

Near-Death Experiences and the Afterlife

January 1, 2005 **Newsletter** Vol. 04 No. 01 Ed. 1



The Near-Death Newsletter is a free semi-monthly newsletter which is mailed to subscribers every 1st of the month and on every 15th of the month. The mission of this newsletter is to inform, enlighten, entertain, and educate the public in understanding the latest in all things concerning NDEs and related phenomena by promoting the **IANDS** (International Association for Near-Death Studies), **NDE researchers, experiencers, multimedia resources, and events.**

Disclaimer: This newsletter is not affiliated with IANDS, but the creator of this newsletter, **Kevin Williams**, is a member of IANDS who is dedicated to the IANDS mission.

IANDS is the premier organization for NDE research. Membership gives you access to subscribe to their prestigious **Journal of Near-Death Studies** and their newsletter **Vital Signs**. You can join **online right from their website**. Get connected with the people and organization which will likely provide the world with the evidence of our survival after death.

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Click on the map on the right to read the latest information on the NDE in Sri Lanka.

(1) Near-Death News

Archive of NDEs in the News - Read all the major news articles concerning the NDE and related phenomena from 1995 to current. This is a permanent archive to ensure that these news articles, which will always be available on the Internet. The Near-Death News section of this Near-Death Newsletter will soon be available in syndication so stay tuned!

How You Can Help Those Suffering From the Quake and Tsunami

WASHINGTON, DC
The American Red Cross is not a government agency and all Red Cross disaster assistance is due thanks to the generosity of people like you. The value of your donation is increased by the fact that the ratio of volunteer Red Cross workers to paid staff is almost 36 to one. Note: Be careful of bogus websites posing as disaster relief organizations. The Red Cross is perhaps the safest and most cost-effective disaster relief organization on the planet.... [\[Read more\]](#)

Faiths Ask of Quake: "Why Did You Do This, God?"

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
In a modern view, he said, God does not interfere in the affairs of his creation. Disasters like the tsunami occur for the natural reasons scientists say they do. "This is not something that God has done. God hasn't picked out a certain group of people in a certain area of the world and said, 'I am going to punish them,'" he said. "The world has certain imperfections built into the natural order, and we have to live with them. The issue isn't 'Why did God do this to us?' but 'How do we human beings care for one another?'" ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Scientists: Quake May Have Made Earth Wobble

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
The deadly Asian earthquake may have permanently accelerated the Earth's rotation, shortening days by a fraction of a second and caused the planet to wobble on its axis, U.S. scientists said Tuesday. Richard Gross, a geophysicist with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, theorized that a shift of mass toward the Earth's center during the quake Sunday caused the planet to spin 3 microseconds, or millionths of a second, faster and to tilt about an inch on its axis. ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Did Animals' Sixth Sense Save Them From Tsunami?

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
Wild animals seem to have escaped the Indian Ocean tsunami, adding weight to notions they possess a "sixth sense" for disasters, experts said. The South African Wildlife Foundation said on Thursday, Sri Lankan wildlife officials have said the giant whales that killed over 24,000 people along the Indian Ocean island's coast seemingly missed wild beasts, with no dead animals found ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Do Animals Have Souls?

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
One listener writes: "I witnessed a television interview between Diane Sawyer and Roy of the Shire and Roy, What I remember the most was Roy's memories of his NDE with his tigers. When he was at the point Anne was, Roy's tigers were in his near-death experience. No doubt, when it is my time, my cats should greet me -- they are my family!" ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Higher States of Consciousness

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
The esoteric view, he said, God does not interfere in the affairs of his creation. Disasters like the tsunami occur for the natural reasons scientists say they do. "This is not something that God has done. God hasn't picked out a certain group of people in a certain area of the world and said, 'I am going to punish them,'" he said. "The world has certain imperfections built into the natural order, and we have to live with them. The issue isn't 'Why did God do this to us?' but 'How do we human beings care for one another?'" ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Minister's Wife Succumbs To Pneumonia

