car was a wreck a few meters ahead, and people were piling up to help save the driver. As for me, I froze, and my legs seemed too heavy to walk away from the growing melee.

After an eternity, I composed myself, and I started contemplating life. I had a close shave with death, and it seemed like a second chance for me to review what mattered to me and reflect on my everyday engagements. I consider this a significant revelation for me, changing my life's perspective. I think such close shaves are pivotal ways of learning about life and developing a renewed purpose in life. Everything happens for a reason. Finding out this reason can help build a different perception of the behaviors that redirect our view of life.

What is it about death that scares us? Why are we unnerved by its approach or the mere mention of it? Is it because of its inevitability or unpredictability? Is it because we are unaware of what we will have accomplished and what might remain unfinished when we die? I could now understand how challenging this was because I almost died, meaning an interruption to all my hopes, dreams, and ambitions. My family would have to learn to live without me, and my friends

would have to replace me with another person. I would be forgotten because memories sometimes fade based on the depth of any relationship. In reality, I would only be a tombstone and a past tense to many people.

The grief of planning for a funeral is another concern. Death, being unpredictable, means that people will have to learn how to live without a loved one. The first step will be planning for the funeral and considering possible ways of getting the news out to others. I imagine my family's grief and emotional turmoil had I died. They would live to see my portrait daily and think about the times we spent together. The reality that this can happen anytime is also a self-defeating element to think about afterward. Mindfulness could be a way of shielding people from the pain of such loss, but that does not remove the fact that people will have to deal with the loss.

Coming back to reality, a passerby came over to where I was seated and told me she had seen the car miss me by a whisker. She recounted a similar experience and the phobia she developed afterward. I realized that such random experiences shape our lives, and we must be open to addressing the underlying concerns if we want to lead normal lives. Sharing my experience made it easier to build a different perception of death, life, and memories. A close shave with death gets you thinking about new experiences. It challenges your idea of what is right and wrong. I am now living my best life because I have agreed to look at the brighter side of every experience. Although I get shivers walking past the scene of that accident even today, I always convince myself that I am alive for a purpose, and I should not be afraid of living because of a past experience.

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