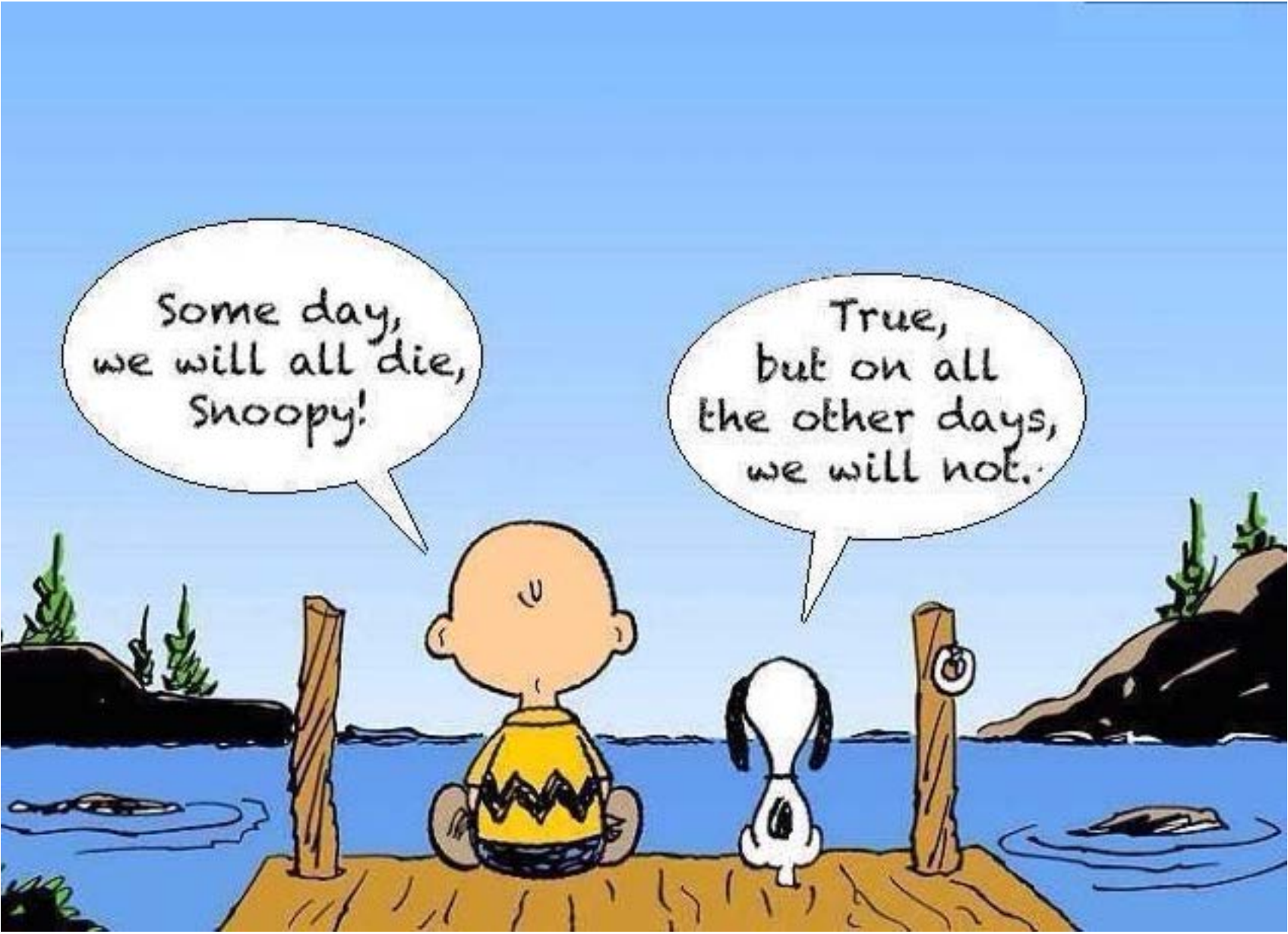


Where a desolate sense of meaninglessness is encountered by the person at the end of life, one finds the essence of ‘spiritual pain.’





Some day,  
we will all die,  
Snoopy!