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
Twenty-five years ago, City Schmitt, who had muscular dystrophy and scoliosis, was feeling too weak to participate in Christmas Eve activities. But while she was waiting at home for her husband, she had a "death experience" in which she met Jesus. Afterward, she felt good enough to attend a second Christmas Eve service ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Near-Death Experience Heals Insomnia Through Music

RICHARDSON, TEXAS
Marcey Hamm has a near-death experience then starts composing music that heals insomnia ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Postmaster Finds Balance Through Yoga

SONORA, CALIFORNIA
"My body was so exhausted that I went into shock. When I lost consciousness, I began coming out of my body," she said. "I was hovering over my body in the most tranquil state. Words can't even explain it." She had another out-of-body experience when her father died in 1998 at a Bay Area hospital. "It was the sound of grief that filled the room and then it just stopped," she said of the crying. Once the tears ceased, she looked out the window and saw three bright lights, which she believes were angels coming for her father. Davis told her dad he could go with the angels as he stopped breathing and the lights went away, she said. "I met Jesus, and he said, 'Death is freedom. I know that sounds really strange, but there's liberation in death...'" [\[Read more\]](#)

Study Shows No Stay On Death

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
The common perception that terminally ill people try to hang on until after a major event like their birthday or a big holiday isn't true, according to a study. Records for more than 300,000 cancer victims who died in the state of Ohio between 1989 and 2000 showed they had special celebration or willingness to keep going until after Christmas, Thanksgiving, or their birthdays, the report said. "Analysis of thousands of cancer deaths shows no pattern to support the concept that 'death takes a holiday' ..." [\[Read more\]](#)

Reanimators Try to Grasp the Afterlife Mystery

MOSCOW, RUSSIA
This is an interesting article on how some scientists believe that by reducing the near-death experience to its physical components in the brain, they are somehow refuting any spiritual components which may be associated with it. Such researchers often dismiss the near-death experience as being caused by brain anomalies despite the fact that the cause of near-death experiences is not relevant to whether they are actual transcendental experiences or not. Such reductionism only shows that near-death experiences have a physical component. However, to disprove the tremendous amount of existing scientific evidence supporting the reality of a non-physical component to near-death experiences is the "ball" in the skeptic's court which they have yet to even notice ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Scientific Proof of Paranormal Ignored

MAKATI, PHILIPPINES
"I can cite the massive scientific data collected by Dr. J. B. Rhine of Duke University to prove the existence of telepathy and clairvoyance, the 20-year experiments conducted by physicists Dr. Russell Targ and Dr. Harold E. Puthoff of the Stanford Research Institute on remote viewing, and the highly controlled studies of Dr. Robert Jahn of Princeton University proving the existence of telekinesis beyond reasonable doubt. But most critics have never really bothered to look at these scientific proofs and evidence ..." [\[Read more\]](#)

Theoretical Physicists Cast Fascinating Light on the Universe

DETROIT, MICHIGAN
What if I told you the finest minds of our generation now think that our universe is probably only one of many universes? In other words, everything that is, as you and I have always understood it, is only one of many -- possibly infinite -- separate everything-thats are? I'm not talking about separate planets or even separate galaxies. I mean separate universes.... [\[Read more\]](#)

Near-Death Experience Leads Hopkins to Church

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
Hopkins was loading a truck in 1980 when he fell on his back. Looking up, he saw a brilliant rainbow and thought, "I'd really like to have something that beautiful in my life," he recalled. Hopkins quit his job. He said he had realized his life was empty because it consisted only of working and making money. A lifetime spent chasing a dollar, he said, can destroy a person's humanity ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Medical Technology Explains About Afterlife Scenarios and Reincarnation

