LIMITS OF THE HUMAN LIFE CYCLE

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The cosmetology of clichés is commonly regarded as an art not so much black as dismal, comparable to the refurbishment of rubbish. Yet, when the underlying concept of the cliché is sufficiently fundamental and compelling, it is not unusual for a phrase that has grown contemptible through familiarity to be reconditioned in popular usage with the aid of such standard devices as metonymy, metaphor, alliteration and rhyme.

The following list illustrates both premiss and process. Starting with the basic expression From Birth To Death, it proceeds through the more common alternatives to a litany of less familiar paraphrases. No attempt was made to be exhaustive; the purpose is to be informative and educational. If its perusal induces the reader to provide an extension, it will have fulfilled both.

From birth to death
From cradle to grave
From womb to tomb
From lust to dust
From yearn to urn
From erection to resurrection
From incubation to incineration
From copulation to cremation
From asses to ashes
From panting to planting
From titter to litter
From mommy to mummy
From sperm to worm
From crib to crypt
From basket to casket
From OB to obit
From fun for all to funeral
From orgasm to morgue has 'em
From carry on to carrion
From squall hearers to pall bearers
From rolling in the hay to buying the farm

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