Stephen Hawley Martin A No-Brainer Way to Stop the Killings

SCHOOL

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Chapter One Why We Breed Mass Murderers

There actually is a no-brainer way to stop the mass shootings, and it might even stop many of the gang related murders endemic in big cities. It would not be difficult institute and could easily be done if those in denial or ignorance would simply open up their eyes and their minds, and either help or get out of the way.

It's difficult to imagine there's an adult in the United States today with a sound mind that would not stop tragedies like Uvalde, Sandy Hook, and Columbine from happening if all they had to do was flip a switch. The message of this book is that such a switch exists, and it can be flipped. It can happen if you and others come together to make it happen, and this book will give you the ammunition—pun intended—in the form of facts and logic.

First off, the switch likely isn't one you have in mind. Repealing the Second Amendment is not the answer. Maybe it would help, but not very much. According to a study conducted in 2018, there are 393,000,000 civilian-held firearms in the United States. That's more than one for every man,

woman, and child, which the 2020 census tells us numbers 329,500,000. The reality is that there would still be plenty of lethal weapons to go around.

Confiscate them? No doubt a lot of folks would vote for that, but a blood bath would likely follow if it happened. No way would some gun owners consent to it without a fight.

Yet there is a switch that could be flipped—one simple change that would likely reduce gun violence to the low level that exists in other countries. It would also likely reduce "us versus them" thinking so prevalent in the United States today.

What is it?

We should stop teaching nineteenth century science in schools and instead begin teaching the truth. A new worldview is beginning to take hold that embraces the truth. Many Americans already are on board with it, but too many in power cling to old, outdated and false ideas. This is what prevents the truth from gaining widespread acceptance. Teaching it in schools and colleges would quickly change that. And let's not stop at schools. Let's put the truth on the covers of magazines. Let's encourage every TV channel to run a documentary explaining it. Let's make it impossible to go through a day without hearing about it.

You may be wondering what I'm talking about. What do I mean, nineteenth century science? What's wrong with nineteenth century science? What do I mean by "The Truth"?

Today, in 2022, Scientific Materialism is taught in every classroom, the basic premise of which is that only material substance exists, i.e., matter. As anyone and everyone who is paying attention knows, that cannot possibly be true. If that were, the universe and everything in it would have to have happened by accident, and consciousness and intelligence could not have come about until evolution produced a brain. The reason Scientific Materialism should be banished is two fold. First, a mountain of evidence clearly indicates that it is false. Second, the obvious implication of Scientific Materialism is that when you die, it's lights out. In other words, when the plug is pulled, your consciousness flicks off like a light bulb. If true, that means if you're angry at life-perhaps your grandma did you wrong, your girlfriend dumped you, or some classmate made fun of you-then you might as well go out and murder 20 or so kids in a elementary school, plus a couple of teachers. Then

you can either blow your own brains out, or you can have your consciousness switched off in a hail of bullets from the cops—no consequences to follow—just nothingness, the end, sayonara, adios.

You are probably now thinking I'm some sort of Holy Roller who is about to preach hell fire and damnation. Wrong. What I'm going to explain has nothing to do with religion. I don't believe in there is a hell like the one pictured by Christians. What I am going tell you about are scientific findings that indicate the true nature of reality. They are facts that have come to light in the past sixty years or so-facts that Scientific Materialists continue to ignore. Some have to do with what happens to someone's consciousness after the death the body. If those disturbed young men had known what you are about to know, it most certainly would have deterred them from perpetrating those horrendous and despicable acts. Let me assure you, burn in hell is not what happened. It's far worse than that. But before I tell you what happened with they crossed over, let me first lay some groundwork.

What Physicists Know

Quantum physicists have known for a hundred years or more that Scientific Materialism is outdated and cannot possibly be the way things are.

Remember Albert Einstein and his famous equation, E = MC²?

Energy equals matter times the speed of light, squared.

Like it or not, matter is not what those who founded Scientific Materialism back in the nineteenth century thought it was. Matter is energy it's vibrations. Nothing is truly solid, and it's time everyone accepted that—and the implications.

As we humans evolve, our worldview changes it has changed many, many times, and the time has come for it to change again. Here's a quick review. Just over 500 years ago, those living in the western world thought the earth was flat, that it was located at the center of the universe, that the sun and stars revolved around it, and that an anthropomorphic God created it. Then along came Christopher Columbus [1451-1506], Ferdinand Magellan [1480-1521], Johannes Kepler [1571-1631], and Galileo Galilei [1564-1642], and beliefs gradually changed. The earth was now round, the sun was at the center of the universe, and an anthropomorphic God created it, at least that's what people believed.

After a few more years, an English philosopher named Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) argued that aside from God—the "first cause" who created the material world—nothing existed that was not of

the material world. In other words, there was no heaven or hell, and no spirit realm. The logic he used was simple. How could it if God created everything? In doing so, Hobbes kicked off what is known as the Age of Enlightenment, aka the Age of Reason, and "the Great Clock Maker theory" took hold—the idea that God created the universe, wound it up and let it go. God created natural laws that kept it going but was no longer involved. Called "Deism," many of the USA's founding fathers, including Thomas Jefferson, subscribed to this view.

This remained what many intellectuals believed until 1859 when Charles Darwin [1809-1882] came along and published *On the Origin of Species*. He argued that evolution was a natural process guided by "survival of the fittest," or "natural selection." This theory allowed God to be jettisoned completely. After a while, the only ideas that were socially acceptable among intellectuals were that the universe had always existed and that life had come about by accident—no clockmaker had been involved. Material substance—matter—was all there was, and, as stated above, intelligence and consciousness did not exist until evolution produced a brain.

This remained the scientifically accepted worldview through the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century, and it is what a lot of people think today. After all, it's still taught in schools. Nonetheless, some beliefs prevalent back then had to be revised. For example, the universe was thought to be much smaller than it is now known to be. It also was thought to have always existedno beginning, no end. The sun was thought to be at the center of it-the Milky Way being the all there was to it. But those ideas had to be ditched because of Edwin Hubble [1889-1953], for whom the Hubble Space Telescope is named. What he discovered changed things once more because his research showed that countless galaxies exist in addition to Milky Way. It also revealed that the universe is expanding, and that the sun is definitely not at the center of it. Hubble published his first paper on the relationship between red shift and distance in 1929, revolutionizing our understanding of the universe, although many still believe today, and it continues to be taught in school, that intelligence and consciousness did not exist until evolution produced a brain.

What comes next ought to have put that idea to rest.

In 1957 Francis Crick [1916-2004] discovered that the chemical subunits along the interior of the double helix of DNA function like alphabetic characters in a written language, or the digital characters such as the zeros and ones in a computer code. No doubt you've seen DNA code printouts. Crick realized they direct the construction of proteins and protein machines that all cells need to stay alive. In other words, it came to light that digital information directs the construction of the crucial components of living cells. Therefore, to explain the origin of life, one would have to explain how this complicated processing system came about.

How complicated is it? According to an article on the website of *BBC Science Focus Magazine*, the UK's leading science and technology monthly: "The DNA in your cells is packaged into 46 chromosomes in the nucleus. As well as being a naturally helical molecule, DNA is super-coiled, using enzymes, so that it takes up less space. If you stretched the DNA in one cell all the way out, it would be about two meters long and all the DNA in all your cells put together would be about twice the diameter of the Solar System."

How incredible is that? The strand of DNA in a single cell is six feet, six inches long. That's a lot

of code when you consider that the size of the characters in the code is microscopic. Think of the enormous amount of information packed into it.

So you can see for yourself, here's a link to the article just referenced:

https://www.sciencefocus.com/the-humanbody/how-long-is-your-dna/

It should go without saying that whenever we see information, and we trace it back to its source, whether it's computer code, a paragraph in a book, or a computer program, there is always an intelligent input that accounts for that information. This indicates, of course, is that intelligence is behind the origin of life, and yet an ardent Scientific Materialist would argue that given infinite time, anything can occur—for example, that a room full of monkeys with typewriters would produce *War and Peace* or the complete works of Shakespeare with no typos, given enough time.

What argues against this is what Hubble figured out: that the universe began with a Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago and the earth is only 4.5 billion years old. Of course, it's true that some scientists argue against the theory that the universe had

a beginning. They believe the universe has always existed and that it contracts and expands. But whether it had a beginning or has always existed and contracts and expands, the result would be the same—it got off to a (perhaps new, after an infinite number of previous) starts 13.8 billion years ago. This is indicated by a broad range of phenomena, including the abundance of light elements, the cosmic microwave background (CMB), large-scale structure and Hubble's law, i.e., the farther away galaxies are, the faster they are moving away from Earth. Mathematical calculations indicate the odds are much too long for life to have happened by accident, given that the earth is only 4.5 billion years old and life began here 3.77 years ago. That leaves only 730 million years for the moneys to have typed out six feet, six inches of microscopic code-with no typos. It seems to me that anyone who gives a moment's thought to this would quickly come to the conclusion that information resembling computer code that directs something complicated to happen must be the product of some sort of intelligence. And yet that's impossible if material substance-matter-is all there is because, to repeat what has been stated a couple of times already, intelligence could not have existed until evolution produced a brain.

DNA isn't the only smoking gun responsible for the upcoming death of Scientific Materialism. As mentioned, a major revolution in understanding is taking place, and a new theory of creation of the universe and life is gaining traction. John Samuel Hagelin, for example, a Harvard-educated Ph.D. in Quantum Physics, has promulgated a theory that compares the unified field, which many physicists speculate is what existed before the Big Bang, to the field of knowledge or consciousness known as "Veda" described in the ancient religious texts of India called the Vedas.

Below is a link to a YouTube video of a lecture by Dr. Hagelin about this:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4u3f7_p1i8c&t =972s

Dr. Hagelin maintains that the unified field and Veda are one and the same. Here are two paragraphs of text quoted verbatim from the write up under the aforementioned video:

Two sciences, one ancient and subjective and the other modern and objective, describe manifest creation as an expression of infinite dynamism

embedded in the infinite silence of the underlying field. Physics describes this relationship in terms of the unified field and vacuum energy, and Vedic Science in terms of Shiva and Shakti.

Similarly, at every level of manifest creation, these two descriptions of nature's functioning correspond exactly. Physics describes three super fields giving rise to the five spin types that characterize elementary particles, the resonant frequencies of the unified field and building blocks of creation; Vedic Science speaks of the three Prakritis or Doshas giving rise to the five Mahabbutas that structure the universe.

Allow me to cut to the chase and do my best to put into simple, everyday language the truth that Scientific Materialists need to accept and that now needs to be taught in schools. Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States are already aware of it, but materialist scientists continue to push against it. As the British quantum physicist, Sir James Jeans [1877-1946], wrote quite some time ago, "The universe begins to look more like a great thought than a great machine." He was not only onto something, he was right. He knew what all quantum physicists know, that there is no such

thing as matter per se—no separate things made of truly solid stuff. All that exists are vibrations—energy, pure and simple. And since physical reality is vibrations, nothing is truly separate—everything is connected. There can be no barrier or edge where one vibration stops and another one begins. As mystics have been saying since the dawn of time, "All Is One."

Perhaps you are thinking, "All is one? Really? Come on, I don't buy that. Sounds like New Age stuff to me." If that's you, read Gary Zukav's book, *Dancing Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics.* In it, he explains quantum mechanics without using complicated mathematics. Consider, for example, the following statement from that book:

... the philosophical implication of quantum mechanics is that all of the things in our universe (including us) that appear to exist independently are actually parts of one all-encompassing organic pattern, and that no parts of that pattern are ever really separate from it or from each other.

As quantum physicists have been saying for about a hundred years, energy is the ground of being. This energy gives rise to consciousness, what

the Rishis of ancient India called "Veda," and consciousness gives rise to the physical universe.

In humans, Veda, or consciousness, manifests as the Self—the "I AM" or the silent observer at the back of your mind and my mind. But do not misunderstand. The Self (Veda or consciousness) is not an individual's mind. Veda, the ground of being, is what directs your hand to turn a page of this book. It is the decision-maker in each of us that observes the thoughts that arise in the mind and decides which ones to act upon and which ones to dismiss.

Moreover, if energy is primal and creates consciousness, consciousness must create everything else. As Sir James Jeans suggested above with his comment about the universe resembling a thought, the physical reality we inhabit might be compared to a thought or a dream that source consciousness, what I will begin referring to as the "Source," is having.

