

Personal Epilogue: Bridge Building

So this is the end of my story of striving to reconcile my new insights about the Afterlife with my old beliefs about God, heaven and salvation, but it is not the end of my personal journey of discovery. Day by day I keep affirming, modifying or adding to my store of experiential knowledge by my own and other people's direct knowledge. And day by day, as I continue my preaching and reading of the bible, I keep discovering Christian teachings that are more supportive of the 'new knowledge' than I had ever realised.

When I started my journey I thought that the wide gap between traditional beliefs of the Church on the one hand and experiential knowledge on the other could never be bridged. Then I found that many people in the church had already had paranormal experiences and believe in the world view of the psychics and mediums. In some cases they perceive little or no conflict between the two world-views as they continue to worship because, as one elderly lady in a retirement village said to me recently, ministers very rarely preach about heaven these days.

Nevertheless, I fervently hope this book will help even in a small way to build a bridge between the two world views. By interpreting the immediate Afterlife as 'a lodging along the way' or half-way house I have tried to show that the two types of knowledge can be reconciled and harmonised. I look forward to the day when the Churches will feel secure enough to regard experiential knowledge as an alternative, valid source of truth about the Afterlife. Then they may be able to integrate it into their own beliefs, as I have done with mine through the writing of this book.

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