When Bob was 16 he had hoped to start his own internet company. He had dreams of its success, the money he would earn, the places he could buy property as a result. He dreamt of having a beautiful wife and family and of his life going well. After he finished uni he started his company. At first it did well. He met his beautiful wife, got married, bought a house and had two kids. But then a recession came and his profits declined rapidly. He didn’t give up. Instead he just kept borrowing as much as he could to keep the company afloat. He even borrowed this money against the house. Soon he had a terrifying amount of debt. His company did not recover. The house was sold and Bob was left with no job and no wealth. Through the stress of it all his family also fell apart. Bob was bankrupt, with his dreams in pieces. For the next 30 years Bob worked as a bank teller, all the while sad that his dreams didn’t eventuate. If Bob believed in an afterlife, how would it make a difference to his thinking about his failures? If he didn’t believe in one, how would it make a difference?

Sophie’s friends always told her that recycling was important. But she couldn’t be bothered. It was the same with all of these environmental concerns. She drove a big diesel, loved the feel and look of high energy light bulbs, poured oil and chemicals down the sink, and just figured that she had to enjoy life. If Sophie believed in an afterlife how would it make a difference to her thinking about the environment? If she didn’t in believe in one, how would it make a difference?

Earnie grew up with lots of friends and many dreams for the future. After he turned 18 he found at that he had a rare genetic condition that meant he wouldn’t survive another year of his life. If Earnie believed in an afterlife, how would it make a difference to his thinking about his life? If he didn’t believe in one, how would it make a difference?

Jurgen was a soldier conscripted into the German army during World War II. He was assigned to a concentration camp that imprisoned enemies of the state, mostly Jews. If Jurgen believed in an afterlife, how would it make a difference to his behaviour as a soldier in that place? If he didn’t believe in one, how would it make a difference?

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