

## Euthanasia is our birthright

Osho, TNN | Dec 20, 2011, 12.00 AM IST

### Talk: Osho



The person who is going to die should be given one month's time. If he changes his mind, he can go back, because no one is forcing him. Emotional people who want to commit suicide cannot remain emotional for one month - emotionality can be momentary. Most people who commit suicide, if they had waited one moment longer, would not have committed suicide at all. It is out of anger, jealousy, hatred or something that makes them forget the value of life.

The whole problem is that politicians think accepting euthanasia means suicide is no longer a crime. No, it does not mean that. Suicide is still a crime.

Euthanasia will be with the permission of the medical board. One month's rest in the hospital - every kind of help that can be given to the person to become calm and quiet - and all friends and family coming to meet him because he is going on a long journey. There is no question of preventing him; he has lived long, and does not want to go on living, his work is finished.

### Teach meditation

He should be taught meditation in this one month, so that he can do meditation while death comes. And for death, medical help should be given so it comes like a sleep - slowly, slowly, side by side with meditation, sleep - going deeper. We can change thousands of people's deaths into enlightenment.

There is no fear of suicide, because he is not going to commit suicide; if somebody tries to commit suicide, he will still be committing a crime. He is asking permission. With the permission of the medical board...and he has one month's time in which he can change his mind. On the last day, he might say, "I don't want to die" - then he can go home. It is his decision.

And euthanasia is becoming more and more a need, because with medical science progressing, people are living longer. Scientists have not come across any skeleton from 5,000 years ago of a person who was more than 40 years old when he died.

Then, life expectancy could not have been more than 40 and out of 10 children born, nine would die within two years; life was immensely valuable.

Hippocrates gave the oath to the medical profession that you have to help life in every case. He was not a seer; he couldn't have known that a day could come when out of 10 children, all 10 would survive. Now that is happening. On the one hand, nine more children are surviving; and on the other hand, medical science helps people to live longer - 90 years, 100 years, is not rare, in developed countries.

In the (erstwhile) Soviet Union, there were people aged 150 years and still working! But now life has become boring. Just think of it, doing the same thing...even the bones will be hurting.

In America, there are thousands of people in hospitals just lying in their beds with all kinds of instruments connected to them. Many are on artificial breathing machines. What is the point? There are many people dying on the streets, starving - why not tend to them?

### **Why force people to live?**

Force is in every way undemocratic. So I want it to be a very rational thing. Make it 75 or 80 years; then life is lived enough. Children are grown up.... You are retired; you don't know what to do. That is why old people are so irritable: because they don't have any work, respect or dignity. They are unhappy and shout at the slightest provocation. These are simply their frustrations that are showing; the real thing is they want to die. But they cannot even say it. It is unchristian, it is irreligious - the very idea of death.

### **Learn how to die**

They should be given freedom, but not only to die; they should be given the freedom of one month's training in how to die. In that training, meditation and physical care should be a basic part. They should die healthy, whole, silent and peaceful - slowly slipping deep into sleep.

And if meditation is joined with sleep, they may die enlightened. They may know that only the body is left behind, and they are part of eternity. Their death will be better than ordinary death, because in ordinary death, you don't have the chance of becoming enlightened. In fact, more and more people will prefer to die in the hospitals, in the special institutes for death where every arrangement is made. You can leave life in a joyous, ecstatic way, with gratitude.

I am all for euthanasia, but with these conditions.

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