

Life Divine Chapter X: Conscious Force

Speech Outline for December 5, 2011

1. Introduction

- A. According to Vedanta, All is Brahman
- B. What then do we make of this world we live in – this universe?
- C. What is its relationship to Brahman?
- D. In Pure Existent, Sri Aurobindo tells us
 - When we take an egoless point of view... universe reveals itself as infinite ocean of energy in movement in space and time
 - Behind this infinite movement lies an Pure Existent – a formless infinite beyond space and time
 - He likens this Pure Existent to an ocean energy at rest
 - The movement is that energy set in motion
 - Both are real – both are aspects of the Integral Brahman
 - This is the Omnipresent Reality
 - Then he asks, what is the nature of that infinite energy in movement?
- E. Conscious Force – he tells us
 - All the universe is force
 - The universe is an infinite movement of energy

All phenomenal existence resolves itself into Force, movement of energy

 - But what is the relationship between that energy and the world of concrete material forms that we perceive with our senses?
 - What is the relationship between force and form?

2. Force creates form

- A. The force assumes material, subtle and gross forms

Force represents itself to its own experience as Form (self-presentation)
- B. Everything we experience in the world is form of force

- Material objects
 - Living things – plants, animals – life is a form of vital energy – prana
 - Society -- caste, class, laws, culture are forms of social energy
 - Attraction between man and woman is a vital-emotional energy that takes the form of Marriage
 - Jane Austen’s artistic inspiration created the form of mental energy we call P&P
 - Physical habits
 - Habits are energy running in a fixed groove – try brushing or writing with the other hand, speaking without gestures – softly!
 - Impossible to break habits – Mrs B. cannot stop talking
 - Attitudes & emotions
 - Attraction, repulsion, desire, anger, ambition, love, hate
 - Darcy’s passion, Eliza’s anger are forms of energy
 - Attitudes are difficult to change (they are not just energy. They are psychological forms)
 - Darcy says once his bad opinion gained, difficult for him to change it
 - Opinions & thoughts
 - Running thoughts – they are things I can’t get them out of my mind – as if they are things.
 - A persistent memory – Darcy thinks of Eliza, Jane of Bingley
 - Decisions
 - Will is energy. Decision is the form it takes.
 - Values – forms of spiritual energy -- Mr. Bennet’s honor
- C. How does intangible invisible force become visible material form?

3. Five elements of Matter – Sankhya (p.80)

- A. Energy at rest
- Sea of energy initially at rest and formless is the seed of a universe -- infinite existence of Force
 - The sea creates form by its movements
- B. Matter
- A presentation of force most easily intelligible to our intelligence
 - Matter results from five self-modifications of the primitive Force
- C. Ether -- vibration
- Ether is the elementary state of material Force
 - Condition of pure material extension
 - Principle of vibration
 - Sound = vibration in the ether
 - Mrs Bennet stirs when she hears that Netherfield is let to a rich man
 - Sri Aurobindo sounded the call of Indian Freedom in 1904
 - Darcy calls Eliza tolerable
 - Vibration is not sufficient to create forms
- D. Air -- contact

- Principle of interaction, contact
- Forms require interplay of vibrations
- Obstruction of the flow
- Contraction and expansion
- Bingley and Jane pleasantly interact
- Darcy sees her fine eyes
- Eliza taunts Darcy when they dance at Netherfield Ball
- Contact produces varying relations, not forms

E. Fire, heat, light -- sustaining

- Sustaining principle
- Forms take on and preserve their own character and peculiar action
- Darcy and Eliza quarrel at Netherfield & Hunsford – fire awakens
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F. Water -- diffusion

- Principle of diffusion
- First medium for permanent attraction and repulsion
- Darcy & Eliza meet at Pemberley and there is mutual attraction

G. Earth -- Smell – cohesion

- Second proposal at Longbourn leads to marriage

H. Forms of Force

- Physical analysis of Science has come to the same conclusion -- all form is a play of force

All form is vibratory response to contacts between forces

- All forms that to the senses appear solid, real, durable are temporary phenomena
- One permanent cosmic reality of pure energy -- to the senses non-existent--becomes all form

I. Five senses

- Matter is built from the five elements
- Sound -- reception of vibration -- ether
- Air -- contact of vibrations -- touch
- Fire -- action of light in the forms sustained by light, fire and heat -- sight
- Water -- diffusion -- taste
- Earth -- cohesion -- smell

J. Darcy & Eliza

- Ether – vibration – Bingley calls Darcy stupid, he calls her tolerable
- Air – clash – Darcy asks her to dance
- Fire -- he sees light in her eyes
- Water – Hunsford -- his emotional attraction to her – Netherfield, Hunsford, Lambton elopement
- Earth – Longbourn – bonding commitment

K. Indian Freedom

- Ether – sound vibration -- Sri Aurobindo's call
- Air – boycott, salt march
- Fire – INC takes life
- Water – millions join the movement
- Earth – Independence in 1947

L. Nature is Force

Nature is Force -- formative movement of energy

All forms are born of the meeting and mutual adaptation between unshaped forces

All sensation and action is a response of something in a form of Force to the contact of other forms of Force

M. Science & Philosophy accord (p.82)

- Physical analysis of Science has come to the same conclusion -- all form is a play of force
- Reason, Intuition and experience confirm the concord between Science & Philosophy
- Our own experience confirms -- all are activities are a play of triple force of knowledge, desire, action
 - Material force
 - Action force -- sensation
 - Mind force -- thought
- These are streams of one original and identical Power -- Adya Shakti
- Our states of rest are equable state or equilibrium of the play of movement

4. Problem of How -- What causes this movement? (p.82)

- The movement is not the essence of existence -- therefore this question arises
- We are aware of existence which is not compelled by the movement
- Force is inherent in Existence (p.82)
- Shiva and Kali, Brahman & Shakti are one and inseparable, not two
- Force inherent in existence may be at rest or in movement -- either way it exists
- How does the wave start on the ocean? – wind, gravity -- external
- Nothing is external to Brahman
 - It is impossible to suppose that Force is alien to the one and infinite existence & enters into it from outside or arose at some point in Time
 - Even Illusionism admits Maya, power of self-illusion in Brahman, is potentially eternal in eternal Being
- Sankhya asserts eternal co-existence of Prakriti and Purusha

- Nature & Conscious Soul with alternate states of rest or equilibrium and movement or disturbance
- I. Force has double potentiality of rest & movement -- self-concentration & self-diffusion (p83)
- J. The movement may alternate in rhythm with the rest, one succeeding the other as a status in Time
- K. Or the two states may be simultaneous -- self-concentration in Force combining with a superficial play of movement like waves on the surface of the sea
- L. They are either coeval or eternal in recurrence by a constant rhythm

5. Problem of Why -- why does the movement occur? (p.83)

A. This question does not arise if Existence is non-conscious & consciousness is only a development of material energy

- Then no reason to seek for a cause -- it is only the nature of the Force
- If Existence & Force are inert, unconscious, unintelligent, there cannot be any purpose, original cause or final goal in evolution

B. Answer to Why -- if Existence is a conscious Being (p.84)

- Cosmic Brahman
- Could be conscious Being subject to its Force -- without choice whether to manifest
- God of the Tantriks and Mayavadins who is subject to Shakti, Purusha controlled by Maya
- This God could not be the supreme infinite Existence
- It is only a formulation of Brahman in the cosmos by transcendent Brahman which is logically anterior to Shakti/Maya and can take her back into transcendental being
- A Brahman compelled by Prakriti is not Brahman -- it is an inert Infinite with active content in it more powerful than the continent
- A conscious holder of Force of whom Force is master
- We cannot say it is compelled by its own force of nature. That contradicts our first postulate
- This can be absolute Force but not absolute Being

C. Absolute, Transcendental Brahman

Conscious existence which is absolute, independent of formulations, must be free to manifest or not manifest its potentiality in movement

D. Problem of Consciousness (p.81)

- This does not explain how contact of vibrations of Force gives rise to conscious sensations
- Sankhyas posited a Conscious Soul in which activities of prakriti are reflected

