

Consciousness studies and quantum theory examine near death experiences.

Unexplained Consciousness Events: Exploring the Possibilities

by Robert De Filippis


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UNEXPLAINED CONSCIOUSNESS EVENTS:

**EXPLORING
THE POSSIBILITIES**



JOURNEY TO A SPACE WHERE
SCIENCE AND RELIGION MEET.

ROBERT DE FILIPPIS

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| Introduction..... | 1 |
| Chapter 1 - The Illusion of Materialism | 11 |
| Chapter 2 - Dashing Toward Post Materialism..... | 17 |
| Chapter 3 - The Closed Loop: Ontology – Epistemology - Ontology | 31 |
| Chapter 4 - Factors Affecting the Study of Near Death Experiences | 41 |
| Chapter 5 - What is Death..... | 55 |
| Chapter 6 - Where is Consciousness?..... | 65 |
| Chapter 7 - The Mystery of the Quantum Enters the Debate | 75 |
| Chapter 8 - Consciousness, the Quantum, and NDEs..... | 85 |
| Chapter 9 - Selected Cases of NDEs..... | 95 |
| Chapter 10 - Probing Deeper | 105 |
| Chapter 11 - Time, the Brain, and Their Implications..... | 113 |
| Chapter 12 - Language Reveals and Obscures Reality..... | 125 |
| Chapter 13 - A New Paradigm..... | 133 |
| | |
| PART TWO - True or False | 145 |
| Chapter 14 - The Illusion of Certainty | 147 |
| Chapter 15 - A Challenge to Prevailing Ontology and Epistemology | 155 |
| Chapter 16 - I, Observer..... | 165 |
| Chapter 17 - Observers and Cognitive Maps..... | 175 |
| | |
| Bibliography | 193 |
| | |
| Notes and Glossary | 197 |

Introduction

Why read this book? Some possible reasons are:

- You have experienced an unexplained consciousness event like a premonition of something that happened, or communication with someone without the aid of an artificial device, or a dream that became a reality.
- You have suspicions there's more to life than we can explain with our current scientific theories.
- You are naturally curious and want to explore the full potential of human possibilities.
- You've been told these things are not real and only a figment of your imagination.

These are all excellent reasons to take the time and make the effort to read and understand this book. I can't promise complete answers to your questions. But you can expect to come away with a greater appreciation for the basis of religion, the potential for the unification of science and religion as lenses on reality that don't need to be in conflict. Maybe a new understanding of your potential and an appreciation for this planet's web of life of which we are a part.

This book is a study in phenomenology¹ using Near Death Experiences as a probe that provides a clear focus on the message and not the noise in the system. NDEs are subjective experiences. And humans have had individual experiences that fall outside the scientific models of explanation as long as there have been humans.

So, while it might be appropriate to wait until new scientific discoveries offer an acceptable explanation, that doesn't usually happen. Instead, all kinds of religious mythology, pseudo-science, and repudiations develop in the place of reliable explanations. The challenge is to ignore the noise and hold tight for the truth when and if it comes.

Unfortunately, we will not discover the final truth in this book. But we will be able to separate the fraudulent from the authentic. And by doing so open new awarenesses that can benefit all of humanity.

All that said, let's start with some astounding stories of real live people having unexplained consciousness experiences that defy understanding by what we call our common sense.

Case 1

The following quote came from Abraham Lincoln's dream journal verbatim: "There seemed to be a death-like stillness about me. Then I heard subdued sobs as if a number of people were weeping. I thought I left my bed and wandered downstairs. There the silence was broken by the same pitiful sobbing, but the mourners were invisible. I went from room to room; no living person was in sight, but the same mournful sounds of distress met me as I passed along. I saw light in all the rooms; every object was familiar to me; but where were all the people who were grieving as if their hearts would break? I was puzzled and alarmed. What could be the meaning of all this? Determined to find the cause of a state of things so mysterious and so shocking, I kept on until I arrived at the East Room, which I entered. There I met with a sickening surprise. Before me was a catafalque on which rested a corpse wrapped in funeral vestments. Around it were stationed soldiers who were acting as guards; and there was a throng of people, gazing mournfully upon the corpse, whose face was covered, others weeping pitifully. 'Who is dead in the White House?' I demanded of one of the soldiers, 'The President,' was his answer; 'he was killed by an assassin.' Then came a loud burst of grief from the crowd, which woke me from my dream."