Consider this. When you and I dream at night, our minds create our dreams, their imagery and all their trappings, and yet they seem completely real. If a car in your dream is about to run over you, for example, you are certain it's going to hurt, which is why you wake up. Yet not until your eyes pop open, do you realize it was a dream.

Now ponder this. There has to be a character in your dream from whose point of view what's happening is observed. There cannot be a dream without someone observing it, and in your dreams that character is you. It follows that if the universe and this world is a "dream" in the mind of the Source, there has to be a character in the dream for it to be observed. Who is the character?

You are that character, I am that character, and the Source is that character.

We humans—all living things—are characters in the Source's dream that observe what's going on. And since all is one and connected, including the Source and us, we serve as the Source's eyes and ears. We are the vehicles by which the Source knows his/her/its creation.

The reason this may be difficult to accept is that in our culture we are used to thinking of ourselves as totally separate entities. We think of the universe as "out there." You think of this book, or the Kindle device or phone you are holding, as a separate object. But as noted above, quantum mechanics says that isn't the way things actually are. We are all one, all part of the dream. This will begin to sink in and make sense if you do not dismiss it out of hand and truly think about it, objectively.

Only Consciousness Is Conscious

It is also important to understand that in an attempt to find a solution to the mystery of creation, Materialists have been attacking it from the wrong direction. Physical reality is generated by and contained within consciousness, not the other way around. Matter does not create consciousness. Consciousness creates matter, and therefore, consciousness is the place to begin an investigation.

To get one's mind around this, it may be helpful to realize that is impossible for anyone or anything to experience physical reality directly. This is an indication physical reality does not and cannot exist outside of consciousness. We experience this dimension through sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste—the five physical senses of our body-mind complex. We cannot experience any physical thing without using at least one of those senses. Moreover, our consciousness and the Source—the Veda—are one and the same—the "I AM" in each of us.

Only one consciousness exists, which is the Source, and since the Source is all that is, it cannot step outside itself to observe itself. But the Source, aka Infinite Intelligence, has found a way. We are the vehicles by which the Source experiences its creation and evolves.

It is impossible to understate the magnitude of this realization, the implications of which are huge.

Chapter Two Consciousness and the Brain

Let me extend my apologies to you if you have read my book, *Afterlife, Powerful Evidence You Will Never Die.* In this chapter, I'm going to summarize a lecture I also summarized in that book. It was recorded on video when given in India in 2011 by Bruce Greyson, M.D., then The Chester Carlson Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia. As of this writing, Dr. Greyson is a professor emeritus.

The bottom line takeaway of Dr. Greyson's lecture is that brains do not actually create consciousness, despite what many scientists still think. He does say, however, that this mistaken belief is understandable since evidence does exist that the brain produces consciousness. Consider what happens when a person drinks too much or gets knocked on the head. Also, it's possible to measure electrical activity in the brain during certain kinds of mental tasks and to identify correlations between different areas of the brain and the different activities. We can stimulate different parts of the brain and record what experiences result,

and we can remove parts of the brain and observe the results on behavior. This suggests that the brain is involved with thinking, perception, and memory, but according to Dr. Greyson, it does not necessarily suggest the brain causes those thoughts, perceptions, and memories. What the measurements actually show are correlations, rather than causation. The truth is that thoughts, perceptions, and memories, actually occur somewhere else and then are received and processed by the brain in a way similar to how a television, cell phone, or radio receiver works.

Western science, Dr. Greyson pointed out, is largely reductionist. It breaks everything down to its component parts, which are much easier to study than the whole, but the component parts do not always act like the whole. The brain is composed of millions of nerve cells or neurons, but a single neuron cannot formulate a thought, cannot feel angry or cold. It appears that brains can think and feel, but brain cells cannot. No one knows how many neurons are needed in order for them to collectively formulate a thought, nor do we know how a collection of neurons can think when a single neuron cannot.

Scientists get around this by saying consciousness is an emergent property of brains, a property that emerges when a large enough mass of brain cells gets together. According to Dr. Greyson, however, saying something is an emergent property is a way of saying it is a mystery that cannot be explained. It is a fact that there is no known mechanism in the brain or anywhere else that can produce non-physical things like thoughts, memories, or perceptions. The materialistic understanding of the world fails to deal with how electrical impulses, or a chemical trigger in the brain, can produce a thought or a feeling, or for that matter, anything the mind does. Despite this, according to Dr. Greyson, most scientists continue to maintain what he labeled, "The nineteenth century, materialist view that the brain in some miraculous way we do not understand produces consciousness." These scientists, he said, "Discount or ignore that consciousness in extreme circumstances can function very well without a brain."

Dr. Greyson noted that the idea the mind and the brain are separate is what most people believed until a couple of hundred years ago, but in the nineteenth century western world, beginning with the Darwinians, science began exploring the idea

that the physical brain might be the source of thoughts and consciousness. Ironically, as one group of scientists attempted to explain consciousness in terms of Newtonian physics, as discussed in the previous chapter, scientists in a different discipline, physics, were forced to move away from Newtonian physics and develop quantum mechanics in order to explain phenomena in which consciousness—what a researcher knows or doesn't know-completely changes the results of certain experiments. (An example of this is the behavior of photons in the famous "double slit" experiment, which is one I have described in detail in other books.) Suffice it to say, it's as though the right hand did not know what the left hand was up to. Incredibly, this remains how things are today, and it needs to change. The time has come to flip the switch.

Dr. Greyson listed a number of examples in his lecture of evidence researchers with the Division of Perceptual Studies—established in 1967 at the University of Virginia—have collected that demonstrate that consciousness can exist without a brain being involved. It is a testament to the stubbornness of materialist scientists that even though Dr. Greyson and his colleagues have been collecting

this data for fifty years, and many papers and books have been written and published revealing a great deal of it, most western scientists are unaware of this evidence. As a result, you will soon have a leg up on many western scientists.

The evidence falls into four categories:

- Recovery of lost consciousness in the moments or days prior to death among people who have been unconscious for prolonged periods of time.
- Complex consciousness ability in some people who have minimal brain tissue.
- Complex consciousness in near-death experiences when the brain is not functioning or is functioning at a greatly diminished level.
- 4. Memories, particularly among young children, accurately recalling details of a past life.

Deathbed recovery of lost consciousness

The unexpected return of mental clarity shortly before death by patients suffering from neurological or psychiatric disorders has been re-

ported in western medical literature for more than 250 years. There are published cases in the medical literature of patients suffering from brain abscesses, tumors, strokes, meningitis, Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, and mood disorders, all of whom long before had lost the ability to think or communicate. In many of these cases, evidence from brain scans or autopsies showed their brains had deteriorated to an irreversible degree, and yet in all of them, mental clarity returned in the last minutes, hours, and sometimes days before the patients' deaths. The Division of Perceptual Studies has identified 83 cases in western medical literature and has collected additional unpublished contemporary accounts wherein patients recovered complete consciousness just before death. It appears as though the damaged brain released its grip on a patient's mind and clarity returned as a result.

In 1844, a German psychiatrist named Julius reported that this occurred in 13 percent of patients who had died in his institution. In a recent investigation of end of life experiences in the United Kingdom, 70 percent of caregivers in nursing homes reported that they had observed patients suffering from dementia and confusion becoming completely lucid in their last hours before death.

In a case Dr. Greyson himself investigated, a 42year-old man developed a malignant brain tumor that rapidly grew in size. He quickly became bedridden, blind in one eye, unable to communicate, incoherent and bizarre in this behavior. He appeared unable to make any sense of his surroundings, and when members of his family touched him, he would slap as through being annoved by an insect. He eventually stopped sleeping and would talk deliriously throughout the night making no sense. After several weeks of this, he suddenly appeared calm and began speaking coherently. He then slept peacefully. The following morning, he remained completely clear and talked with his wife, discussing his imminent death for the first time. He then stopped speaking and died.

There is no known physiological mechanism to explain this phenomenon. It is rare, but the fact that it happens has no explanation in terms of how the brain functions. It suggests the link between consciousness and the brain is more complex that most scientists think. It is as though the damaged brain prevents the person from communicating, but when the brain finally begins to die, consciousness is released from the degenerating brain.

Complex consciousness among people who have minimal brain tissue

Another phenomenon is the presence of normal or even high intelligence in people who have very little brain tissue. There are rare but surprising cases of people who seem to function normally, with normal intelligence, and normal social function, despite having virtually no brain at all. In one case, published in 2007, a high school honor student who had been accepted for enrollment by Smith College underwent surgery after she was injured and knocked unconscious in an automobile accident. An x-ray of her head just before surgery revealed that she had no cerebral cortex at all. She had just a brainstem inside her skull. When the surgeon opened her skull to operate that is exactly what he found—a brainstem and that's all.

Neurologists tell us the brainstem relays motor and sensory signals to the cerebellum and the spinal cord and integrates heart function, breathing, wakefulness, and animal functions. They also tell us the brainstem does not have the connections to perform higher cognitive functions such as thinking, perceiving, making decisions, and so forth. According to scientific knowledge as it now stands, this college-bound honor student should not have been able to formulate a thought of any kind, let alone function at a high intellectual level.

Hers is not an isolated situation. Dr. Greyson pointed to dozens of cases of patients with hydrocephalus, wherein as much as 95 percent of a brain is incapacitated due to an excess of cerebrospinal fluid, and yet many with that level of affliction have normal and even above average intelligence.

Near Death Experiences

The near death experiences [NDEs] Dr. Greyson covered in the lecture were accounts given by people who had been clinically dead for a short time and then resuscitated or revived spontaneously. He said they typically have memories of vivid sensory imagery, and an extremely clear memory of what they experienced. They often describe what they experienced as seeming "more real" than their everyday life. All of this occurs under conditions of drastically altered brain function under which the materialist model would say is absolutely impossible. Such memories are reported by between ten and twenty percent of those who are revived from clinical death. Dr. Greyson has personally investigated almost one thousand cases.

The average age at the time of the near death in these cases was 31 years, but there was a very

wide range. A young girl reported an experience she'd had at eight months old while undergoing kidney surgery. The oldest to experience near death Dr. Greyson has studied was 81 at the time of his heart attack. About one third of the NDEs occurred during surgical operations, a quarter during serious illness, and another quarter as a result of life-threatening accidents. The common features of NDEs can be categorized as changes in thinking, changes in emotional state, as well as paranormal and otherworldly features.

Changes in thinking include a sense of time being altered. Often people report that time stopped or ceased to exist. The change in thinking phenomenon also included a sudden revelation or change in understanding in which everything in the universe suddenly became crystal clear. There was a sense of the person's thoughts going much faster and being much clearer than usual. Finally, there was a life review—a panoramic memory in which the person's life seemed to be laid out before him or her in minute detail. (More will be written about the life review because this is what those who would do harm to others need to know about, but first, let's continue with what Dr. Greyson said in his lecture.) He said that typical emotions reported by those

who had NDEs included an overwhelming sense of peace and wellbeing, a sense of cosmic unity and of being one with everything, a feeling of complete joy, and a sense of being loved unconditionally.

The paranormal features included a sense of leaving the physical body, sometimes called an out of body experience [OBE], a sense of physical senses such as seeing and hearing becoming more vivid than ever before. Sometimes people report seeing colors and hearing sounds that do not exist in this life, and a sense of extrasensory perception, i.e., of knowing things beyond the normal ability of the senses, such as things that are happening at a remote location. Finally, some report having visions of the future and that they entered another, unearthly world or realm of existence.

Many report they came to a border they could not cross, a point of no return that if they had crossed they would not be able to return to life. Many also say they encountered a mystical or divine being, and some report seeing spirits and loved ones who died previously and seem to be welcoming them into another realm, or in some cases sending them back to life.

As a psychiatrist, the profound after effects of NDEs are of particular interest to Dr. Greyson.

Near death survivors reliably report a consistent pattern of changes in attitudes, beliefs, and values, which do not seem to fade over time. They report overwhelmingly they are more spiritual because of their experience, that they have more compassion, a greater desire to help others, a greater appreciation for life as well as a stronger sense of meaning and purpose in life. A large majority reports they have a stronger belief that we survive death of the body and no longer fear death. About half report they have lost interest in material possessions, and many report they no longer have an interest in obtaining personal prestige, status, or in competition.

Dr. Greyson said that three features of NDEs suggest consciousness is not produced by the brain: 1) Enhanced mental function while the brain is incapacitated; 2) Accurate perceptions from outside the body, such as the ability to accurately tell doctors and nurses what they saw and heard going on in the operating room; and 3) encounters with deceased persons who convey accurate information no one else could have known, including in some instances encounters with deceased persons the NDE survivor could not have known were dead at the time.

