

# A Perspective on Life after Death

John Moriarty (1938–2007) was a writer and philosopher from County Kerry. The following quotes come from his autobiography, *Nostos*.

‘I have a kind of Christian faith,’ John said, ‘Oh, death isn’t the end of the story. And my life in the universe isn’t the whole story. So the healing is finally greater than the illness. Death is a door through to something, to somewhere else.’

‘Clear days bring the mountains down to my door-step, calm nights give the rivers their say, the wind puts its hand to my shoulder some evenings, and then I don’t think, I just leave what I’m doing and I go the soul’s way.’

By his bedside as he died, John had this prayer he wrote himself:

‘I can’t sense you or know you or name you, God.  
I can’t find you inside me or in the world outside.  
But however I am, or wherever I am, I am in your blissful, safe-keeping, God.  
In heaven, on earth or in hell, I am in your blissful safe-keeping, God.’

1. From your reading of the prayer, do you think John Moriarty was afraid of death? Why/why not?

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2. What is your understanding of John’s philosophy on life?

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