WHITEHOUSE STATION, NEW JERSEY
According to Dr. Weiss, he understands what really happens after death and how souls keep coming back till they reach immortality. **Shanti Devi** was born (or perhaps more accurately stated, reborn) in Delhi in 1926. When she was four years old she made a startling declaration to her family: "This is not my real home! I have a husband and a son in India and I must return to them!" The young girl was able to provide many details of her past life, including descriptions of her previous home and family in Mathura. At the prompting of Mahatma Gandhi, a team of researchers was put together to examine her claims. According to reincarnation expert **Dr. Ian Stevenson**, Shanti Devi's past life memories matched the facts uncovered by the panel's investigator. ... [\[Read more\]](#)

The Journey of Generations

DES MOINES, IOWA
One of the most comforting things she shared was her near-death experience. She had been in a coma for many days. Suddenly, she opened her eyes and asked all of her kids to get together so she could say how much she loved them and to tell them goodbye. Then she went back into a coma. She saw a brilliant light, Grandpa, Blom and the Lord. They asked her if she were ready, and she said, "No." So Grandma came out of the coma and lived a few more years. As we talked, I saw the experience was helping her to let go of her wealth and a little less fear of it was easing my acceptance of her leaving ... [\[Read more\]](#)

A Taste of Heaven

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
"People who have near-death experiences have caught a glimpse of heaven and not wanted to come back to earth," Manning says. "They talk of a blinding light, a sense of peace and the overwhelming desire to get back to work." ... One of my most precious gifts was the sound of my child who knew they were going to die. This child died a sun with big spikes for rays and underneath was written: "Death is like being in the sunshine every day." ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Near-Death Experience Forces Partner to Rethink Her Lifestyle

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK
Crain says she had just made it to the hospital, where she was being prepped for an angioplasty. "I had a heart stoppage. She says a cardiology team used a defibrillator 17 times to revive her, but she was "down" for 33 minutes ... [\[Read more\]](#)

"Dying" Drunk Gets an Earful and Awakes From Coma

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK
A man who drank himself into a coma and lay near death in a hospital bed suddenly woke up after hearing that his boss had committed suicide. "Get your ass back to work!" ... DiPasquale's friend Ralph Nadeau figured there was nothing to lose, and decided to deliver the message, whispering into his pal's ear, "Charlie says to get out of bed and get your ass back to work." Five minutes later, DiPasquale suddenly awoke and uttered, "I've got to get to work." And he began a quick recovery. ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Study Disputes the Randomness of Dreams

DALLAS, TEXAS
The finding that the brain compartmentalizes dreams into two separate sleep periods may also put to rest the theory that dreams are no more than a meaningless rehash of random images, according to the researchers... McNamara's next series of experiments will look at just that possibility, comparing sleepers' dream patterns with the socializing they conduct during the following day. If those experiments show a real correlation, he said, "It may mean that if you want to understand why people do the things they do in the dream -- in terms of their social interactions -- one place to look is dreams." ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Sleep Paralysis and Astral Projection

MAKATI, PHILIPPINES
Almost everyone goes out of his body while he sleeps and travels. Most of the time however this happens "without" awakening in the astral world so we may not realize what has really happened when we wake up. That's when the trouble begins. We become frightened because we can't move. We try to return to our body but we cannot because we are not there. The more we struggle, the more there will be a misalignment in the vibrations between the astral and physical body. When a person feels like he is flying or being smashed, it is because his astral body is really flying while his physical body remains in bed. That's why doctors call this "hallucination." Actually it is not. ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Out of Body Experiences and Their Neural Basis

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
In summary, the neurological evidence shows that out-of-body experiences are related to a disintegration within personal space (multisensory dysfunction) and a disintegration between personal space (vestibular) and extrapersonal space (visual) due to interference with the temporo-parietal junction. In science the most challenging phenomena are often the ones we take for granted in our everyday lives. Excellent examples are the perception of the self and the experienced spatial unity between self and body. As argued by others, both folk psychological notions are challenged by out of body experiences. The reviewed evidence from neurological patients experiencing this striking dissociation between self and body shows that out of body experiences are culturally invariant phenomena that can be investigated scientifically ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Ecstasy May Ease Fears of Dying Cancer Patients

