

Introduction

In one episode of the famous 'Goon Show' called 'The Lost Gold mine of Shallot', Eckles the idiot asks Captain Grytpype-Thynne, the villain, 'How's your old Dad?' and he replies, 'I haven't heard from him since he died'. Eckles responds, 'Oh! I hope he isn't ill'.

This old joke worked for me because it assumes that no one could possibly hear from someone after they had died. However, once I had had that experience myself I couldn't agree with that assumption. I have also now discovered that there are many recorded cases of experiences of the Afterlife including: near death experiences; spontaneous and deliberate out-of-body experiences; death-bed visions and after death communications. As I combined the evidence provided by all of these types of experiences I was amazed to find they provided what I considered to be a consistent view of the Afterlife, at least the immediate Afterlife. In my book I have called this view experiential knowledge.

In these recorded cases I found a consensus which says that none of us ever dies. Our bodies die. Our brains die, but our intellect, our personalities and our memories live on, maybe not in heaven initially, depending on what we think heaven is, but in a kind of halfway house for a limited time or 'a lodging along the way'. Finding this insight was a mind blowing experience for me because it was different from what I had been taught to believe and yet it seemed to make perfect sense. It was as if an inner voice was whispering to me, 'This is true'.

For decades I had studied the evidence for life after death but the beliefs of Christianity and other world religions about these matters were sparse and contradictory. Now at last I had found something that gave a coherent cosmic view that was a different world-view from that of the Christian tradition and yet verifiable through direct evidence even if subjective.

I am a retired minister from a mainline denomination who is always searching for new truths but as one who comes from a biblically-based reformed tradition, I always hope that those new truths will be compatible with my Christian beliefs. So this book is the story of my personal journey of discovery, a gradual

compilation of other people's direct knowledge about the
Afterlife and a comparison of that knowledge with my own
beliefs about God, heaven and salvation.

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