

The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation Journal:

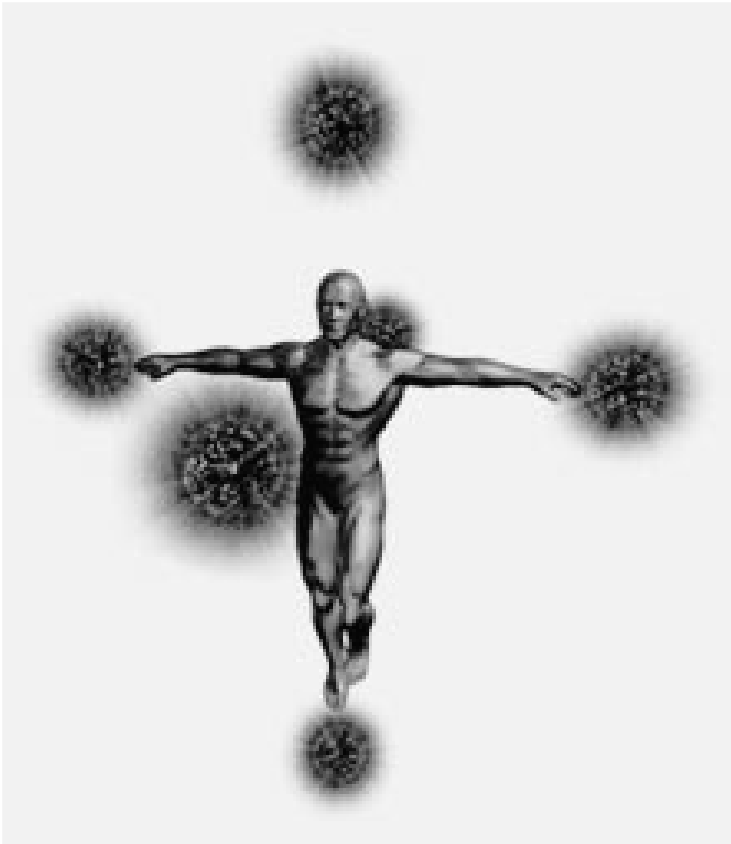
'The Great Beyond'

Issue Ten

Compiled by Marilyn Hughes

The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation!

www.outofbodytravel.org



The Vehram Energy System (vehram.com)
**(To have your Questions, Articles, Poetry or Art
included in future editions, submit to:
MarilynnHughes1@outofbodytravel.org!)**

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If this book is unavailable from your local bookseller, it may be obtained directly from the Out-of-Body Travel Foundation by going to www.outofbodytravel.org.

Having worked primarily in radio broadcasting, Marilynn Hughes spent several years as a news reporter, producer and anchor before deciding to stay at home with her three children. She's experienced, researched, written, and taught about out-of-body travel since 1987.

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Journal Ten: The Great Beyond

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The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation Journal:

'The Great Beyond'

Issue Ten

By Marilyn Hughes

I have little to say about this issue except that I think you will find it to be very interesting. Exploring the great beyond is a big subject, but we've given a few different viewpoints the opportunity to present themselves.

We begin with a question from Louise Carlson in the United States about Destiny and Prophecy which is so closely tied to our life and death in this world.

But we continue with a very interesting new science which has been discovered called 'The Vehram Energy System' which purports to prove life after death by scientific evidence of certain Energy Systems around the body. This system is also apparently being used by those who wish to learn how to have out-of-body experiences because it enables us to understand something more about the mechanism. Very interesting, hope you enjoy.

Following up with Dr. P.C. Simon, he shares three very well-researched articles on Death, Soul and Reincarnation. Just to make it interesting, Dr. James L. Choron contributes the story of the Aurora Incident in 1898, Texas. Very fascinating UFO story involving the life and death of some extra-terrestrials which expands our search into the great beyond even further, since it brings us into the question of life and death not just for humanity and the earth, but for others who may live in different life forms in our universe. How does it all fit? Big question . . .

Finally, we round it all off with a beautiful poem provided by Maria Scollo simply entitled 'Wings.' This poem covers the life journey of love very profoundly and beautifully, thus, framing our exploration.

We may pose more questions than we answer in this issue, but isn't that what out-of-body travel exploration is all about?

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The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation Journal:
Question and Answer Forum!

Please Send Your Questions to:

magazine@outofbodytravel.org

For Future Inclusion in this Section!

Question from Louise Carlson, USA: What is your opinion on destiny? Do you think that the future is already defined, or that there are several possible outcomes? If the future isn't already defined, what would be the place of prophesies?

Marilynn: Louise, very good question and a hard to answer one, also. But I will try.

If the future is already completely defined, than Free Will is a bust. So that's not really the case, even though there are what I would call 'guidelines' about our futures that may have a certain amount of predestination involved.

Prophecy is usually associated with things that will happen on a larger scale to humanity as a whole. Prophecies are given to warn humankind sometimes, and at other times to make an attempt to have humankind as a large body change its ways.

This was the case with Jonah. Part of the reason Jonah didn't want to give that prophecy to the Ninevites about their destruction was because he knew that if they DID repent, that destruction would be turned around and it might appear that his prophecy was false. But, in fact, that was the will of God that the Ninevites repent and they did so the destruction was averted.

But there are many other stories of prophecy that did, indeed, come true; Sodom and Gomorrah, the prophecies about the coming and the life of Jesus Christ, and a billion others in the bible and in our world.

In the 20th century, there were many Marian apparitions reported all over the world. If you check the prophecies given at Fatima, every single one of them came true, although the Lord had asked that we all pray the Rosary for peace around the world and the conversion of Russia. Obviously, not enough of us did this, and all the prophecies came to pass.

But in Garabandal, Spain, one of the prophecies about a chastisement that was to come was apparently averted according to one of the visionaries; although there still remains a HUGE chastisement to come which has not yet come to pass.

In our individual lives, our destinies are shaped by what we bring with us karmically, our own vices and virtues and the choices we make with the always present interaction of the will of God.

There are things in our lives which may be solely attributed to our own choices and free will, while there are other things in our lives which we KNOW God had to intervene. For instance, when we've received a special favor and were spared certain death, it is usually a protection given from God because of whatever destiny that we have yet to fulfill. This does not, however, mean that we can't completely blow our destiny and miss it entirely. We can . . . through free will. But oftentimes God will send protection for certain 'destinies', either our own, another or a larger destiny for humankind, even when we've made a bad decision which could mess it up. There

are many times, however, when people are not protected by their destiny. And it's not ALWAYS because of their OWN free will.

For instance, although I was given prophecies about the fall of the World Trade Center for about ten years before it happened, many destinies were cut short when it did indeed take place. Interestingly, I was shown the destinies of some of those people who had died needlessly due to the free will evil acts of a certain few. In these visions, I was show how God was redistributing some of those destinies to others which pertained to humanity as a greater whole. And destinies of a more personal nature were being taken up by family or close friends of victims so that unfinished business might be less unfinished for them. These things obviously were caused by no fault of the victims in this instance and many others like them around the world. They were caused by evil decisions of other free will toting humans around the world.

But if you'll recall, there were also several stories released of people who were spared that day, including a friend of mine who worked in the Pentagon. People missed planes, showed up late for work (outside of their normal character), had crazy things come up which prohibited them from being in the vicinity of the Towers that day. That was God's protection. It doesn't mean that those who died didn't deserve God's protection, it only means that those who died were either ready in God's eyes to cross, or that God could only save a certain few who had destinies which still remained unfinished that He felt strongly enough about preserving that He sent His emissaries to avert that destruction for them in particular.

How these decisions are made remains in the category of God's Mysterious Ways.

In my own experience, I can say that I believe that everybody does indeed have a 'destiny.' But that destiny is formed, changed, altered and fulfilled according to an intricate set of circumstances; free will, karma, vice, virtue, choices, etc.

Prophecy almost always pertains to a higher reality that has yet to emerge upon earth that is of a larger scale. And sometimes, it, too, can be averted through prayer, fasting, almsgiving, etc. That's according to the Apparitions of Mary, not me.

In 'The Mysteries of the Redemption,' there is a section entitled 'The Alteration Pathway,' which demonstrates very clearly how the mechanism of altering a reality that is almost certain to occur on the ground can be affected by God's servants in what is called the 'management realm.' This is the realm where all that we have forming around us to hit the ground is formed in energy first. That's where God moves to prevent things which will interfere with personal or planetary destiny. Reality is altered in this realm and a different outcome is afforded according to the will of God, not man.

So this is a great question, but one with great intricacy in answering because destiny is not always set in stone because humans are behind it. And prophecy, although it is most often fulfilled according to the letter, can sometimes be averted by the prayerful acts of a repentant people.

Thanks for the question,

*With love,
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The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation Journal:

Different Voices!

This is our section devoted to the writings and opinions of others, which may not reflect the views of author, Marilyn Hughes. Inclusion of any author's writings or work does not denote an endorsement or recommendation in regards to their writings.

Some of these will be individual writings of others on subjects of spiritual interest, other people's out-of-body experiences - some which may agree with and/or contradict the experiences of the author, poems, journals of spiritual transformation, and critiques - both positive and negative opinions and/or analysis, of the author's work.

We choose to include ALL of these because we feel that the ability to discuss our similarities and differences openly is 'ALL GOOD' as GANDHI used to say.

We welcome and encourage your submissions for possible future inclusion in this section, although we stress that we are a non-profit organization and payment is not available:

magazine@outofbodytravel.org

We have found that some of the best critiques, analysis, writings and experiences come from people all over the world in different walks of life who are pursuing their spiritual path with passion and are completely unknown.

THANK YOU ALL, whether you agree or disagree with our work, FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO SEEK THE TRUTH IN WHATEVER WAY THAT TRUTH MAY COME TO SEEK YOU!

The Vehram Energy System

Public Relations Team, Vehram.com

In the spring of 1994, Vessen Hopkins uncovered an external energy array, focused at specific key points outside the body. This incredible discovery represents the single most important breakthrough in the history of science and has implications that stand to unravel our greatest mystery, is there life after death.

The Vehram Energy System is an external energy array comprising six distinct energy centers, universally arranged in a unique and independently verifiable configuration, yet is entirely outside the human body. The energy that emanates from these energy centers is commonly recognized by astral projection practitioners as the "vibrational surge," the escape energy that fuels the separation.

The importance of this discovery to not only those who practice astral projection, but all of humanity, cannot be overstated. This is the key to one of our most mysterious phenomena, the out-of-body experience, thus opening the portal for all to exploring this natural ability and yet offers science a way to demonstrate the separate nature of consciousness by showing that we are indeed able to reach beyond the physical body to interact with this external energy array. Its properties are so unique, universal, and powerful, it simply cannot be dismissed as a figment of the imagination. The system exists for everyone and serves the same unique purpose, to fuel the astral body and enable consciousness to separate from the physical. Of particular curiosity to science is what happens when one makes direct contact with one of these energy centers.

After more than 13 years of research and investigation into this ethereal anomaly, Hopkins is making the discovery of the Vehram System known to all. Launching the site <http://vehram.com> and requesting your help, Hopkins hopes to spread the word to as many as possible. Anything you can do to help others learn about this incredible energy source would be greatly appreciated.

Anyone involved in metaphysical or other serious scientific research related to energy and or quantum mechanics could help by offering independent analysis and investigation. You may contact our research department by sending an email to research@vehram.com if you are interested in collaboration or other projects. It is important that science have an opportunity to explore this completely. However, there already exists compelling evidence that this energy system does exist. Millions of people have already felt its power. Different aspects of this energy system were in fact discovered by different people independently of one another, suggesting that it exists in exactly the same universal configuration for each of us, outside the body. Our ability to reach outside the body and independently determine the various locations prove that this energy array is a real manifestation, not the product of one person's illusion. If the energy system is real, then so is our ability to reach beyond the body.