Lincoln continued to be vexed by the dream, (Dreaming is considered another form of consciousness.) which occurred about a week before his assassination. "Although it was only a dream, I have been strangely annoyed by it ever since," he wrote. Obviously, he anticipated his own assassination."

Case 2

A nightmare awakens a woman at four A.M. In it, a dear family friend has a severe medical crisis. Not wanting to wake his family, she

waits until an appropriate time to call. She calls to hear her friend's wife tells her he had a massive stroke during the night. He subsequently dies.

Case 3

A lady is bedside as a dear friend is dying. Suddenly, the room fills with an intense, brilliant light. She had never experienced this kind of light in her life before. When her friend breathed her last breath, the light disappeared. The experience of this light is reported in many other similar situations.

Case 4

A young woman calls her father on two occasions to tell him that two of her siblings were going to be parents before they told her. She was right. Two children were born to her siblings precisely as she had predicted.

Case 5

An elderly lady living with one of her daughters tells her that her other daughter in another state is terminally ill, a fact kept from her mother. Her daughter, confused about how she knew, asks how her mother came to know this. The mother tells her, "your father told me last night in a dream." Her father had died recently.

Case 6

With eyes taped shut and molded speakers inserted into her ears to emit loud clicks, the patient was fully anesthetized. The doctor opened her scalp with a unique tool to expose her brain. She had been cooled to 60 degrees F. Her brain stem showed no responses from the clicking in her ears. Her brain was in total shutdown.

After the surgery, she accurately described the 20 doctors, nurses, and technicians in the room, 17 of whom she had never met, provided

a detailed description of the unique tool used to cut open her skull, and the cardiac surgeon's surprise at finding her femoral artery² too small to use.

Case 7

A woman recovers from a near death experience and reports meeting a loved one who she didn't know had died while she was having the experience.

Case 8

A woman while unconscious during a heart attack has an out of body experience and sees a tennis shoe on a ledge below a window of the third story of the hospital. A nurse later verifies that the shoe was there and based on the accuracy of her description, the only way the woman could have seen it is by hovering near it.

Case 9

In the 1980's at the height of the AIDS epidemic when it was a death sentence, Dr. Elizabeth Targ, and Dr. Fred Sicher, conducted a remote healing experiment. After four months of searching, they located an eclectic assortment of 40 religious, spiritual, and other types of healers across America. They then divided a group of twenty patients of similar levels of advanced disease into two groups. Each of the healers was asked to hold an intention for health and well-being of the patient for an hour a day, six days a week, for ten weeks. During the six months of the trial period all ten of the patients in the healing group were not only still alive but had become healthier based on medical evaluations. Forty percent of the control group (not in the healing group) died. (McTaggart, 2002)

Case 10

A lady sitting in a church service hears a woman's voice say, "He is dying now. He is dying now." She looked at her watch. It was 10:30. After services, she went to her neighbor's house to check on her lady friend's husband because he had been ill. She was told he died. She asked, "what time." The answer was 10:30.

A different genre

These cases call for a book written in a different literary genre. The information that follows is not purely science and not purely speculation. This book falls into a genre called speculative non-fiction. The challenge involved in writing this genre with integrity means doing four things well: 1. Stating the foundations of my topics. 2. Stating my tentative conclusions. 3. Showing the basis for these conclusions. 4. Clearly identifying my speculations.