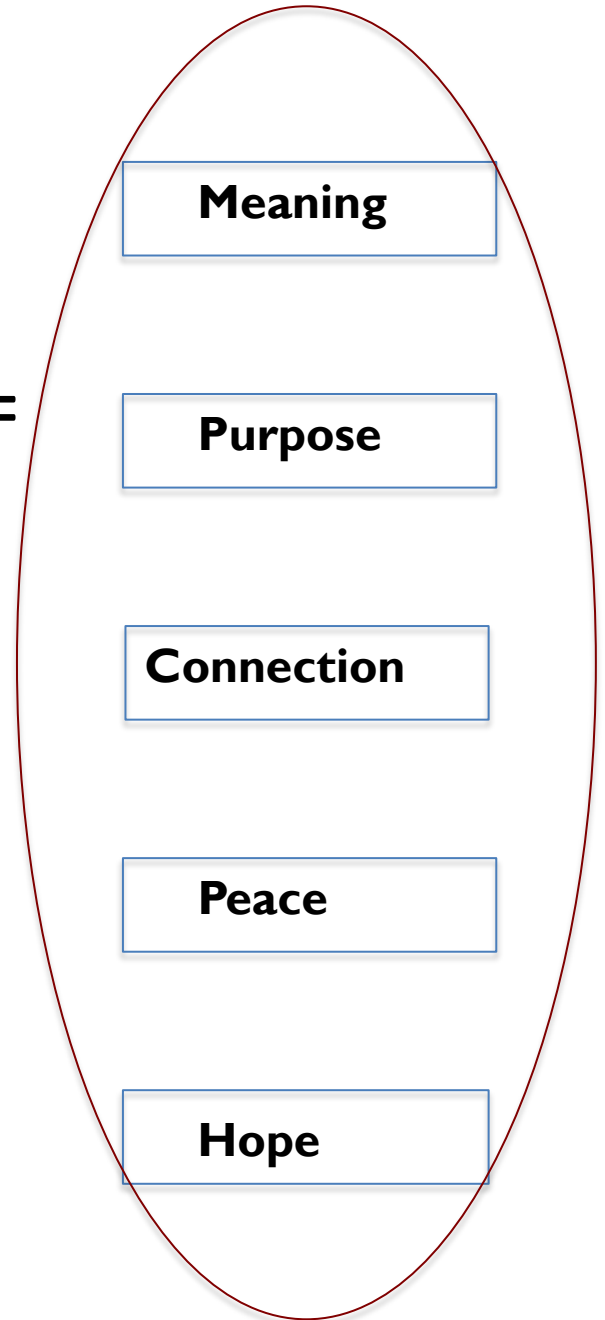
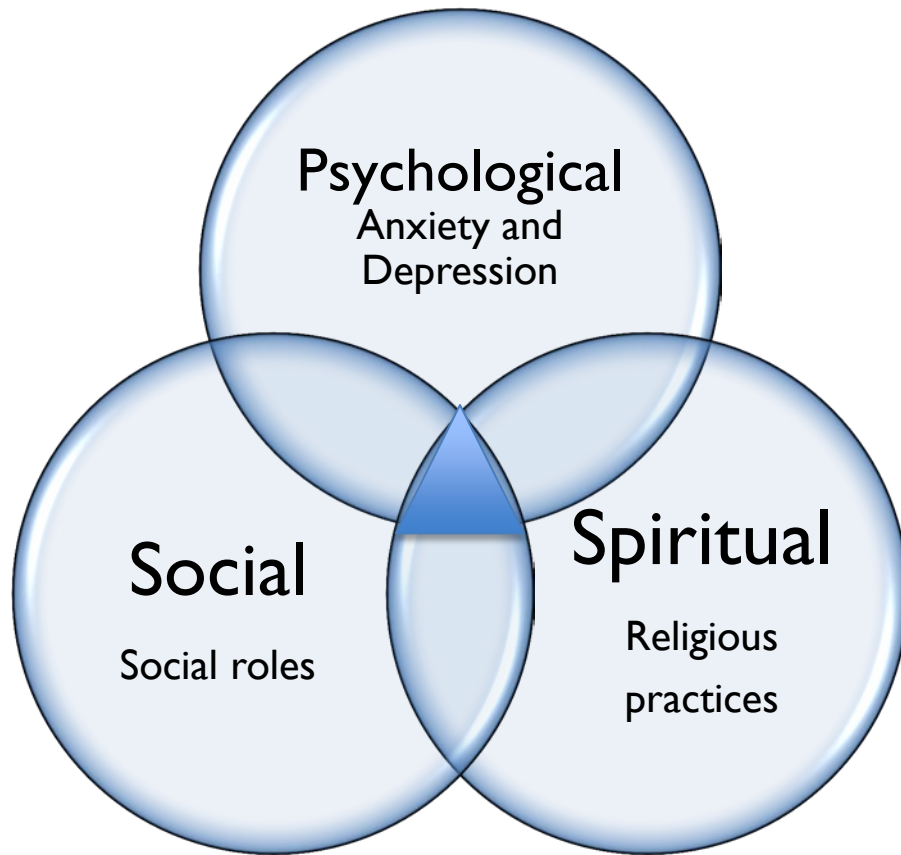
True,  
but on all  
the other days,  
we will not.

“Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual.”

- World Health Organization

# National Quality Forum Domains

1. Structures and processes of care
2. Physical aspects of care
3. Psychological and psychiatric aspects of care
4. Social aspects of care
5. Spiritual, religious, and existential aspects of care
6. Cultural aspects of care
7. Care of the imminently dying patient
8. Ethical and legal aspects of care.



How are these distinct and similar?

# Consensus Definition of Spirituality in Palliative Care

The aspect of humanity that refers to the way individuals **seek** and **express meaning** and **purpose** and the way they experience their **connectedness** to the moment, to self, to others, to nature and to the significant or sacred

- U.S. Consensus Conference



I WANT  
TO KNOW  
THE MEANING  
OF LIFE

HAVE YOU  
TRIED  
GOOGLING  
IT?

# The Role of Spirituality

Integral to peoples lives

Patients and families in acute health care situations have spiritual and religious needs

Beliefs and practices are central to coping

Negative coping associated with poorer outcomes

Satisfaction and QOL are higher when spiritual care attended

Beliefs influences decision-making and treatment choices