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
The small four-month study is expected to begin early next spring. It will test the drug's effects on 12 cancer patients from the Lahey Clinic Medical Centre in the Boston area. The research is being sponsored by the **Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies**, a non-profit group that plans to raise 250,000 (£184,816) to fund it. MAPS, on its website, touted the study's approval, saying "the last day of winter has passed, and maybe so has the decades-long era of resistance to psychedelic research." ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Questions Arise Over Fate of Digital Information After Death

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK
This week, a Michigan man publicized his struggle to access the Yahoo e-mail account belonging to his son, Marine Lance Cpl. Justin M. Ellsworth, 20, who was killed Nov. 13 in Iraq. Though Yahoo's policies state that accounts "terminated upon your death," John Ellsworth said his son would have wanted to give him access. ... To release those messages from the deceased, Yahoo said, would violate the privacy rights of the deceased and those with whom they've corresponded ... The earliest approach, Internet scholars say, is simply to leave behind a password ... "When one family member tells another where the important paperwork is, the will, safe deposit box key, etc., the list of passwords is going to be made to that ..." [\[Read more\]](#)

Ghosts In The Machine

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
Thomas Edison, inventor of the phonograph, wrote: "If we can evolve an instrument so delicate as to be affected by our personality as it survives in the next life, such an instrument, when made available, ought to record something." Tom and Lisa Butler, co-directors of the AA-EVP, have no doubt these "messages" are more than stray electromagnetic radiation a random noise. "We have a high degree of confidence that the voices and other forms of these phenomena are not able to be explained using currently understood physical principles," says Tom, an electronic engineer based in Reno, Nevada (his wife, Lisa, is a psychologist). "The one hypothesis that answers all the evidence coming from EVP is the Survival Hypothesis - that is, that the personality of a person survives the death of the physical body." ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Remote Viewing Tibetan Monks See Extraterrestrial Powers Saving The World From Destroying Itself In 2012

WHITEHOUSE STATION, NEW JERSEY
Remote viewing is nothing new in Tibetan monasteries. For thousands of years remote viewing in the middle of the spiritual activities have dominated Tibetan culture. What some Indian tourists came to learn from a few Tibetan monasteries under the current Chinese rule is extremely alarming and fascinating ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Major Climate Change Occurred 5,200 Years Ago: History Could Repeat Itself

COLUMBUS, OHIO
Glaciologist Lonnie Thompson worries that he may have found clues that show history repeating itself, and if he is right, the result could have important implications to modern society. "The climate system is remarkably sensitive to natural variability," he said. "It's likely that it is equally sensitive to effects brought on by human activity, changes like increased greenhouse gases, altered land-use policies and fossil-fuel dependence. Any prudent person would agree that we don't yet understand the complexities with the climate system to a degree we don't, we should be extremely cautious in how much we 'tweak' the system," he said. "The evidence is clear that a major climate change is underway." ... [\[Read more\]](#)

Asteroid Has 1-in-60ish Chance of Earth Hit

MCLEAN, VIRGINIA
An asteroid that has a small chance of hitting Earth in year 2029 was upgraded to an unprecedented level of risk Friday Dec. 24. Scientists still stress, however, that odds are further observations will show the space rock won't be on a collision course with the planet. The risk rating for asteroid 2004 MN was raised Friday by NASA and a separate group of researchers in Italy. The asteroid's chance for hitting Earth on April 13, 2029 has now been categorized as a 4 on the Torino Scale. The level 4 rating -- never before issued -- is reserved for "events meriting concern" versus the vast majority of potentially threatening asteroids that merely merit "careful monitoring." ... [\[Read more\]](#)