In one case, a nine-year-old boy with meningitis had an NDE in which he saw several deceased relatives, including his sister who told him he had to return to his body. As soon as he returned from death, he told his parents—who had been at his bedside for 36 hours during his ordeal. His father became very upset because his daughter was at college in a different state and was perfectly healthy as far as the father knew. The boy insisted that his sister had sent him back and had told him she had to remain.

The father left the hospital, promising his wife he would call their daughter as soon as he got home. When he tried to call her, he learned that the college officials had been trying to contact him and his wife all night to tell them the tragic news. Their daughter had been killed in an automobile accident around midnight.

By the way, if you would like to see a video of Dr. Greyson's lecture just summarized, go to YouTube and search "Dr Bruce Greyson consciousness independent of the brain," or click this link. A video of the lecture should come up at the top of the list.

Children Who Recall a Past Life

Dr. Greyson also recounted information about the Division of Perceptual Studies' research into children's memories of past lives. Researchers at the University of Virginia have been conducting these investigations for more than fifty years and as a result have in excess of 2500 cases in their files. I was quite familiar with this even before I saw Dr. Greyson's lecture because of research I had done for my book, *REINCARNATION: Good News for Open Minded Christians and Other Truth Seekers.* I have in fact twice interviewed one of the Perceptual Division's key researchers who has written two books on the Division's reincarnation research findings, Jim B. Tucker, M.D., a child psychiatrist and now the head of the division.

Anyone with an open mind who looks into what has been found will find it difficult to refute that reincarnation can and does happen. To give you a taste, I will relate a fascinating case history I also reported on in the book just mentioned. This true story began on the First of May 2000.

Imagine you and your wife [or husband] are sound asleep. Your two-year-old son James is in his crib, asleep in the next room. Suddenly you are jarred awake.

You hear your son scream, "Plane on fire! Airplane crash!"

You rush into his room, and there he is on the bed, writhing the grip of horror, kicking and clawing at the covers as if he is trying to kick his way out of a coffin.

Over and over again, your child screams, "Plane on fire! Little man can't get out!"

What happened that night was not a single occurrence. Traumatic nightly scenes like it became the norm. The nightmares became even more terrifying, and James started screaming the name of the "little man" who couldn't get out of the plane. It was "James," his own name. Other words he spoke out loud included: "Jack Larsen," "Natoma" and "Corsair."

James' father, Bruce Leininger, could not think of what to do. Eventually, in attempt to find an answer to his son's troubled nights, he embarked on a research project, armed only with the names and words his son had been shouting while in a disturbed sleep.

A devote Christian, the answer Bruce found was not the one he wanted. He came to believe his son James was the reincarnation of a World War Two fighter pilot whose plane had been hit and

downed by antiaircraft fire—a pilot named James Huston who had died in 1945 after his plane suffered a direct hit and crashed.

James' mother, however, was the first to suspect the truth. At the time, James was having five nightmares a week, and his mother, Andrea, was worried. At a toy shop, Andrea and James were looking at model planes.

"Look," Andrea said. "There's a bomb on the bottom of that one."

"That's not a bomb, Mommy," James said. "That's a drop tank."

The child was two years old. How could he possibly have known about the gas tank used by aircraft in World War Two to extend their range?

As the nightmares continued, Andrea asked, "Who is the 'little man'?"

"Me," he answered.

Bruce asked, "What happened to your plane?" "It crashed on fire."

"Why did your plane crash?"

"It got shot," James said.

"Who shot your plane?"

"The Japanese!" he said.

James said he knew it was the Japanese because of "the big red sun." He was, of course, describing

the Japanese symbol of the rising sun painted on their warplanes.

Andrea began to suggest reincarnation. Wouldn't that explain it? But Bruce reacted angrily. He thought there must be a rational explanation, and reincarnation was definitely not in his mind a rational explanation.

Bruce questioned his son further. "Do you remember what kind of plane the little man flew?"

"A Corsair," two-year-old James replied without hesitation. It was a word he had shouted in his dreams.

Bruce knew a Corsair was a World War Two fighter plane.

"Where did your airplane take off?" Bruce asked.

"A boat."

"What was the name of the boat?"

James replied with certainty, "The Natoma."

Bruce did some research. He was amazed to find the Natoma Bay was a World War Two aircraft carrier. Bruce rushed to his office, where he had a dictionary of American naval fighting ships. Natoma Bay had supported the U.S. Marines' invasion of Iwo Jima in 1945.

Andrea, meanwhile, had become convinced

James was reincarnated. She contacted Carol Bowman, the author of a book on reincarnation and children who remember past lives. Bowman confirmed Andrea's views, saying that the common threads were there with James, including his age when the nightmares began and his remembered death.

Bruce kept investigating. He decided to see if he could find someone named Jack Larsen, a name James had shouted repeatedly during his nightmares. Bruce was successful in finding someone who fit the time period and place. It turned out Larsen's friend James Huston had died when his plane was shot in the engine and caught fire, just as had been described by two-year-old James Leininger.

Bruce also found Huston's name on the list of 18 men killed in action on the Natoma. The discovery finally made him realize his son might actually be the reincarnation of James Huston. But he kept investigating, anyway, and everything he found served to confirm that conclusion.

One day, little James unnerved his father when he said, "I knew you would be a good daddy, that's why I picked you."

"Where did you find us?" asked an incredulous Bruce.

"In Hawaii, at the pink hotel on the beach," James said, and went on to describe his parents' fifth wedding anniversary, which had taken place five weeks before Andrea had gotten pregnant. James said that was when he "chose" the couple to bring him back into the world.

Something new emerged almost every day. On a map, James pointed out the exact location where James Huston's plane went down. Asked why he called his action figures "Billy," "Leon" and "Walter," he replied, "Because that's who met me when I got to heaven."

Eventually, the family received a phone call from a veteran who had seen Huston's plane get hit. The man had kept his knowledge to himself for more than 50 years. He described seeing the aftermath of Huston's crash on the sea below.

"He took a direct hit on the nose. All I could see were pieces falling into the bay. We pulled out of the dive and headed for open sea. I saw the place where the fighter had hit. The rings were still expanding near a huge rock at the harbor entrance."

And so it was as James had said. His plane was hit in the engine and the front exploded in a ball of

flames, but that was not the end of James. He returned to this reality fifty-three years later, in 1998, with his memory intact.

The Purpose of Reincarnation

Based on many years of study, it is clear to me that reincarnation is how the Source, and we individuals, evolve. We come into this realm through our mother's womb in order to experience the illusion of separation. This is how we learn because, on the other side, there can be no doubt that we are all connected.

My understanding is that only a small part of us incarnates each time—something like 20% or less, and of course, we pass through a veil of forgetting. As a result, we think of ourselves as a complete, separate self, but that isn't actually so. Our Higher Self remains on the other side. It only sends part of itself here—what you come to think of as you—to experience the trials and tabulations of life on planet earth, and in the process, to gain or refine qualities often seen as pronounced in what are thought of to as "old souls," such as compassion, tenacity, and patience. If we did not pass through the veil of forgetting, if we had all the answers upon our arrival, if we recalled all our past lives and

what we came here to experience and learn, we would be like students in school who were given the answers in advance of the tests—and we wouldn't learn or gain a thing.

I picture the whole of each of us like one of those Russian dolls—a matryoshka doll. The part of us that's here in physical form is like the smallest one—the one way down inside all the others. The others up to the largest one are who we are, or were, in our many incarnations up to our complete, big, Higher Self that encompasses all of our little selves.

Sometimes, when we meditate, we can get in touch with the whole of us—the Higher Self. This happened to me once about thirty years ago—and it was mind-blowing. I can best describe it as a "mystical experience." It is something I shall never forget. Whatever topic came to mind, I instantly had all the answers. If you want to know more, I go into detail about the experience in my book, *Life After Death Book Two, Achieve Joy Now & Bliss in the Afterlife*.

The matryoshka doll described above is not all of who and what we are. In other words, it does not stop at our personal Higher Self. We—all humans— are One Self. That's what's known as "the

Law of One." Put that phrase in YouTube search, and you will be able to watch videos about it. You'll learn that we all come from Source—we are, each of us, extensions of Source. Source is the ultimate Higher Self, and this ultimate Higher Self— Source—is expanding and growing along with our personal Higher Self.

The Life Review

Earlier, I said I would address the life review because it is what everyone who would do harm to others needs to know about and understand—the reason being that it is something they will someday experience.

There are many, many accounts of life reviews experienced by those who have died and been brought back to life. I first learned about this when I was in my twenties and read a book written by a young doctor. He wrote the book during the mid-1970s when he was an intern, or perhaps he was a resident, at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. His name is Raymond Moody, and the content of his book is based on interviews with about a hundred people who had been clinically dead and then revived. The title of the book is *Life After Life*.

This is what Dr. Moody wrote about the life review:

When the life review occurs, there are no more physical surroundings. In their place is a full color, three-dimensional, panoramic review of every single thing the NDEers (near death survivors) have done in their lives.

This usually takes place in a third-person perspective and doesn't occur in time as we know it. The closest description I've heard of it is that the person's whole life is there at once.

In this situation, you not only see every action that you have ever done, but you also perceive immediately the effect of every single one of your actions upon the people in your life.

So for instance, if I see myself doing an unloving act, then immediately I am in the consciousness of the person I did that act to, so that I feel their sadness, hurt, and regret.

On the other hand, if I do a loving act to someone, then I am immediately in their place and I can feel the kind and happy feelings. Through all of this, the Being (a "guide" or elder) is with those people, asking them what good they have done with their lives. He helps them

through this review and helps them put all the events of their life in perspective.

All of the people who go through this come away believing that the most important thing in their life is love.

For most of them, the second most important thing in life is knowledge. As they see life scenes in which they are learning things, the Being points out that one of the things they can take with them at death is knowledge. The other is love.

I once gave a talk at a Unity Church about one of my books on metaphysics in which I mentioned the life review. A man came up to me afterward and said that a friend of his had had a near death experience and a life review. He said that prior to the near death experience, his friend had been in an automobile accident caused by a man who had run a stoplight. The friend was so angry the man had crashed into his car that he got out and went to the car that had hit his. He pulled out the driver, and beat him to a bloody pulp.

The man who was beaten never fully recovered and became an invalid, unable to work or do much of anything because of the injuries he sustained.

Some time later, the man who had done the beating had a near death experience and a life review. He not only felt the pain, remorse, and anguish the man felt who had been beaten, he also felt the sorrow, disappointment, grief and anguish felt by everyone who had been affected by what had taken place. This included the man's wife who had to go back to work to support the family, the children who were unable to go to college because there wasn't enough money, relatives who had to help out, the injured man's caregivers and so on down the line. It apparently was an incredibly excruciating thing for the man who was responsible to experience.

Imagine what the Uvalde, Sandy Hook, and Columbine perpetrators experienced during their life reviews. They felt what every individual that they harmed or killed felt. They felt and experienced what everyone affected by their actions felt—the grief of parents, siblings, relatives—the sadness of thousands, perhaps millions of people who learned about their actions through the news media, and on and on and on. The magnitude of the suffering they experienced is almost impossible to comprehend.

People need to know they will experience a life review. I'd say we all do. Who would hurt others if they knew they would some day experience the full effects of the harm they caused?

Chapter Three Sixty Years of Research

Highly educated individuals, especially those who went to prestigious universities and studied science, often have a difficult time wrapping their minds around the idea that All-Is-One. They often dismiss out of hand that what we regard as the physical universe isn't really physical in the way they thought. Unless they are able to grasp the true nature of reality, that we are eternal, spiritual beings having a temporary physical experience, and that when we harm others, we are also harm ourselves, they will not go along with updating science as it is now taught in schools. Moreover, if teachers continue to teach that matter is all there is, they will continue to turn out nihilists, some of whom come to the conclusion that "life's a bitch, and then you die." Inevitably, every so often one of these nihilists is going to get mad at the world and kill a bunch of people. Therefore, with the hope that you will join with others to fix this sorry situation, I am going to spend the rest of this book laying out evidence you can use.

Let's begin with reincarnation. In Chapter Two I mentioned that I had spoken twice with Jim B.

