

Cremation Versus Burial

Cremation was rare in Western Europe until the 19th. It was illegal in England until 1884. In the United States 5% were cremated in 1972, In 2025 the US cremation rate was 66.4% (Cremation Association). The rate is highest in non-Christian people. In Japan, the rate is almost 100%. Only Orthodox Judaism forbids cremation. While cremation can not keep God from being able to resurrect the dead, is cremation merely a matter of personal choice?

In the Encyclopedia Americana article, Cremation, it says the practice of cremation was used in idolatrous pagan fire worship. "Burning, according to pagan belief, prevents the possible return of the ghost, purifies the soul, and wards off evil spirits. The Hindus and Chupchi of Siberia cremate their dead, based on their belief in a heavenly abode for the spirit of the deceased. The flames of the funeral pyre, leaping upward, are thought to facilitate the ascent of the soul to heaven."

The following are quotes from Hindu scripture:

"It is proper for a woman, after her husband's death to burn herself in the fire with his corpse; every woman who thus burns herself shall remain in paradise with her husband 35,000,000 years by destiny."

"The wife who commits herself to flames with her husband's corpse shall equal Arundathi and reside in Swarga (heaven)."

"Accompanying her husband, she shall reside so long in Swarga as the 35,000,000 of hairs on the human body.

"As the snake-catcher forcibly drags the serpent from his earth, so bearing her husband [from hell] with him she enjoys heavenly bliss."

"Dying with her husband, she sanctifies her maternal and paternal ancestors and the ancestors of him to whom she gave her virginity."

"Such a wife adorning her husband, in celestial felicity with him, greatest and most admired, shall enjoy the delights of heaven while fourteen Indras reign."

"Though a husband had killed a Brahman, broken the ties of gratitude, or murdered a friend she expiates the crime."

From Wikipedia:

The second camp, Treblinka II, was an extermination camp (Vernichtungslager). A small number of men who were not killed immediately upon arrival became its Jewish slave-labour units called Sonderkommandos, **forced to bury the victims' bodies in mass graves. These bodies were exhumed in 1943 and cremated on large open-air pyres along with the bodies of new victims. Gassing operations at Treblinka II ended in October 1943...**

Jer 32:35

Lev 18:21

2 Kings 23:10

Mat 25:41

Gen 25:7-10; 50:4-5, 12-14

Josh 24:32; 7:15

2 Kings 23:19-20

Amos 2:1-3

Lev 20:14; 21:9

Rev 19:20