6. What is consciousness? (p.84)

A. We must examine the Relationship between Force and Consciousness (p.84)

- B. Ordinary concept of mental waking consciousness lost in sleep is vulgar and shallow conception**
- By this definition, consciousness is the exception, not the rule in the material universe
- C. There is something in us which is conscious in all apparently unconscious states of physical being -- asleep, stunned, drugged, in swoon**
- Even in waking state, we are conscious of only a superficial small part of our entire conscious being -- not even our whole mentality
 - Behind is the subliminal or subconscious mind -- the greater part of ourselves -- & profundities no man has yet fathomed

This knowledge is the starting point for a true science of Force and its workings

- It delivers from circumscription by the material and illusion of the obvious
- D. Mistaking form for content – brain for mind**
- Eliza mistakes Wickham's beauty for goodness
 - Mr B mistakes Mrs. B's beauty and liveliness
 - Janani says she cannot hear without her glasses
 - Man is superior to money & technology but subordinates himself
- E. How does materialism explain consciousness?**
- Insists consciousness is a material phenomenon inseparable from physical organs -- their result, not their utilizer
 - Rising tide of knowledge makes this explanation inadequate
 - Capacity of our total consciousness far exceeds that of our organs -- senses, nerves, brain
 - Even for our ordinary thought and consciousness, these organs are only habitual instruments, not their generators
- F. Consciousness uses the brain which its upward strivings have produced**
- Brain does not produce consciousness
 - Abnormal instances show the organs are not indispensable
 - Life without heart beat or breathing
 - Thought without brain cells

Force is anterior to the physical instrument

- Construction of the engine does not explain the motive power of steam or electricity
- Examples
- Tagore's heroine falls in love with the mailman
- TV does not produce movies
- Computer intelligence – Chinese room

7. Is Matter Conscious? (p.86)

- A. Since Mental consciousness exists even where we see inanimation and inertia (sleep, coma)**
- B. Is there a universal subconscious mind in material objects?**

- C. Is material state a sleep of consciousness -- an original rather than an intermediate step from evolutionary view
- D. Sleep is an inward gathering, away from conscious physical response to external things
- E. This is the state of all existence that has not developed means of outward communication with the physical world
- F. Is there a Conscious Sour, Purusha, awake in all the sleeps?
- G. Examples

8. Nature of the Subliminal (p.86)

- A. The term subconscious mind usually means something similar to the outer mentality but below the surface & unknown to waking man -- deeper and larger in scope
- B. Phenomenon of subliminal self far exceeds this definition
 - Its action is immensely superior in capacity
 - [The actions of plant life and animal life reveal a sure intelligence superior to waking mind]
 - Also different in kind than our waking mentality
 - [Intuition of higher truths such as the discoveries of science indicates a higher capacity]
- C. Subliminal awareness – our waking state is a small selection of our awareness
 - Something conscious when we sleep
 - Subliminal ads
 - Lucas and Bingley urge Darcy to dance with Eliza. He resists
 - Servant learns Greek
 - Balaraman knew Nov 17
 - French Revolution is subliminal in P&P
 - Feeling affection at a distance
 - Pain in the neck – Tony
 - Clairvoyance and clairaudience
 - Sheldrake
 - Othello
 - Starring from behind
 - Mother sees China's nuclear explosion
 - Balaraman's vision
 - Appa predicts John will call
 - Mother sees and hears in the next room
 - Near death experiences

9. Superconscience

- We have right to suppose there is a superconscient as well as a subconscient. Why?

- Superconscious is a range of conscious faculties and (therefore) an organization of consciousness high above the psychological stratum of waking mentality
 - Faculties imply organization
- A. Higher mental awareness**
- Mind thinks – adding number
 - Gem stones

10. Vital Consciousness (p.87)

A. Submental -- vital and physical consciousness

- Subliminal self also extends below mentality
- Plant and metal also has a force of consciousness -- not the human or animal mentality
- The body consciousness
- Vital submental consciousness has same initial reactions as the mental
 - It has different constitution of self-experience
 - If the range of consciousness ceases with plant, then an alien life and consciousness must have entered Matter from outside or an other world

B. Man --

- It acts purposefully in cells of the body and automatic vital functions
- Obeys attractions and repulsions to which our minds are strangers, e.g. Immune response

C. Animals have intelligence

- Ants
- Animals recognize good or bad water, medicinal herbs
- Bird knows which berries to eat
- Body's physiological responses – maintain temp, recognize intruders
- Spider's web
- Animals respond to earthquake
- Insects change color
- Elephant can lift a match
- Monarch butterfly
- Antelope runs from tsunami

D. Plants are intelligent

- Plants -- intuitively evident --
- Bose discoveries -- seeking and shrinking, pleasure and pain, sleep and wakefulness -- are all movements of consciousness, but not mentality
- Examples
 - Plant leans toward sun, moves to water
 - Janani note on plants – competing and cooperating
 - Jagdish Subash Bose
 - Mother's consciousness in plants – pick me
 - Coconut garden
 - PP was called by the cashew tree that wasn't fertilized
 - Venus fly trap
 - Patti and Jasmine bush

E. Life is conscious

- Life responds because its alive
- Auroshihka
- Wickham arrives in Meryton and elopes
- Note put up to Mother

F. Is Matter conscious? (p.87-)

- Metal
- Ancients believed in existence of other worlds

Nothing can evolve out of Matter which is not therein already contained.

- Consciousness in Matter (p.87-3)
 - No reason to conclude that consciousness stops with Life only and does not extend to the purely material.
 - Recent research and thought points to obscure beginnings of life and perhaps a suppressed consciousness -- at least a first stuff of what becomes consciousness -- in metal and earth and other 'inanimate' forms
 - We can dimly conceive of vital consciousness, but consciousness in inert form of Matter is difficult to imagine
 - "What we find difficult to understand or image we consider it our right to deny"
 - Thought has a right to suppose a unity where that unity is confessed by all other classes of phenomena and in one class only, not denied, but merely more concealed than in others.
- Consciousness exists in all forms of the Force
 - Whether or not there is a conscient or superconscient Purusha inhabiting all forms, there is in all forms a conscious force of being

G. Meaning of Consciousness (p.88-1)

- Consciousness as used is no longer synonymous with mentality
- Consciousness indicates a self-aware force of existence
- Mentality is a middle term between vital/material subconscient below and supramental (for us superconscient) above
- One and the same thing organizing itself differently in all
- This is Chit -- energy that creates the worlds
- Science arrives at the same unity from the other end by asserting that Mind cannot be another force than Matter
 - Indian thought affirms rather that Mind and Matter are different grades of the same energy -- different organizations of one conscious Force of Existence

H. The Force of Existence is Conscious (p.88-2)

- Consciousness implies intelligence, purposefulness, self-knowledge
- They may not take the forms habitual to our mentality
- Everything supports the view of a universal conscious Force
- Animal exhibits a perfect purposefulness and exact scientifically minute knowledge beyond the capacity of animal mentality and which man can acquire only by long culture and education
- This general fact is proof that a conscious Force is at work in the animal and insect more intelligent, purposeful, aware of ends and means than the highest mentality in man

11. Purposefulness in Nature

A. Food chain

B. Krebs cycle

C. Lacto bacilli – bacteria in human body

D. Diamond

E. Crystals

F. Intelligence in Nature man cannot duplicate

- Constants in nature
- Intelligence is the Mother of intelligence
- Structure of birds and insects wings permitting flight – Ted video on mobility of cockroach

Inanimate Nature reveals to same pervading characteristic of a supreme hidden intelligence -- "hidden in the modes of its workings"

12. Matter is conscious

A. Madame Theon's slippers

B. Material things respond to attention, affection. water

- Water Crystals
- Blessings carried in material objects
- Consciousness of person in a book
- Blue Sweater
- Swiss Cloth in church
- Ranjani's cell phone
- Mother at HMP factory

13. Waste in Nature (p.89-1)

- A. Waste in Nature is only argument against conscious and intelligent source of purposeful work**
- B. This objection is based on limitations our human intellect and its own particular rationality**
- C. Even human action appears to be full of apparent waste from the individual point of view**
- D. We may be sure it subserves some large and universal purpose in things**
- E. In what we can detect of Nature's purpose, she gets things done surely**
- F. We may trust it is true of the rest as well**
- G. Waste in Nature**
 - Rotting organic material – oil, coal, diamonds
 - CO₂ and O₂
 - Waterfalls – electricity
 - Neem – every part is useful
- H. Waste in human life**

- Penicillin mold -- picture
- Post It Notes -- picture
- Edmunds 14 years in prison
- Jane & Bingley have to wait a year
- Darcy going to the dance
- Zen Master – 7 years
- Jane and Eliza spend a week at Netherfield
- Eliza reluctantly accepts Charlotte’s invitation to Hunsford. Out of obligation Darcy visits his aunt at the same time.
- Alipore Jail
- Caroline’s jealousy and Lady Catherine’s vulgar assertion makes Darcy conscious of his own defects
- Wickham’s scandal & Eliza’s disbelief helps Darcy transform
- Subjects I studied
- Siddhartha feels his whole life was a waste
- SPC waste of time
- Indian colonial period – English

14. Conscious Force builds the worlds

- Operations of World-Force in animal, plant and inanimate matter characterized by purposefulness, guidance, sure coming to the target
- Hesitation to admit intelligence as mother of intelligence was an honest scruple so long as Matter was the Alpha and Omega to scientific mind.

