

Science and the Paranormal

Spontaneous Afterlife Contacts



Near Death Experiences (NDEs)
Death Bed Visions
Children's Past Life Memories
Lecture 4

Contact with the Afterlife

- Spontaneous
 - NDEs, Death Bed Visions, Children's Past Life Memories
 - Apparitions, Ghosts, Poltergeists
- Sought
 - Ouija, Electronic Voice, Past Life Regression
 - Physical Mediums
 - Mental Mediums



Near Death Experiences (NDEs)

- Raymond Moody published “Life After Life” in 1975 about a then growing phenomena of patients in the operating rooms returning from being unconscious for several minutes, the doctors having pronounced them dead, with vivid memories of being out of their bodies, watching the operation, going through a tunnel into a “heaven like scene”

NDE

Basic Features

- Awareness of being dead
- Sense of peace
- Out of body experience
- Going through a tunnel
- Seeing and going into a powerful light
- Intense feeling of unconditional love
- Seeing beings of light, seeing deceased loved ones
- Receiving a life review
- Receiving knowledge about one's life and the nature of the universe
- A decision to return, sometimes by a being or often reluctantly, by oneself

NDE

- About 18% of NDEs are considered as distressing
 - The person feels alone in a void, a great sense of nothingness
 - There have been experiences containing demons that attack the person
 - Many of these turn into blissful experiences when interrupted by a being of light
 - Some of the participants have post experience psychology problems
 - Exhaustive study has not revealed any personal characteristics that would show who got good or bad experiences

NDE

Some Examples

- [Heaven Is for Real](#) by [Todd Burpo](#), is a father's account of his son, Colton, and Colton's trip to heaven and back. Colton's appendix has ruptured, he was rushed to the hospital. Unconscious, Colton alleges to have met Jesus, God, his great-grandfather whom he had never met, and his older sister lost in a miscarriage
- Eben Alexander is the author of the autobiographical book *Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife* (2012) in which he asserts that his [out of body](#) and [near death](#) experience (NDE) while in a [meningitis](#)-induced coma in 2008 proves that consciousness is independent of the brain, that death is an illusion, and that an eternity of perfect splendor awaits us beyond the grave
- [Goldie Hawn's](#), near-death experience. When she was younger, she and a group of friends were in a severe car crash together. While she was unconscious, she remembers looking over herself while the paramedics were trying to revive her. She also mentioned seeing a bright light and being told it was not her time soon before she awoke.
- [90 Minutes in Heaven](#) by [Don Piper](#), is Piper's account of his own near-death experience. EMTs on the scene determined Piper had been killed instantly after a tractor-trailer had swerved into his lane, crushing his car. Piper survived, however, and later claimed that he saw loved ones and friends as well as magnificent light; he felt a sense of pure peace.

NDE

Studies

- Dr. Michael Sabon, cardiologist
 - Compared the description of their operations by NDEers and non-NDEers and concluded that the NDEers must have been reporting what they had seen out of their bodies
- The Pam Reynolds Case
 - Pam was operated on for a brain aneurism that required her to be effectively dead, no blood to the brain. She reported an NDE and described her operation in detail. She also saw deceased relatives and was forced back into her body against her will by her uncle

NDE Studies

- Dr. Pim van Lommel, Netherlands examined 344 patients successfully resuscitated after cardiac arrest.
 - Van Lommel et al., reported that 62 of the 344 patients with cardiac arrest reported some recollection. Of these 62, 50% reported an awareness or sense of being dead, 24% said that they had had an out-of-body experience, 31% recalled moving through a tunnel, whilst 32% described meeting with deceased people. Moreover, while near-death experiencers commonly report feelings of peace and bliss, only 56% associated the experience with such positive emotions. No patients reported a distressing or frightening NDE.
 - He concluded that his findings supported the theory that consciousness continued despite lack of neuronal activity in the brain
- In Sept 2008 Dr. Sam Parnia announced that 25 UK and US hospitals would examine near death experiences in 1500 heart attack patient survivors
 - No results have been reported as yet