Anyone can see for themselves how this energy system works and examine the evidence for themselves. All the information can be found through the site <http://vehram.com> and those interested can pick up a copy of Hopkins's new book, "Out-of-Body Experiences: the Vehram Energy System," which tells the story in length of how Hopkins stumbled onto the Vehram System and

offers a revolutionary technique for leaving the body, based on the newly understood fundamentals governing this natural ability.

Most importantly, we ask you to help spread the word. Help us share the message through the internet, through online sites, blogs, forums, etc. The more people who know the more enlightened we become through the spread of knowledge. This is the discovery that proves life after death and the Vehram Energy System represents a doorway to the other side so that we may see and explore that realm for ourselves, here and now, in this lifetime. It is personal knowledge of what comes next, what is on the other side. It is a path to understanding what we are, where we come from, and where we are going.

Thank you for your help and support,

Sincerely,
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Death

By Dr. P.C. Simon

Everybody thinks that death is the greatest calamity. That is not true. This article will prove that death is a "blessing" if we have the proper knowledge.

What is death? It is a complete and permanent separation of consciousness from the body.

The medical profession defines death as the cessation of heart beat, respiration, muscular movements, absence of reflexes, and a flat Electro Encephalogram as a result of brain death.

The time lapse between brain death and official recognition of death varies considerably in different countries. In France death is officially recognized only after 48 hours of brain death, 24 hours in the United States and Canada, and 5 minutes in Russia.

Though the brain dies in five minutes, other organs die at different rates; the heart in fifteen minutes, kidneys in 30 minutes. Skin can be used for graft after 24 hours, bones after 48 hours and arteries after 72 hours. The ability to recover and re-use organs, modern diagnostic systems, life support equipment, and procedures, such as renal dialysis and cancer radiation therapy, have extended considerably the Biblical life span of three score and ten.

Apart from the physical aspects of death, there is the psychological dimension, which affects both the dying person and those associated with him/her. Very few persons escape the fear of death and anxiety from the

review of his/her past life. It varies from person to person.

Except those suffering from agonizing pain, it is nearly always impossible to get prepared for death and for the unprepared; death can resemble a terrible calamity. It is like a fall into an abysmal hole.

It can be fear of hell or fear of separation from the dear ones, wife, children, father, mother or relatives. It can be the agony that he is leaving his wife and children without adequate provision. It can be regret for unfinished business and for wasted time. For this reason awareness of the oncoming death gives opportunity to get prepared for death.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, a Swiss psychiatrist recognized before death, five stages such as denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Anger gives rise to rage, envy, resentment and a feeling of "why me?" After a little while, he/she tries to change the mind of the Creator by bargaining, "If I change my mind and ways of living, will I get an extension?" Then again, the doubt comes. "I may not get an extension", and depression sets in with a feeling of, "No use of struggling" and finally, the fifth stage of acceptance is reached. Acceptance is associated with hope, anguish and fear.

A psychological dimension also affects those associated with the dying person. The wife and children question the dying person. "What is going to happen to us, who will take care of us? How can you leave us as orphans and go". It is the evaluation of their life without him/her. They may also begin to ponder about their own death.

For a doctor, the death of his patient can produce a feeling of personal failure. "I should have known better and tried other remedies." To the surgeon, it is a nagging question as to whether he did the right thing or not.

The nurse thinks, "Did I neglect to call for assistance in time, should I have called the doctor a few minutes earlier?"

The minister ponders, "Did I fail to pray for his recovery. Do I lack faith. How is it that God did not hear my prayer?"

Death comes to us in many ways. Accidental death, prearranged death, suicide, genocide, abortion, capital punishment, sudden death, peaceful death, murder, euthanasia, war, pestilence, and natural calamities are some of the means of our departure.

Accidental death may sometimes be painless because of its suddenness. But it takes away the opportunity for us to think of our past life and forgive those that offended us and seek compromise with those whom we have offended. In that respect, even painless sudden deaths are undesirable for it is essential that we die peacefully after compromising with our errors and enemies.

Some people like Vivekananda and others died smiling while some others like Stalin and my aunt De Koning died displaying great fear, and anxiety. They were terror-stricken. Why were they terror stricken? Because their consciousness convicted them of their own deeds and the hatred they held for others. They did not know that the creator is infinite, unconditional love.

Very few of us know when we will die but there are exceptions. Emmanuel Swedenborg, founder of the Swedenborgian Church used to live with the Shearsmiths in England. Elizabeth Reynolds was their maid who attended on Swedenborg during his stay there. Three weeks before his death, Swedenborg was pleased to tell her that he would die on March 29, 1772. When he told her about his death, he appeared to be so happy that she thought that he was talking of going on a picnic.

On March 29th Sunday, 1772 at 5 P.M. both Mrs. Shearsmith, his hostess, and Elizabeth, his nurse were at his bedside when the bell tolled at the church for vespers. He asked what time it was. Elizabeth said it was 5 P.M. He said, "thank you" and died.

Another example of someone who foretold his death is Arnold Schoenberg, Austrian-American composer, in Brentwood California who had a long fascination for numerology. He calculated that he would die on July 13, 1951 at age 76. That whole day he stayed in bed. A few minutes before midnight his wife Gertrude entered his bed room to convince him that his prediction and numerology were wrong. He said harmony and died at 11.47 P.M.

Myrtle Filmore, co-founder of Unity Church, bid goodbye to her staff at Unity Office two weeks before her death. She was 86 and had worked for Unity for 45 years, ever since she had been healed of tuberculosis at an early age. She spread the concept of her affirmative prayer, "I am a child of God, and therefore, I do not inherit sickness." She wished to see her 50th wedding anniversary. A few days after the 50th anniversary, in 1931 in the pink of health, she went and bid goodbye to Earnest Wilson and other fellow workers. When they insisted that they need her to carry on

the office administration, she told them that her husband would be with them and that she would help from the other side and declared the matter closed.

On Sunday, her friends Tesla and Harold Landon were with her. Myrtle told Mrs. Landon that she (Myrtle) would die in a day or two. She died that Tuesday. Bernie Siegel, a surgeon at Yale University Medical Centre wrote that his grandfather, at the age of 91 asked his family, "Get all my friends together and get me a bottle of schnapps. I am going to die tonight. "To humour him, the family complied. That night, after the party he went upstairs, laid down and died."

How did these people know the time of their death, sometimes days ahead of time? This is a puzzle to all of us. But I believe that the dying person determines the time of his/her death. It is a subconscious decision of the individual and not one made by someone other than the dying person.

Some dying people are held back from death by the well-wishes and prayers of their friends and relatives. Rev. Hayden Stewart, my good friend, mentor, founder of the Mirari group and Minister of the Ecumenical Church in Vancouver for forty years, was dying of hydrothorax.. His doctor told him that if the fluid was not extracted daily, he would die in two days. After about two weeks of daily extraction of accumulated fluid, Rev. Stewart sought permission from his relatives and friends to die. He asked his physician to stop the extraordinary effort to keep him alive. He died in two days. During the time of his death, a group of ravens frequented the apartment where he was and made a lot of raucous noise. They came down to the verandah and perched on the door, a strange behaviour

they had not displayed before or afterwards. Again, on the day his body was being removed to the cemetery, some ravens flew down, made a lot of noise and sat on top of the hearse for some distance. I have a vague feeling that it is his consciousness that attracted the ravens or was it due to some other extra ordinary circumstance? According to some belief systems ravens are messengers of death!

Another example of well-wishers delaying death is that of Sister Freda. Sister Freda, a Ceylon Pentecostal Missionary who was responsible for my conversion to Pentecostalism was sick in bed during the late 60's. She was ready for her transition but the believers in Mattakkuliya Faith Home in Colombo sat around her sick bed and prayed for her recovery. Therefore, she remained in this condition for about a week. Neither side was winning. Finally, she told the people who were praying for her recovery that it was wrong to do so because of her advanced age. She told them "Please let me go. Pray for my transition" and they did. Within a few hours she was gone.

The conscious mind will not give up its desire for physical existence until it has completed all desires. If we do not accept death, we will suffer pain, which will induce us to long for death. If the subconscious mind is not ready to give up life, death will be delayed.

Patricia Weenolsen, psychologist wrote in *"The Art Of Dying"*, "The evidence shows that we have more control over these final moments than we think. We may be able to postpone death until our daughter's wedding or our grandsons' graduation"

If we are too much attached to our material possessions, or to our children, we may not die easily. There are many

instances where mothers cling to life until their children or grand children arrive at their bedside. When their wish is accomplished, they transcend.

Conversely, death can be hastened. When one member of a loving couple dies, the one left behind dies within a short period even though they had been in good health until then. This must be action of their minds. Since they lost their companion they are willing to quit and that is what happens.

Some people prepare for death. An example is that of my wife's grandfather. He used to go to bed daily by midnight. One night at 2 A.M. his wife noticed light in his room. She peeped in and saw that he was still on his knees at his bedside praying. The next morning, at about 11 A.M. long past the hour of his breakfast, she went to wake him up. She found him lying on the bed with his face covered. It was not his habit to cover his face while sleeping. He was dead. She concluded that his extended prayer was in preparation.

Father Murray Trelease, a Catholic priest for the Alaskan villages, told of individuals who called him to come and give them Eucharist so that they can die. He wrote that most Indians in Alaskan villages would send word for him to come and conduct a service at which all friends and relatives will participate and, after the service, the person for whom the prayers were offered will die in a few hours. Sometimes his invitation will come from family members or a nurse. But most often it was the person who was going to die who made elaborate arrangements and sent the invitation. Trelease was at a loss to understand how they knew the time of their death. One such case was that of Sarah.

Old Sarah called Father Trelease two weeks ahead by radio and asked him to come on a particular day with three of her family in Fort Yukon. Then she asked him to go to another village and bring her son whom she had not seen for ten years.

During the morning she prayed for all the members of her family. At noon they had a great celebration of Eucharist in her cabin. She enjoyed the whole service and partook in the singing and prayers. Then all left. At six in the evening she died. For the next two days the entire village turned out for her funeral. They cooked food, which Sarah had bought for the occasion. He wrote, "Sarah's dying was a priceless gift to all of them"

How did Sarah know the time of her death? This is the wrong question because it implies that someone else is determining the time of her death. The right question is, are we able to determine the time of our death? I believe that Sarah decided when she wanted to die and did it according to her plan. The creator being infinite unconditional love has given us the freedom to select the time of our departure.

Many of those who died in accidents and battlefields were brought back to life by the Herculean efforts of the paramedics. If paramedics were not there they would not have survived. However, many who were revived were angry with paramedics for having brought them back. They loved what they saw on the other side and wished that they never came back.

Dr. Sherwin B. Nulland in his book *"How We Die"* says that psychologists interviewed 102 survivors of life-threatening injuries and illnesses. Forty-nine had near death

experiences. They described peace and well-being leading to separation, entering the darkness, seeing the light and entering the light. Some experienced a review of life events, meeting with a presence, spirits of departed loved ones, and for some reason making a decision to return.