All this as preamble; the following section is offered for your review when you encounter ideas here that just don't seem reasonable to you. (And there will be many)

Foundation: Mechanistic universe fails to explain consciousness.

The West's model of reality is based on Newtonian physics³ with Einsteinian enhancements. It's called materialism and says the universe is a purely material, deterministic, place where we and the objects we observe are separate and distinct. Where what happens to others does not affect us; where there is no meaning or purpose other than what we make of it. It says it is a cold, dead space, coming into existence purely by accident and made up of matter and energy.

Writer Terrance McKenna¹ offers this, "The sober men of science are saying the universe sprang from nothing for no reason. Science is

¹Terence Kemp McKenna was an American ethnobotanist, mystic, psychonaut, lecturer, author, and an advocate for the responsible use of naturally occurring psychedelic plants. He spoke and wrote about a variety of subjects, including psychedelic drugs, plant-based entheogens, shamanism, metaphysics, alchemy,

saying give us one free miracle, and we'll explain the rest." In other words, everything that exists came out of a single point smaller than a golf ball, completely by accident, and no one knows how or why.

To add a bit more mystery, science can only explain five percent of the universe. The other 95 percent remains a mystery. So, based on this background, we are to accept that because multibillions of repeating human consciousness experiences cannot be explained scientifically, we are not to take them as necessary or relevant to our understanding of consciousness.

It should be no surprise to say that this model fails to explain the whole process of consciousness to anyone paying attention.

But progress is being made. As we learned in quantum physics that consciousness is central in understanding how the universe works at the subatomic level and as its study advances, two primary theories have emerged in contrast to each other: 1. Production theory – consciousness is produced by the brain's physiological functions. 2. Reduction theory– consciousness is universal and a primary element in the cosmos and the brain tunes in and receives only that which we need to function at this level of the universe. The first is based on traditional Newtonian Mechanics called Materialism. The second is based on the newer science of Quantum Mechanics ⁴ called Post-Materialism.

Tentative Conclusions: We need a new explanation.

Being that the production theory of consciousness is understood as a purely physiological process, it fails to explain at least two particular, observable functions of consciousness: 1. The brain, a physical object, interacts with the mind, a non-physical phenomenon and vice versa. This fact flies directly in the face of the scientific axiom that this is not possible, i.e., the material cannot interact with the non-material. 2. Consciousness, a non-physical phenomenon, affects the outcomes of physical/scientific experiments as discovered

language, philosophy, culture, technology, environmentalism, and the theoretical origins of human consciousness.

with the classical double-slit experiment. Thousands of experiments have proven this fact, and while theories abound, current science cannot explain it.

There must be another explanation.

Key Facts: We do not experience the universe as it is.

Cognitive science and theoretical physics tell us the universe does not function as we perceive it. We are limited by our sensory systems and adapted to operate in what we call the classical 3 D or space-time level of the cosmos. We also know at the most basic level of the universe everything connects to everything else.

What appears to us as distinct and separate objects are temporal-spatial extensions of that basic fabric that last as long as the conditions that create them exist. We also know that we cannot separate the observed from the observer and by this awareness recognize that we create our own subjective experience. As we will see later in this book, some cognitive scientists have shown by mathematical calculation the speed of the brain alone is not fast enough to create consciousness. We know the conscious interpretation of our perceptions requires access to memories. And finally, we know memories are not stored in the brain but don't know where they are. (Epstein, 2017)

Specific unexplained consciousness events explored in this book are not possible within the context created by the current Newtonian, or Materialist model. The new discoveries mentioned above, i.e., Post-Materialism, offer more and better possibilities for more accurate explanations.

Speculation: Unexplained consciousness events offer new clues.

A different model, Post-Materialism, incorporating quantum theories and new findings in the neurosciences offer us more possibilities for understanding how consciousness affects the physical level of reality.