NDE

- NDEs represent the best authenticated and biggest challenge to materialist theory because
- When the OBE part provides information that can be verified as happening, the idea that we can exist outside our bodies would seem to be verified, and if then why not forever
- When the messages from the departed provide unknown facts, the presence of one thought alive for example, that too is very positive evidence

NDE

- The International Association of Near Death Experiences
- www.iands.org
- See also the incredible collection of NDE histories on
- www.near-death.com

Deathbed Visions

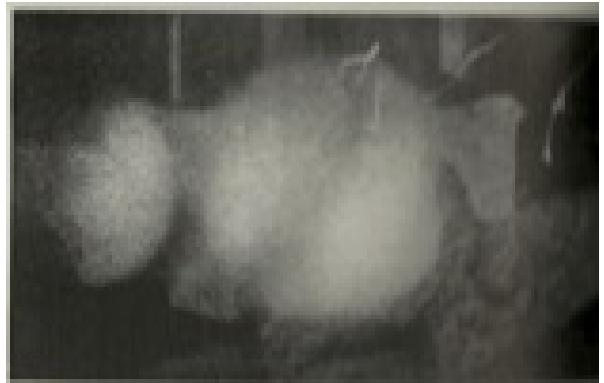
- A 1959 study of 35000 observations of dying patients in the US and India found that 1300 saw apparitions and 900 reported visions of an afterlife
- Most saw familiar deceased people
- Some saw angels or other religious figures
- Friends/relatives tell them they are there to help them pass
- The depressed person is elated and relieved of pain
- During the vision the dying person is acutely aware of their real surroundings
- The experiences and reactions are the same for all whether they believe in an afterlife or not
- The investigators concluded that the “similarities in the death bed visions of both countries are considered clear enough to be considered supportive of the post-mortem survival hypothesis.”

Deathbed Visions

- Dr. Raymond Moody, “Glimpses of Eternity” explores deathbed visions and shared-death experiences
- One doctor explained that as the patients died they lit up with a bright glow, their eyes shining with a silvery light. The mist formed over the chest and hovered there, and he saw that the mist had depth and complex structure.
- Dr. Laubscher *Beyond Life’s Curtain*. was told by different caregivers how while watching at the bedside of the dying one with one or two candles burning they had seen the formation of a faint vaporous body, an elongated whitish purplish-like cloud; parallel with the dying person and about two feet above the body, gradually this cloudlike appearance became denser and took on the form, first vaguely and then more definitely, of the person in the bed. This process continued until the phantom suspended above the body was an absolute replica of the person, especially the face.

Deathbed Visions

- Taken by a French researcher in 1907, 3 hours after his wife's death



Deathbed Visions

- There are records of the people at the bedside seeing the same apparition as the patient.
 - This proves that the images are real, that the visions are not personal hallucinations
 - Example
 - Two witnesses independently saw the recently deceased mother at her dying child's bedside

Children Who Remember Past Lives

- Ian Stevenson UVA started investigating children who remember past lives in the 1960s
- He collected over 2500 cases
- Dr. Jim Tucker at UVA is continuing the research
- Stevenson published
 - Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation (1986)
 - Where Reincarnation and Biology Intersect (1997)
 - European Cases of the Reincarnation Type (2003)
- His major work was the 2268 page, two-volume, Reincarnation and Biology: A Contribution to the Etiology of Birthmarks and Birth Defects

Children Who Remember Past Lives

- Stevenson's work is difficult to interpret in any other way than it proving that at least some people do reincarnate.
 - Over 75% of his cases involve early, accidental deaths or murders
 - The transfer of birthmarks and deformities memorializing the death details is very difficult to understand

Children Who Remember Past Lives

- Carol Bowman
 - Children's Past Lives, How Past Life Memories Affect Your Child
 - Return From Heaven
- Go to www.childpastlives.org/forum.htm
- Many stories of past lives from within the family e.g. "I was my grandfather."