

This horror of loneliness, this domination of the human person by the fear of being left alone, comes from the long helplessness of human childhood when to be abandoned means death. It comes from the certain knowledge, often unexpressed and seldom reverted to, that each of us is marked out for death.

As Seneca has said : " There exists no more difficult art than living. For other arts and sciences, numerous teachers are to be found everywhere. Even young people believe that they have acquired these in such a way that they can teach them to others, throughout the whole of life one must continue to learn to live and what will amaze you even more, throughout life one must learn to die."

This in fact is the actual Task or point of caring for children - to prepare people to face their death - that moment when I am absolutely and finally alone, when I must make that last eternal step, unaided, and unaccompanied.⁽¹⁴⁾ If you think this point is rather morbid, then I think you must think again. Death is the final point in the process whereby I take possession of myself, completely, utterly, and it is the zenith of personal growth and development , the destination to which each one of us at this very moment, is travelling. It is only by asking again and again " where have I come from and where am I going ? " that a man develops a full awareness of the unique, irreplaceable and incomparable quality of his own individuality. Only in this way does the reality that man has an incredibly short time in which to evolve into and take possession of his individuality.

Individualising is a central concept in Caring in our Residential Homes and

" it is based upon the right of human beings to be individual and to be created not just as a human being, but as this human being with his personal differences. " (15)