Tucker, a child psychiatrist. Dr. Tucker is convinced that reincarnation is a fact, a belief based on sixty years of meticulous study. Jim is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina, a medical doctor, a board certified child psychiatrist and, at the time I spoke with him, he was the Bonner-Lowry Professor of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Today he is the Director of the Division of Perceptual Studies at UVa.

The Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia Medical School has been researching the subject of children's memories of past lives since 1967, but the work actually began in 1962. Much of it was done by, or under direction of, the late Ian Stevenson, M.D. (1918-2007), who wrote a shelf full of books on the subject, having compiled more than two thousand such cases. At the time I spoke with Dr. Tucker, about 1600 of the more than 2500 cases then on file had been entered into a computer database along with the information collected on each. This was sorted into about 200 different variables, allowing researchers to comb through and cross tabulate the data to spot trends as well as to categorize and compare

the similarities and differences based on various factors and characteristics.

Dr. Stevenson was a methodical and meticulous researcher who graduated first in his medical school class at Canada's McGill University. He never actually claimed reincarnation as fact, but rather, said his cases were "suggestive" of reincarnation. His often-cited first book on the subject was published in 1966 and entitled, *Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation*.

The cases he studied come from all over the world. When Dr. Stevenson began this research, they were easiest to find where people believe in reincarnation such as India and Thailand. This may be because parents were not as likely to think a child was imagining a past life, and because they are not likely to be embarrassed to talk about it. Nowadays, however, people in the United States are not as reticent as they once were. Dr. Tucker says that since the University of Virginia set up a web site on this subject, he and his colleagues hear from parents "all the time" about their children's memories of past lives.

Nevertheless, in the United States reincarnation is thought by many to go against Christian doctrine—reincarnation was eliminated from

Christian canon at the Council of Constantinople in 553 by what was reportedly a close vote of the bishops present. Even so, recent surveys show that more than twenty percent of Christians believe in reincarnation, and the percentage is higher among younger adults.

In one case Dr. Tucker studied, an 18-monthold child told his father, who was changing his diaper, that he had changed his father's diaper when he was his father's age. The child's mother was the daughter of a Southern Baptist preacher, and so, as you might imagine, she found what her son said to be highly unusual. I asked Dr. Tucker to describe the case when he came on my show, and he obliged.

The child's grandfather had died eighteen months before the child's birth. His first mention of having been his own grandfather was during that change of diapers, but as time went by he made more comments about how he used to be big, and what he did when he was. His mother in particular became interested and began to ask the boy, whose name was Sam, questions. Sam came up with some very specific statements. For instance, she asked him if he had had any brothers or sisters. He said he had had a sister who was killed. In fact the grandfather's sister had been murdered sixty years

before. The parents felt certain the child could not have known this since they had only recently learned about it themselves.

The child also talked about how, at the end of his previous life, his wife would make milkshakes for him every day, and that she made them in a food processor rather than in a blender. This turned out to be true.

When Sam was four years old, his grandmother—his wife in his previous life—died. Sam's dad traveled to where she lived and took care of the estate. When he returned, he brought some family photos with him.

One night Sam's mother had the pictures spread out on the coffee table. Sam walked over and pointed to pictures of his grandfather and said, "Hey, that's me."

To test him she pulled out a class photo from the time the grandfather was in elementary school. Sam ran his finger across the photo, which had sixteen boys in it, and stopped on the one who had indeed been his grandfather.

"That's me," he said.

Dr. Tucker told me he thought the grandfather may have come back as the son of his own son because of the relationship—or lack thereof—the

two had had in his previous life. The grandfather had not had an open relation with Sam's dad. He had been a very private person. Sam's dad felt that if his father had really returned as his son, his father may have decided to come back to try to develop a closer bond than had existed in their previous relationship. Dr. Tucker said this might be true. When he visited the family he could see that Sam and his dad were very close.

Another interesting case Dr. Tucker related on my show had to do with an Indian girl named Kum Kum, who said she had been murdered in her previous life—poisoned—by her daughter-in-law. Kum Kum said she was from a city of about 200,000 located about 25 miles away. One of the things that makes this a good case is that her aunt wrote down a number of statements—eighteen in all—she made before an effort was undertaken to see if they checked out.

All of them did.

The statements included the name of a son, the name of a grandson, the fact that the son had worked with a hammer. And a number of other specifics—for example, that she had a sword hanging near the cot where she slept, and a pet snake she fed milk to.

Research led to the woman Kum Kum claimed to have been, who had died five years before she was born. A big family flap had taken place over a will and who would inherit the worldly possessions of the deceased woman's son. Kum Kum had probably been right. Circumstantial evidence indicated the son's wife had poisoned her mother-in-law the woman Kum Kum insisted she'd been.

These case histories are fascinating and convincing, and we could go on almost indefinitely considering each one, individually. After all, there are more than 2500 in UVA's files. Instead, let's step back and look at the overall findings of this exhaustive study.

Children who report past-life memories typically begin talking about a previous life when they are two to three years old. Emotional involvement with past-life family members would seem to indicate reincarnation rather than superpsi or the psychic reservoir at work in that the children tend to show strong emotional involvement with their memories and often tearfully ask to be taken to the previous family. Once there, not only is a deceased individual usually identified whose life matched the details given, during the visits, children often

recognize family members or friends from that individual's life. Tearful reunions are common.

Many children studied also had birthmarks that matched wounds on the body of the deceased individual. One example is that of a boy in Thailand who said he'd been a schoolteacher in this previous life and was shot and killed when riding his bicycle to school one day. He gave specific details including his name in that life and where he had lived. He continued to make this claim until his grandmother took him to the previous address, and the child was able to identify the various members of his previous family by name. Even more startling, however, he was born with two birth marks: a small round birthmark on the back of his head and a larger, more irregularly shaped one near the front. The woman he claimed had been his wife in that life recalled investigators saying her husband had been shot from behind. The investigators said they knew this because he had a typical, small, round entrance wound in the back of his head and a larger, irregular exit wound in front.

In another case, a boy remembered a life in a village not far away in which he had lost the fingers of his right hand in a fodder-chopping machine. The child was born with an intact left hand but the fingers of his right hand were missing.

The average length of time between the death and rebirth of the children in the birthmark cases is only fifteen to sixteen months. It has been theorized that this sort of thing may happen when the reincarnating entity takes a shortcut between lives, skipping a process by which the life just lived would have been fully integrated into what may be a higher self—in religious terminology, "the soul" of an individual that remains always in the nonphysical realm. According to Dr. Tucker's book, Life Before Life (St. Martin's Griffin, 2005), about 22 percent of the cases in the University's database include birth defects due to wounds suffered in violent deaths in the previous life. Most of the cases come from the Hindu and Buddhist countries of South Asia, the Shiite peoples of Lebanon and Turkey, the tribes of West Africa, and the tribes of northwestern North America.

In 1997 Stevenson published details of 225 cases in a massive work *Reincarnation and Biology: A Contribution to the Etiology of Birthmarks and Birth Defects.* The same year he presented a summary of 112 cases in a much shorter book, *Where Reincarnation and Biology Intersect.*

In many cases postmortem reports, hospital records, or other documents were located and con-

sulted that confirmed the location of the wounds on the deceased person in question matched the birthmarks. These often correspond to bullet wounds or stab wounds, and as in the case described above. Sometimes two marks correspond to the points where a bullet entered and then exited the body.

Birthmarks also related to a variety of other wounds or marks, not necessarily connected with the previous personality's death, including surgical incisions and blood left on the body when it was cremated. A woman run over by a train that sliced her right leg in two was reborn with her right leg absent from just below the knee. A man born with a severely malformed ear had been resting in a field at twilight, mistaken for a rabbit, and shot in the ear.

Further evidence for reincarnation comes from what might be called behavioral memories. For example, cases exist where children of lower caste Indian families believe they had been upper class Brahmins, and in their view still were. These children would refuse to eat their family's food, which they considered polluted. Conversely, a child remembering the life of a street-sweeper—a very low caste—showed an alarming lack of concern about cleanliness. Some children demonstrate skills they

have not learned in their present life, but which the previous personality was known to have had. A number of Burmese children who recalled being Japanese soldiers killed there during World War Two preferred Japanese food such as raw or semiraw fish over the spicy Burmese fair served by their families.

Many children express memories of the previous life in the games they play. A girl who remembered a previous life as a schoolteacher would assemble her playmates as pupils and instruct them with an imaginary blackboard. A child who remembered the life of a garage mechanic would spend hours under a family sofa "repairing" the car he pretended it to be. One child who remembered a life in which he had committed suicide by hanging himself had the habit of walking around with a piece of rope tied round his neck.

Phobias occur in about a third of the cases and are nearly always related to the mode of death in the previous life. For example, death by drowning may lead to fear of being immersed in water; death from snakebite may lead to a phobia of snakes; a child who remembers a life that ended when he was shot may display a phobia of guns and loud

noises. A person who died in a traffic accident may have a phobia of cars, buses, or trucks.

Sexual orientation may also be affected by a previous life. In one of his books, Ian Stevenson wrote, "Such children almost invariably show traits of the sex of the claimed in the previous life. They cross-dress, play the games of the opposite sex, and may otherwise show attitudes characteristic of that sex. As with the phobias, the attachment to the sex and habits of the previous life usually becomes attenuated as the child grows older; but a few of these children remain intransigently fixed to the sex of the previous life, and one has become homosexual."

Certain preferences and cravings can also carry over. They frequently take the form of a desire or demand for particular foods not eaten in the child's present family, or for clothes different from those ordinarily worn by the family members. Other examples include cravings for addictive substances, such as tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs that the previous personality was known to have used.

Dr. Tucker pointed out that the cases he and others have studied might not be typical because most children do not remember past lives. As mentioned, the average time between lives in these

cases is only fifteen months or so—although there are outliers that range up to fifty years. In 70 percent of these cases, the previous personality died by unnatural means. Many died young. This may speed up the reincarnation process. The consciousness may come back quickly due to unfinished business, or because he or she feels shortchanged. The quick return may also be the reason past life memories are intact, as well as sexual preferences, cravings and so forth. My guess is that a much longer duration between lives is the norm.

Teachings of the Rosicrucians, a mystical order of which I have been a member and attained the rank of "Adept," say the human personality span is normally about 140 years. If we live 70 years, for example, we can expect to spend 70 years in the realm between lives before we incarnate again. If we live 60 years, we can expect to spend 80 years between lives. The teachings stress, however, that this is a rule of thumb. Centuries can elapse between incarnations, or as with many in the UVa study, the return could come in a matter of months.

Chapter Four More Evidence

As you now know the brain doesn't actually create consciousness or store memories. It is in fact a receiver that might be compared to a cell phone or radio—one that integrates consciousness and the body. We are about to look at evidence this is the case. When I was the host of the radio show some years ago, I interviewed several scientists who were investigating this possibility. One was Julie Beischel, the Director of Research at the Windbridge Research Center. Dr. Beischel has a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology with a minor in Microbiology and Immunology. She uses her interdisciplinary training to apply the scientific method to controversial topics.

Dr. Beischel received her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona at a time something occurred to prompt her to change the direction her career going from pharmacology to investigation of the paranormal. Her mother committed suicide. The death of a parent can be devastating—no doubt even more so when it happens by suicide—and Dr. Beischel wanted answers. I don't know what ques-

tions she might have had, but a basic one was likely, "Does my mother's consciousness still exist?" Dr. Beischel told me in our interview that science is her religion. Quite naturally, that's where she turned for the answer. She wanted to know what science could tell her about life after death.

"Very little," was what she found out.

As fate would have it, a good deal of what little research was being done on this subject was being conducted by Dr. Gary Schwartz at the University of Arizona—precisely where Dr. Beischel happened to be.

A book by Schwartz detailing his work with mediums was published in 2002 by Atria called, *THE AFTERLIFE EXPERIMENTS: Breakthrough Scientific Evidence of Life After Death*. Apparently, Dr. Schwartz had been subjected to a good deal of criticism from skeptics about this research. His critics claimed his methodologies were riddled with holes. Finding a spot for Dr. Beischel in his research laboratory no doubt made a lot of sense because she was trained to come up with methodologies no one could poke holes in. For the next couple of years she worked closely with him.

I asked Dr. Beischel about Dr. Schwartz's work, much of which had been done before she joined

him. She wouldn't talk about that except to say when she came on board she felt more stringent controls were needed. In 2007 when Schwartz's research turned in a different direction, Dr. Beischel and her husband, Mark Boccuzzi—who'd been researching hauntings—founded the Windbridge Institute.

