

Aquamation: An Introduction

The Natural Process...

Aquamation is a more natural, ethical and environmentally friendly alternative to cremations and burials.

It uses water instead of fire to return a body to nature. The decomposition process taking place is called *alkaline hydrolysis*, which is the natural way in which a human or animal returns to nature if buried without a coffin in the soil, or placed in a flowing stream of water.

Aquamation is a non-burn process *more like natural decomposition than any other method* since the same natural decomposition of tissue occurs. The Aquamator just speeds up that natural process.

What actually happens...?

With Aquamation, an individual body is gently placed in a clean, stainless steel vessel. A combination of water flow, temperature and alkalinity are used to accelerate the natural course of tissue hydrolysis.

The process is completely dignified.

At the end of the process the body has been returned to its natural form, dissolved in the water. Remember – our bodies are 70% water to begin with! The only solid remains are the bones.

What happens to the water...?

The water is a fantastic fertilizer, and can be spread on the flowers to help them grow.

What about the funeral ceremony...?

The traditional funeral ceremony and returning of the ashes remains unchanged. In both cases, mourners see the coffin go behind a curtain – in the case of cremation, the body is put into an incinerator; in the case of aquamation, the body is placed in a water vessel.

The bones remain with aquamation as they do after a cremation, and are in both cases ground and presented to the relatives as ashes.

The Advantages of Aquamation

The environmentally kinder alternative....

- Aquamation uses **just 10%** of the energy needed in a cremation.
- There are **no air emissions** in aquamation.
By contrast, every cremation releases a massive 160kg of greenhouse gas.
- In Aquamation, no 'organic matter' escapes from chimneys as occurs in a cremation that scatters dust in neighbouring areas.
- In Aquamation, no methane gas is produced, unlike in a burial which can seep out along with other toxic fluids and leak into groundwater.
- There is **no waste** of fine timber or metals.
- Titanium hip replacements can be re-used
In burials and cremations, these are lost forever.
- Burial is increasingly no longer an option due to **land shortages**.
Aquamation is the green solution.

Aquamation is a **truly environmentally kinder alternative to burial and cremation.**

Who Supports Aquamation?

Significant and growing support for the aquamation process can be found across the world in the medical profession, governmental departments, and funeral industry.

The Farming Industry...

Aquamation has virtually taken over as the preferred method of disposal of diseased animal bodies in the USA and Europe. The method has been used since 1992 to dispose of animals with diseases such as mad cow disease or scabies. While cremations and burials fail to destroy these diseases, aquamation is the only acceptable method that effectively removes the risk of further spread and contamination.

The MAYO Research Clinic

The method is used and supported by the **MAYO Clinic** in the USA, a prominent medical research establishment.

When first installed, the clinic had 150 donated cadavers to dispose. As the original MAYO agreements had said that final disposition of the bodies would be cremation, the Mayo Clinic felt obliged to consult relatives before using a different method. Out of the 150, an overwhelming 148 opted to use the aquamation method instead of cremation.

The UK Cremation Society

Written in 1874, this is an extract of the UK Cremation Society Declaration:

*“...we desire to substitute some mode which shall rapidly resolve the body into its component elements, by a process which cannot offend the living, and shall render the remains perfectly innocuous. **Until some better method is devised** we desire to adopt that usually known as cremation”.*

At an Extraordinary General Meeting on 17th June 2008 members of the society voted to change its constitution **to allow it to support for aquamation** since they viewed it as a superior means of disposal.

Orthodox Christianity

We have conducted surveys amongst conservative Christians who say that biblically cremation is immoral. However, these same Christians would be in favour of aquamation as it is a far more natural method.

Summary

Given the numerous benefits of aquamation, this scientific breakthrough it is soon to become widely available, so much so that within ten years it is predicted aquamation will have replaced cremation as the preferred means of disposal.