Raymond Moody Jr. wrote that several people have told him that, during their encounters with death, they had brief glimpses of an entire separate realm of existence in which all knowledge of past, present and future seemed to co-exist in a timeless state. Alternately, this has been described as a moment of enlightenment in which the subject seemed to have complete knowledge...because they were in a place of knowledge, "it was like they knew all things"

Dr. Kubler-Ross and Dr. Raymond Moody have indicated that at the time of death all the events of life will come as an instantaneous panorama so that we recall what we did or missed doing. Some have visions of apparitions of near relatives coming to receive the sick. This is a sign of approaching death. Even when the medical prognosis is recovery, such patients die sooner than expected.

Osis and Haraldsson the famous pair who got the money from the will of the Arizona miner, who willed his estate to photograph the soul when it leaves the body, found a significant number of cases where patients died in accordance with the "call" of apparitions. They recorded about 1000 deaths some of whom were ardent atheists and some agnostics. Many of them showed a mood elevation and reported that spirits of loving relatives, angels or some sympathetic spirits were, welcoming and guiding them into the other world.

Russel Noyes Jr. in "*Frontiers of consciousness*" wrote about the death of one woman. He wrote that a few minutes before her death attendants noticed a glorified expression on her face. Her action was perfect and she conversed pleasantly and intelligently. After saying a few words she turned her head upon her pillow as if to sleep. Then unexpectedly turned back, with an exceedingly brilliant and beautiful glow in her features; her eyes sparkling with singular vivacity. At the same moment with a tone of emphatic surprise and delight, she pronounced the name of a person dear to her, dropped her head on the pillow and died.

On the night of January 12, 1924, Sir William Barrett's wife, a physician specializing in obstetrical surgery, rushed home from the hospital to tell her husband something very special that had happened to her that day. She told him, I was called in to deliver the child of Doris and the baby was born safe but Doris herself was dying. Doris looked eagerly towards one part of the room, a radiant smile illuminating her whole countenance." "Oh, lovely, lovely" she said. I asked, "What is lovely?" "What I see" she replied in low, intense tones. "What do you see", I asked again. The reply was "lovely brightness, wonderful beings." Then she focused her attention more intently on one place for a moment and she exclaimed with a kind of joyous cry "Why, its father! He is so glad I am coming. He is so glad. It would be perfect if only W. would come too".

Her baby was brought for her. She looked at it with interest and then said, "Do you think that I ought to stay for baby's sake?" Then turning to the vision again she said, "I can't stay. If you could see what I do, you would know I can't stay."

Apparently the young woman saw something so real she was willing to give up her life and her own baby. By this time her husband had come in and she said to him "You won't let baby go to anyone who won't love him, will you?" Then she gently pushed him to one side saying, "Let me see the lovely brightness."

How one dies, how long one is sick, how long under delirium or coma are all programmed by the dying. There is no accident. Nothing, but nothing, happens without a reason. We may not know the reason for a long while.

Each creation has a function to perform. The Creator wants his creation to continue to exist. For this reason all creations whether plants, animals, birds, insects, or microbes, have to procreate. When they have raised enough progeny, they have accomplished their function and can quit.

In the case of human beings, in addition to creation of progeny, they have to help one another. The function of the Bodhisattvas is a good example. Revealing to others the truth one has received as Mohammed, Buddha, and Jesus, did is another function.

We can die when we have finished our assignment. We are given the freedom to select our own assignment. But very few do. The result is that when we are about to die, we have not finished our work. We see very few exceptions like St. Paul who said: "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course, I have kept my faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness. For now I am ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand." (2 Timo 4.6-8)

The best allegory about when one has to die is illustrated by the film, "Lilies of the Field", acted out by Sydney Pottier. He believed he came to build a chapel for the nuns. When that was finished, he told them in spite of their protests and grief that he has to move on. Our life on earth is very similar. When we have finished our function, we have to go.

It has been my experience, when I was working in the garden to be called in by my mother for dinner. Sometimes she calls at 5 and sometimes at 6. Depending upon the work I am doing, I may tell mother that I have a little more to finish and that I will come in just a few minutes. Thus, when my work is finished I go for dinner. To me, death is like this call for dinner.

Death is preordained along with birth for population balance. Population balance is essential for existence of the universe. If there are too many herbivores, they will deplete the vegetation. If there is no vegetation the herbivores will perish and subsequently the carnivores will die without food. Therefore death is necessary to maintain the balance of population.

The creator has given life to all living beings. Once given it does not belong to the giver. Therefore it cannot be taken away without the permission of its owner. We think that the creator can do everything. Not true. He cannot tell a lie. He cannot do injustice and so on.

Death will not come until the subconscious mind is ready to give up life. The conscious mind may yearn for life except when there is severe bodily pain. But death does not come if subconscious mind is not ready to give up life

because it is still harbouring either fear, anger or vengeance.

How should we die? We should die with equanimity with knowledge that God is infinite, unconditional love, and knowing that after having finished our assignment we are going to join with him for eternal rest. Then we will not be afraid and on the other hand we will be happy to join Him.

If one wants to live for a longer period, he can, provided that the work he is doing is so important that he has to complete and no substitute is available. He should be diligently working at it. Under these conditions he does not even become unduly old. He usually appears to be much younger than most of his fellow men of his age.

An inherent function of life is to exist. Therefore, yearning to live is the nature of life. When death arrives, the being undergoes the agony of death or mortal agony. Mortal agony is only for those who are not willing to die. For those who long to die, death causes no agony.

For those human beings who have accomplished all their goals in life, when the call comes they do not go through the agony of death. The death of the saint is like sleep.

I believe that, in the case of men and women, joy and sorrow, pain and pleasure are more psychological than physiological. They are attitudes of mind. If you long for rain you will be happy when it rains. Likewise if you long for union with the universal Being, you will be ecstatic at the moment of transition and will not go through mortal agony.

We cannot avoid death but we can avoid fear of death. People are afraid to die because they do not know the infinite un-conditional love of God. If we knew, we would not be afraid to join him. Out of infinite love, God gave us an opportunity for a separate existence, a short period of independence from an endless eternity. We are created out of His substance. He is enjoying vicariously all what we do. We should be only too glad to join Him. Sweet is death for those who have developed a close association with the Universal Being.

From a spiritual perspective, death is a transition of the soul from a physical body into a spiritual realm. This transition has advantages and limitations. It can be compared to travel by auto and by air. Auto can stop almost anywhere. Airplane needs an airport. When in the body we can use our hands, legs, tongue and eyes. Spirit can use only "thoughts". But by thought we can do more than by hands and feet.

Death for human beings is joining the spiritual group and eventually with the Creator of the universe. Reuniting with the Creator from whom we arose is like moisture vapour rising from the ocean as clouds and returning to the ocean as raindrops.

Death is not a punishment for sins; if it were, plants, animals and infants would not die for they commit no sin.

Eliza R. Snow wrote:

Then at length when I have completed
 All you sent me forth to do,
 With your mutual approbation,
 Let me come and dwell with you.

The song writer Austin Miles composed the lyric:

I come to the garden alone,
 While the dew is still on the roses,
 And the voice I hear
 Falling on my ear
 The Son of God discloses
 And He walks with me, And He talks with me,
 And He tells me I'm His own.
 And the joy we share as we tarry there,
 None other has ever known..."

Some may argue that God is a vicious monster who revels in the misery of all his creation. Even the Bible says that God is a god of vengeance. If you disobey him, he will destroy you utterly. He will punish you for your sins for seven generations. You will find no mercy in him. He asked the Israelites not to spare any living being in Jericho. "And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old and ox and sheep and ass with the edge of the sword".

The god of Israel is a partisan god, a god of Israel and not the God of the gentiles.

Some resist death. Some die suddenly, some after prolonged suffering. Some wish that they would die, but death evades them. Some die young and some grow old. Some remain in coma for a short period and some remain in coma for a very long period.

Within the great divine plan, our mind has all the powers of the creator. It can postpone death, die when we want, maintain our peace of mind, be happy and loving, and have a wonderful life and eventually join Him in eternity.

Nothing in the universe will ever be destroyed. But there will be changes occurring constantly. There is nothing more permanent than change. When a gold chain is melted and made into bangles, it is only a change of shape that has taken place. Energy has taken the shape of different objects. The shapes of objects change but the energy is the same. Even when different atoms combine, they change their association and not the essential quality of each atom.

We know that death is a promotion from the physical to the spiritual, from the earthly to ethereal, from the paltry to the noble, from the limited to the unlimited. When we know that God is unconditional love, we will be glad to join Him instead of being afraid. Then transition of the soul from the physical into a spiritual is a blessing, a cause for joy.

Soul

By Dr. P.C. Simon

Webster's dictionary describes Soul as the essence, substance, animating principle or actuating cause of life, especially of individual life, which helps us to think, decide and know. It is an immortal essence, which will separate from the body at death.

Encyclopaedia Britannica defines it as the immaterial essence of a human being, that which confers individuality and humanity, often considered to be synonymous with the mind or the self. In theology, the soul is further defined as that part of the individual, which partakes of divinity and often is considered to survive the death of the body.

Existence of the soul has been a topic of discussion, both religious and philosophical, for centuries.

Zoroastrians believe that the departed soul hovers close to the physical body for three days. On the fourth morning, the soul will go to the "Chinvat Bridge", the bridge of judgment, from where it will be directed to heaven, hell or a neutral place.

When death approaches, Zoroastrians summon the priests to read the confession of sins. If he is able to recite the confession along with the priests, he will not go to hell but, having received his punishment at the end of the Chinvat Bridge, is led to a place in heaven.

Hinduism believes that the departed soul (atman) leaves the body and may enter another material body to be reborn or may become united with Brahman and attain

moksha (liberation from the bondage of karma and the wheel of rebirth and death). According to the Rig Veda, the soul is eternal, invisible, imperishable, unchanging and will continue to exist beyond the grave.

Buddha denied the reality of the individual soul.

The Tibetan Book of the Dead prescribes ceremonies for the spirit of the dead.

The spirit struggles through ordeals and opportunities to enter Nirvana. If it fails, it will be reborn as another human being after 49 days.

Jews believe that the soul goes through a period of cleansing and then goes to be with God. Once the Messiah comes, there will be resurrection and souls will be reunited with their physical bodies to live forever in a wholly renewed earth.

The feeble ghost of a bad man maintains a dim, shadowy existence in Sheol. The statement that "the Apostles took the Lord for a spirit" (Lu. 24:39) indicates that the Jews believe in the survival of the soul.

Moslems believe that the life to come, Al-Aakhira, is shaped by life on earth. Wrongdoers will go to hell where a flaming canopy will enclose them. If they cry for water, they will be given molten lead, which will burn their faces. The righteous will go to Allah, and there will be different stations between heaven and hell according to the lifestyle of each.

According to the Quran, Moslems are forbidden by the Prophet to wish for death although, to a believer, death will be desirable. If the last words are the kalima, "There is no god but God"; entry to Paradise is gained. Angels of mercy clad in white come and invite the souls of the believers to rest with God. The soul comes out with the delicious smell of musk. However, the dying infidel "is visited by black-faced angels and the soul is drawn out like hot spit out of wet wool. It is wrapped in sack-cloth smelling fetid."

The Baha'i believe that the body returns to the elements from which it was made and the soul returns to its maker. There will be no physical hell but souls will be remote or close to God depending upon how they are judged. That will be heaven or hell enough. The Baha'i believe in praying for the dead and that the dead can intercede on behalf of the living.

The Balinese and some tribes in Sri Lanka, India, and on the island of Sulawesi greet death with joy, celebrating it as a release of the soul from the body. They believe that the body has to be cremated before dead souls can be reincarnated.

Therefore, cremation is a spectacular and expensive event. The more elaborate the cremation, the quicker the transmigration of the soul. Therefore, cremation is a communal affair. Poor people can bring their dead to be cremated with the dead bodies of rich people for whom elaborate cremation ceremonies are conducted.

