



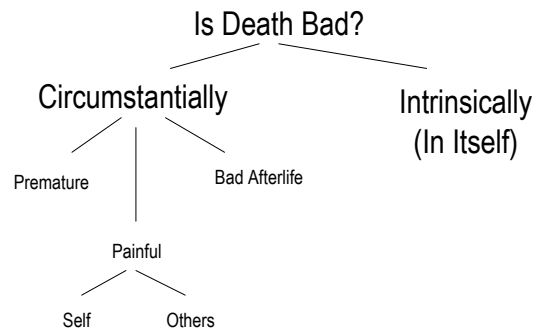
Thomas Nagel  
(1937- )

## Nagel on Death

### Meditation 2

Am I Afraid of Death?

What is it that I fear?



### Meditation 3

Do I desire eternal life?

Why?

### Is Death Bad In Itself?

#### 2 Common Views

1. No! It can't be;  
you don't even  
exist when you  
are dead.

2. Yes! Life is all  
we have!

## Argument for Why Death Cannot be a State with Negative Value

1. If death is a negative state, it must be a state of a person.
2. But when death takes over, the person no longer exists.
3. Therefore, death cannot be a negative state of a person.

## The Way(s) Death Could be Intrinsically Bad

The state of being dead has a negative value

Being dead deprives the person of a longer life which has positive value

Upshot: Therefore, if death is bad, it is bad because it deprives us of the positive value of life.

## A Puzzle About Death: The Non-Existence Asymmetry

$T_0$        $T_1$        $T_2$        $T_3$        $T_4$        $T_5$



Emily's Life from Birth to Death