Intelligence is the Mother of Intelligence (89-2)

- It’s a worn out paradox to affirm the emergence of human consciousness, intelligence and mastery out of unintelligent, blindly driving unconsciousness in which no form or substance of them previously existed
- Man's consciousness is Nature's consciousness
- Consciousness is involved in forms below Mind, emerges in Mind, shall ascend to superior forms beyond Mind

Force that builds the worlds is a conscious Force

Existence which manifests in them is Conscious Being

Perfect emergence of the potentialities of Being in form is the sole object we can rationally conceive for its manifestation in this world of forms

15. Notes

A. Ants

Video showing an ant hill: <http://theurbangeographer.wordpress.com/2011/03/08/the-ant-hill-the-underground-city/>

Democracy

When a colony is disturbed, scout ants spread out looking for a new site. The site is selected by a form of democracy. Individual ants vote by leaving pheromone trails to preferred sites. At the end of voting, the site with the strongest pheromone trail is used.

Division of Work

Grass cutter ants use relay teams to transport food. Each team covers a set distance and hands it over to the next team.

Farming

Wood ants harvest tree resin to use as an antibiotic and fungicide.

Grass cutter ants cultivate underground fungus gardens. They build gravity ventilation systems to maintain desired temperature, humidity and CO₂ levels. There are species of ants that collect leaves and take them to specially constructed chambers within their colonies where they grow fungus on the decomposing leaves. The fungus is then eaten by the ants. The growing of the fungus requires a great deal of planning and forethought: an appropriate chamber must be constructed, the right leaves must be collected, waste must be removed so as not to choke the growing fungus beds, and the leaves must be seeded with the fungus spores. The spores do not grow naturally throughout the ant colony; the ants must collect the spores and bring them to the leaves. Fungus farming is an example of intelligence and creativity. Other animals and insects would recognize the food value of fungus growing on leaves if they came across it in the wild. But no other animal or insect, besides humans, would understand that by contaminating a new leaf with the fungus spore, it will result in more food later. This shows intelligence, understanding and the ability to think ahead.

War

Ant wars will often result in the defeated survivors being kept as slaves by the victorious ant colony. They are incorporated into the new colony and made to work for the victors.

Argentine ants came to Louisiana in a sugar shipment in 1908. They were driven out of the Gulf states by the fire ant and invaded California, where they have displaced most of the native ant species. It's not clear whether they are quietly aggressive or just find ways of taking over food resources and territory.

Cooperation

Ants have been observed to use a teaching technique called "tandem running" in which an ant that knows where to find food, will lead a new ant to the spot. The teacher ant will slow his pace to allow the student ant; if the student ant falls behind. The teacher ant's behaviour does not provide a benefit to the teacher. If the teacher were not leading the student ant, it could locate and collect the food about four times faster. But by taking time to lead a novice ant to a food source, it allows other ants to locate the food faster than they would have discovered it on their own. As a result, the entire ant nest benefits.

In the early 1990s Deborah Gordon at Stanford University conducted some experiments in which she painted foraging ants green and housekeeping ants blue. Then she introduced

additional food to the nest. The next day some of the housekeeping ants had switched to help deal with the extra food. Likewise, when she messed up the nest, some of the foraging ants switched to housekeeping duties.

Army ants using their own bodies to plug holes in the route from a food source to the nest. When the ants bump into a hole they cannot cross, they edge their way around it and then spread their legs and wobble back and forth to check their fit. If they are too big, then they carry on and another ant will come along and measure itself in the same way. This carries on until an appropriately sized ant plugs the hole. The ants stay in the same position for hours until the traffic dies down at the end of the day.

Grass cutter ants continue to harvest grass in the middle of a grass fire right up until the instant they die from the heat. The individual ants aren't programmed to protect themselves by running from the fire. They are programmed to take care of the colony by gathering food. There is no selfishness among the ants.

During a flood in the 1980s rafts of fire ants floated to the shore on the flood waters. The rafts are made entirely of fire ants. The individual ants on the bottom die, but the colony survives.



Intelligence

A colony is analogous to a brain where there are lots of neurons, each of which can only do something very simple, but together the whole brain can think.

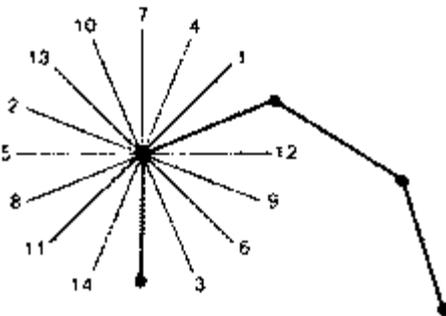
Ants form and maintain a line to their food source by laying a trail of pheromone, i.e. a chemical to which other members of the same species are very sensitive. They deposit a certain amount of pheromone while walking, and each ant prefers to follow a direction rich in

pheromone. This enables the ant colony to quickly find the shortest route. The first ants to return should normally be those on the shortest route, so this will be the first to be doubly marked by pheromone (once in each direction). Thus other ants will be more attracted to this route than to longer ones not yet doubly marked, which means it will become even more strongly marked with pheromone.

The Saharan Desert Ant has an equally amazing way of finding its way back to its nest, involving complex mathematics called path integration and horizontal projection.

It seems that ants are not just dumb miracles of evolution - they can learn from experience. When you destroy their nest and make them migrate to a new one, they manage it very efficiently, as you would expect. If you repeat the exercise next day, they achieve the same thing - but this time they do it even faster.

There are two remarkable capabilities of an army ant colony: time-keeping and navigation. The outward manifestation of time-keeping is in the precise timing of the colony's nomadic phase of 15 days (during which larvae are growing) and the 20-day stationary phase (during which pupae develop). The queen's egg-laying also conforms with this schedule. Raids into the rain forest occur in both phases. There is a systematic orientation of the raids in the stationary phase. These raids are separated by an average 123° , as diagrammed. This scattering allows time for new prey to enter the previously raided areas.



B. Ant Hill

An ant colony consists of a series of underground chambers, connected to each other and the surface of the earth by small tunnels. There are rooms for nurseries, food storage, and mating. The colony is built and maintained by legions of worker ants, who carry tiny bits of dirt in their mandibles and deposit them near the exit of the colony, forming an ant-hill.

One large ant supercolony was in Hokkaidō, Japan. The colony was estimated to contain 306 million worker ants and one million queen ants living in 45,000 nests interconnected by underground passages over an area of 2.7 km² (670 acres). An enormous supercolony of Argentine ants was found in Southern Europe. Of 33 ant populations nested along the 6,004-kilometre (3,731 mi) stretch along the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts in Southern Europe, 30 belonged to one supercolony with estimated millions of nests and billions of workers, interspersed with three populations of another supercolony. In 2009, it was demonstrated that the largest Japanese, Californian and European Argentine ant supercolonies were in fact part of a single global "megacolony". Another supercolony, measuring approximately 100 km (62 mi) wide, was found beneath Melbourne, Australia in 2004.

Organization

Army ant colonies are huge, so they have real traffic-flow problems, but it seems that evolution has programmed them with exactly the right rules of motorist behaviour so that they automatically form lanes. "What's really gorgeous about this is that the ants that are unburdened, that are running out to the swarm-front to find new prey-items, can run more quickly because they're not carrying anything, and they form two express lanes on either side of the main trail, whereas all the ants coming back with food take a central lane."