Native Americans believe that after death we have to give an account of how we have used the gift of life. There is no eternal punishment. There will be an experience of

remorse or shame. The soul will travel southwest and will go down with the setting sun.

What did the ancient philosophers think about souls?

The Epicureans considered the soul to be made up of matter like the rest of the body and that the soul ends at death.

Pythagoras believed that the soul could transmigrate into other human beings or animals. It is divine and existed before and after death. There is a story that the philosopher saw a man beating a dog and told him to stop because he could identify the whine of the dog as that of his dead friend.

Aristotle thought that soul is inseparable from the body during life and is responsible for nutrition and reproduction in plants, sensation and locomotion in animals and reason and thought in man. Soul is in the body during life and outside the body when dead.

Socrates said that the soul is diffused throughout the body.

Aquinas thought that understanding is an act of the soul.

Hegel believed that soul exists in union with the body during life, and death dissolves the union so that the soul can join the Absolute. Hegel believed that the Absolute is the indwelling soul in the cosmos.

Leibnitz believed in the existence of the soul.

Berkeley, the Irish-Anglican Bishop, wrote that the soul is immortal and its activity does not cease with the body's death.

Hume rejected the metaphysics of Plato, Aquinas, and Descartes. He believed that death of the body was also death of the soul, and sleep was a small death. He believed that nothing survives death and that Socrates' idea that when he died he would be able to converse with Orpheus, Hesiod, Homer, and others who were dead, was preposterous. Hume said that it is unreasonable and beyond belief, that every soul that ever lived on the face of the earth would survive forever. It is impractical and useless to preserve the trash of every age. It will overcrowd the heavens or a new universe will have to be created to accommodate all the souls. (Hume was wrong to think that the Creator is a creator of trash and that soul is materialistic.)

Bertrand Russell, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Jean-Paul Sartre also had difficulty believing in the existence of the soul.

Our attempt is to find if the soul will survive death of the body and what evidence we can find.

Very rarely, the soul will appear in bodily form. When it happens, it is evidence of the survival of the soul.

At the time of death, many see their dead relatives coming to receive them and lead them into the other world. When the spirits of dear ones come to receive them, death is immediate and exultant. Some times the spirits of the dead relatives will tell the dying spirit to go back into the body for their time has not come.

The soul is energy, which cannot be created or destroyed. It will exist as energy without the body and the soul may not immediately realize that it has lost the body. It is just like our not realizing that we are dreaming when we do. Even when we appear in strange places and peculiar circumstances during dreams we do not realize that we are dreaming. We accept the situation and do not question it. We are not puzzled by strange events. For the soul, death is very similar to this dreaming. The soul sees the body. The Soul can go anywhere by wishing and can do anything just by thinking.

It can appear in the semblance of a physical body immediately after death to a percipient. This is how J.J. Larkin of the R.A.F, while reading in his room in the barracks on December 7, 1918, at about 3:30 p.m., heard David M'Connell walking up the passage. The door opened with the usual noise David, his friend, would make whenever he arrived. Larkin heard David's voice, "Hello, boy." and turned around in his chair. He saw Lt. David M'Connell, dressed in his full flying outfit standing in the doorway, half in and half out, holding the doorknob in his hand. There was nothing unusual in David's appearance. Larkin responded to this visit by saying, "Hello, back already?" and M'Connell replied, "Yes, got there alright. Had a good trip." and said, "Well, Cheerio," closed the door and left.

Shortly after David left, a friend of Larkin dropped in to see him and told him that M'Connell had been instantly killed in a flying accident, which occurred about 3:25 p.m., about five minutes before M'Connell spoke to Larkin.

M'Connell's visit to Larkin was his usual custom. The soul was following his usual habit of visiting his friend, Larkin,

on return from assignments. This appearance was immediately after death.

Some souls appear a few hours after death.

The following story is an example of a spirit, dressed in burial attire, appearing in the semblance of his physical body nearly two hours after death. Let me explain.

It was a very hot day. Sir Arthur Grimble had walked ten miles, on Makin Meang Island looking for the "Place of Dread". He was very tired and thirsty and wished that he could get a tender coconut plucked from one of the trees. It was then that he saw a man far away coming towards him. He was so glad thinking that the man would pluck one for him.

When the man approached, Grimble realized that the man had a twisted left ankle, a cut on his left jaw extending up to his forehead and was wearing a ceremonial belted mat.

When the man came closer, Grimble raised his hand to stop him. But the man walked past without paying any attention to Grimble's upraised hand. This was very peculiar for the people of that region. Grimble was a white man, the Land Commissioner for the Gilbert and Ellis islands. He was their peace officer, judge and ruler for nearly thirty-five years. All the people in the 18 islands knew him. So he was quite surprised when the man ignored his sign to stop. Grimble suspected that the man was in a daze. There should be something radically wrong with the man and he may need help.

Therefore, he turned around and asked the policeman, his guide, who was standing about forty yards away to stop

the man who was approaching him. The policeman looked at Grimble as if asking which man, where, since he could not see any man.

Gilbertese believed that when anyone died in any of these 18 islands, the spirits would travel north, come to Makin-Meang and travel to a sandpit called "The Place of Dread" at the northern tip. It is here that Nakaa, watcher of the gate, will be waiting to strangle all dead folks in his net. If the family of the dead person performed the proper obsequies, Nakaa, the gatekeeper will allow the spirit to go North to join with the ancestors. But many spirits unable to go through the gate remained on that island.

When Grimble asked the constable to stop the invisible man the constable was sure that Grimble was seeing a ghost. The Constable did not want to stay any longer. "I am afraid of this place. I am going." he screamed and left in a hurry.

Grimble walked back to his camp. When he approached the camp, he could see from a distance that the constable and the magistrate were having a very serious discussion. When Grimble reached them, they stopped talking.

Grimble told the magistrate that the constable did not stop a man he asked and pretended that he did not see him. Hoping to determine who it was, the magistrate asked Grimble many questions about the man Grimble saw. When Grimble told him that he had a twisted foot and a scar on his face and was wearing a belted mat, the magistrate said that it must be Na Biria. Then Grimble asked the magistrate to bring Na Biria to him that evening. The magistrate said that he couldn't. Grimble was very annoyed and asked why not? He said that the man is dead.

Then Grimble wanted to see the body and the magistrate agreed to take and show him. They went to the hut of Na Biria and found women wailing and a ceremonially dressed body stretched on the floor. They were getting ready to bury the dead body. Grimble was convinced that Na Biria, the limping man, was indeed the spirit of the dead man.

This shows that when we die, our spirits will do what we believed. Na Biria believed that he would go to the north end of the island and escape Nakaa's net and join his ancestors. That is where he was going when Grimble tried to stop him.

Some spirits stay around living relatives and friends out of affection. The following is a case of filial love.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, President of the American Association of Physicians and President of the American Neurological Association, holder of degrees from a dozen universities, said that one day in December there was rain and snow in Philadelphia. He had gone to bed and was about to sleep when the doorbell rang. He opened the door and saw a young girl dressed in a cheap, thin dress standing in the snow. She said, "My mother is very sick. Won't you come, please?" Dr. Mitchell explained that he had already gone to bed and told the girl that there are many other good doctors in the neighbourhood. He asked if her family has no regular physician? The girl's only answer was "Won't you come, please?" He remembered the Hippocratic Oath and decided to go with the girl.

He asked her to come in while he dressed. He followed her for several blocks through snow and rain and entered a house. There he found a woman dangerously ill of

pneumonia. The woman was once his servant. When he finished, he complimented her on the intelligence and persistence of her daughter. The woman looked puzzled. She said that her daughter died about a month back. "Her clothes are still in the cupboard."

The spirit of the young girl was earthbound because of her filial love. She used her knowledge of the doctor's house where her mother had worked. This is another proof of the survival of the spirit.

Though many spirits appear soon after death, some do so after a considerable time after death. The following is a case where spirits began to appear after two months. They too were following a habit. Robert Almeder in his book "Death and Personal Survival" reports this case.

During the night of December 28 1972, Eastern Air Lines Flight 401 plunged into the Florida Everglades, killing all 101 passengers and crew. Two months later the alleged ghost of its pilot, Robert Loft, and the second officer, Don Repo, began to appear on sister ships, which had used parts salvaged from the crashed plane.

One day, Eastern Airlines plane 318 was ready to take off from Newark for New Jersey and Miami, Florida. The second Officer had completed the walk around check. The flight captain and the first officer were in the cockpit. In the first class section a senior stewardess was making the usual head count. She found there was one extra passenger. It was an Eastern Airline's Captain in uniform. She inferred that he was deadheading to Miami. She went and told him that he was not on her list and if he would ride in the jump seat. The captain looked straight ahead and would not respond. Perplexed she brought the flight

supervisor and she too received no response. The man seemed to be in a daze. One of them went and told the flight captain who found no record of a deadheading captain.

The flight captain with the two flight attendants and the supervisor came to find out why the deadheading captain's name was not on their list.

There were about half a dozen passengers in the seats and all of them were curious as to what was going on. The captain leaned down to address the captain and just as he did so, he froze. "My God, it is Bob Loft" and the captain in the seat disappeared before their eyes. Two stewardesses and the Captain sighted Captain Loft again on the same plane in the galley simultaneously. After that, the flight was cancelled.

Some spirits will appear in dreams to convey to friends or relatives information that they are looking for. The following is one such example.

After Dante's death, his sons, Jacopo and Piero, looked for Dante's works. For months they searched but could not find thirteen cantos of Paradiso. They were desperate and tried to write it out themselves and failed.

One night Dante appeared in a dream to Jacopo and took him to the house of Pier Giardini, a notary in whose house Dante used to live, and pointed out a place in the wall and said "What you have been searching for is here" and disappeared.

Jacopo immediately was wide-awake and, though it was midnight, went to Giardini, told him the dream and

together they went to the house where Dante used to reside. There they found a matting fixed to the wall. When they removed the matting, they saw a little window in which they found some damp scripts.

They were the thirteen cantos they were looking for. Only Dante knew the location of the missing cantos. If the spirit did not act now, the script would have been destroyed by the dampness. This is another proof of the survival of the spirits after death.

The spirit did not come to help his sons at the beginning of their search. Maybe he preferred that they find it by themselves. It is only after their long and intense agonizing search, the spirit comes to help. I believe that the Creator does the same. The Creator wants us to discover on our own and get the credit for it. Only after we have exhausted all our resources, the Creator comes to help.

The next is the story of a goldsmith who was trying to collect a bill a second time from the Countess de Marteville, widow of the Dutch ambassador to Stockholm. Her husband had purchased a silver service from a goldsmith who demanded payment one year after his death. She knew that the bill had been paid, but could not find the receipt. The Russian ambassador, Count Ostermann, a friend of her husband, suggested that she should ask Mr. Swedenborg for help. Eight days after she contacted Swedenborg he came to her house and, in the presence of some visitors, reported that he had seen the Count who told him that the receipt was in a bureau in an upstairs room. The Countess was to pull out the left-hand drawer whereupon a board would appear. On drawing out the board, a secret compartment would be disclosed containing his private Dutch correspondence and the

receipt. The whole company went upstairs and the papers were found, as described, in the secret compartment of which no one other than the ambassador had known.

These were cases where the spirits came to help according to requests. Some spirits want to rectify mistakes they have committed. The following is an example.