The Gift of Life: Take Time to Sign Organ Donor Card

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
The shopping is almost behind you, but have you crossed the ultimate last-minute gift off your wish list? Are you an organ donor? ... More than 87,000 people are waiting for transplants, and 15 of them die every day, when they can't wait any longer. Though there were 6,000 deceased organ donors in 2000, there were another 9,000 who suffered brain death and could have donated organs and tissue but didn't ... This is why we really encourage people to tell their families that they want to be organ donors, they know their wishes will be honored. ... We are also told that these conversations may be very hard, but they're very important. (Note: You may have to register to view this article.) ... [\[Read more\]](#)

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

An in-depth look at the near-death phenomenon

In this section of the newsletter, P.M.H. Atwater will answer questions submitted to her from subscribers to this newsletter. Atwater's contribution to near-death studies is considered to be one of the most important as her first two books, **Beyond the Light** and **Coming Back to Life**, are considered to be the "Bibles" of the NDE by researchers and enthusiasts. Her latest books are entitled **We Live Forever**, **The Real Truth About Death** and **The New Children and Near-Death Experiences**. If you have a question which you would like her to answer for this column, just email your question to [Kevin Williams at webmaster@near-death.com](#) for consideration. For more information about Dr. Atwater's contribution to near-death studies, [download her press kit here.](#)

September 18 - 26, 2005: The Sacred Journey Cruise to the Caribbean

Take a Carnival Cruise with P.M.H. and Terry Atwater to the Caribbean for their Seminars at Sea. [\[Read more\]](#)

QUESTION: "I'm very interested in NDEs and have read your Q & A with great interest. I have a question that Kevin Williams was not able to answer: I've heard that it's possible souls leave bodies just before imminent death. I remember reading about the woman who witnessed the terrorist plane crash at the Pentagon on 9-11, and just one second before impact, she saw 'glowing orbs' exiting the top of the plane. I've read that the reason for this is not only to spare the pain, but that after a body is damaged, the actual soul will arrive in heaven malformed, and must be tended to (this is according to the book, "Destiny of Souls"). If this is true, my question regards the poor victim in Iraq who had his head cut off with a knife, which took an agonizing one minute. Do you think the soul exited early, knowing that there was no chance for survival? And if it did, would the 'body' that's left continue screaming while the cutting is still going on? Or would all consciousness and bodily functions cease as soon as the spirit departs? These are difficult questions, I know, and we can't be certain. But I would appreciate any comments you might have." - Fred.

DR. ATWATER'S REPLY: "In esoteric traditions dating back several hundred years (written and much further back in oral histories, it is said that the soul usually leaves the body about five minutes before death. I would also add that the way to tell if the soul is gone, is that the body will ..." [Read more here]

■ [PMH Atwater's website](#) | [Marketplace \(a public service\)](#) | [Her research on this website](#) |

(3) Books on the NDE

■ [At the NDE Online Store](#) you can find NDE products such as books, documentaries, movies, music, magazines, and journals. More NDE media products are coming.

Galactica: A Treatise on Death, Dying and the Afterlife

by **Marilyn Hughes**
The author takes you on an out-of-body journey into the worlds of the galactic heavens -- the worlds beyond death. Traveling the road of terminal illness, you'll follow the footsteps of a soul preparing for death, learn from those who have already crossed over, and witness the after-death experience of a soul as she leaves this world. Opening the door to the ancestors, you will meet those who have gone before, hear their stories, be amazed at their watchful care over the current generation, and see how they live in the world beyond.

Parapsychology In The Twenty-first Century: Essays On The Future Of Psychological Research

by **Michael Thalbourne and Lance Storm**
A collection of essays focusing on the future of the physical research field. One essay speculates about a future where psychic phenomena are studied by a major university. Another essay identifies 10 areas of potential difficulties facing parapsychology. Other essays deal with areas where conclusions may need re-examination and refinement while presenting possibilities for innovative approaches for the study of parapsychology. Some of the areas of study covered include altered states of consciousness, telepathy, meta-analysis, the theory of psychopraxis, and sociological and phenomenological issues.