Survival Strategy

Within the ant colony, a caste system exists among its three types of residents: female workers, mating males and the queen. Each group is vital to the overall survival of the colony. The workers provide food and protection. The queens lay eggs for a continuous supply of new workers, and the males fertilize the eggs.

Ants' interdependent social structure ensures their survival. Workers bring their queens food and water, and queens bring new workers into the world. New colonies need more queens in order to get a large supply of workers established. Eventually, however, a status quo is reached, and many queens laying eggs become a drain on the colony. Multiple queens also become less productive. The workers gang up on the queens, starving them or spitting toxic chemicals at them until they die. The more productive queens are saved from these attacks because the workers are able to determine their fertility by smell. The threat of attack balances the queens' power over worker ants.

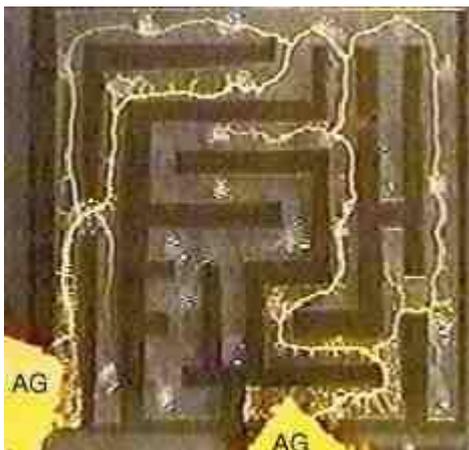
Ants have the ability to take over the nest of other ant species, via a "parasitic queen" and "enslave" the inhabitants. The queen will attack and kill the queen of the other species, and then cover herself with the odour of the other queen so she will be accepted by the colony residents. This is done by touching parts of her body to all the open wounds of the dead queen. She then lays her eggs, which are cared for by the colony ants. As the parasitic eggs hatch and the new queen's ants become more abundant, they capture the larvae of the original colony and use them as slaves when they hatch. These "hostages" grow up and must take care of the upkeep of the nest and its invaders.

Some ants have what is described as mutually beneficial, or "symbiotic", relationships with other insects, and even, in some cases, with fungi. One of the best examples of this mutualism occurs with aphids ("plant lice"). These sap-sucking insects produce a sweet, sticky substance known as honeydew, to which ants are highly attracted as a food source. Apparently to ensure they remain well supplied in honeydew, Cornfield Ants will foster these aphids, ward off any of their enemies and protect their eggs in winter. In the case of the Corn Root Aphid, Cornfield Ants will collect aphid eggs in the autumn, protect them in their nests over winter, then in spring, carry the young to smartweed and grass roots, where they obtain nourishment. These young nymphs grow to become wingless females, called stem mothers, that can produce live young without mating. These stem mothers raise two or three generations on the host plant, after which the ants return to carry the aphids to young corn roots where the aphids breed another 10-20 generations. Under the care of the ants, the aphids thrive. The ants gain the aphid honeydew "excrement"; the aphids gain protectors who also act as "chauffeurs". However, the ants, not the aphids, appear to control the relationship. This is demonstrated occasionally when a winged female aphid is hatched, and then tries to fly off to a different host plant, away from the ants. It is then that the ants show their authority by seizing the female and carrying her back into their nest.

A group of ants has developed a “mutualistic” relationship with a fungus. The ants “farm” the fungus, protecting it from other consumers, and so have on hand a ready food supply for the colony. The mutually beneficial relationship works as follows: Sections of leaves are cut from vegetation around the ant nest by specialized ant workers. The leaf sections are taken back to the ant nest, where they are given to another group of specialized workers that process the leaves. The processing workers reduce the leaf fragments to a mulch, which is used to feed the ant colony’s fungus garden. The fungus lives on the nutrients in the mulch and uses the nutrients to grow. It also produces special structures called gongylidia, which are eaten by the ants. The queen sits in the fungus garden laying her eggs. When the eggs hatch, the larvae that emerge will eat the gongylidia while they are being cared for by specialized nurse worker ants. When the nutrients have been removed from the leaf material, the waste is transported to special dump chambers, where dead ants and dead fungus are also placed.

Intelligence in inanimate objects

In 2000 Toshiyuki Nakagaki announced that an amoeba-like slime mold was able to find the shortest distance through a maze, which is nearly the equivalent of saying a bit of Jello was able to jump up and run out of the refrigerator by itself. How did a nearly inanimate object solve such a complex problem? (food is yellow and slime mold is white in the picture below)



Site with extensive information on NDE: <http://www.near-death.com/>

C. Elements of NDE

A near-death experience (NDE) is a profound psychological event that may occur to a person close to death or, if not near death, in a situation of physical or emotional crisis. Because it includes transcendental and mystical elements, an NDE is a powerful event of consciousness. An NDE may include only one or more of these elements:

- a sense of being outside one’s physical body, sometimes perceiving it from an outside position
- a sense of movement through darkness or a tunnel
- intense emotions, commonly profound peace, well-being, love; sometimes fear, horror, loss

- heightened perceptions
- experiencing a great light or darkness
- perceiving a spiritual realm, which may include vividly memorable landscapes
- encounters with deceased loved ones, spiritual beings and/or religious figures
- knowledge of the nature of life and the universe
- a life review, reliving actions and feeling their emotional impact on others
- a sense of oneness and interconnectedness
- a border of no return
- a sense of having knowledge of the future
- messages regarding life's purpose
- Incredibly rapid, sharp thinking and observations

D. After effects of NDE

- Loss of the fear of death, more spiritual and less religious, easily engage in abstract thinking, more philosophical, can go through various bouts with depression, more generous and charitable than before, form expansive concepts of love while at the same time challenged to initiate and maintain satisfying relationships, "inner child" or unresolved issues from childhood tend to surface, less competitive, convinced of a life purpose, rejection of previous limitations in life and "normal" role-playing, heightened sensations of taste-touch-texture-smell, increased intuitive/psychic abilities plus the ability to know or "re-live" the future, charismatic, a child-like sense of wonder and joy, less stressed, more detached and objective, can continue to dissociate or "separate" from the body, easily absorbed ("merge into" whatever is focused on), hunger for knowledge and learning, highly curious.
- Near-death experiencers come to love and accept others without the usual attachments and conditions society expects. They perceive themselves as equally and fully loving of each and all, openly generous, excited about the potential and wonder of each person they see. Their desire is to be a conduit of universal love.
- Most experiencers develop a sense of timelessness. They tend to "flow" with the natural shift of light and dark, and display a more heightened awareness of the present moment and the importance of being "in the now." Making future preparations can seem irrelevant to them.
- Experiencers become quite intuitive afterward. Psychic displays can be commonplace, such as: out-of-body episodes, manifestation of "beings" met in near-death state, "remembering" the future, finishing another's sentence, "hearing" plants and animals "speak."
- Life paradoxes begin to take on a sense of purpose and meaning, as forgiveness tends to replace former needs to criticize and condemn. Hard driving achievers and materialists can transform into easy-going philosophers; but, by the same token, those more relaxed or uncommitted before can become energetic "movers and shakers," determined to make a difference in the world. Personality reversals seem to depend more on what's "needed" to round out the individual's inner growth than on any uniform outcome.
- The average near-death experiencer comes to regard him or herself as "an immortal soul currently resident within a material form so lessons can be learned while sojourning in the earthplane." They now know they are not their body; many go on to embrace the theory of reincarnation. Eventually, the present life, the present body, becomes important and special again.
- What was once foreign becomes familiar, what was once familiar becomes foreign. Hence, they tend to experiment with novel ways to communicate, even using abstract and grandiose terms to express themselves.