The spirit of Mrs. Greta Pearson, a Swedish woman, appeared as an apparition at various times after her death and was seen by a number of villagers. She was usually seen in the open between her house and the barn. Jacob Erickson, uncle of Mrs. Pearson, heard about this and came to see whether he could see the ghost and he did. He questioned the ghost as to why she was disturbing the peace of the village. Greta replied that she used to steal money from her husband and kept it hidden in a handkerchief in the barn. "I cannot rest until that money is restored to my husband. If I show you the place, do you promise to recover and return it to him?" Erickson gave his word and the ghost pointed out the place. As it was dark at the time and it required a ladder, Mr. Erickson decided to do the job the next day. Then with the mayor of the town, the postmaster and the doctor in the village, he recovered the money and restored it to her husband. This is another proof that the conscience works even after death.

Spirits continue to stay on earth for an extended period of time by conviction. In the following case it was the conviction of the spirit that it did not do the right thing in disinheriting his three sons and his wife.

James L. Chaffin, an eccentric farmer lived in Davie County in North Carolina.

When he died, he had a wife and four sons, John, James, Marshall, and Abner. According to his will executed 16 years before his death, he left everything to his favorite son, Marshall. He disinherited his spouse and other three sons. On Sept.7th, 1921, he died. Marshall obtained a probate of the will and nobody contested.

Four years later, in June 1925, James, the second son had a frightening dream and woke up sweating. When he was in a state between sleeping and waking, his father appeared by his bedside dressed as he had been in life, wearing his long black overcoat, which had been his trademark for the previous ten winters.

In his dream, James saw his father pull open the overcoat and point to the inside pocket again and again and abruptly disappeared. James woke up trembling.

At breakfast, James went over to his mother and asked her what happened to Pa's coat. She told him she gave it to John, who lived about 20 miles away.

The following Monday, James drove up to see John. John was out but his wife remembered the coat. It was hanging upstairs in the closet. John Chaffin's wife and James Chaffin took the coat from its hanger and nervously James drew it open and ran his fingers along the inside pocket. It was sewn shut. He cut the stitches and reached inside and found a tiny roll of yellow paper tied with string.

He untied the string and read in his father's handwriting "Read the 27th Chapter of Genesis in my Daddy's old Bible."

James' grandfather was a clergyman and his bible was a fragile, worn but treasured family heirloom kept in the Chaffin farmhouse in Davie County.

Thoroughly excited, James drove back to the old farm. That passage related the story of how Jacob supplanted Esau and won his birthright and his father's blessing. James now decided not to go any further without witness and got in touch with a neighbour, Mr. Thomas Blackwelder and his daughter, to accompany him to his mother's house. There, these three along with his own daughter and his mother went upstairs to where the Bible was kept. Mrs. Chaffin opened the drawer and James lifted out the old book, which fell into three pieces.

James picked up two pieces and Blackwelder picked up one. The one that Blackwelder retrieved was the one containing Genesis.

In the 27th chapter, two leaves had been folded over to form a pocket and in the pocket was a paper on which was written in the elder Chaffin's handwriting. "After reading the 27th Chapter of Genesis, I, James L. Chaffin do make my last will and testament and here it is. I want, after giving my body a decent burial, my little property to be equally divided among my four children, if they are living at my death, both personal and real estate, divided equal, and if not living, with share going to their children. If she is living, you all must take care of your mummy.

Now this is my last will and testament, witnessed my hand and seal, James L. Chaffin, this January 16, 1919." Although the second will was unattested, it was legal in North Carolina and the handwriting could be proved to be that of the elder Chaffin. James submitted the second will to the

court for probate. Marshall had since died and his son was made a defendant in the suite to set aside the first will and approve the second.

The case was settled out of court.

This story proves that the spirits persist and continue to rectify mistakes.

On October 7, 1930, when Eileen Garrett, a medium, was being tested for psychical ability, a voice identified itself as Flight Lieutenant Irwin, Captain of R. 101 airplane that had crashed two days before in France. The captain then explained in technical language the faults of design and the exact cause of the crash of the plane. The information the spirit gave was way beyond the knowledge and understanding of Garrett. Later investigations proved her statement to be true.

It appears that there are many spirits wandering around on earth for reasons of their own. Some of them are anxious to appear through mediums. But there seems to be a hierarchy in that some assume the position of Masters of Ceremonies (moderators or controls) while others obey them and, when permitted, use the bodies of mediums and give the information they have.

It seems that the controlling spirit has a lot to say about the information given through the medium. The medium has no power over the control. Some spirits fail to appear when the medium is ready. That was the case with Eusapia Palladino. When the spirits do not come, to satisfy the audience, the medium fabricates a story and gets caught. The good work they have done for many years gets wiped out.

A reliable medium was Leonore Piper, a housewife in Boston. As a child of eight, when she was playing in the garden a voice whispered "Aunt Sarah is not dead, but with you still." Piper told her mother about this and later they learned that one of her aunts named Sarah had indeed died at about the time when Leonore heard the whisper.

Fifteen years later when she was attending a séance as a guest, she fell into a trance and wrote a message to a Judge Frost who was in the circle. Much shaken by the message, the judge admitted that the message must have come from his dead son.

The Society for Psychical research, London, did not believe in mediums. So, they brought a lawyer from Australia, Dr. Richard Hodgson, to debunk Piper. He had established a name by discrediting Madame Blavatsky and Eusapia Palladino. When accepting the post in England, he boasted that he would find out in no time how Piper got the information.

Hodgson intercepted Piper's mail to see if she had secret agents working for her to get information and found none. Then he engaged private detectives to follow her and check if she had contacts to get information about the sitters. All inquiries showed that she made no attempts to get information about sitters. Moreover, there were so many sitters and almost all of them came without prior arrangements. Quite often they gave false names. Even if she knew who the sitters were, she could not have amassed the information she gave without the assistance of a group of investigators. Often the information was new even to the sitters and had to be verified.

Hodgson and James decided to test Mrs. Piper in a new setting where she would have no friends or acquaintances. So they took her to England. She was completely under the supervision of the special team consisting of Dr. Walter Leaf, Mr. Frederick Myers, poet and writer and skeptical investigator, and Prof. Oliver Lodge, professor of physics at the University College, Liverpool and a pioneer in wireless telegraphy. They arranged for her residence, contacts, and sitters so that it would have been humanly impossible to find out any information about anyone.

In England, she had good days and bad days. On a good day she would give a lot of pertinent information sought by the sitters and on other days, the spirit would blabber away unwanted information. Good and bad days are the result of the sincerity of the spirit that occupied her body. The controlling spirit that allows a spirit to occupy her body has also some responsibility.

Piper would go into a trance and one spirit known as Dr. Phinuit would take over her body and make her talk or allow other spirits to talk through her. Phinuit acted as the Master of Ceremonies until 1892 when a new controlling spirit, George Pelham, who had died a few weeks earlier, displaced Phinuit. After Pelham took over Piper's séances improved.

Hodgson knew Pelham personally. At one sitting Pelham identified 35 out of 150 sitters he had known when living. Pelham gave more information about the sitters unlike Phinuit who had an obnoxious personality and sometimes gave false information.

During one séance, Mrs. Piper revealed some special information about Sir Oliver Lodge's uncle who had died

about twenty years earlier. Lodge sent an agent to find out if the information was true. The agent met with his uncle's relatives and found that all the information Piper gave was true.

In 1886, William James, the great American psychologist, attended one of her séances anonymously and tested her rigorously. During the test, she revealed many personal details of James' life that he declared she could not have obtained during her waking hours.

Later, he sent about 25 other people who gave false names. Mrs. Piper gave valuable information that convinced James that she was authentic.

Professor William James reported that during one séance, Piper mispronounced Mrs. James' father's name as Niblin and corrected it as Giblin "instead of the correct name "Gibbens". In such cases, we quickly conclude that the medium is a fraud. The truth may be that the medium gets the information as a feeling or a voice, and may misinterpret the sound. Therefore, it may not be the fault of the medium or the spirit. Usually the medium will ask if the information was true or not. James found giving no guidance or false guidance only exasperated the discarnate spirit and made the spirit wander off in different directions.

In 1890, Mrs. Piper returned to America and worked very closely with Richard Hodgson of the Society for Psychical Research (SPR).

Hodgson was eventually convinced that Piper was no hoax and the information she gave had come from beyond the grave. It appears that Hodgson, when a young man in

Australia, fell in love with a girl and wished to marry. Her parents refused because of religious differences. Hodgson left for England and never married. In one of Piper's sittings, the spirit of this girl appeared and gave the news that she had died very recently. He found out that the information was true.

Piper also gave him a lot of information about his family in Australia. In 1894, for further scrutiny and to eliminate accomplices and fraudulent devices, Charles Richet, professor of Physiology in Sorbonne, invited her to his island, Ile Raubaud. The team included F.W.H.Myers, Sir Oliver Lodge, and Charles Richet who later received the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine. They found her honest and trustworthy.

James Hyslop, Professor of Logic and Ethics at Columbia University, investigated her and found that out of 1000 pieces of information she gave during fifteen sittings, 77 percent were accurate.

Rev. W. H. Savage tested Mrs. Piper a few times and certified that she gave him information he didn't know but found true after verification. He was convinced that she was a true medium and declared that the validity of mediumship should rest on her alone.

Some spirits are not sure of their information and seek verification from the sitters. When the spirit seeks verification, giving false answers or no answer frustrates the spirits and makes them wander off.

For financial gain or to keep up their prestige, some mediums who do not go into trance try to give sitters as much information as possible. When no answer is coming

through the spirits, mediums manipulate information. They get caught and bring discredit to all mediums.

Thousands of spirits of dead people have appeared through mediums giving evidence of their survival by revealing incidents which no one in the world knew except that dead person. Once such case was that of Queen Louisa Ulrika.

In the fall of 1761, Count Ulric Scheffer invited Swedenborg to go to court with him to visit Queen Louisa Ulrika. The Queen had heard about his extraordinary powers of communicating with the dead and wanted Swedenborg to contact her brother, Augustus William of Prussia, who had died on June 12, 1758, and find out if he had any news for her.

About three weeks after meeting with the Queen, Swedenborg called at the Royal residence, presented the Queen with copies of some of his books and then, requested a private audience. The queen told him that he could speak in the presence of others there. When he told her that he could not do so, the queen who was playing cards, became agitated and handed over her hand to another person, requested senator von Schwerin to accompany her into another apartment. She posted Schwerin at the door and walked to the other end of the room with Swedenborg. He then told her majesty something that caused her to turn pale and nearly faint. She exclaimed that no one except her brother or God could have told that to Swedenborg. The incident became widely known and discussed in Swedish social circles as "Queen's secret". Part of the message he brought from her brother was an apology for not having replied to her last letter.

My relatives have also experienced receiving messages from spirits of loved ones.

My father-in-law, Isaac, a few days after his death, appeared in a dream to his wife and said that he was in a hurry and that he had taken permission to see her for just a few moments. He told her to take Uncle Sundaram with her when going to the bank to withdraw money because some people were plotting to rob her.

She did as she was told and found the people about whom she was warned waiting en route. He appeared a second time and told her that he sees her crying all the time and that he would arrange to take her with him if she preferred. (This is quite surprising that the spirits have the ability to determine the lifetime of an individual) She replied that there was no one to look after their daughter who was only one year old. His response was, "Yes, if you want to stay with our daughter, it is OK, but I will not see you again." and he never did. The daughter she was concerned about was Thecla whom I married after 18 years.

