LETTER TO THE EDITOR

End-of-Life Experience of Famous Artist J. M.W. Turner

To the Editor:

The International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS) occasionally views the area of end-of-life experiences (ELEs) as confirming many of the topics found in near-death experiences (NDEs). I recently came across an ELE when reading about a 2014 biographical film, Mr Turner, that received four Academy Award nominations and numerous awards and wins from foreign film associations, for example, best actor (Timothy Spall) at the Cannes Film Festival. It was a dramatic foreign film and probably received few screenings in the United States. The film concerned the last 25 years of the life of eccentric English landscape artist J. M. W. Turner (1775–1851), after the death of his father. In his day, he was known as the “painter of light,” well before Thomas Kinkade (1958–2012) trademarked the term for himself. Turner was not religious, but his last words before dying were, “The sun is God.” Some NDErs claim the “light” in their NDEs is brighter than the sun, but I see a comparison to Steve Jobs saying “Oh, wow!” three times as he lay dying.

References


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