- Altered thought-processing (switch from sequential/ selective thinking to clustered thinking: thoughts bunch together/ideas pop up), comfortable with ambiguity, heightened intelligence, more creative and inventive, unusual sensitivity to light and sound, substantially more or less energy (even energy surges in body, oftentimes more sexual), reversal of body clock, lower blood pressure, accelerated metabolic and substance absorption rates (decreased tolerance of pharmaceuticals and chemically treated products), often turn to alternative healthcare treatments, electrical sensitivity, synesthesia (multiple sensing), increased allergies or sensitivities, can possess ability to heal, a preference for more vegetables and grains (less of meat), physically younger looking (before and after photos can differ).
- While most experiencers learn to limit sunshine exposure, others can't get enough. Almost everyone, though, has similar difficulties with loud or discordant sounds. Many can no longer tolerate "hard" rock music. The vast majority prefer classical, melodic, and/or natural sounds, and become passionate about using music to heal.
- Energy surges up and down the body happen to many, and can be accompanied by "lights" in the air
- Electrical sensitivity refers to a condition whereby the forcefield or energy around an individual affects nearby electrical equipment and technological devices. Usually sporadic in effect and impact, some experiencers have noticed: watches can stop, microphones "squeal," tape recorders quit, television channels change with no one at controls, light bulbs pop, telephone "drops off," computers suddenly lose memory, and so forth
- Physical differences, along with attitudinal changes, eventually lead experiencers to alter their approach to health and healing, employment, finances, lifestyle and relationship issues. Many say that it's almost as if they have to relearn how to use their own body and brain

Statistics

The Gallup Organization and near-death research studies have estimated that, as of 1982, some 13 million adults NDEs in the U.S. alone had had one or more NDEs. Gallup and Proctor found that 15 percent of all Americans who had been in near-death situations reported NDEs. Of those, 9 percent included a "classic out-of-body experience," while 11 percent included entering another realm or dimension and 8 percent featured the presence of spiritual beings.

ABOUT THE CONTINUITY OF OUR CONSCIOUSNESS by Pim van Lommel

In 1969 during my rotating internship a patient was successfully resuscitated in the cardiac ward by electrical defibrillation. The patient regained consciousness, and was very, very disappointed. He told me about a tunnel, beautiful colours, a light and beautiful music. I started to interview my patients who had survived a cardiac arrest. To my great surprise, within two years about fifty patients told me about their NDE.

According to our current medical concepts, it is not possible to experience consciousness during a cardiac arrest, when circulation and breathing have ceased.

In 1988 we started a prospective study of 344 consecutive survivors of cardiac arrest in ten Dutch hospitals, to study NDE. 18% reported some recollection of the time of clinical death. Of these patients, 18% had an NDE. In the American study of 116 survivors of cardiac arrest 10% reported NDE. In the British study of 63 survivors of cardiac arrest 11% reported NDE.

Blind people have also described visual perceptions during their NDE. Scientific study of NDE pushes us to the limits of our medical and neurophysiological ideas about the range of human consciousness and relationship of consciousness and memories to the brain. Man appears to be more than just a body.

Data suggest that the NDE arises during unconsciousness. This is a surprising conclusion, because when the brain is so dysfunctional that the patient is deeply comatose, the cerebral structures, which underpin subjective experience and memory, must be severely impaired. Complex experiences such as are reported in the NDE should not arise or be retained in memory. Such patients would be expected to have no subjective experience.

E. This is the report of a nurse of a Coronary Care Unit: “During night shift an ambulance brings in a 44-year old cyanotic, comatose man into the coronary care unit. When we go to intubate the patient, he turns out to have dentures in his mouth. I remove these upper dentures and put them onto the ‘crash cart.’ After being ventilated and intubated and kept for a week in the intensive care unit, he recovers and is in the cardiac ward, where I see him again, after more than a week. The moment he sees me he says: ‘O, that nurse knows where my dentures are.’ I am very surprised. Then he elucidates: ‘You were there when I was brought into hospital and you took my dentures out of my mouth and put them onto that cart, it had all these bottles on it and there was this sliding drawer underneath, and there you put my teeth.’ I was especially amazed because I remembered this happening while the man was in deep coma and in the process of CPR. It appeared that the man had seen himself lying in bed, that he had perceived from above how nurses and doctors had been busy with the CPR. He was also able to describe correctly and in detail the small room in which he had been resuscitated as well as the appearance of those present like myself.

NDEs may include a Life Review. During this life review the subject feels the presence and renewed experience of not only every act but also every thought from one’s past life, and one realizes that all of it is an energy field which influences oneself as well as others. All that has been done and thought seems to be significant and stored. Insight is obtained about whether love was given or on the contrary withheld. Because one is connected with the memories, emotions and consciousness of another person, you experience the consequences of your own thoughts, words and actions to that other person at the very moment in the past that they occurred. Hence there is during a life review a connection with the fields of consciousness of other persons as well as with your own fields of consciousness (interconnectedness). Patients survey their whole life in one glance; time and space do not seem to exist during such an experience. Instantaneously they are where they concentrate upon (non-locality), and they can talk for hours about the content of the life review even though the resuscitation only took minutes.

Quotation: “All of my life up till the present seemed to be placed before me in a kind of panoramic, three-dimensional review, and each event seemed to be accompanied by a consciousness of good or evil or with an insight into cause or effect. Not only did I perceive everything from my own

viewpoint, but I also knew the thoughts of everyone involved in the event, as if I had their thoughts within me. This meant that I perceived not only what I had done or thought, but even in what way it had influenced others, as if I saw things with all-seeing eyes. And so even your thoughts are apparently not wiped out. And all the time during the review the importance of love was emphasised. Looking back, I cannot say how long this life review and life insight lasted, it may have been long, for every subject came up, but at the same time it seemed just a fraction of a second, because I perceived it all at the same moment. Time and distance seemed not to exist. I was in all places at the same time, and sometimes my attention was drawn to something, and then I would be present there.”

- F. Also a preview can be experienced, in which both future images from personal life events (sometimes remembered only later in the shape of “déjà vu”) as well as more general images from the future occur, even though it must be stressed that these surveyed images should be considered purely as possibilities. And again it seems as if time and space do not exist during this review.**

16. Quotation: “I had a nice eye contact, they looked at me full of love, and then I surveyed a great part of my life to come; the care for my children, the terminal illness of my wife, the circumstances I would be mixed up with, in my job and besides. I surveyed it completely; and then I got the feeling that I had to decide now: ‘I may stay here, or I have to go back,’ but I had to decide now.”

If deceased acquaintances or relatives are encountered in an otherworldly dimension, they are usually recognized by their appearance, while communication is possible through thought transfer. Thus, during an NDE it is also possible to come into contact with fields of consciousness of deceased persons (interconnectedness). Sometimes persons are met whose death was impossible to have known; sometimes persons unknown to them are encountered during an NDE.

Quotation: “During my cardiac arrest I had a extensive experience (...) and later I saw, apart from my deceased grandmother, a man who had looked at me lovingly, but whom I did not know. More than 10 years later, at my mother’s deathbed, she confessed to me that I had been born out of an extramarital relationship, my father being a Jewish man who had been deported and killed during the second World War, and my mother showed me his picture. The unknown man that I had seen more than 10 years before during my NDE turned out to be my biological father.”

Some patients can describe how they returned into their body, mostly through the top of the head, after they had come to understand through wordless communication with a Being of Light or a deceased relative that “it wasn’t their time yet” or that “they still had a task to fulfil.” The conscious return into the body is experienced as something very oppressive. They regain consciousness in their body and realize that they are “locked up” in their body, meaning again all the pain and restriction of their disease. They also realize that a part of their consciousness with deep knowledge and

understanding as well as the feeling of unconditional love and acceptance have been taken away from them again.

Patients with an NDE can report a clear consciousness, in which cognitive functioning, emotion, sense of identity, and memory from early childhood was possible, as well as perception from a position out and above their “dead” body.

So we have to conclude that NDE in our study, as well as in the American and the British study, was experienced during a transient functional loss of all functions of the cortex and of the brainstem. How could a clear consciousness outside one’s body be experienced at the moment that the brain no longer functions during a period of clinical death, with a flat EEG? Such a brain would be roughly analogous to a computer with its power source unplugged and its circuits detached.

Consciousness can be experienced in another dimension without our conventional body-linked concept of time and space, where all past, present and future events exist and can be observed simultaneously and instantaneously (non-locality). In the other dimension, one can be connected with the personal memories and fields of consciousness of oneself as well as others, including deceased relatives (universal interconnectedness). And the conscious return into one’s body can be experienced, together with the feeling of bodily limitation, and also sometimes the awareness of the loss of universal wisdom and love they had experienced during their NDE.

