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# THE TRIPLE C

Caring, Compassion & CHOICE

Old Colony  
Hospice  
& Palliative Care

## Being Mortal

Dr. Atul Gawande's newest book, "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters Most in the End," was released in October 2014. Dr. Gawande, a general surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital and professor at Harvard's Medical School and School of Public Health makes a strong case that technology in the medical arena has rendered obsolete centuries of experience, tradition and language about mortality.

Dr. Gawande describes modern medicine as a secular miracle allowing lives to be sustained and extended in ways never thought imaginable. But- he argues- this can come at a high price for one segment of the population. As old age has been transformed by this technology, the elderly patient is often robbed of a humane end to their life. Many living their final months in a clinical setting and spending more time with professional caregivers than at home with loved ones. This is a great challenge for our society. How to we create a safe and meaningful environment for our final years? And, ultimately - how do we want to die?

In this amazing book, Dr. Gawande addresses these issues with thoughtful and fresh thinking. This is a masterwork that will inspire new and better views of the end of life. By the year 2044, there will be as many people in the world who are over 80 years old as there will be people under the age of 50. Gawande reflects that, "It is not death that the very old fear...It is what happens short of death...losing their hearing, memory, best friends and their way of life." These are what matter in the end.

Source: Carol Iacofano, Book Review, Boston Globe, October 2014

### Family Quote

*"For you're among the nicest people I have ever known, and you'll never be forgotten for the thoughtfulness you've shown my mother. Old Colony Hospice nurses are truly angels."*



For More Information,  
Please call us at:  
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