

# Death

**Venki Ramakrishnan,  
former president of the Royal Society and  
a chemistry Nobel laureate, nurses a more  
fundamental objection to killing off death.  
While bacteria and cancer cells are in effect  
immortal, he explained in an interview  
recently, whole organisms are not.**

**All animals die,  
suggesting that death co-evolved with sex:  
"[Reproduction] is like a lottery.  
You're tossing different combinations of genes  
out at life to see which one can do better  
but, in order to give them a shot, the  
older generation has to get out of the way."**

**Death, in other words,  
is the price we pay for sex.**

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