In trying to understand this concept of quantum mechanical mutual interaction between the invisible phase-space and our visible, material body, it seems appropriate to compare it with modern worldwide communication. There is a continuous exchange of objective information by means of electromagnetic fields for radio, TV, mobile telephone, or laptop computer. We are unaware of the vast amounts of electromagnetic fields that constantly, day and night, exist around us and through us, as well as through structures like walls and buildings. We only become aware of these electromagnetic informational fields at the moment we use our mobile telephone or by switching on our radio, TV or laptop. What we receive is not inside the instrument, nor in the components, but thanks to the receiver, the information from the electromagnetic fields becomes observable to our senses and hence perception occurs in our consciousness. The voice we hear over our telephone is not inside the telephone. The concert we hear over our radio is transmitted to our radio. The images and music we hear and see on TV are transmitted to our TV set. The internet is not located inside our laptop. We can receive what is transmitted with the speed of light from a distance of some hundreds or thousands of miles. And if we switch off the TV set, the reception disappears, but the transmission continues. The information transmitted remains present within the electromagnetic fields. The connection has been interrupted, but it has not vanished and can still be received elsewhere by using another TV set (“non-locality”).

Could our brain be compared to the TV set, which receives electromagnetic waves and transforms them into image and sound, as well as to the TV camera, which transforms image and sound into electromagnetic waves? This electromagnetic radiation holds the essence of all information, but is only perceivable by our senses through suitable instruments like camera and TV set.

The informational fields of our consciousness and of our memories, both evolving during our lifetime by our experiences and by the informational input from our sense organs, are present around us, and become available to our waking consciousness only through our functioning brain (and other cells of our body) in the shape of electromagnetic fields. As soon as the function of the brain has

been lost, as in clinical death or brain death, memories and consciousness do still exist, but the receptivity is lost, the connection is interrupted.

Such understanding fundamentally changes one's opinion about death, because of the almost unavoidable conclusion that at the time of physical death consciousness will continue to be experienced in another dimension, in an invisible and immaterial world, the phase-space, in which all past, present and future is enclosed.

A. An NDE Experience

Mellen-Thomas Benedict is an artist who survived a near-death experience in 1982. He was dead for over an hour and a half after dying of cancer. At the time of his death, he rose up out of his body and went into the light. Curious about the universe, he was taken far into the remote depths of existence, and even beyond, into the energetic void of nothingness behind the Big Bang. During his experience, he was able to learn a great deal of information concerning reincarnation. Because of his near-death experience, he was able to bring back scientific discoveries. Mr. Benedict has been closely involved in the mechanics of cellular communication and research dealing with the relationship of light to life called Quantum Biology. This research is providing dramatic new perspectives on how biological systems work. Mr. Benedict has found that living cells can respond very quickly to light stimulation resulting in, among other things, high speed healing. He is a researcher, inventor and lecturer who holds six U.S. patents.

In 1982 I died from terminal cancer. In the 1970's, and I had become increasingly despondent over the nuclear crisis, the ecology crisis, and so forth. So, since I did not have a spiritual basis, I began to believe that nature had made a mistake, and that we were probably a cancerous organism on the planet. I perceived all humans as cancer, and that is what I got. That is what killed me. Be careful what your world view is. It can feed back on you.

I remember waking up one morning at home about 4:30 am, and I just knew that this was it. This was the day I was going to die. So I called a few friends and said goodbye. I woke up my hospice caretaker and told her. I had a private agreement with her that she would leave my dead body alone for six hours, since I had read that all kinds of interesting things happen when you die. I went back to sleep. The next thing I remember is the beginning of a typical near-death experience. Suddenly I was fully aware and I was standing up, but my body was in the bed. There was this darkness around me. Being out of my body was even more vivid than ordinary experience. It was so vivid that I could see every room in the house, I could see the top of the house, I could see around the house, I could see under the house.

There was this light shining. I turned toward the light. It was so magnificent. It is tangible; you can feel it. It is alluring; you want to go to it like you would want to go to your ideal mother's or father's arms.

As I began to move toward the light, I knew intuitively that if I went to the light, I would be dead.

So as I was moving toward the light I said, "Please wait a minute, just hold on a second here. I want to think about this; I would like to talk to you before I go."

To my surprise, the entire experience halted at that point. You are indeed in control of your near-death experience. So my request was honored and I had some conversations with the light. The light kept changing into different figures, like Jesus, Buddha, Krishna, mandalas, archetypal images and signs.

I asked the light, "What is going on here? Please, light, clarify yourself for me. I really want to know the reality of the situation."

I cannot really say the exact words, because it was sort of telepathy. The light responded. The information transferred to me was that your beliefs shape the kind of feedback you are getting before the light. If you were a Buddhist or Catholic or Fundamentalist, you get a feedback loop of your own stuff. You have a chance to look at it and examine it.

As the light revealed itself to me, I became aware that what I was really seeing was our Higher Self matrix. The only thing I can tell you is that it turned into a matrix, a mandala of human souls, and what I saw was that what we call our Higher Self in each of us is a matrix. It's also a conduit to the Source; each one of us comes directly, as a direct experience from the Source. We all have a Higher Self, or an oversoul part of our being. It revealed itself to me in its truest energy form. The being of the Higher Self is more like a conduit. It is a direct connection to the Source that each and every one of us has. We are directly connected to the Source.

So the light was showing me the Higher Self matrix. All the Higher Selves are connected as one being, all humans are connected as one being, we are actually the same being, different aspects of the same being. It was not committed to one particular religion. And I saw this mandala of human souls. It was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. I just went into it and, it was just overwhelming. It was like all the love you've every wanted, and it was the kind of love that cures, heals, regenerates.

As I asked the light to keep explaining, I understood what the Higher Self matrix is. We have a grid around the planet where all the Higher Selves are connected. This is like a great company, a next subtle level of energy around us, the spirit level. I asked for more clarification. I really wanted to know what the universe is about. Then the light turned into the most beautiful thing that I have ever seen: a mandala of human souls on this planet.

I saw in this magnificent mandala how beautiful we all are in our essence, our core. We are the most beautiful creations. The human soul, the human matrix that we all make together is absolutely fantastic, elegant, exotic, everything. I just cannot say enough about how it changed my opinion of human beings in that instant.

At any level, high or low, in whatever shape you are in, you are the most beautiful creation, you are.

I was astonished to find that there was no evil in any soul.

I said, "How can this be?"

The answer was that no soul was inherently evil. The terrible things that happened to people might make them do evil things, but their souls were not evil. What all people seek, what sustains them, is love, the light told me. What distorts people is a lack of love.

The revelations coming from the light seemed to go on and on, then I asked the light, "Does this mean that humankind will be saved?"

Then, like a trumpet blast with a shower of spiraling lights, the Great Light spoke, saying, "Remember this and never forget; you save, redeem and heal yourself. You always have. You always will. You were created with the power to do so from before the beginning of the world."

In that instant I realized even more. I realized that WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SAVED, and we saved ourselves because we were designed to self-correct like the rest of God's universe. This is what the second coming is about.

I thanked the light of God with all my heart. The best thing I could come up with was these simple words of totally appreciation:

"Oh dear God, dear Universe, dear Great Self, I love my life."

The light seemed to breathe me in even more deeply. It was as if the light was completely absorbing me. The love light is, to this day, indescribable. I entered into another realm, more profound than the last, and became aware of something more, much more. It was an enormous stream of light, vast and full, deep in the heart of life. I asked what this was.

The light responded, "This is the RIVER OF LIFE. Drink of this manna water to your heart's content."

So I did. I took one big drink and then another. To drink of life itself! I was in ecstasy.

Then the light said, "You have a desire."

The light knew all about me, everything past, present and future.

"Yes!" I whispered.

I asked to see the rest of the universe; beyond our solar system, beyond all human illusion. The light then told me that I could go with the Stream. I did, and was carried through the light at the end of the tunnel. I felt and heard a series of very soft sonic booms. What a rush!

Suddenly I seemed to be rocketing away from the planet on this stream of life. I saw the Earth fly away. The solar system, in all its splendor, whizzed by and disappeared. At faster than light speed, I flew through the center of the galaxy, absorbing more knowledge as I went. I learned that this galaxy, and all of the universe, is bursting with many different varieties of LIFE. I saw many worlds. The good news is that we are not alone in this universe!

As I rode this stream of consciousness through the center of the galaxy, the stream was expanding in awesome fractal waves of energy. The super clusters of galaxies with all their ancient wisdom flew by. At first I thought I was going somewhere; actually traveling. But then I realized that, as the stream was expanding, my own consciousness was also expanding to take in everything in the universe! All creation passed by me.

