

Q and A with P. M. H. Atwater, L.H.D., Ph.D. (Hon.)

An in-depth look at the near-death phenomenon

October 2003



In this new section of the newsletter, Dr. P.M. H. Atwater will answer questions submitted to her from subscribers to this free newsletter. If you have a question that you would like her to



answer, just email your question to webmaster@near-death.com for consideration.

Dr. P.M.H. Atwater's next book, entitled [The New Children and Near-Death Experiences](#), will be released on December of 2003. You can order your copy now through Amazon.

Dr. Ken Ring had this to say about her book: "This book is the richest, most probing, and most comprehensive available of NDEs in children."



QUESTION: What happens to people who are in prison for committing a violent crime? -- *anonymous*



P.M.H. Atwater's answer: This question leaves me a little confused as I am not certain what the individual means. People in prison serve out whatever term they were given. Some choose to take advantage of the time they have to educate themselves, read, study, grow in understanding and self-knowledge. Others become bitter or angry or simply resign themselves to their fate and endure. Should they die in prison, there is no definitive way to be certain what comes next for them - be it heavenly or hellish or ? My reply reflects near-death research. We know from the various reports given so far worldwide (and there are millions of them), that what seems like it should be a criminal's "end," is not

necessarily what occurs.

Near-death research highlights the existence of a Higher Source or Higher Will. We do not know what is going on at the soul level of any individual. We can know people on the personality level: what they did, how they acted, what were the mitigating factors in their life that contributed to what they became. And, we judge them on that basis, but we do not know nor can we, "who" they really are and what this life really means to their overall development as a soul. Because there is such a gap between the personality level and the soul level, we are cautioned in our churches and by our spiritual groups to judge the deed but not the person. Jesus said, "Judge not, lest ye be judged also." You get a heavy dose of just such a reality in cases of people who died, then came back to life with a different perspective, a greater sense of truth.



I would refer you to the case of Nathan Kyles III on pages 94-96 in [Children of the New Millennium](#) (Three Rivers Press, New York City, 1999), for the opposite view. He returned from his childhood near-death experience as transformed as any, but, because of how he was treated when he tried to share what happened to him, he turned to a life of crime. You see? We cannot be certain how anyone will respond or what is true for that individual at deeper levels of his or her being. There are no absolutes. The more you know about near-death research, the more convinced of that you will become.



QUESTION: What happens to people who do horrible things such as rape and murder? What about Hitler and tyrants and such, did they choose to be that way before being born? -- *Todd*



P.M.H. Atwater's answer: This question sounds a lot like the first one. I wonder if "anonymous" is really Todd. Still, the question is a reasonable one, and one we all grapple with. Although no one can really answer this question, nor does near-death research address the subject directly, there are findings that convey some pertinent ideas I would like to share.

Reviewing the thousands of sessions I've had with near-death experiencers in a quarter century of research, there is a description about the spiritual realms that is consistent across ages and cultures and it goes something like this: there are levels to what we call "heaven" and "hell" and they are stacked atop each other like a "layer cake," separated only by rates of vibration. After you die, you usually go to where you "fit"

according to your vibratory resonance at the time you passed over. Some souls, however, wind up in shadowlands or border areas for awhile and for various reasons. Those who go there seem to be the ones who are the most confused, regretful, curious, lost, or the most passionate about sticking around to help or hinder the living. These individuals are invisible to those alive, but can appear on occasion as if "ghosts."

Apparently, we stay in the realm where we "fit" until we learn and grow beyond the thoughts, feelings, and beliefs that sent us there. Neither heaven nor hell are endpoints. We are never "stuck" unless we think we are. Advancement seems to depend on our willingness to learn and grow, to awaken to the greater realization of who we are and the responsibilities we have as souls, as spiritual beings. For some, that is a big "call," and is tough for them to handle. Those more fixed or confused in their thinking have a more difficult time and can take longer in their development. We are not punished "for" our sins (mistakes) but, rather, "by" them. . . . for we must face the consequences of whatever we think, say, and do. Yet how this works, how the soul plans its missions and growth patterns, is different than what a human being (ego-personality) does.



The soul has no concept of time and space, neither does it respond like a personality. Near-death experiencers are crystal clear on this. There is no "black and white" fact sheet that outlines how things should or must occur. What happens to any given individual depends entirely on his or her choices, the life as actually lived, and how that compares to the will of the soul. There really are spiritual laws and these laws apply to everyone, irrespective of religion or belief.

How someone like Hitler is dealt with and what becomes of him after death is not for my knowing. What I do know from my own near-death experiences is that once you begin to awaken, to know your real self, your Higher Self, and have a

better sense of spirituality and of God, the puzzle pieces of life begin to fall in place and a knowing comes - a peace. There is justice: it just doesn't work on The Other Side like we think it might or should. (For a more in-depth rendering on these matters, be alert to the publication in March, 2004, of my book [We Live Forever: The Real Truth About Death](#), due out from A.R.E. Press.)

Many blessings,
P. M. H. Atwater, L.H.D., Ph.D.
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"We cannot keep the life we have on the earth realm, not our possessions or attachments or relationships. What we can keep is our memories and our feelings of what we have integrated into our heart of hearts from the experience of being here, plus the love we have shared with others." - Dr. P.M.H. Atwater.

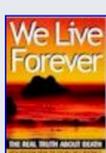
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Books by PMH Atwater



[We Live Forever: The Real Truth About Death](#)

by P.M.H. Atwater

Based on Atwater's 25 years of research, personal stories, and her own NDE in 1977



[The New Children and Near-Death Experiences](#)

by P.M.H. Atwater

An expansion of Atwater's original book "Children of the New Millennium" taking it to another level.



[The Complete Idiot's Guide to Near-Death Experiences](#)

by P.M.H. Atwater

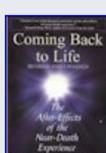
This is the "encyclopedia" of the NDE and the most complete book done in the field of NDE studies.



[Beyond the Light](#)

by P.M.H. Atwater

An in-depth study of the NDEs of over 3,000 adult experiencers.



[Coming Back to Life](#)

by P.M.H. Atwater

Looks at all aspects of the NDE and its aftereffects including possible changes in the brain.



[Future Memory](#)

by P.M.H. Atwater

Deals with the transformation of consciousness and what that might portend to future memory.



[Children of the New Millennium](#)

by P.M.H. Atwater

An in-depth study of child NDEs and a how these children compare to the new children being born today.

Videos by PMH Atwater



[Beyond the Light](#)

featuring P.M.H. Atwater

Dr. Atwater shares her testimony of three life-changing NDEs with host Mary Lou McCall.



[As You Die](#)

featuring P.M.H. Atwater

Available in CD-ROM, DVD, and VHS formats! Atwater leads people through the wonderful journey which begins as one lays hovering between life and death, then leads them away from any fear and despair towards a peace and unconquerable hope, knowing that as we die ... we live forever!

Ebook by PMH Atwater



[A Book of Columns](#)

by P.M.H. Atwater

This ebook contains all of Dr. Atwater's columns from the IANDS newsletter "Vital Signs" from June of 1981 until 2004. Proceeds go to support IANDS and its mission.