

# Death High Court

by A.G. Hughes

*Set Up: Chairs altars along back, with Death sitting in her chair. Side table set up with jar candles. Central table set up with a mini coffin covered in a cloth. Flowers decorate the front of the tables and on top. Lights are off except for the main spotlight controlled by the switch next to the god chairs. "Take Me To Church" by Hozier is playing. Congregations seats are normal set up. There is a hammer and a lighter behind the coffin, not visible to the audience. There are three characters: The Preacher, Death, and the Deceased. Death is seated in her corresponding god chair, The Preacher is standing behind the central table, and The Deceased is leaning against the wall behind the candle table.*

## Part I

The Preacher: [Welcome into the space, general high court intro, begin funeral introduction]

The Deceased: [intro of character, initial feeling of being dead, regrets in life, wonder what will happen going forward]

**The Preacher:** Builder, you set the foundations for a community, and inspire us to build greater things. Welcome, Builder.

**The Deceased:** There's so much I didn't do! So many ideas, so many things left...and it's too late now.

**The Preacher:** Healer, you are with us when we are sick or hurt, until we are able to stand on our own again. Welcome, Healer.

**The Deceased:** I could have gotten better, I was still fine, I didn't need to die yet- it's not fair!

**The Preacher:** Nurturer, you give us life and light, love and warmth, a full belly and a resting place. Welcome, Nurturer.

**The Deceased:** I'm never going to see my family again, my friends, my dog...everything I love is gone.

**The Preacher:** Trickster, you teach us life's lessons-sometimes the hard way. But you are always there to share in our victories. Welcome, Trickster.

**The Deceased:** This wasn't supposed to happen, I wasn't doing anything wrong- I don't deserve this. It's not fair.

## Part II

The Preacher: [small message on how music is used in funerals, and as an emotional support in life, how it can change the way we feel in an instant, and each one is a story]

The Deceased: [fear of losing memories, leaving them behind, losing who they are as they continue in death]

Death: [will hear your stories and remember every bit of them, will become as much you as you are, and make sure you're never alone]

**The Deceased:** And you'll never forget me?

**Death:** Never.

*The music stops. The Deceased uses Trickster's candle to light Death's candle, then snuffs Trickster's candle and takes Death's candle over to her.*

### Part III

The Preacher: [the meaning of flowers, a symbol of life at a celebration of death]

The Deceased: [fear of letting go of life, of accepting the end]

**Death:** Walk with me and you will continue life, not on earth, but with the gods, here forever and one with the universe around us.

**The Deceased:** And you'll walk with me?

**Death:** Always.

*The flowers are removed from the sanctuary. The Deceased snuffs Nurturer's candle.*

### Part IV

The Preacher: [the symbolism of the shroud, preservation, still of the earth]

The Deceased: [stressed at never "getting better", the thought of being stuck as a corpse, all the fears plagued in life]

**Death:** It was your time, just like everyone else dies when it is their time. Your body and soul both stay one with the earth. Your body returns to the soil to nourish all around it, and your soul returns too, as often as you wish. You only truly end when you are ready to let the world go, and that end is to be with the gods.

*The Deceased nods, and take's the shroud off the coffin, draping it around their shoulders like a shawl, and snuffs Healer's candle.*

### Part V

The Preacher: [a very Christian sounding part of a funeral, the good deeds in life and successes, plus impact on community]

The Deceased: [sad at leaving the material and successes behind, wish more could have been done]

**Death:** You have a long way to go before you are ready to join the gods for good. Who you are and who you were has out you a good way down your Road to start. What you have done in life helps who you become in death, and I am here to remember the whole you, and put the pieces together, until the time comes that you are ready.

**The Deceased:** Will I ever be ready?

**Death:** In time. Are you ready to try?

**The Deceased:** I don't know yet.

*The coffin is slowly lifted, revealing the skull underneath. The Deceased takes a moment to observe it, then snuffs Builder's candle.*

## Part VI

**The Deceased:** I don't think I can do this.

**Death:** Everyone has to, and I'll be here the entire time.

*The Deceased goes to sit by Death, in Trickster's place.*

The Preacher: [small speech about death, the final resting place, blah, blah, blah]

**The Deceased:** What even is this called, is this purgatory? Am I just stuck at my own funeral until I decide to go into the light or whatever?

Death: [mystical explanation of the road]

**The Deceased:** But what if I don't want to, what if I want to go back?

**Death:** Everyone has to face their Road eventually- dying is just as natural as living, just as natural as joining the gods when you're finished.

**The Deceased:** But...but what if I'm on my Road forever?

**Death:** Each person, each creature goes to the gods in their own time, at their own pace. Some take longer than others, but it's all up to you.

The Preacher: [final goodbyes]

**The Deceased:** I can't do this.

**The Preacher:** With Builder, and Healer

**Death:** You can, and you'll be fine.

**The Preacher:** With Nurturer, and Trickster

**The Deceased:** I'm not ready!

**The Preacher:** With Death, and Destroyer

**Death:** You don't have to be, that's why I'm here.

**The Deceased:** You promise?

**The Preacher:** We send The Deceased on their Road.

*The Preacher takes the hammer and smashes the skull. At the same moment, the lights are turned off, leaving only Death's candle lit.*

**Death:** I promise.

*After a few moments, Death's candle is snuffed. Darkness reigns for several more moments. The Deceased gets up and walks deliberately out of the room. When they reach a door, they knock three times, then three times again.*

**The Deceased:** I'm ready!

*The Deceased exits through the door, shutting it firmly behind them.*

## **Part VII**

*Death walks up, in the dark, to the smashed skull, and places Destroyer's candle in the remains.*

**Death:** Destroyer, when I have walked with them as far as we can walk, they go to you. They become one with us, and the earth, and the universe. You are the final protection, the guardian of souls. Welcome, Destroyer.

*Death lights Destroyer's candle.*

**Death:** Take care of her.

*Death goes back to her seat and bows her head. Enough light to see is restored.*

**The Preacher:** Thank you for attending the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Death High Court. Please make way to the kitchen area for the feast- if you're able, we do request a donation of about \$5 to help our costs. Stay tuned to our Facebook and Meetup accounts, as we have our Destroyer High Court coming up in November, an autumn Oracle Party to be announced, and more events to start off 2019, which is fast approaching! Thank you for your continued presence with us.

**Fin.**