Dr. Beischel then developed a methodology that passed peer review scrutiny with flying colors to test the abilities of mediums that claim to communicate with the dead. At the time our interview, Windbridge was granting certification to mediums that successfully completed the screening process. It involved an intensive eight-step procedure that took about a year:

Step 1: Written Questionnaire

Step 2: Personality/Psychological Tests

Step 3: Phone Interview (with an existing WCRM)

Step 4: Phone Interview (with a Windbridge Investigator)

Step 5: Two Blinded Phone Readings

Step 6: Mediumship Research Training

Step 7: Human Research Subjects Training

Step 8: Grief Training

Each medium that became certified was required to agree to donate a minimum of four hours per month to assist in various aspects of the research, to uphold a code of spiritual ethics, and to abide by specific Windbridge standards of conduct.

Before we discuss Dr. Beischel's mediumship research, let me define some terms. A "discarnate" is a dead person with whom a medium supposedly communicates. A "sitter" is the loved one of the discarnate for whom the reading is done. A "proxy sitter" is someone who asks the medium questions in place of the sitter. A proxy sitter must be someone that knows nothing about the discarnate.

The procedure was as follows. Two different, unrelated individuals (sitters) were selected that each wanted to contact a deceased loved one. Questions were developed for the discarnates of these sitters, including specifics such as a physical description, cause of death, and the discarnate's occupation or hobbies during life. The discarnates to be contacted in these paired sessions had to be of the same sex but have different physical descriptions, occupations in life, ages, and manners of death. This was done so that no confusion would be possible concerning which of the two discarnates was respond-

ing, assuming the answers given through the medium to the proxy sitter were correct.

Dates and times were set for the readings, usually on separate days.

Sitters were not told the times or dates of readings but were asked to request that the deceased loved one communicate with the medium at the designated time.

A proxy sitter that had no knowledge of a discarnate except for the first name contacted the medium by telephone at the prescribed date and time.

Let's say the discarnates are Suzie and Betty. The session asking the medium questions for Suzie would be recorded and then transcribed.

On the day and time of the next reading, the questions for Betty would be asked. This session was also recorded and transcribed. Ambiguous answers were adjusted so that they lacked ambiguity. For example, if the medium said Suzie's hair color was reddish, the answer was changed to "red."

Following these sessions, both sitters were given both sets of answers—without names on them. They were asked to score the answer to each question for accuracy and then rate each report on a scale of one to six based on how strongly each re-

port portrayed the loved one (the discarnate) the sitter had hoped would be contacted.

This procedure eliminated the possibility of fraud. All the proxy sitter and the medium knew about a discarnate was his or her first name, making it impossible to find out anything about the deceased individual through conventional means. The medium could not give answers based on visual or verbal clues because the proxy sitter asking the medium questions knew nothing about the discarnate, and the session was conducted by telephone.

Rater bias also was eliminated. The sitter did not know which answer sheet was for his or her loved one and which was not. In addition, because the answers dealt in specifics—physical description, occupation, manner of death and so forth ambiguity was eliminated, as was the tendency for wishful thinking on part of a sitter.

Dr. Beischel said that discarnates often found ingenious ways to communicate their presence and survival to a loved one. In one case, a discarnate communicated to the medium about a white car the medium had purchased on Halloween, which the medium had nicknamed "Casper"—for the friendly cartoon ghost. When asked why the dis-

carnate might have done so, the sitter said, "Well, I suppose it's because our last name is Kasperi."

The results of this research were highly significant, statistically. On a scale of one to six—with one being not at all accurate, and six extremely accurate—the average score was about 3.5 for readings containing the loved one's answers, and less than 2.0 for the control readings, which is a sizable difference. These two scores are the averages of many compilations done over time. Some readings had much higher scores and some lower. Even the scores of readings in which the discarnate may have decided not to participate have been averaged in.

Dr. Beischel told me that after a research session was done, sitters would often contact the mediums directly for a follow up session, and that follow up sessions normally produced accuracy scores in the neighborhood of 85 to 90 percent.

The most obvious explanation for the findings of this research is that human consciousness continues after death. This is supported by the research being conducted at the University of Virginia by Jim B. Tucker, M.D. that was covered in the previous chapter. It is also supported by the experiences of the mediums themselves. All consis-

tently reported a difference between a session communicating with a discarnate, and what is called a psychic reading, which is done for a living person. They typically feel a presence when dealing with a discarnate.

Dr. Beischel is not the only scientist to conduct experiments to see if thought extends beyond the confines of the brain. Back in the early 1930s a university with a new name and big ambitions hired a couple of men who wanted to unravel the mysteries of the paranormal. That university was Duke, located in Durham, North Carolina, one of the most prestigious in the United States. The men were William McDougall and Joseph Banks Rhine, most often referred to as J. B. Rhine. The organization they created was called the Duke Parapsychology Laboratory for many years. Today it is called The Rhine Research Center, and although it is no longer connected with the University, it is located adjacent to the Duke campus.

What motivated these men? They wanted most to prove or disprove the fact or fiction of life after death. On my radio show that aired the week of April 6, 2009, I interviewed journalist Stacy Horn who wrote a book chronicling the history of this

organization from 1930 to 1960, including experiments that were conducted and the interaction of the many people with the lab over the years. This included such well-known celebrities Upton Sinclair and scientists such as Albert Einstein. The name of her book is UNBELIEVABLE: Investigations into Ghosts, Poltergeists, Telepathy, and Other Unseen Phenomena from the Duke Parapsychology Laboratory (HarperCollins, ECCO Imprint, 2009). Stacy went into this project a skeptic about paranormal phenomena, but was no longer a skeptic when she came out of it.

Previously known as Trinity College, a grant by tobacco millionaire James B. Duke in 1924 prompted the name change. Perhaps, the newly reconstituted school was looking for ways to make its mark when it lured William McDougall from Harvard University to set up a department of psychology.

He was soon contacted by a man named John Thomas who had 800 pages of transcripts generated by mediums he had been working with. Thomas' wife had died unexpectedly during an operation, and Thomas had been devastated. He began working with mediums in order to communicate with her.

Thomas got encouraging results, but he wasn't sure he could believe them. Looking for verification of their authenticity, he traveled around the United States talking with mediums. He went to Europe, eventually, reasoning that mediums there would have no way of knowing anything about him or his wife. If they were able to come up with information that was accurate, it would be more convincing.

Ultimately, Thomas wrote to McDougall asking if he could send J. B. Rhine, then of Harvard University, and Rhine's wife Louisa, to Duke to study this material. McDougall agreed and Rhine came to Duke.

Rhine studied Thomas' transcripts. He was able to verify much of the information, and to all but eliminate fraud and lucky guesses. He traveled to Upstate New York, for example, investigating cemetery head stones to check out the veracity of genealogy of Thomas' wife indicated by a medium. The genealogy proved to be accurate. Not even Thomas himself knew if this genealogy was correct, but the information did check out. Ultimately, however, Rhine concluded that even though the information was correct, it could not be said with absolute certainty that the informa-

tion was coming from Thomas' deceased and now disembodied wife because there was no way to prove that what Rhine called "superpsi," and others label "the Akashic Records," wasn't the source of information tapped into by mediums who had supposedly been in touch with Thomas' wife. Superpsi or the Akashic Records is thought to be a psychic reservoir—a compendium of all human events, thoughts, emotions, and intent ever to have occurred located in what might be described as a nonphysical "cloud storage" facility. The compendium is supposed to be accessible by those with sensitive psychic abilities.

Rather than continuing to work with mediums, Rhine decided to put his energy into the study of what became known as extra sensory perception, or ESP. He reasoned that if he could prove awareness extends beyond, and exists outside the body, a major step would be taken toward establishing the possibility of survival of consciousness after death. After all, for our consciousness to continue after death it has to be capable of existing outside the body and the brain.

Rhine's most famous experiment used what has become known as ESP cards. Developed specifically for this purpose, these had different symbols

on them including a star, wavy lines, a cross, a box and a circle. Many of these experiments were conducted—mostly using Duke University students to see if people could tell what symbols were on the cards without looking at them. It was found again and again that they could.

The controls employed in these experiments were refined over time until neither the students nor those testing them could see one another. Ultimately, research was conducted in such a way that not even the person conducting the experiment knew what symbol was on the card a student was to identify. The experiments turned up statistically significant results time after time, showing that ESP is real.

One of Rhine's subjects in the ESP experiments was particularly impressive. A divinity student, his name was Hubert Pierce. Rhine believed that everyone possessed psychic abilities, but his research indicates some people have more talent for it than others. This is of course true of other abilities. An extremely talented singer will wow the judges and go on to win American Idol, but most will fail miserably and get the boot at the first audition.

There were twenty-five cards in the ESP deck, and five different symbols. Therefore, one would

expect to guess five correctly each time through, simply by chance. Hubert Pierce could consistently get more than five correct, as could a number of others. But the interesting thing is, and according to Stacy Horn this came up frequently in the research, emotions played a role. Hubert, for example, needed money. He was a poor, struggling college student. Rhine once told him if he got the next card right, he'd pay him a hundred dollars. Pierce got it right. Rhine said, "Okay, get the next one right, and you'll get another hundred dollars."

Pierce got the next one right.

This went on through the entire deck. Pierce named all 25 cards correctly.

At one point, however, Hubert said he would not be coming into the lab for tests. His girlfriend had broken up with him, and he was heartbroken.

When he finally did come back, he did not perform well.

Another example of emotions playing a roll was the time Rhine tested the psychic abilities of children at an orphanage. One little girl became quite attached to a woman researcher. The little girl performed extremely well, apparently because she was eager to please, and wanted to prolong the session.

Something else that demonstrates awareness is nonlocal—at no particular place but everywhere at once—is the phenomenon of remote viewing. Those adept at remote viewing can direct their consciousness to be anywhere they want it to be. They use psychic powers to observe what's happening at a distant location—in terms miles and in some cases, time as well.

Back in the 1970s, the U. S. government learned that the KGB was using psychics to spy on the United States. Naturally, U.S. Intelligence leaders wanted to see if this actually worked. U.S. Army Major General Edmund R. Thompson, who was deputy Director for the Management and Operations for Defense Intelligence from 1982-84 is quoted as having said, "I never liked to get into debates with the skeptics, because if you didn't believe that remote viewing was real, you hadn't done your homework."

It is apparently a fact that remote viewing was used beginning in the early 1970s and continuing throughout the Cold War to keep tabs on what the Soviets and Eastern Block countries were up to in locations that couldn't be observed by spy planes, satellites, or operatives on the ground. In the spring of 2009, I interviewed F. Holmes Atwater, who set up a U.S. Army Intelligence unit called Stargate for the purpose of remote viewing. Atwater is known to friends as "Skip."

Skip got into this line of work through a series of what some people might call amazing coincidences, and others would say are synchronicities events that look like coincidences, but happen for a reason. He grew up in a home with parents that took such things for granted. It was the sort of thing they talked about at the dinner table. As a kid, Skip told me he would go off on out-of-body trips almost nightly. Once, when he was seven or eight years, it had to do with the problem he had with bedwetting.

"It was embarrassing," he said. "I had a big, brown piece of rubber on my bed so I wouldn't ruin the mattress. My parents didn't scold me, but they did make me wash my own sheets.

"I can remember distinctly waking up one night, and I was all wet. I was screaming in anger, and my mother came in and said, 'What's wrong? Did you fall out of bed?'

"I said, 'No, I remember, I got up, and I went down the hall to the bathroom, and I sat down. And the minute I started to pee, I woke up here in bed, and I'm all wet.'

"I was mad as the dickens, and my mother hugged me and said, 'Oh, that's all right, don't worry about it. You know, Skip, sometimes you're in your body and sometimes you're out of your body, and you have to remember that when you're going to the bathroom, make sure you're in your body.'

"[What she said] made perfect sense to me, and I said, 'Oh, now I understand,' and that was the end of my bedwetting."

Skip was in Army working for Army Intelligence when he came across a book called *Mind Reach* by Russell Targ and Harold E. Puthoff of the Stanford Research Institute. The book explained remote viewing, which didn't seem at all unusual to him, given his experiences as a child. It was as though a light had suddenly flicked on. He instantly realized this could be used to gather intelligence.

At the time, Skip was in counter intelligence. It was his job to defend against wiretaps, bugging devices, and other forms of intelligence gathering by the enemy. No one in his counter intelligence unit had thought about remote viewing as a way the enemy might be spying on us. So Skip went to his commanding officer, a Colonel Webb, and gave

him the book. After the Colonel finished reading it, Skip asked him if this remote viewing was being used on our side.