Laura, a younger sister of my mother-in-law passed away in Burma during confinement. Laura and her younger sister, Myra, were great chums all their lives. At the exact moment of Laura's death in Burma, Laura appeared to her sister Myra in Madras in a dream and told her that she was in the spirit world and that she was coming to take her in three months' time. Thus, the younger sister knew about the death of her sister a week before the news reached Madras by the normal channels. Myra was going to give birth to her first baby after about three months. Myra had married a Pentecostal preacher. Before marriage he was proud of her preaching in the church. After their marriage,

he became very jealous and possessive. He stopped her from preaching and even from associating with people. Therefore Myra was quite unhappy and quite willing to go with her sister Laura. She died during her confinement, three months to the day of her dream. (Was Laura predicting the death of Myra or organizing her death?)

I want to quote one statement of Sir William Barrett, Chairman, Department of Physics, Royal College of Science, Dublin, and Ex-president of the Society for Psychic Research, (SPR) Great Britain, and founder of the SPR in America. In his book, "Death- bed Visions," he stated that fifty years of research had convinced him that there is: (1) a spiritual world (2) spirits survive death and (3) communicate with the living. He wrote that the skeptics will never admit this but, sooner or later; the educated world will realize that there is a soul, not only in man, but even in nature.

All spirits whether haunting or helping as control to mediums, stay only for a limited period. Haunted places remain haunted only for a certain time. Then these spirits disappear. Where do they go? They attain samadhi or join with the creator!

What is the proof?

If they are nowhere else, they have to be with or in the creator for there is no other place. This is axiomatic and needs no other proof.

This is Siddhi or Moksha which means Release, or liberation from the wheel of birth and death or karma, also known as absolute experience or join with atman or Brahma.

The soul is a minuscule part of unconverted energy of God and has unlimited potential. Through our soul, Creator vicariously participates in our experiences. We become the organ for the creator for realization of His/Her ultimate purpose.

There is no greater glory in the universe and it is ours! Creator is the origin as well as the final resting place for all creations. Just like the water rising as the cloud from the ocean, all creations arise and end in the Creator. He (Creator) creates, maintains and receives them with infinite, unconditional love.

Reincarnation

By Dr. P.C. Simon

In 1950 Dr. Alexander Cannon of England, holder of degrees from nine European universities, obtained information about rebirth from 1382 volunteers, and wrote "The Power Within". For years the theory of reincarnation was a nightmare to him. He did his best to disprove it and even argued with his trance-subjects that they were talking nonsense. Yet when the years went by, one subject after another told him the same story in spite of different and varied conscious beliefs.

"Now, after well over a thousand cases have been so investigated, I have to admit that there is such a thing as reincarnation."

One proof of reincarnation could be child prodigies. The knowledge of many child prodigies is unbelievably beyond the average. This strongly suggests previous life and accumulation of knowledge. This can be taken as proof of reincarnation.

In 1722, one year old Christian Friedrich Heinecken is said to have known many events mentioned in the first five books in the Bible and at two he knew the biblical history and at three he knew the outline of world history and geography.

He could speak Latin, French and German. The King of Denmark was so enthralled by the news that he had the child brought to his palace in 1724.

Shortly after that Heineken fell ill and predicted his own death and died within a year.

The French Wonder child, Jean Louis Cardiac, was born in 1719. At three months, he was able to repeat the whole alphabet and at three years, he could read Latin. At four he could translate Latin into French and English. He died at seven.

Miguel Mantilla, a Mexican boy at two years could answer in fifteen seconds a question such as "In what years will the twenty fifth of September be a Thursday" or "What will be the date of the third Monday in August 1934?"

Tom Wiggins, a blind Negro slave boy, could play Piano as an expert at four. His master engaged a music teacher. The teacher left because the boy knew everything the teacher wanted to teach. Wiggins gave concerts in America and abroad. In other topics he knew very little, very little in languages and other professions. He was world famous when he died in 1908 at the age of 59.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart at age four wrote Piano concerto, sonata and minuets and at seven he composed a full-length opera.

Jose' Capablanca, a Cuban boy, at the age of four learned to play chess by watching his father play. He became a brilliant chess player and rarely lost a game even to expert-chess players. He became world champion and died in 1942 at the age of 54

John Stuart Mill, (1806 to 1873) the English economist and philosopher knew Greek at three, Latin and arithmetic by 8, logic by 12, and political economy by 13. By 17 he had

completed philosophy, chemistry, botany, psychology, and law.

In 1822, Mill began to work as a clerk in his father's India office and became the head of the department at the age of 30.

Gianella de Marco, an eight-year old Italian girl, on March 12 1953, conducted Philharmonic Orchestra at London's Royal Albert Hall in works by Weber, Hayden, Beethoven and Wagner. This was her 123rd concert. She began her career at the age of four.

Ruth Lawrence, at 13, was the youngest to graduate in math from Oxford, Britain in 1980 and Suffix Yusoki from Delhi at 12. Geneticists refuse to ascribe such achievements to reincarnation but fail to suggest what the source is.

Sri Lankan Citizen, Gamini Jaysena claimed to have been a reincarnation of one Palitha Senewiratne, a vegetarian who had died eight years before. Jaysena's mother is reported to have had an aversion to eat meat when she was carrying Jayasena but not when she was pregnant with her other three children.

Another Sri Lankan case is that of Sujuth Lakshman Jayaratne. His mother developed a peculiar fondness for a type of food that one Sammy Fernando, who was killed in an accident six months earlier, had loved. About such peculiarities P. D. Ouspensky wrote that they would remain unexplained until we accept reincarnation.

Dr. Wambach, in her book, "Life before Life," wrote "Blood may be thicker than water, but judging from my results, past-life ties are a lot thicker than blood."

Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross believes that when we have not learned our lessons, we have a chance to return to life as another human being.

The oldest recording of reincarnation is in the Upanishad written in the 7th to 5th century BC. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad says: - "Reincarnation is the practical way in which one reaps the fruits of his deeds."

Bhagavad-Gita speaks about reincarnation that :-"Just as the body casts off worn out clothes and puts on new ones, so the infinite, immortal self casts off worn out bodies and enters into new ones."

The concept of reincarnation originated among the Hindus in India, and spread to Buddhism, Jainism, Manichaeism, Gnosticism, Kabbalism, and Theosophism. In most cases, the proof of reincarnation is that the person is able to recognize people, objects and places he lived during his previous life. When he describes accurately people he has not seen and places he has not visited during this life, we have to believe his story. Some would argue that this could be also due to telepathy, or clairvoyance, and therefore can not be considered as absolute proof for reincarnation.

Tibetan Buddhists believe that when a Lama dies, he will be reborn as a child within a few months. Therefore they test all the babies born after death of a Lama. The elders look for the ability of the child to identify an object of the previous Lama or exhibit his peculiar behavior pattern. That is how they have selected all the fourteen Panchen Lamas. They believe that all the Lamas are reincarnations of the first Lama.

Dr. Ian Stevenson of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville has a collection of cases of children remembering their previous families and giving accurate verifiable descriptions. He recorded two cases of Indian girls, Swarnalata 3 and Shanti Devi 4 . They both started to claim that they had lived a previous life as wives and mothers of two children, in a distant village. The most astounding element is that they mentioned specific facts about their alleged previous lives. Investigators have verified them.

When does a soul enter another body?

Life is soul. There is a soul in the live sperm and another soul in the ovum and when they unite these two souls unite and become one soul. Before this soul establishes its own identity, other souls can unite with it. Normally identity happens between the third and fifth month of pregnancy.

Robert Allan Stewart says that the soul enters the body to reincarnate when the fetus is five months. For integration, the spirit must enter the body before the soul belonging to that body has established its own identity. This happens between third and fifth month. After that period, if a soul enters the body it will be foreign to the body and will not be integrated. This is similar to an infant accepting its foster parents as real parents because of adoption before it developed recognition.

In the spirit world we meet with other spirits. Mediums report that many spirits come and go. Where do they go? Some join other groups and some join with the loving creator. This may happen right away after death or long after death.

Through the medium, Geraldine Cummins, the spirit of F.W.H. Myers related that all spirits sharing the same level of spiritual development gather together in the spirit-world into a community of souls. In this spiritual existence, they progress towards higher degree until they are ready to join the creator. Therefore all spirits do not have to go through reincarnation to become part of the Creator. There will be only a few earthly reincarnations, and through the mutual help within group soul-organizations, they progress faster.

What form or shape those who reincarnate will be reborn in depends on the desires they have developed during their life.

Religion/ethics writer of the Vancouver Sun recently reported (in 2003) that Alex Colville who has been called the "most important realist painter in the western world" said "If I come back I will return as a medium sized yellow mongrel dog." (The Vancouver Sun August 26. D 10). If he is able to hold on to this desire strongly, if it was his subconscious desire, in all probability he will. Plato is said to have identified the voice of his friend in the cry of a dog when someone was beating it.

In 1970, Mrs. Josephine Ralstone watched a starling swoop down to attend her daughter's wedding service. She reported to Britain's Weekend Magazine, that George Ralstone, who had died two years earlier, had told her that if he came back to earth it would be as a bird. The starling perched beside Mrs. Ralstone for most of the service and flew up to join the bride and groom at the altar and later followed the wedding party to the vestry for the signing of the register. As the congregation dispersed, the bird flew

to a tree outside the church, chirped loudly and flew away. (The case for reincarnation by Fisher, p.171)

What happens to the soul is according to the belief and desire of each individual. All those who die with the hope of joining with the creator will do so right away.

They blend with the Absolute. They do not live in purgatory, paradise or bardo. They do not roam around as spirit or appear through mediums.

Erwin Schrodinger, the great physicist, said that souls which had done transmigration could remember all previous lives. Some children may remember some incidents connected with the previous life. But rarely do they remember everything that happened in their previous lives.

The purpose of reincarnation is to finish any unfinished work and to create a consciousness and desire to join Brahma. (The terms Brahma, atman, spirit, universal spirit, Absolute, universal intelligence, God, etc. are synonyms for the Creator). Hundreds of people die every day and some of them will be ready to join with the creator. Therefore there will be every day some spirits moving towards Atman. But those who are attached to their possessions or children are not ready to join with Atman. They will cling to the material world. It is about them that Jesus said "Where your heart is there your spirit will be!" Souls in the spirit world will be unable to do anything physical, because they lack the physical body.

If our unfinished assignment requires a body to accomplish, then we will reincarnate.

The potential force of creation is love (attraction). In the elementary particles, it appears between the very basic subatomic particles, quarks and gluons. Quarks and gluons become protons and electrons, atoms, and molecules and everything in the universe.

Each creation has a potential and appropriate to that potential there is a function to perform. In plants this is a function to reproduce. In animals in addition to reproduction they have the function of love between parent and offspring, and group-affection. In humans it is the potential to love everything in the universe, plants, animals, sky and the clouds, rain and sunshine, winter and summer, planets, and galaxies.

If a person reincarnates as an animal or plant, it is migration to a level where it is comfortable. Once we have reached a higher level of universal love, we won't fit in the level of inanimate objects. But we will have to deal with the animosity which destroys love. For this we don't have to reincarnate. This we can do in the spirit world. When we realize the existence of a loving creator, we will become part of him.

We carry our consciousness with us from this life into the next. In the spirit world, we will have the same nature we had in this world. The mentality and the functioning of the mind are the same. The prejudice, the hatred, the love, and the magnanimity go along with the soul. We carry our prejudices and create our own hell. If we believe that we will go to hell, we will create hell with our beliefs and suffer in it. We, and not the creator, bring pain or calamities upon ourselves by our beliefs.

Souls will be remote or close to God according to one's own consciousness. The souls have freedom to stay on earth plane as long as they desire. God is not in a hurry. A thousand years is like a day for God. Only after all our desires are satisfied, can we return to the creator. With all love and tenderness Creator awaits to receive all the souls who like to join him.

