

Study: Barrett, D.P. (1990). *The relationships among ego development, intuition, and death anxiety in a sample of death educators and healthcare providers working with the dying and their families*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Concluding Statement

The theory and results of this study can be put into a literary context by referring to the work of Joseph Campbell, who wrote The Hero With A Thousand Faces (1949). In this classic work, Campbell discusses myths from a variety of cultures and historical periods and explores the universal pattern which emerges of the "hero's journey." Campbell suggests that this is a journey of death and rebirth, in which there is a departure, an initiation, and a return, a journey open to the modern hero/heroine as much as it has been to the figures of the world's myths. Campbell further elaborates on this journey leading toward the assumption of adult responsibility, ironically, through the surrendering of ego, saying: "The passage of the hero may be overground, incidentally; fundamentally it is inward---into depths where obscure resistances are overcome, and long lost, forgotten powers are revived, to be made available for the transfiguration of the world" (1949, p.29). And finally, we are not alone on the journey,

...for the heroes of all time have gone before us; the labyrinth is thoroughly known; we have only to follow the thread of the heropath. And where we had thought to find an abomination, we shall find a god; where we had thought to slay another, we shall slay ourselves; where we had thought to travel outward, we shall come to the center of our own existence; where we had thought to be alone, we shall be with all the world (1949, p.24).