The Colonel had no idea. He thought if anything were going on, the Pentagon would be the place to find out. So he had Skip transferred to the Pentagon to take a position where he'd be in charge of a counter intelligence team. Skip would have the access he needed to find out about remote viewing and what if anything was being done about it to prevent the enemy from using it.

Before Skip was able to relocate to Washington, however, he received a change of orders. He was told to report to Fort Meade in Maryland. This was a better location for a young Army officer with a wife and children, which Skip had, because Fort Meade had family housing and good schools. It would be a much more affordable and pleasant place to live than Washington, D.C.

At Fort Meade, Skip was assigned to what was known as a SAVE team—Security Activity Vulnerability Estimate team. The job was to go to sensitive U.S. installations and try to penetrate them in any way possible—as the enemy might in order to gather intelligence. Then the team would make a

report to the commanding officer and provide recommendations for improving security.

Skip moved into his new job and was assigned an office that had just been vacated. The file cabinet and most of the desk drawers had been cleaned out, and an office safe had been emptied, but he did come across three documents in a bottom drawer of the desk that turned out to be classified. They reported on remote viewing experiments taking place in the Soviet sphere, funded by the KGB.

Skip took the documents to his supervising officer, a Major Keenan.

The Major looked at them. "Oh, yes, I remember these," he said. "The Lt. Colonel was very interested in this subject. Do you know anything about it?"

"Why, yes, I do, Major."

The Major took a moment and sized up Skip. "Lieutenant," he said, "from now on you're in charge of it."

And that's how in Skip got his wish and began on a ten year career that eventually put him in charge of a remote viewing unit of the Army.

Skip soon learned that basic research had been underway since 1972 to check the validity of the

Eastern Block experiments. The initial question had been whether reports of success were valid. It could have been that the Soviets were falsifying the results in order to create fear. The Stanford Research Institute had been retained to replicate the KGB experiments, and to the surprise of the U.S. intelligence community, the results had been positive.

By the time Skip got involved, the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies had been using natural psychics for some time to gather information, including well-known psychics such as Ingo Swann, who has since written several books on remote viewing. Skip's job became to set up, recruit and train remote viewers for U.S. Army Intelligence who might or might not have had prior experience using their psychic abilities. He developed a screening process, and for those who made the cut, a training program employing methodologies gleaned from accomplished remote viewers.

Skip's efforts met with success, but after a while he began looking for ways to enhance the results that his remote viewers were achieving. This led him to The Monroe Institute (TMI) in Virginia, where he worked as Research Director when I interviewed him.

Robert Monroe (1915–1995) had spent a career in broadcasting, culminating as a vice president of NBC Radio. After leaving NBC, Monroe became known for his research into altered states of consciousness. His 1971 book *Journeys Out of the Body* is said to have popularized the term "out-of-body experience," or OBE.

Monroe's original objective had been to develop a process by which people could learn effortlessly—while they were asleep. He developed sound patterns that would help people reach a state that he called "Stage Two Sleep" and hold them in that state. Monroe experimented on himself and exposed himself to many varieties of sound. One night in 1956, quite unexpectedly, he found himself floating over his body. He panicked and thought the must be dying. He consulted medical doctors and psychiatrists about this, and eventually understood he wasn't dying—that this experience was fairly common. As a result, he conducted more experiments to learn how to replicate what he had done, and to control it.

By the time Monroe came to Skip's attention, he had established The Monroe Institute about 40 minutes by car from Charlottesville, Virginia, where the public could come to share in these

sound-created experiences. Skip decided to investigate, and traveled from Fort Meade to Virginia meet Monroe.

Skip, of course, was running a secret program for the U.S. Army and could not disclose the real reason for his visit. But he did explain to Monroe that he was interested in the work being done, had read his book, and had had out-of-body experiences as a child.

Monroe invited Skip to come into his laboratory. He took him to a room that had been set up and equipped for his experiments. He had Skip lie down. Skip became nervous. He was, after all, an intelligence officer on a surreptitious mission.

"What are these sounds I've heard about these hemi-sync® sounds?" Skip asked.

"Oh, nothing to worry about," Monroe said. "I'll just play some music at first to calm you down."

As soon as Skip was lying down on the bed with the headphones on, the door shut and the lights went out. He wondered what he'd gotten himself into.

Music came through the speakers. It turned into the sound of surf against the shore. This re-

minded Skip of happy childhood days spent playing at the beach.

Then droning sounds came on in the background and quite unexpectedly the bed began to rise off the floor as though it were being lifted by hydraulics the way a car in a service station is lifted for an oil change.

Skip thought, "Wow, this is a very special bed. They must have one of those lifts underneath it to push it up in the air."

As he was thinking about what must have been done to build it—the building had to have been constructed around it—he began to feel himself moving in a different direction. He seemed to be headed laterally, rather than up. That's when he realized it must not be a lift he was on. Yet the feeling was very strong, quite visceral, as though he were on an airplane circling into a landing approach. He saw or imagined that he was moving through a rock or crystal tunnel of some kind. Then he heard a voice.

"Whoa, there. What's happening, kid?" It was Robert Monroe.

"Well, I seem to be going some place," Skip said.

"Well, now, where're you going, kid?"

"I don't know," Skip answered.

Skip traveled along the tunnel, or corridor, and eventually came out of it in vast, open, white space. He said it was a little like being in a white cloud except there was no mist or fog. Everything was white, boundless, and there were no walls.

Perhaps the strangest part was that Skip watched himself arrive.

He thought, Gosh, I've come all this way only to find I'm already here.

Skip said in our interview, "It sounds trite to say wherever you go, there you are, but that's exactly what happened to me."

He remained in the white space for a while. Then he heard Robert Monroe's voice again:

"What's happening?"

Skip was embarrassed because he'd forgotten he was in Monroe's laboratory lying on a bed.

He said, "Oh, nothing much."

"Okay . . . well, it's time for lunch."

This didn't make sense, but that didn't matter because Monroe changed the sounds coming through the headphones, and Skip felt the bed being lowered down to its original position. In a short time, the door was open and the lights were on.

Monroe was standing in the doorway. Skip leaned over and looked under the bed.

"Oh, did you lose your wallet down there?" Monroe asked.

Skip was looking for the hydraulic lift, but there was none.

As a result of this experience, he learned there was definitely something to the sound technology Robert Monroe had developed, and the Army entered into a classified contract with Robert Monroe to do some training.

One man Monroe trained was perhaps the most outstanding remote viewer in the Army. His named is Joe McMoneagle.

Joe had been in intelligence before joining Skip's unit. His personal story is fascinating and was related to me by a guest on my show who'd gotten to know Joe over the years through an association with The Monroe Institute.

In the early 1970s, Joe was the target of a successful assassination attempt while in the Army stationed in Germany, working as an operative in intelligence. Poison was the method. He was meeting with an intelligence contact at a restaurant, having dinner, when he felt nauseous. He excused

himself and went outside to get some air. He walked around for a moment, and then saw a crowd gathered just outside the door. He went to see what the commotion was about, looked through the crowd, and could make out a body lying on the street.

People were saying, "He's dead, he's dead!"

Joe came closer and was shocked to see the body was his own.

Testing later showed he'd been subjected to a binary poison, one that becomes toxic when combined with another substance. This had allowed his assassin to slip him the poison and make his getaway before Joe sat down to dinner and consumed whatever had triggered the toxicity that killed him.

McMoneagle's consciousness, after viewing his body lying on the street, went toward the light and through the tunnel described by many near-death survivors. As is now considered typical in these cases, he arrived at a place where he was met by spiritual beings. There, he underwent some instruction and a life review.

We would know nothing of this if Joe's body had not been resuscitated. His recovery and recuperation took quite some time.

What happened that evening changed Joe in several ways. He'd had psychic experiences before

his NDE, but had kept them to himself. He no longer did. He also began to have spontaneous outof-body experiences he was unable to control.

Joe's case came to the attention of two physicists at the Stanford Research Institute, Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff. They'd already been working on a government contract to study the ramifications of the quantum mechanics theory of non-locality of consciousness. These were the same experiments described in the classified document found by Skip Atwater, and the same two men who'd authored the book he'd read.

Joe became the first remote viewer directly on the government payroll. In the course of his career in the Army as a remote viewer, Joe worked on more than 200 missions, many of which were reported at the highest levels of the U.S. military and government. Some of the information was considered so crucial, vital and unavailable from any other source, that he was awarded the Legion of Merit for his work, the second highest award the Army can give to someone in the military during peacetime.

One such mission was to determine the time and the location Skylab would fall to earth. Depending on how old you are, you may recall Skylab—literally a scientific laboratory in orbit around the earth, put there for astronauts to conduct experiments in space. Launched in 1973, it weighed about 100 tons.

By 1979 its orbit was decaying and Skylab was expected to come down. The question was, "Where?"

A hundred ton metal object falling on a heavily populated area such as New York, Tokyo or London, for example, would cause a tremendous death and destruction. Super computers were enlisted to answer the question, but too many variables existed for the technology of the day. The results were unreliable.

Joe McMoneagle, Ingo Swann and a third individual, a woman whose name I have been unable to uncover, were contracted with individually to come up with an answer. None of the three knew the others were involved. All picked the same day, July 11, 1979, and almost the same time. Each was within five minutes of the other two—a location in western Australia, which was a remote, uninhabited area. These predictions were made nine and a half months before Skylab actually came down.

Skylab came down there, all right, almost precisely as predicted, demonstrating awareness is not located just inside our skulls. It also appears not to

be limited in time—which, of course, cannot be possible according to the foundational principle of Scientific Materialism.

That thought is not confined to the brain and is nonlocal has also been demonstrated by a gentleman I interviewed on my radio showed named Stephan A. Schwartz. He is the author of a several books including Opening to the Infinite, The Alexandria Project, and The Vision: A Novel of Time and Con-He demonstrated this with sciousness an experiment that indicates mind is everywhere at once and that thoughts are not electromagnetic waves. In other words, thoughts do not travel between minds like cell phone or radio signals between a sender and a receiver. The results of Schwartz's experiment suggest they apparently exist in a universal, perhaps foundational or underlying mind that we all share at a deep level.

Schwartz had researchers lowered into water in a submarine to a depth below which it has been demonstrated that electromagnetic waves—regardless of their frequency or strength—simply cannot penetrate. Remote viewers in the submarine were able to get the same results with respect

to targets located on the surface as were remoter viewers who were located on the surface.

Telepathy [ESP] experiments were also conducted. The results achieved by researchers in the submarine with those on the surface were comparable to the results achieved by a control group of researchers, all of whom were on the surface. This demonstrated that telepathy has nothing to do with electromagnetic waves. In other words, ESP does not work by messages traveling though space from one mind to another. This suggests that what mystics have been saying for millennia is correct: All Is One. Being located in a submarine deep below the surface of the ocean doesn't change this. Details of this experiment can be found in Schwartz's book, OPENING TO THE INFINITE: The Art and Science of Nonlocal Awareness (Nemoseen Media, 2007).

I must say the implications of all this can be difficult to wrap one's thoughts around. Mind apparently transcends time and does not occupy space. It appears to be everywhere at once in a universal and eternal now. It also seems to me that consciousness is life and that life is consciousness. You can see this by closely observing nature. Con-

sider a sunflower. It has no brain. According to currently accepted science, it can have no awareness. Yet it turns its face to the sun, and it follows the sun across the sky from sunrise to dusk. Plants of all kinds search for and grow toward the sun. Like it or not this requires some form of awareness.

Scientifically constructed, double blind experiments by researchers, including Nobel laureate and theoretical biophysicist of the University of Marburg in Germany, Fritz-Albert Popp [1938-2018], have demonstrated that plants are aware, and this isn't news. About 40 years ago a fellow named Cleve Backster [1924-2013] demonstrated plants are aware by using polygraph machines. In Backster's most famous experiment, he hooked up plants in his office suite to polygraph machines, and then set up a device to randomly dump a cup of living brine shrimp into a pot of boiling water. The needles on the polygraph machines would go wild each time the shrimp hit the water and went to their deaths. I've seen videos of this experiment on national television. The only logical explanation is that the plants were picking up the shrimp's distress and demise.

But what led Cleve Backster to construct and carry out this experiment may be even more of an

eye-opener. Lynne McTaggart, author of *The Field: The Quest for the Secret Force of the Universe*, told the following story on my show early in 2008.