In the Orient, people believing in the Law of Karma accept that they are who and where they are because of their actions in a previous life (karma). This may or may not be true. They think they can do nothing about changing their particular situation, which is not true.

Jewish teachings about gilgul ("turning over of the soul") or metempsychosis are not explained in the Bible, but can be found in a collection of mystical writings called kabbala, which means, in the Hebrew language, "that which has been received." For many centuries, kabbala was a secret, esoteric doctrine, passed only by word-of-mouth and initiation.

Among the more Westernized, rationalistic sects of Jews, reincarnation is rarely mentioned, but, on the other hand, many traditional Orthodox Jews and all Hasidic Jews still believe in it.

Reincarnation is recorded in the bible. In the gospel according St. Matthew 11:14 Jesus said: "And if you are willing to accept it, he (John the Baptist) is the Elijah who was to come." In the same Gospel, while answering the apostles about the coming of Elijah, Jesus told them: "But I tell you, Elias has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer

at their hands." The commentary adds: "Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist." (Matthew 17:12-13; see also Mark 9:12-13)

Reincarnation is a thought that is just beginning to reverberate in people's minds in the west. It is natural to think that if I have a future life, I must have had a past life; and if I had a past life it is interesting to know who I was. The popular literature in the West about reincarnation is almost exclusively about previous existences.

There are now many techniques, authentic or otherwise to experience past lives: hypnosis, regression, re-birthing, and so on. Of course, there is also much serious research on the subject going on in several countries.

Humanists, atheists and communists do not believe in reincarnation. They believe that death wipes out everything and nothing is left after death. This leads to a feeling of purposelessness of life and even creates antisocial behavior. Jews believe in punishment in Sheol and Greeks in Hades. Greeks get their rewards for good life in Elysian fields, valiant soldiers of Islam in Gardens of Delight.

Norse warriors believed that if they fought courageously they would be admitted to Valhalla, a place of constant feasting. Algonquin Indians, Australian aborigines and many African tribes believe in reincarnation.

Finally, as an analogy, we might say that reincarnation is similar to a mother taking her child to an amusement park and leaving him/her with enough money to have all the rides he/she likes with instructions to come back to the gate where she will be waiting to take him/her home.

After having gone home, he/she may wish to repeat some of the rides and the mother takes him/her for a second or third time.

Reincarnation can be counted as a benefaction of the creator to those who have not used their opportunity to accomplish all that they wanted to do. It is up to us to decide what we want to do and do that during our life. Because of sudden death or unforeseen circumstances some of us may not be able to finish what we wanted to do. Therefore reincarnation takes place. If we are really anxious, we will be given a second or even a third opportunity to complete the assignment.

This is the nature of infinite love, the nature of Creator.

Dr. P.C. Simon, Author

'The Missing Piece to Paradise'

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The Aurora Incident

By Dr. James L. Choron

Over one hundred years ago, a most unusual incident occurred in the tiny North Texas town of Aurora. It was here that one of the earliest documented encounters with an alien life form took place, in the early morning hours of April 19, 1897.

Aurora, Texas, is literally "the town that almost was" as the town's tiny history book states, and one of its few, if not its only, claim to fame is the burial site of an alien pilot that crashed there in his "airship", the most memorable event in a string of UFO sightings which covered a three state area between 1895 and 1898.

Aurora Texas is located just off US 287 west of Rhome, about a mile south, on State Highway 114 to Bridgeport. There is a sign beside the highway that says CEMETERY, and points south toward the graveyard. Interestingly enough, the historical marker at the site actually includes the word "spaceship". Newspapers, along with diaries and letters by



local residents, reported that an alien craft hit a windmill and was torn to pieces, along with its occupant in April, 1897. A 1986 movie, "The Aurora Encounter," produced by Charles B. Pierce, tells the tale. The official historical marker was installed by the State of Texas, and although nobody knows exactly where the grave is located, it is certain that the alien was, in fact, buried in the Aurora Cemetery, after the efforts of the local doctor failed to save its life following the crash. There is, unfortunately, no sign of the tombstone. It was stolen some years ago and never recovered. There are, however, picture records of its existence. There is currently a renewed movement in town to exhume the body of the alien, replace the headstone and do a complete search for remains of the crash. Also, there have been several interesting pieces of metal found in the area that have been confiscated for analysis by the military and never returned.

Aurora Texas Cemetery

"The oldest known graves, here, dating from as early as the 1860s, are those of the Randall and Rowlett families. Finis Dudley Beauchamp (1825-1893), a Confederate veteran from Mississippi, donated the 3-acre site to the newly-formed Aurora Lodge No. 479, A. F. & A.M., in 1877. For many years, this community burial ground was known as Masonic Cemetery. Beauchamp, his wife Caroline (1829-1915), and others in their family are buried here. An epidemic which struck the village in 1891 added hundreds of graves to the plot. Called "Spotted Fever" by the settlers, the disease is now thought to be a form of meningitis. Located in Aurora Texas Cemetery is the gravestone of the infant Nellie Burris (1891-1893) with its often-quoted epitaph: "As I was so soon done, I don't know why I was begun." This site is also well-known because of the legend that a spaceship crashed nearby in 1897 and the pilot,

killed in the crash, was buried here. Struck by epidemic and crop failure and bypassed by the railroad, the original town of Aurora almost disappeared, but the cemetery remains in use with over 800 graves. Veterans of the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts are interred here".

Aurora Texas brings up images of high-speed space travel. In fact, one of the newest space shuttle in the NASA fleet is named 'Aurora' after the UFO incident that took place in 1897. In 1997, the 100th anniversary of the crash of the unknown "airship" in Aurora, the TV show "Sightings" brought renewed interest to the topic with a special called "One Hundred Years of UFO Cover-ups", that featured the crash, the efforts of the local doctor to help the dying alien, and the burial of his body in the town cemetery.

This incident has been covered up and ridiculed by the U.S. Government (a standard operating procedure of the MAJESTIC 12 group) and has been widely



reported to be a hoax (a weather balloon?). This, to say the least, sounds a lot like Roswell in 1947? The US government has a long history of cover-ups in regards to such occurrences. It is hoped that the current, renewed interest in the incident will last, and that a new investigation will clear up the Aurora Texas event for good, although much time has passed. It is tragic that

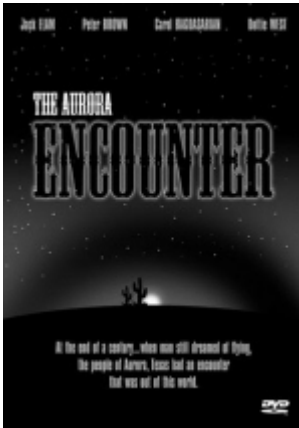
most, if not all of the original witnesses are long dead, for, at one time, up until around the early seventies, there were quite a few people still living who had been children at the time and not only remember the crash, but remember a rash of "airship" sightings, all over East and North-Central Texas, as well as the stories which were passed down to them from their "elders". Almost everyone who grew up in those parts of the state have heard stories from their grandparents, or other "old folks" about such events, many of whom were "substantial" citizens, including doctors, clergymen, judges, army personnel, sheriffs and other professionals.

The Aurora Texas crash was, in fact, the culminating event in a rash of "airship" sightings in East and Northeast Texas, Oklahoma, North and Central Louisiana in the period between 1895 and 1898. Robert Atkinson, of Center, Texas, a veteran of the Spanish American War, often told of seeing, as a teenager, strange, "flashing lights" in the sky, as did Polk Burns of the same city. Similar incidents were recounted by Bud Knight, a prominent resident of San Augustine, Texas, who died in 1981 at the age of 108. Lee Choron, who died in 1976 at the age of 94 recalled seeing "moving lights flashing in the sky" while living in Swift, Texas (near Nacogdoches) while in his "teens". Nor, were civic records and town newspapers of the time completely silent on the matter. Reports, although not common, do exist. On April 22, 1897 in the small central Texas town of Rockland, John M. Barclay was intrigued when his dog barked furiously and a high-pitched noise was heard. He went out and saw a flying object circling about 20 feet above ground. He described it as having an elongated shape, with protrusions and blinding lights, it went dark when it landed, only a short distance from his home. Barclay was met by a man who informed him that

his purpose was peaceful and requested some common hardware items to repair the craft. He paid with a ten-dollar bill and took off "like a bullet out of a gun."

On that same day, April 22, 1897, some one hundred miles away, in the community of Josserand, Texas, Frank Nichols, who lived some five miles east of Josserand, and was one of its most respected citizens, was awakened by what he called a "machine noise". Looking outside, he saw a heavy, lighted object land in his wheat field. He walked toward it, but was stopped by two men who asked permission to draw water from his well. He then had a discussion with half a dozen "short, dark men" men, apparently the crew of the strange machine. He was told how it worked but could not follow the explanation.

Three days later, on April 25, 1897, in Merkel, Texas. People returning from church served a heavy object being dragged along the ground by a rope or cable, attached to a "cigar shaped" lying craft. As the assembled crowd watched, the line managed to get caught in a railroad track. The craft was too high for its structure to be visible but protrusions and a light could be distinguished. After the craft hovered in place for about 10 minutes, a man came down along the rope cut the end free, and went back aboard the craft, which flew away toward the northeast. The man was described by all witnesses, as being small and dressed in a light blue uniform.



The next day, late in the evening of April 26, 1897, near the town of Aquila, in South Texas; a local lawyer, whose name was not reported by the press, was surprised to see a lighted object fly quietly overhead as he was riding from his office to his home, just outside the city limits. His horse was scared and nearly toppled his carriage. The object was large, and “oblong”,

and sported a bright light that was observed to be sweeping the ground below the object. When the main light was turned off, a number of smaller lights became visible on the underside of the dark colored, metallic craft, which revealed an elongated, transparent canopy. It continued forward, toward a hill, some seven miles to the south of Aquila. When the witness passed the same way, approximately one hour later, he saw the object rising. It reached the altitude of the cloud ceiling and flew to the northeast at a fantastic speed with periodic flashes of light.

These accounts, all given by respectable witnesses, separated by several hundred miles, yet all in a direct line with Aurora Texas, describe a very similar object. It must be remembered that in 1897, distances were much greater than they are today, and news traveled at a much slower rate. It is inconceivable that there could have been any collusion between witnesses, and highly unlikely that people living in towns separated by several hundred miles, could have heard news or read accounts of happenings in other towns within the space of two or three days. This was a time, it must be remembered, when most news traveled by wire, or by railroad, and unless there was

a critical need for residents of one region to have news of another, the expense of wiring such news was avoided.

Much may be made, in some quarters of the “quaint” descriptions given of the object... it, indeed, must be a single object, or at least identical objects... such as the presence of “machine noises” and “ropes”. This is perfectly understandable in light of the fact that this was a time before sophisticated machinery, especially sophisticated flying machinery was common, or even, for that matter, known. It would be six years before the Wright Brothers would take their first, halting, leap above the ground, and the dirigible airships of such pioneers as the Count von Zeppelin, were in the very early stages of development, a continent and an ocean away. Certainly no native of East, Central or South Texas had ever seen such an object. It is highly unlikely that very many of them had even heard of such things. Science Fiction of the day was limited to the works of Jules Verne, and the very early works of Herbert George Wells, and it is unlikely in the extreme that residents of a tiny Texas town, only a few years removed from fighting for its survival with the Apaches and Comanches would have access to such current works.