Angel First Aid: Rx for Success

by **Sue Storm (aka "The Angel Lady")**
At 18 months of age, Sue Storm had her first encounter with angels. A near-death experience allowed her to learn firsthand that the angels are always with us. Since that time, she has been able to hear, see, and feel the presence of angels. In 1985, she was given a divine directive to "help people." Following the divine plan, the angels have kept Sue very busy doing interviews, lectures, seminars, writing and counseling. After assisting thousands of questions, Sue realized that people need a simple way to help themselves collaborate with the angels to make their lives easier and more enjoyable. From this, "Angel First Aid was born." ... [Visit the Angel Lady's website.](#)

Consciousness: An Introduction

by **Susan Blackmore**
The famous NDE skeptic brings together all the major theories of consciousness studies -- from those rooted in traditional Western philosophy to those coming out of neuroscience, quantum theory, and the new physics. This philosophy. This book is divided into 9 sections that examine such topics as how subjective experiences arise from objective brain processes, the basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of consciousness, altered states of consciousness, mystical experiences, and the effects of drugs, meditation, and also discusses the nature of self, the possibility of artificial consciousness in robots, and the question of whether or not animals are conscious. Enhanced by numerous illustrations and profiles of important researchers, the book also includes self-assessment questions, further reading suggestions, and practical exercises that help bring the subject to the fore.

Universe on a T-Shirt: The Quest for the Theory of Everything

by **Dan Falk**
This book contains essentially no math and is perfect for anyone who wants a concise, easy-to-read guide to one of the great quests of human civilization: the search for the ultimate laws of physics. Beginning with the special theory of relativity, quantum mechanics and the latest developments in string theory, the book is well illustrated with photos and diagrams and begins with the quote: "My ambition is to live to see all of physics reduced to a formula so elegant and simple that it will fit easily on the front of a T-shirt." This is the "holy grail" of contemporary physics and it is called the "Theory of Everything".

IANDS in the Spotlight

■ [International Association of Near-Death Studies website](#)
IANDS is the premier research organization in the field of near-death studies. If you haven't yet joined this wonderful organization, I encourage you to [join online at their membership page](#). There are many benefits for being a member. Their quarterly newsletter **Vital Signs** alone is worth becoming a member. You will also be receiving the only scholarly journal in NDE studies, the **Journal of Near-Death Studies**. Visit their website by checking out the excellent links below. Also learn how you can raise funds for IANDS. **Near-death research** by merely doing your usual online shopping (and at no extra cost to you - but you get many benefits).

SEPTEMBER 8 - 10, 2005 - IANDS Annual Conference

Check out the [IANDS Conference information page](#).

(5) Odds and Ends

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"For in that sleep of death, what dreams may come when we have shuffled off this mortal coil, must give us pause." - Shakespeare (Hamlet, Act III, Sc. 1)

Send comments to [Kevin Williams at webmaster@near-death.com](#)

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Recommended NDE Books

After Life
by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

This is the world-famous best-seller by the woman who popularized the field of thanatology as a subject for general social commentary.

Life After Life
by Raymond Moody

Dr. Moody investigated more than 100 case studies of people who experienced a NDE and in 1975 published this best-seller.

Mindsight
by Kenneth Ring, et al.

Dr. Ring and associates investigated the astonishing claim that blind persons, including those blind from birth, can actually "see" during a NDE and they present their findings in scrupulous detail and include fascinating case histories.

The New Children and Near Death Experiences
by P.M.H. Atwater

Dr. Atwater provides compelling evidence for the existence of a generation of children who experienced a NDE and represent the spiritual evolution of the human race. Atwater shows that understanding the NDEs of children can help us prepare for a quantum leap in the evolution of humanity.

Where God Lives
by Melvin Morse

Dr. Morse presents the scientific evidence of life after death which is being overlooked by skeptics because of the existence of a location in our brains that communicates with the universe.

Light and Death
by Michael Saborn

Dr. Saborn combined scientific research and dramatic writing to explore the relationship between the NDE and traditional religious experience.