Backster was an expert on polygraph machines and their operation—in other words, lie detectors. One evening, when Backster was a young man, he was sitting in his office with nothing much to do. His eyes fell on an office plant and he had an idea. He decided to hook up one of his machines to the plant and see if he could get it to react. He connected the machine and poured a glass of water into the soil around the plant. Nothing happened. The polygraph registered boredom.

Backster started thinking about what he might do to get a reaction out of the plant, and he had an idea.

"I think I'll burn one of its leaves."

At that moment, the polygraph machine went wild. The plant had reacted to his thought! The more Backster thought about burning the plant, the more the needle on the polygraph machine went ballistic.

Cleve Backster conducted many experiments along these lines which are described in his book, *Primary Perception: Bio Communication with Plants*,

Living Foods, and Human Cells (White Rose Millennium Press, 2003).

People who have what's called green thumbs may think it is because they send kind thoughts to their plants. It may be true that kind thoughts help make happy plants, but as we now know, thoughts are not sent and received. Thoughts just are. They are located in the mind that we and every other living thing share.

Chapter Five How We Got Where We Are Today

Whether we realize it or not, we each have a worldview—or a model of how things work. You might think of this as a stack of cans that forms a pyramid you might see as a grocery store aisle end display. Each can represents an individual belief. Each belief in the display supports other beliefs. Change a foundational belief, and the whole thing might come tumbling down.

In the past century, it seems to me that scientists have been presented with information that ought to have caused them to tear down the Scientific Materialist view of reality in order to rebuild it from the ground up. Rather than do so, however, it appears that most of them have taken the easy way by dismissing as anomalies information that does not fit what they believe. If enough of these so-called anomalies build up, I suspect they will be like water building up behind a dam. Unless scientists can explain how the phenomena described in this book can happen given the Scientific Materialist paradigm, which they obviously

cannot, it is only a matter of time before that dam bursts.

Well, it needs to burst now so we can get the word out about what life is really all about. To speed things along, let's take a look at how we got to the worldview that will soon be washed downstream. Bear with me. Some of this will refer to information that has already been covered.

Let's Start at the Beginning

There was a time, anthropologists tell us, when humans felt at one with nature. This can still be seen today in primitive cultures. Called pantheism, humans felt they were an integral part of the ecosystem. The Divine showed itself in many forms and was present in all things.

But as humans grew more self aware, they began to feel they were separate from All-That-Is. The myth of Adam and Eve recalls the time when humans parted company with the view that they could commune with the Divine. They cut the cord by exercising free will.

No longer seeing God in themselves and in others, we humans conjured up gods outside ourselves. In ancient Greece, for example, many gods representing various human qualities were thought to

exist. The worldview that evolved in those ancient times had man in the middle between two worlds a place the Chinese referred to as the Middle Kingdom. The gods lived above the clouds of Mt. Olympus, although they did come to earth now and then, mostly to cause problems for humans.

Below the Middle Kingdom—what caused it to be in the middle—was the underworld, home of the dead, where Hades was in charge and the three-headed dog Cereberus guarded a gate one got to after crossing the River Styx.

Different cultures had different takes on this three-layered universe. Then as now, ideas about God and gods differed depending on the group one belonged to. The Egyptians had Bal. The Jews had the god of Abraham. The Romans and the Greeks had a pantheon full.

Then came Jesus of Nazareth and the idea emerged that only one God ruled over creation although He did have angels and eventually saints who took up some of the positions left vacant by departing Roman and Greek gods. This God tended to be anthropomorphic—a man with a long white beard—as can be seen in Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine chapel.

In 1994 Karen Armstrong published a book, *A History of God,* which chronicled history of the emergence of the concept of one God. Because of this idea, the worldview changed somewhat. God and angels replaced the pantheon of gods above the clouds. A fallen angel, Satan, replaced Hades. The place below the ground became hell rather than the underworld—where evildoers went. The good folk would be raised at the end of time on judgment day and given new, light bodies.

This view held sway for better than a thousand years but was destined to change again because of a new scientific discovery by Christopher Columbus (1451-1506).

Columbus lived on high ground overlooking a Mediterranean harbor. I have visited the ruin of what is said to be the house where he grew up. In that part of the world there is almost no humidity and the air is very clear. If Columbus had good eyes, he would not even have needed a spyglass to see ships climb up over the horizon as they approached the harbor. I've witnessed this myself. Columbus could see the world was round and he must have decided to prove it by sailing west to get to the spice islands of the East Indies.

Columbus apparently never realized it, but he didn't actually get there. Nevertheless, some of Ferdinand Magellan's (1480-1521) crew did, and beyond. Of the 237 men who set out on five ships in 1519, 18 actually completed the circumnavigation of the globe and returned to Spain in 1522.

The newly realized fact that the world was round forced the then commonly held worldview to change. Nevertheless, since people and, most important, Church leaders believed that God had created it, the earth remained at the center of the universe. Now heaven, the dwelling place of God, was seen as being somewhere above the stars. Hell was still beneath the ground, down where it was hot, the place from which molten lava spewed when volcanoes erupted.

It wasn't long before this worldview had to be updated. A fellow named Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543) determined the sun was at the center of the solar system. But the Church—the authority back then as science is today—pretty much ignored this concept because it did not go along with accepted canon.

A century later, along came Galileo Galilei (1564–1642), a man who would not leave well enough alone. Galileo—among other things an as-

tronomer—championed Copernicus's assertion as proven fact. As a result, Galileo started having to watch his back. This was heresy. At that time people were being burned at the stake for less. Indeed, the leaders of the Church told Galileo he'd better recant, and he did. As a result, Galileo got off easy, spending the final years of his life under house arrest on orders of the Inquisition.

But even the Church couldn't keep word from getting out. Gradually, the accepted views of the day began to change.

In 1675, a Dutchman named Antoni van Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723) —an amateur lens grinder and microscope builder—saw for the first time tiny organisms he called "animalcules" living in stagnant water. He also spotted them in scum collected from his teeth. Leeuwenhoek didn't know or even speculate that "animalcules" might cause disease. It took until the nineteenth century and Louis and Marie Pasteur for that revelation to dawn. At the time, the idea creatures so small they were invisible to the naked eye entered the body to make a person sick and sometimes die would have seemed totally absurd. It was thought demons and the devil caused such things, or that God did it to punish sinners. In 1692 Salem, 18 were hanged and one was

crushed to death because they were thought to be witches in league with Satan. No wonder after that, and down until today, the idea of Satan and demons and witchcraft was thought to be pure superstition. To believe in such things was to invite witch-hunts and mass hysteria, and nobody wanted that.

Even so, a new day was dawning, a period alternately referred to as "The Age of Enlightenment" and "The Age of Reason." An English philosopher, Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), had argued that aside from God—the "first cause" who created the material world—nothing existed that is not of the material world. The logic he used was simple. How could it if God created everything?

This view was ultimately to lead to the great clock maker theory, the idea that God created the universe, wound it up, let it go, and was no longer involved in its operation. Natural laws also had been created that kept going what had been set in motion. Called Deism, many founding fathers, including Thomas Jefferson, subscribed to this view. Jefferson.

Hobbes had a big impact on the Age of Enlightenment, which was to pick up steam in the eighteenth century. But the big kahuna was Sir Isaac Newton (1643 - 1727), an English physicist,

mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist, and theologian. Certainly one of the most influential men of all time, his *Philosophia Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, published in 1687, is considered to be the groundwork for most of classical mechanics. Newton described universal gravitation and the three laws of motion that dominated the scientific view of the physical universe at least until the advent of quantum mechanics. It seems safe to say Thomas Hobbes's materialistic view of reality coupled with Newton's mechanistic view is the bedrock of scientific thinking today, except among quantum physicists.

The prevailing worldview that emerged from the Age of Reason was that the universe might be compared to a giant machine. The Sun was at the center of the solar system. The Earth and planets revolved around it. Nothing existed but the material world. What was thought of in the seventeenth century and earlier as the invisible world of spirit did not exist. Everything that happened had a logical cause. Natural laws governed everything.

In 1859 an Englishman, Charles Darwin, published *On the Origin of Species*, a seminal work in scientific literature and a landmark work in evolutionary biology. Its full title, *On the Origin of*

Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life, uses the term "races" to mean biological varieties. Darwin's book introduced the theory that populations evolve over the course of generations through a process of natural selection. It presented a body of evidence indicating the diversity of life arose through a branching pattern of evolution and common descent. In other words, God had not created the variety of life on the planet, nor had He created humans. All this had happened through a natural—what might be seen as mechanical—process. This became accepted as fact among the educated classes.

But astute scientists then and now realized something important was missing from Darwin's theory. It cannot be reconciled with the second law of thermodynamics, or the Law of Entropy—the fact that in a closed system things tend to break down and fall apart, rather than get better. In other words, your old car is not going to get better all by itself. It's going to require outside help, meaning you are going to have to write a check or pull out a credit card.

How then could life get more complex by accident? What caused DNA and it's complicated computer-code like structure that directs the

manufacture of proteins? What caused eyes, a kidneys, a hearts, ears, and all those complex systems to develop? We can guess from the theories outlined in this book it has something to do with the life force—the underlying intelligence, subjective mind, push-me pull-me effect coupled with grace. Of course, that's speculation on my part, and only a few people such as Thomas Troward [1847-1916] considered such things back then. Most ignored his theory and overlooked the flaw. Many still do today.

Darwin's theories reinforced the rationalist idea that the so called supernatural was a figment of human imagination and—not wanting to be burned at the stake—most scientists probably wanted to keep it safely buried. Life and its diversity were results of a natural process known as survival of the fittest coupled with the environment in which a particular species had evolved. Intelligence and mind had evolved as life had evolved and had reached its pinnacle in humans. Mind and intelligence were produced by an organ, the brain, which had resulted from this evolution. Thought was created by the brain and would later be envisioned as being a result of electrons jumping across synapses. It was contained within the skull. ESP

was impossible and so was remote viewing and mediumship.

With this worldview, a wedge was inserted and hammered in between science, religion and any possibility of things so called supernatural or paranormal. Hobbes had said nothing existed but the physical. If this were so, where could God possibly reside? What about the heavenly hosts? Thought was contained within the skull so what possible good could prayer do?

A line was drawn. Educated men and women could not believe in God and prayer or angels or ghosts and demons, which were seen as figments of ignorance and superstition. Many may have had a yearning for God—as humans seem to for the spiritual—but could not rationalize His existence. All were forced to choose between religion and science, though many attempted to straddle the line—as they still do today.

Now, in the first quarter of the twenty-first century, this worldview continues to be the only socially acceptable one in some circles. But there are signs it is beginning to crumble. Hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, have shifted to a new worldview based on a new branch of science called quantum mechanics and the findings of scientific

research that do not fit the materialist-reductionist mold.

Let's look at some of the pioneers who have not been afraid to speak out, as well as their ideas and discoveries that conflict with the prevailing nineteenth-twentieth century worldview. The following does not in any way represent an exhaustive list. My apologies to anyone who feels left out, and to anyone who thinks I have overlooked a key figure.

Matter = Energy

In 1905, Albert Einstein (1879-1955), a Germanborn theoretical physicist, published a paper proving that light behaves both as a wave and as particles. This, as well as Einstein's famous formula, $E = MC^2$, indicates reality and matter are not what they seem. Matter or mass as it is referred to in this formula is equivalent to energy and vice versa.

In 1912 Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung (1875-1961) published *Wandlungen und Symbole der Libido* (known in English as The Psychology of the Unconscious) that postulated a collective unconscious, sometimes known as collective subconscious. According to Jung there is an un-

conscious mind shared by a society, a people, or all humanity, that is the product of ancestral experience and contains such concepts as the classic archetypes, science, religion, and morality.

Quantum physicists came along who expanded on Einstein's work. Niels Henrik David Bohr, a Danish physicist, made fundamental contributions to understanding atomic structure and quantum mechanics, for which he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922. He is quoted as having said, "Everything we call real is made of things that cannot be regarded as real."

Nothing is really solid. Everything is energy—vibrations.

As we know from our earlier discussion, in the early 1930s a man named J. B. (Joseph Banks) Rhine moved from Harvard University to Duke to set up a parapsychology laboratory. Rhine not only founded the parapsychology lab at Duke, he also founded the *Journal of Parapsychology* and the Foundation for Research on the Nature of Man. His double blind studies conducted largely between 1930 and 1960 established that ESP exists and is real. Not mentioned in our earlier discussion, they also showed psycho kinesis—mind over matter is real as well, at least to a small degree.