The point is this. The residents of Aquila, Hillsboro, Merkel, Jossarand, Nacogdoches, Swift and Aurora, would describe what they saw in terms that they understood, and could relate to. Any unusual sound, emanating from an obviously “manmade” object would be described as a “machine sound”. Likewise, any form of line, tie-down or connector would be described as a rope, cable or line. A classic example of such a description would be the existence of the “cargo” cults of the South Pacific... religious sects of islanders who being members of

a pre-industrial, stone age culture, worship the airplanes that their ancestors first saw during the Second World War, and revere the crews as Gods who brought gifts... "cargo" from the sky. Far fetched? Not at all. Imagine how anyone living today might describe an object from a thousand years or, or so, in our own future.

It is also worthwhile, at this point, to repeat the fact that people of this time and place, late 19th Century Texas, were extremely conservative in nature, skeptical by necessity, and most unlikely to take off on flights of fancy. There would simply be nothing to be gained from concocting a story concerning such a thing as an "airship." They would not only be disbelieved, but their sanity, sobriety and competence would have come into serious question. Unlike today, when, as one must admit, such accounts are commonly hoaxed as an attempt to gain attention and momentary fame, this simply would not have been the case in 1897. The most likely result of such a story, unless absolutely and verifiably true would have been shunning by the community as the "village idiot" or as the "town drunk". Worse, in the primarily Protestant Fundamentalist religious atmosphere of the time, which, by the way, has changed but little since that time, one would have been considered "blasphemous", "sacrilegious" and possibly even "Satanic", and definitely shunned by most "upright" and "upstanding" citizens of the community.

The old "Judge Proctor" place in Aurora Texas, site of the crash, is still locatable, and the town square is still in its original position, but unfortunately most of the original buildings of the town, those dating to the 1890s, are long gone. Some evidence, however, does endure to the present day. The original article, reporting the Aurora Texas

Incident, as written in 1897, in the April 19th edition of the Dallas Morning News reads as follows:

“About 6 o’clock this morning, the early risers of Aurora Texas were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing around the country. It was traveling, due north, and much nearer the earth than before. Evidently some of the machinery was out of order, for it was making a speed of only ten or twelve miles an hour, and gradually settling toward the earth. It sailed over the public square and when it reached the north part of town, it collided with the tower of Judge Proctor’s windmill and went into pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge’s flower garden. The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains were badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

Mr. T. J. Weems, the U. S. Army Signal Services officer at this place and on astronomy gives it as his opinion that the pilot was an native of the planet Mars. Papers found on his person... evidently the records of his travels... are written in some unknown hieroglyphics and cannot be deciphered. The ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion to its construction or its motive power. It was built of an unknown metal, resembling somewhat a mixture of aluminum and silver, and it must have weighed several tons. The town, today, is full of people who are viewing the wreckage and gathering specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot’s funeral will take place tomorrow”.

The article was written by E. E. Haydon, who was a part time reporter for the Morning News. As startling as the news was, no other newspaper in the world ran the story in their pages. This is, to say the least, unusual considering the widespread sightings of the “airship” and other aerial

phenomenon in the time and place which was completely devoid of even the primitive air transport which was prevalent at the time. It should be remembered that in 1897, air travel consisted of hot air balloons and very early experiments in lighter than air craft such as the dirigibles of Count von Zeppelin in Germany. Neither of these was known to the Texas, Oklahoma or Louisiana area. Needless to say, the first airplane was still more than six years in the future, and it is highly unlikely that anyone had experimented with one anywhere near the area. Even at that, the primitive flying machine of the Wright brothers was hardly capable of the speed, altitude or maneuverability of the Aurora Texas "airship".

Another story that circulated in the area, at the time, but was not recorded in the pages of the press has it that the pilot actually survived the crash, briefly, and that Aurora's town doctor attempted to render aid to the strange being. His anatomy was so vastly different from our own, the story goes, that the ministrations of the local physician were pointless, and the being died within a few hours of the crash, never regaining consciousness. To support this story, which was widely told at the time, persistent rumors have circulated about a diary kept by the doctor, which disappeared in the late 1940s or early 1950s, when a team of United States Air Force officials made an examination of the crash site and collected all remaining evidence, both on the site, and from private individuals, that could be found. Likewise, there have been numerous reports that the United States Air Force did, in fact, recover some fragments of the mysterious metal that the "airship" was built of, and took them away for evaluation. Many local residents say, to this day, that the only thing that prevented these government representatives from exhuming the body of the pilot was the fact that the grave

was unmarked, and the exact spot unknown, or at least claimed to be so.

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This area, especially Texas, is, however, known as an ideal place for flying. This is evidenced by the fact that Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio (formerly Kelly Field) was one of the first training centers for the fledgling Army Air Corps in the period following the invention of the heavier than air flying machine in 1903, and its initial acceptance by the U.S. Army Signal Corps in 1905.

News of the Aurora Texas incident remained dormant for almost a century, until May 24, 1973, when newspapers around the country published the following United Press International account:

"Aurora, Tex. -- (UPI) -- A grave in a small north Texas cemetery contains the body of an 1897 astronaut who "was not an inhabitant of this world," according to the International UFO Bureau. The group, which investigates unidentified flying objects, has already initiated legal

proceedings to exhume the body and will go to court if necessary to open the grave, director Hayden Hewes said Wednesday."

"After checking the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months, we are certain as we can be at this point [that] he was the pilot of a UFO which reportedly exploded atop a well on Judge J.S. Proctor's place, April 19, 1897," Hewes said. He was not an inhabitant of this world."

A few days later, another UPI account datelined Aurora quoted a ninety-one-year-old who had been a girl of fifteen in Aurora Texas at the time of the reported incident. She said she "had all but forgotten the incident until it appeared in the newspapers recently." She said her parents had gone to the sight of the crash, but had refused to take her along. She recalled that the remains of the pilot, "a small man," had been buried in the Aurora Texas cemetery.

Not to be outdone, the Associated Press, in a story datelined Denton, Texas, reported that "a North Texas State University professor had found some metal fragments near the Oates gas station (former Proctor farm). One fragment was said to be 'most intriguing' because it consisted of primarily of iron which did not seem to exhibit magnetic properties." The professor also said he was puzzled because the fragment was "shiny and malleable instead of dull and brittle like iron."

The Aurora Texas Cemetery Association was successful in blocking the attempts to dig up the grounds in search of the "Martian Pilot" , and the incident once again went underground (pun intended) until its centennial in 1997

which brought about another round of widespread press coverage.

In 1997, MUFON , the “Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network” made a field investigation in the small town of Aurora, Texas, just north of Fort Worth. The results of our research were “unusual” to say the least... One of the first things that any visitor would notice when arriving in Aurora Texas is that there are military traces everywhere in the town. It even boasts a small military type airport, circa 1940's, which was one of a chain of such minor installations built as emergency landing sites for aircraft being ferried from one coast to the other for wartime transshipment to Europe or Asia. Even the streets of town are laid out in typical "base" fashion. To anyone who ever served in the military, the signs of military habitations are clear. Of course, this is not unusual for the area, and as most researchers realize, it is extremely common for UFO activity to center around areas of military activity. The Roswell incident of 1947 occurred near the (then) only nuclear capable bomber base in the United States, as well as the U.S. nuclear test range, not to mention the primary aircraft test facility. This trend in Unidentified Flying Object activity continues to the present time, with numerous sightings taking place in, or near military reserves or facilities.

North Central Texas has always been a staging area for troops, going all the way back to the Indian Wars. Notably, there was an outpost in Aurora Texas, or near it, during the Spanish American War of 1898, less than a year after the “airship” incident, and again during the 1916 “Border Action” against General “Pancho” Villa This post was reactivated for the First World War, and again during the Second World War to service the small military airfield

located near the town. Connally Air Force Base (now closed) in Ft. Worth, (which is less than 10 miles from Aurora Texas as the crow flies), was for some time the headquarters of the U.S. Eighth Air Force, and it was there that the debris from the Roswell, New Mexico crash of 1947 were taken. Even now, Eighth Air Force headquarters is located in the same geographic area, only 180 miles away, at Barksdale Air Force Base, in the Shreveport/Bossier City, Louisiana area, which lies well within the area covered by the 1895/98 UFO sightings, and is still a hotbed of UFO activity.

Ft. Worth, itself, derives its name from a pre-civil war era army post, established to defend the area against marauding Indians. The installation was an active military reserve, actually made up of Fort Worth proper and several outlying outposts, on and off, until the mid 1880's. One of these, Fort Phantom Hill, was known, even as early as the 1850's for unusual sightings in the night sky.

Was the Aurora Texas incident a hoax? Was it the result of some natural occurrence? Was it simply the crash site of some primitive, experimental airship? It seems highly unlikely that the citizens of a tiny Texas town would combine their efforts to fabricate a story about concerning something which had, up to then, been mentioned only rarely in fiction. One must ask what the possible gain from such a fabrication would be, and the answer is, of necessity, "none". The likelihood of a fabrication becomes even more remote when one considers the overall makeup of the local population at the time. The people who settled Texas were a resilient and resourceful group, however, flights of fancy of this nature were, in general, beyond them. Less than thirty percent of the population of Texas in the 1890's was functionally literate. It is highly unlikely

that any of the citizens of Aurora Texas had ever heard of an airship, of any kind, let alone seen one. Those who were literate, and had, therefore, possibly been exposed to the works of Wells and Verne (the most prominent writers of that time of what is now known as Science Fiction), were generally doctors, clergymen and teachers... men and women unlikely to engage in flights of fancy. It must also be remembered that almost the entire population of the town witnessed the crash, and saw the body of the pilot. Even though Aurora Texas was small, even by the standards of the time, it is unlikely that a group of such numbers could consistently maintain the same, identical story. With regard to the other sightings of the time, the geographic area, while small, by today's standards, was great enough, at that time, to effectively eliminate any collusion. In short, the Aurora Texas incident, and the sightings of 1895/98 have the ring of truth, given the circumstances of the time. It is hoped that future investigation will remove the stigma of ridicule that the U.S. Government has so laboriously applied to this event, and that the facts will, at long last, be known.

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Wings

By Maria Scollo

Love expands my heart
A balloon floating upward
Emanating blush and prism glow
Awakening the complacent spaces
Throughout my being
Illuminating truth
Bringing fire and light to
Neglected places where
Time had forgotten . . .
My heart aches as it stretches
Beyond expectation
Beyond the physical desires I once knew
Once more as you leave
For a short while I can linger in the
Memory of your voice, the depth in your eyes

As they meet mine

The subtle sensation of our being drawn together

The warmth as you come closer . . .

And now I am left with the shadows of your presence

The sounds of your laughter echoing

The emptiness of missing you

The fire has accomplished its purpose

Leaving me in the wake of its cinders and

A small sparkle of red, of hope

That water cannot extinguish

And the desire to fly after

You have shown me

My wings

The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation Journal:

'The Great Beyond'

Issue Ten

By Marilyn Hughes

The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation!

www.outofbodytravel.org



Author, Marilyn Hughes

Photo by Harvey Kushner

The tenth issue of the 'The Out-of-Body Travel Foundation Journal' focuses on 'The Great Beyond.'

In our 'Question and Answer' Section, we answer some questions from Louise Carlson in the United States about destiny and prophecy. And In our 'Different Voices' section, we enjoy a variety of articles beginning with a recently discovered system of energy, the Vehram System, which proves the existence of the soul and life after death. Dr. P.C. Simon explores in three articles; death, soul and reincarnation while Dr. James Lee Choron tells of a very interesting story from 1898 in Texas - the Aurora Incident - a UFO incident involving the death of Extra Terrestrials. Finally, we end with a beautiful poem provided by Maria Scollo depicting the journey of life in 'Wings.'

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