

Mystical Experiences of the Dying and Bereaved

An Interfaith, Multi-Cultural Perspective

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Experiences Just Inside the Threshold are Culturally Subjective





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The Abrahamic Trilogy is Full of These Experiences

Talking to angels and animals

NDEs (nearing death experiences) and OBEs (out-of-body experiences)

Receiving divine guidance

Talking to the dead

The experience of interacting with "spirits" is believed to mark the first human steps toward the development of religion





Belanti, John, Perera Mahendra, and Jagadheesan Karuppiah. "Phenomenology of Near-Death Experiences

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What Does an "Evidential" Medium Do?



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Common Features of NDEs vs. Selected DSM Criteria for Schizoid and Dissociative Disorders



Irwin 2015,

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The term "nearing death awareness" refers to an intuitive awareness that another world awaits, prompted by visions, dreams and other extraordinary experiences. *The Diagnostic* and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) has other ideas... NDE DSM A sense of separation from the physical body Depersonalization disorder; a sense of split self, with one part observing and other participating TAPS € 800.959.TAPS ☐ TAPS.ORG ☐ ♥ (Ö. -- STAPSorg 10 NDE DSM Delusions of grandiosity Enhanced cognitive because the experience abilities; intensification of feelings speaks of an important discovery or great insight TAPS € 800.952.TAPS] (TAPS.ORG) [F 📝 (O ... | STAPS 11 DSM NDE A cosmic encounter with Light, God, or other manifestations of great Bizarre delusions, defined as "clearly implausible and not understandable to ontological significance same-culture peers, and do not derive from ordinary life A recall of past lives or possible future events experiences" TAPS 12

Encountering a non-ordinary realm inhabited by postmortem others, including relatives, friends, animals, and "beings of light"

American Psychiatric Association 2013, p. 90

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Telepathic communication with other beings

Functioning is not markedly impaired and behavior is not bizarre or odd. Hallucinations are not prominent and are related to the delusional theme. The disturbance is not attributable to the physiological effects of a substance or medical condition

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Early 1900s



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The Pioneers (1970s)

Dr. Melvin Morse (Closer to the Light) Study of children's NDEs

Dr. Raymond Moody (*Life After Life*) Raymond coined the term "near death experience"

NOTE: During the last 20 years of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross' life, she worked exclusively with dying children. She found that many of the children had premonitions about their deaths and were at peace with dying.



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Jim Tucker, MD **Bruce Greyson, MD**

University of Virginia Division of Perceptual Studies

Children Who Report Memories of Previous Lives

Getting Comfortable with Near-Death Experiences





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Pim Van Lommel, MD



Of the 62 patients reporting an NDE, all of them experienced some of the following ten characteristics:

- Awareness of being dead (50%)
- · Positive emotions (56%)
- Out of body experience (24%)
- Moving through a tunnel (31%)Communication with light (23%)
- · Observation of colors (23%)
- A celestial landscape (29%)
 Meeting deceased persons (32%)
- · Life review (13%)
- Presence of border (8%)

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Selected Findings

- · 88% reported at least one dream or vision
- · 99% of those believed the dreams or visions to be real
- The most common ELDVs revolved around living or deceased loved ones
- 60% of the ELDVs were considered to be of comfort; 19% distressing and 21% both comforting and distressing
- Religious content in the ELDVs was minimal
- As participants approached death, comforting dreams/visions of the deceased became more prevalent
- There are clear distinctions between ELDVs and delirium



Christopher Kerr, MD Hospice Buffalo

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Kenneth Ring, et al.



80% of 31 blind respondents claimed to be able to see during their NDEs or OBEs, and could see objects and persons in the physical world, as well as features of otherworldly settings

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The Aware Study

Sam Parnia MD, PhD New York University School of Medicine

World's Largest NDE Study, 2008 2060 patients from 15 hospitals in the United Kingdom, USA, and Austria

Dr. Parnia coined the phrase "Resuscitation Medicine" and refers to NDEs as "After-Death" experiences

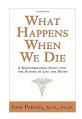


46% experienced a broad range of mental recollections that were NOT compatible with the common model of NDE's. These included fearful and persecutory experiences.

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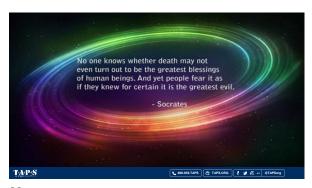


The AWARE study (Awareness during Resuscitation)

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Questions?

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Contact Information



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If you or a loved one needs professional support, please contact TAPS 24/7 at 800-959-TAPS (8277).



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About the TAPS Institute for Hope and Healing®

Launched in March 2018 through an alliance with HFA, the TAPS Institute for Hope and Healing® serves as a resource and training center, providing programs for both professionals working in the field of grief and loss and the public.





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