His findings were either scoffed at or ignored by the scientific community then as they continue to be today.

In 1953, Eugen Herrigel (1884-1955), a German philosopher who taught philosophy at Tohoku Imperial University in Sendai, Japan, from 1924-1929 published the book, *Zen and the Art of Archery*. This introduced Zen Buddhism to the West and the concept that "All Is One," i.e., everything is connected rather than made up of separate parts. How else could Zen masters shoot arrows while blindfolded and consistently hit the bull's-eyes of targets many yards away?

In 1966 a British philosopher named Alan Watts (1915-1973) published a book called *The Book: On the Taboo Against Knowing Who You Are* that went into detail about Buddhist thought. Known as an interpreter and popularizer of Asian philosophies for a Western audience, Watts wrote more than 25 books and numerous articles on subjects such as personal identity, the true nature of reality, higher consciousness and the meaning of life. His writings and ideas fueled a new movement which came to be known as New Age.

As discussed, a polygraph expert named Cleve Backster began research in 1966 that demonstrated

living plants tune into the thoughts and intentions of humans as well as other aspects of their environments, thus indicating some sort of hidden mental connection between living things. His findings were ridiculed, but have since been confirmed by other researchers.

In 1978 a young man with a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and an M.D. from Georgia Medical School named Raymond Moody (born 1944) published a book called *Life After Life*, in which he detailed the experiences of people who had been clinically dead and resuscitated.

Also in 1978, a psychiatrist named M. Scott Peck (1936-2005) published a book that became a huge bestseller called, *The Road Less Travelled: A New Psychology Of Love, Traditional Values And Spiritual Growth.* Among other things, Peck's book dealt with the phenomenon of grace. He said grace was both common and to a certain extent, predictable. He also wrote that, "grace will remain unexplainable within the conceptual framework of conven*tional science and 'natural law' as we understand* it." Grace is the unseen force that brings the best possible results out of unfortunate events and circumstances, i.e., "every cloud has a silver lining." In Peck's own words, "There is a force, the mech-

anism of which we do not fully understand, that seems to operate routinely in most people to protect and encourage their physical health even under the most adverse conditions." His book gives specific examples.

In 1979, Gary Zukav, a former Green Beret during the war in Vietnam, published a book called the Dancing *Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics.* Targeted for laymen, it explained the basics of quantum physics in everyday language, i.e., without the use of complicated mathematics. Zukav concluded that "the philosophical implication of quantum mechanics is that all of the things in our universe (including us) that appear to exist independently are actually parts of one all-encompassing organic pattern, and that no parts of that pattern are ever really separate from it or from each other."

Also in 1979, James Lovelock published a book called *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth* that explained his idea that life on earth functions as a single organism. In contrast to the conventional belief that living matter is passive in the face of threats to its existence, the book explored the hypothesis that the earth's living matter—air, ocean, and land surfaces—forms a complex system that has the capacity to keep the Earth a fit place for life. Since Gaia was first published, many of Jim Lovelock's predictions have come true.

In the mid 1980s a television series appeared on PBS called *The Power of Myth,* featuring author and Sarah Lawrence College Comparative Religion Professor, Joseph Campbell (1904-1987). These programs made an impact on a significant segment of the public and opened their eyes to the possibility of the existence of what might be termed "a spiritual dimension." This can be summed up using Campbell's own words, "Anyone who has had an experience of mystery knows there is a dimension of the universe that is not available to his senses."

In July, 1988, Dr. Randolph Byrd, a cardiologist, published an article in the *Southern Medical Journal* about the effects of prayer on cardiac patients. Over a ten-month period, he used a computer to assign 393 patients admitted to the coronary care unit at San Francisco General Hospital either to a group that was prayed for by home prayer groups (192 patients), or to a group that was not prayed for (201). A double blind test, neither the patients, doctors, nor the nurses knew which group a patient was in.

The patients who were remembered in prayer had remarkably, and a statistically significant num-

ber of better experiences and outcomes than those who were not prayed for. Also, fewer prayed-for patients died, although the difference between groups in this case was not large enough to be considered statistically significant.

In 1994 Rupert Sheldrake, a British biochemist whose theory has already been discussed, published a book called, *A New Science of Life*. The editors of the British journal, *Nature*, called this book, "the best candidate for burning there has been for many years."

In 1995, Raymond Chiao, a Hong Cong native and quantum physicist then teaching at the University of California at Berkeley, published a paper about a series of experiments. The paper, reported upon in a July 1995 issue of *Newsweek* magazine, said that what researchers knew or did not know about certain aspects of each experiment had a predictable determination on their outcomes. In other words, what was in the researchers' minds i.e. thought—apparently determined the result. In the *Newsweek* article reporting on this, Nobel Prize winning physicist Richard Feynman was quoted as having said this is the "central mystery" of quantum mechanics, that something as intangible as knowledge—in this case, which slit a photon went

through—changes something as concrete as a pattern on a screen.

In 2001, F. Holmes Atwater published the book already discussed detailing how he set up and managed—from 1979 until his retirement from the Army in 1988—a remote viewing unit of U. S. Army intelligence.

Also in 2001, a study published in the September issue of the Journal of Reproductive Medicine showed that prayer was able to double the success rate of in vitro fertilization procedures that lead to pregnancy. The findings revealed that a group of women who had people praying for them had a 50 percent pregnancy rate compared to a 26 percent rate in the group of women who did not have anyone praying for them. In the study-led by Rogerio Lobo, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons—none of the women undergoing the IVF procedures knew about the prayers on their behalf. Nor did their doctors. In fact, the 199 women were in Cha General Hospital in Seoul, Korea, thousands of miles from those praying for them in the U.S., Canada and Australia. This collaborates with other studies and quantum physics theory that distance is not a factor at the subatomic level of mind.

Studies similar to this have been and are being carried out by a consortium of scientists put together by Lynne McTaggart, author of the book published in 2002, *THE FIELD: The Quest for the Secret Force of the Universe*, and her 2008 release, *The INTENTION EXPERIMENT: Using Your Thoughts to Change Your Life* and the World. When she was on my show in early 2008, she described some of these experiments and the terrific success she and her colleagues have had. She said several of these studies were already being prepared for publication.

In 2007, Stephen E. Braude, then a professor of philosophy at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, published *The Gold Leaf Lady and Other Parapsychological Investigations*. The book tells the story of Katie, a woman who demonstrated that mind can produce matter—in this case brass: 80% copper and 20% zinc with its huge implications for quantum physics and the origins of the physical universe. I report on this in detail in other books.

Also in 2008, Julie Beischel, Ph.D., whose work was covered earlier, published a peer-reviewed paper in *The Journal of Parapsychology* in which she concluded, "... certain mediums can report accurate and specific information about the deceased loved ones (termed "discarnates") of living people

(termed "sitters") even without any prior knowledge about the sitters or the discarnates and in the complete absence of any sensory sitter feedback. Moreover, the information reported by these mediums cannot be explained as a result of fraud or 'cold reading' (a set of techniques in which visual and auditory cues from the sitter are used to fabricate 'accurate' readings) on the part of the mediums or bias on the part of the sitters."

After reviewing where we started, and how we got where we are today, it seems to me that people in primitive cultures that believed in pantheism were much closer to the truth than their descendants—all the way down to the present day. Humans in those prehistoric days believed that the Divine showed itself in many forms and was present in all living things. Replace the word "Divine" with "consciousness," and that appears to be what the modern research touched on in this book indicates.

And so it comes down to this: We live in a world of information overload. So much comes at us every day it's impossible to take it all in. This may be one reason the water building up behind the dam has not yet broken through. Maybe so much information has numbed our minds, or put us to

sleep. Living in cities far from the natural world does not help. Those primitive peoples were surrounded by the consciousness exhibited by nature. Take a walk in the woods. Stop, quiet your mind, listen, and you may see that for yourself.

The time has come to acknowledge that we are not comparable to machines—as the nineteenthtwentieth century paradigm still holding sway would have us believe. We are not assemblies of parts that somehow evolved out of the muck and developed a computer-like organ called the brain that miraculously creates awareness inside our skulls. It is now clear that when the brain dies, the lights do not go out.

Here's a brief summary of what I think: The lights do not go out because the brain and the body are simply a means to an end. The brain-body combination is a way for a spark of eternal consciousness—a sliver of the ubiquitous whole—to enter into and experience the physical world and the illusion that we are separate from the rest of reality. Perhaps we come here once. Perhaps we come here hundreds or thousands of times. Maybe physical reality is a great big amusement park—a diversion. Maybe it's a school. I happen to believe it's both, and, as I said at the beginning of this book, we come here for the experience, and thereby to learn, develop, and fine tune qualities such as compassion, tenacity, and patience.

This time in history is the right time for us to realize who we are and what we are doing here because many of us have lost our way. We've forgotten that we are eternal, that we are each unique concentrations of the ubiquitous consciousness that permeates reality. We have forgotten that currently we are experiencing what it is to inhabit physical reality. As it says in the *Bhagavad Gita*, "There has never been a time when you and I have not existed . . . There will never be a time when we will cease to be." Once this becomes widely known—known, because the truth is taught in schools instead of Scientific Materialism—the world will become a much, much better place.

And you know what? Once every 18 to 20 year old male knows the truth, the killings will stop. That, by itself, is reason enough to get the word out.

Help me out, will you? Help us all. Pass this book to people you may know who remain in denial, and to others who might be willing to take up the mantle of spreading the truth. Take it to school board meetings and ask why outdated, patently false nineteenth century science is still being

taught. Call attention to what this book contains, the questions it raises, and the benefits that would accrue from spreading the information in it. Let's wake up everyone with an open mind so that they can join with us and help make the world a better place to live, to prosper, and to learn. Doing so would go a long, long way toward eliminating the hopelessness and despair of nihilism.

Please, please don't close this book and forget about it. To borrow Nike's slogan, "Just do it!" You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

One final thought: Wouldn't it feel great to have been one who helped make the world a better place?

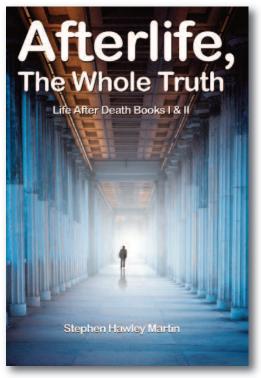
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About Stephen Hawley Martin and a Few Books He's Written



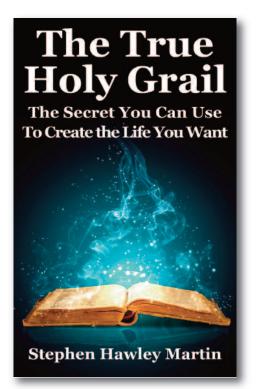
Stephen Hawley Martin is an author, publisher and marketing consultant. You can learn more about him and get in touch with him through his website:

www.shmartin.com



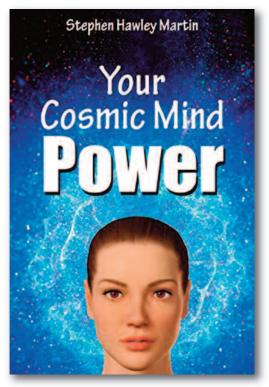
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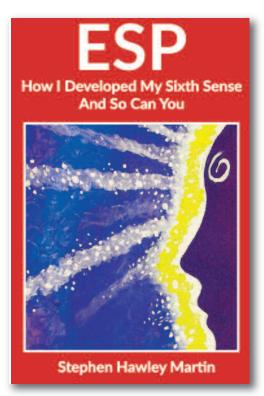
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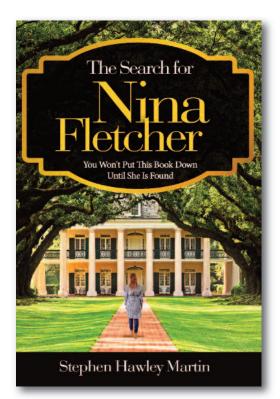


The Meaning of Life and What to Do about It



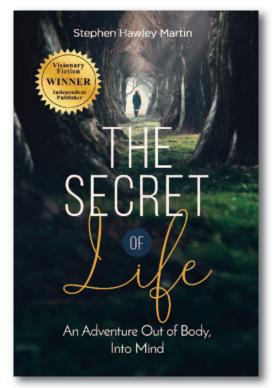
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