Anecdotal accounts and formal records of unexplained consciousness events, UCEs, as those cases listed in the Introduction,

provide sufficient reason to believe something authentic is happening and this creates the curiosity to explore these events further. A particular category of UCE, the Near Death Experience, NDE, and the enormous body of legitimate research on same, provides the opportunity to examine human consciousness in unusual circumstances to create a fuller understanding of the entire process.

Although some NDE researchers conclude that NDEs prove the existence of the supernatural, this is not a book about the supernatural. This book proposes what we have called the supernatural might be another level of this universe. If this is true, what we have called the supernatural, i.e., those experiences that seem to happen outside our usual way of understanding and explaining them, might be classified as occurring at levels of the universe we just don't have access to from our classical 3 D space-time level.

Be prepared to be challenged

What follows is not light reading. It is not for the reader who wants to relax and be distracted from their daily woes. It is a book that can transform you.

It is a serious treatment of a serious topic for serious readers. We will delve into the depths of the nature of the universe and the creation of our personal reality. It may be deeper than you prefer to go. And yet, here is the paradox: The deeper we go, the better we see our highest potential. At this level, we get a glimpse of our peak possibilities; we might even call it the essence of our existence.

The journey is difficult. It will take effort to absorb what you read. It will require that you re-read portions to grasp the content.

But, if you read it and absorb what's here, I promise it will enhance your view of who you are and your future possibilities. It will explain how the universe provides the canvas upon which you co-create your reality. You will recognize that you are connected to everyone and everything else. You will get a glimpse of your power to have the life you want, not without physical limitations, but certainly, more than you think you can now.

We are all integral parts of the universe, a universe that lies within such infinitesimal and gigantic proportions we can't even apprehend, let alone comprehend its mysteries.

My overarching purpose

I hope to legitimize a layperson's discussion about a topic that Western religion and science both consider their private domain of inquiry. I hope to start a conversation about possibilities.

Because it is only when ordinary people like us begin to comprehend that we are connected to and not separate from everyone else; that we are deeply dependent on this planet's web of life, of which we are a part, that positive change will begin. Until then, our futures and the futures of our children will remain in the hands of those who control the tools of destruction. These are the tools being used every day to deplete our natural resources and decimate our planet. And this all depends on a wrong-headed notion of infinite growth on a finite planet.

Build a strong learning ladder

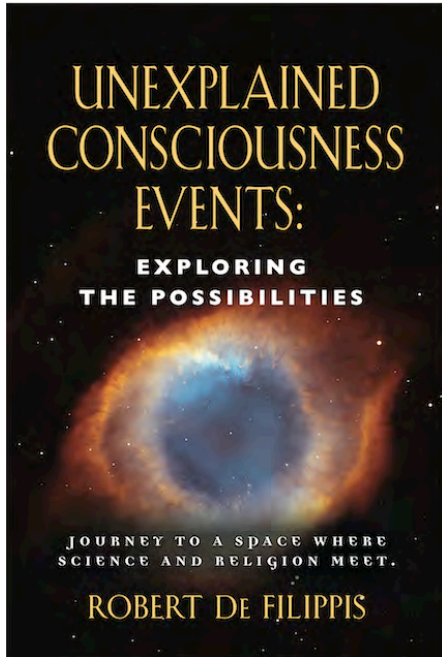
We learn new information by adding it to existing knowledge we already possess. Think of this as a learning ladder. It's difficult if not impossible to skip the early lessons and advance to the more complex without it. So, it's important to know one concept before you build the next one on it. It's rather like a house built on a weak foundation. It will not stand for long.

So, to assist, I've placed a note page at the end of each chapter. Use it to record the unfamiliar words that are just not used in our everyday conversations. When you finish each chapter be sure, you are familiar with all these unusual words in the text. Check the Notes and Glossary for definitions. These words represent the concepts upon which each new theory is based. Hopefully, this measured approach will help in absorbing the unfamiliar information in each chapter.

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Notes



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