It seemed as if all the creations in the universe soared by me and vanished in a speck of light. Almost immediately, a second light appeared. It came from all sides, and was so different; a light made up of more than every frequency in the universe.

I felt and heard several velvety sonic booms again. My consciousness, or being, was expanding to interface with the entire holographic universe and more.

As I passed into the second light, the awareness came to me that I had just transcended the truth. As I passed into the second light, I expanded beyond the first light. I found myself in a profound stillness, beyond all silence. I could see or perceive FOREVER, beyond infinity. I was in the void. I was in pre-creation, before the Big Bang. I had crossed over the beginning of time - the first word - the first vibration. I was in the eye of creation. I felt as if I was touching the face of God. It was not a religious feeling. Simply I was at one with absolute life and consciousness.

When I say that I could see or perceive forever, I mean that I could experience all of creation generating itself. It was without beginning and without end. That's a mind-expanding thought, isn't it? Scientists perceive the Big Bang as a single event which created the universe. I saw that the Big Bang is only one of an infinite number of Big Bangs creating universes endlessly and simultaneously. The only images that even come close in human terms would be those created by supercomputers using fractal geometry equations.

The ancients knew of this. They said Godhead periodically created new universes by breathing out, and de-creating other universes by breathing in. These epochs were called yugas. Modern science called this the Big Bang. I was in absolute, pure consciousness. I could see or perceive all the Big Bangs or yugas creating and de-creating themselves. Instantly I entered into them all simultaneously. I saw that each and every little piece of creation has the power to create. It is very difficult to try to explain this. I am still speechless about this.

It took me years after I returned to assimilate any words at all for the void experience. I can tell you this now; the void is less than nothing, yet more than everything that is! The void is absolute zero; chaos forming all possibilities. It is absolute consciousness; much more than even universal intelligence.

Where is the void? The void is inside and outside everything. You, right now even while you live, are always inside and outside the void simultaneously. You don't have to go anywhere or die to get there. The void is the vacuum or nothingness between all physical manifestations. The SPACE between atoms and their components. Modern science has begun to study this space between everything. They call it zero-point. Whenever they try to measure it, their instruments go off the

scale, or to infinity, so to speak. They have no way, as of yet, to measure infinity accurately. There is more of the zero space in your own body and the universe than anything else!

What mystics call the void is not a void. It is so full of energy, a different kind of energy that has created everything that we are. Everything since the Big Bang is vibration, from the first word, which is the first vibration.

Creation is God exploring God's Self through every way imaginable, in an ongoing, infinite exploration through every one of us. Through every piece of hair on your head, through every leaf on every tree, through every atom, God is exploring God's Self, the great "I am". I began to see that everything that is, is the Self, literally, your Self, my Self. Everything is the great Self. That is why God knows even when a leaf falls. That is possible because wherever you are is the center of the universe. Wherever any atom is, that is the center of the universe. There is God in that, and God in the void.

As I was exploring the void and all the yugas or creations, I was completely out of time and space as we know it. In this expanded state, I discovered that creation is about absolute pure consciousness, or God, coming into the experience of life as we know it. The void itself is devoid of experience. It is pre-life, before the first vibration. Godhead is about more than life and death. Therefore there is even more than life and death to experience in the universe!

I was in the void and I was aware of everything that had ever been created. It was like I was looking out of God's eyes. I had become God. Suddenly I wasn't me anymore. The only thing I can say, I was looking out of God's eyes. And suddenly I knew why every atom was, and I could see everything.

The interesting point was that I went into the void, I came back with this understanding that God is not there. God is here. That's what it is all about. So this constant search of the human race to go out and find God ... God gave everything to us, everything is here - this is where it's at. And what we are into now is God's exploration of God through us. People are so busy trying to become God that they ought to realize that we are already God and God is becoming us. That's what it is really about.

When I realized this, I was finished with the void, and wanted to return to this creation, or yuga. It just seemed like the natural thing to do.

Then I suddenly came back through the second light, or the Big Bang, hearing several more velvet booms. I rode the stream of consciousness back through all of creation, and what a ride it was! The superclusters of galaxies came through me with even more insights. I passed through the center of our galaxy, which is a black hole. Black holes are the great processors or recyclers of the universe. Do you know what is on the other side of a black hole? We are; our galaxy; which has been reprocessed from another universe.

In its total energy configuration, the galaxy looked like a fantastic city of lights. All energy this side of the Big Bang is light. Every sub-atom, atom, star, planet, even consciousness itself is made of light and has a frequency and/or particle. Light is living stuff. Everything is made of light, even stones. So everything is alive. Everything is made from the light of God; everything is very intelligent.

The Light of Love

As I rode the stream on and on, I could eventually see a huge light coming. I knew it was the first light; the Higher Self light matrix of our solar system. Then the entire solar system appeared in the light, accompanied by one of those velvet booms.

I saw that the solar system we live in is our larger, local body. This is our local body and we are much bigger than we imagine. I saw that the solar system is our body. I am a part of this, and the Earth is this great created being that we are, and we are the part of it that knows that it is. But we are only that part of it. We are not everything, but we are that part of it that knows that it is.

I could see all the energy that this solar system generates, and it is an incredible light show! I could hear the music of the spheres. Our solar system, as do all celestial bodies, generates a unique matrix of light, sound and vibratory energies. Advanced civilizations from other star systems can spot life as we know it in the universe by the vibratory or energy matrix imprint. It is child's play. The Earth's wonder child (human beings) make an abundance of sound right now, like children playing in the backyard of the universe.

I rode the stream directly into the center of the light. I felt embraced by the light as it took me in with its breath again, followed by another soft sonic boom.

I was in this great light of love with the stream of life flowing through me. I have to say again, it is the most loving, non-judgmental light. It is the ideal parent for this wonder child.

"What now?" I wondered.

The light explained to me that there is no death; we are immortal beings. We have already been alive forever! I realized that we are part of a natural living system that recycles itself endlessly. I was never told that I had to come back. I just knew that I would. It was only natural, from what I had seen.

I don't know how long I was with the light, in human time. But there came a moment when I realized that all my questions had been answered and my return was near. Every human has a different life and set of questions to explore. Some of our questions are universal, but each of us is exploring this thing we call life in our own unique way. So is every other form of life, from mountains to every leaf on every tree.

And that is very important to the rest of us in this universe. Because it all contributes to the Big Picture, the fullness of life. We are literally God exploring God's Self in an infinite Dance of Life. Your uniqueness enhances all of life.

His Return to Earth

As I began my return to the life cycle, it never crossed my mind, nor was I told, that I would return to the same body. It just did not matter. I had complete trust in the light and the life process. As the

stream merged with the great light, I asked never to forget the revelations and the feelings of what I had learned on the other side.

There was a "Yes." It felt like a kiss to my soul.

Then I was taken back through the light into the vibratory realm again. The whole process reversed, with even more information being given to me. I came back home, and I was given lessons on the mechanics of reincarnation. I was given answers to all those little questions I had:

The Earth is a great processor of energy, and individual consciousness evolves out of that into each one of us. I thought of myself as a human for the first time, and I was happy to be that. From what I have seen, I would be happy to be an atom in this universe. An atom. So to be the human part of God ... this is the most fantastic blessing. It is a blessing beyond our wildest estimation of what blessing can be. For each and every one of us to be the human part of this experience is awesome, and magnificent.

So I went through the reincarnation process expecting to be a baby somewhere. But I was given a lesson on how individual identity and consciousness evolve. So I reincarnated back into this body.

I was so surprised when I opened my eyes. I do not know why, because I understood it, but it was still such a surprise to be back in this body, back in my room with someone looking over me crying her eyes out. It was my hospice caretaker. It was not a near-death experience. I experienced death itself for at least an hour and a half. She found me dead and checked the stethoscope, blood pressure and heart rate monitor for an hour and a half.

Within three days, I was feeling normal again, clearer, yet different than I had ever felt in my life. My memory of the journey came back later. I could see nothing wrong with any human being I had ever seen. About three months later a friend said I should get tested, so I went and got the scans.

I remember the doctor at the clinic looking at the before and after scans, saying, "Well, there is nothing here now."

I said, "Really, it must be a miracle?"

He said, "No, these things happen, they are called spontaneous remission."

