

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	9
1 The Integral Connection between Life and Death	13
1.1 Fear of Dying and Death	15
1.1.1 Factors Affecting the Process of Dying	19
1.2 Confrontation with Death Brings Personal Change	22
1.3 The Concept of Dying and Death in the Hospital System and in Hospice Facilities	28
2 Death and Perceptions of Death.....	31
2.1 Perceptions of Death in the Contemporary World.....	34
2.1.1 The Meaning of Death through the Eyes of the Contemporary	35
2.1.2 The Concept of Death among Non-Believers.....	37
2.2 Death from the Perspective of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis, the Search for Meaning of Dying and Death	39
2.3 Preparation for Death and Its Acceptance	49
3 Euthanasia.....	51
3.1 Countries Where Euthanasia Is Legal	55
3.2 Euthanasia in the Czech Republic	62
3.3 Arguments for and against Euthanasia.....	63
3.4 Euthanasia from the Perspective of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis.....	68
3.5 Quality versus Quantity of Life	70

4	Palliative Medicine.	75
4.1	The Death of Children and Adolescents	83
4.1.1	Fatal Illnesses of Children and Adolescents	89
4.2	When Bad Things Happen to Good People	95
5	Suicide as the Destruction of Meaning.	105
5.1	The History of Suicidal Behaviour	107
5.2	Statistics on Suicide.	109
5.3	Suicide in Children and Adolescents	110
5.4	Causes of Suicide.	114
5.5	Suicide from the Perspective of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis.	116
5.6	A Few Words to Therapists	118
5.6.1	Situations That Therapists May Encounter	122
6	Care of the Bereaved, Loss and Grief	125
6.1	Grief.	126
6.1.1	Complicated Grief.	128
6.2	Intercultural Perspectives on Mourning.	133
6.3	The Period of Mourning and Loss	136
6.3.1	Views on Loss: Sigmund Freud, Erich Lindemann and John Bowlby.	139
6.3.2	Spiritual Aspects of Grief	143
7	Bereavement Counselling.	163
	Conclusion	169