

*The Best Way to Deal with Death is Through Art*

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Titian was a prominent renaissance artist known for being versatile in his work as he was just as talented in painting portraits, landscapes, mythological subjects, as well as religious subjects. One of his religious works, *The Martyrdom of Saint Lawrence*, prominently displays an expert use of chiaroscuro to give the painting depth and add a level of drama that was a common theme amongst Titian's later works. The dark background adds to the feeling of anguish that Saint Lawrence's is about to experience as he is being killed, but Titian's addition of Saint Lawrence turning his face upwards towards the rays of light breaking through the storm clouds symbolizes the salvation waiting for him once he ascends. This severely dark background is also helping to draw the viewer's eyes back to the conflict being shown in the foreground, in which a man who bears a striking resemblance to Titian is kneeling and looking to the dying Saint. Another work of his that also features his image was the last work Titian ever made, his *Pieta*, in which he was similarly depicted kneeling on the ground looking towards a dying man. Titian struggled with the realization of his own mortality toward the end of his life and dealt with it by incorporating his image in his artworks that featured death and the ascend to heaven in the hope to immortalize himself and come to terms with his own inevitable demise.