He acted very unimpressed. But here was a miracle, and I was impressed, even if no one else was.

The Lessons He Learned

The mystery of life has very little to do with intelligence. The universe is not an intellectual process at all. The intellect is helpful; it is brilliant, but right now that is all we process with, instead of our hearts and the wiser part of ourselves.

The center of the Earth is this great transmuter of energy, just as you see in pictures of our Earth's magnetic field. That's our cycle, pulling reincarnated souls back in and through it again. A sign that

you are reaching human level is that you are beginning to evolve an individual consciousness. The animals have a group soul, and they reincarnate in group souls. A deer is pretty much going to be a deer forever. But just being born a human, whether deformed or genius, shows that you are on the path to developing an individual consciousness. That is in itself part of the group consciousness called humanity.

I saw that races are personality clusters. Nations like France, Germany and China each have their own personality. Cities have personalities, their local group souls that attract certain people. Families have group souls. Individual identity is evolving like branches of a fractal; the group soul explores in our individuality. The different questions that each of us has are very, very important. This is how Godhead is exploring God's Self - through you. So ask your questions, do your searching. You will find your Self and you will find God in that Self, because it is only the Self.

More than that, I began to see that each one of us humans are soul mates. We are part of the same soul fractaling out in many creative directions, but still the same. Now I look at every human being that I ever see, and I see a soul mate, my soul mate, the one I have always been looking for. Beyond that, the greatest soul mate that you will ever have is yourself. We are each both male and female. We experience this in the womb and we experience this in reincarnation states. If you are looking for that ultimate soul mate outside of yourself, you may never find it; it is not there. Just as God is not "there." God is here. Don't look "out there" for God. Look here for God. Look through your Self. Start having the greatest love affair you ever had ... with your Self. You will love everything out of that.

I had a descent into what you might call hell, and it was very surprising. I did not see Satan or evil. My descent into hell was a descent into each person's customized human misery, ignorance, and darkness of not-knowing. It seemed like a miserable eternity. But each of the millions of souls around me had a little star of light always available. But no one seemed to pay attention to it. They were so consumed with their own grief, trauma and misery. But, after what seemed an eternity, I started calling out to that light, like a child calling to a parent for help. Then the light opened up and formed a tunnel that came right to me and insulated me from all that fear and pain. That is what hell really is.

So what we are doing is learning to hold hands, to come together. The doors of hell are open now. We are going to link up, hold hands, and walk out of hell together.

The light came to me and turned into a huge golden angel. I said, "Are you the angel of death?"

It expressed to me that it was my oversoul, my Higher Self matrix, a super-ancient part of ourselves. Then I was taken to the light.

Soon our science will quantify spirit. We are coming up with devices now that are sensitive to subtle energy or spirit energy. Physicists use these atomic colliders to smash atoms to see what they are made of. They have got it down to quarks and charm. One day they are going to come down to the little thing that holds it all together, and they are going to have to call that ... God. With atomic colliders they are not only seeing what is in here, but they are creating particles. We are just beginning to understand that we are creating too, as we go along.

As I saw forever, I came to a realm in which there is a point where we pass all knowledge and begin creating the next fractal, the next level. We have that power to create as we explore. And that is God expanding itself through us.

Since my return I have experienced the light spontaneously, and I have learned how to get to that space almost any time in my meditation. Each one of you can do this. You do not have to die to do this. It is within your equipment; you are wired for it already.

The body is the most magnificent light being there is. The body is a universe of incredible light. Spirit is not pushing us to dissolve this body. That is not what is happening. Stop trying to become God; God is becoming you. Here.

The mind is like a child running around the universe, demanding this and thinking it created the world. But I ask the mind:

"What did your mother have to do with this?"

That is the next level of spiritual awareness. Oh! My mother! All of a sudden you give up the ego, because you are not the only soul in the universe.

One of my questions to the light was, "What is heaven?"

I was given a tour of all the heavens that have been created: the Nirvanas, the Happy Hunting Grounds, all of them. I went through them. These are thought form creations that we have created. We don't really go to heaven; we are reprocessed. But whatever we created, we leave a part of ourselves there. It is real, but it is not all of the soul.

I saw the Christian heaven. We expect it to be a beautiful place, and you stand in front of the throne, worshipping forever. I tried it. It is boring! This is all we are going to do? It is childlike. I do not mean to offend anyone. Some heavens are very interesting, and some are very boring. I found the ancient ones to be more interesting, like the Native American ones, the Happy Hunting Grounds. The Egyptians have fantastic ones. It goes on and on. There are so many of them. In each of them there is a fractal that is your particular interpretation, unless you are part of the group soul that believes in only the God of a particular religion. Then you are very close, in the same ball park together. But even then, each is a little bit different. That is a part of yourself that you leave there. Death is about life, not about heaven.

I asked God, "What is the best religion on the planet? Which one is right?"

And Godhead said, with great love, "I don't care."

That was incredible grace. What that meant was that we are the caring beings here.

The Ultimate Godhead of all the stars tells us, "It does not matter what religion you are."

They come and they go, they change. Buddhism has not been here forever, Catholicism has not been here forever, and they are all about to become more enlightened. More light is coming into all systems now. There is going to be a reformation in spirituality that is going to be just as dramatic as the Protestant Reformation. There will be lots of people fighting about it, one religion against the next, believing that only they are right.

Everyone thinks they own God, the religions and philosophies, especially the religions, because they form big organizations around their philosophy. When Godhead said, "I don't care," I immediately understood that it is for us to care about. It is important, because we are the caring beings. It matters to us and that is where it is important. What you have is the energy equation in spirituality. Ultimate Godhead does not care if you are Protestant, Buddhist, or whatever. It is all a blooming facet of the whole. I wish that all religions would realize it and let each other be. It is not the end of each religion, but we are talking about the same God. Live and let live. Each has a different view. And it all adds up to the Big Picture; it is all important.

I went over to the other side with a lot of fears about toxic waste, nuclear missiles, the population explosion, the rainforest. I came back loving every single problem. I love nuclear waste. I love the mushroom cloud; this is the holiest mandala that we have manifested to date, as an archetype. It, more than any religion or philosophy on Earth, brought us together all of a sudden, to a new level of consciousness. Knowing that maybe we can blow up the planet fifty times, or 500 times, we finally realize that maybe we are all here together now. For a period they had to keep setting off more bombs to get it in to us. Then we started saying, "We do not need this any more."

Now we are actually in a safer world than we have ever been in, and it is going to get safer. So I came back loving toxic waste, because it brought us together. These things are so big. As Peter Russell might say, these problems are now "soul size." Do we have soul size answers? YES!

The clearing of the rain forest will slow down, and in fifty years there will be more trees on the planet than in a long time. If you are into ecology, go for it; you are that part of the system that is becoming aware. Go for it with all your might, but do not be depressed. It is part of a larger thing.

Earth is in the process of domesticating itself. It is never again going to be as wild a place as it once was. There will be great wild places, reserves where nature thrives. Gardening and reserves will be the thing in the future. Population increase is getting very close to the optimal range of energy to cause a shift in consciousness. That shift in consciousness will change politics, money, energy.

What happens when we dream? We are multi-dimensional beings. We can access that through lucid dreaming. In fact, this universe is God's dream. One of the things that I saw is that we humans are a speck on a planet that is a speck in a galaxy that is a speck. Those are giant systems out there, and we are in sort of an average system. But human beings are already legendary throughout the cosmos of consciousness. The little bitty human being of Earth/Gaia is legendary. One of the things that we are legendary for is dreaming. We are legendary dreamers. In fact, the whole cosmos has been looking for the meaning of life, the meaning of it all. And it was the little dreamer who came up with the best answer ever. We dreamed it up. So dreams are important.

After dying and coming back, I really respect life and death. In our DNA experiments we may have opened the door to a great secret. Soon we will be able to live as long as we want to live in this body. After living 150 years or so, there will be an intuitive soul sense that you will want to change channels. Living forever in one body is not as creative as reincarnation, as transferring energy in this fantastic vortex of energy that we are in. We are actually going to see the wisdom of life and death, and enjoy it.

As it is now, we have already been alive forever. This body that you are in, has been alive forever. It comes from an unending stream of life, going back to the Big Bang and beyond. This body gives life to the next life, in dense and subtle energy. This body has been alive forever already.

B.