

Editor's Foreword

In this issue, authors address near-death experiences (NDEs) across a wide time spectrum, from historical to contemporary to future. It is the third of a few transition issues between Dr. Greyson's editorship and my own, in which he oversaw the peer review process and accepted the articles and I endorsed his decision and worked with the authors on final edits.

In the lead article, religion and philosophy professor Stephen E. Potthoff examines the visions of two 3rd century North African Christian martyrs as they approached their deaths. He evaluates how their visions compare to contemporary NDEs with an emphasis on the ability of such experiences to constructively transform both those who experience them and those who learn of them.

In the second article, psychology doctoral candidate Simon R. Jones and professor Charles Fernyhough examine the visions of the 18th century mystic Emanuel Swedenborg. They evaluate how his visions compare to contemporary NDEs with an emphasis on possible physiological factors in the facilitation of such experiences.

In his book review, higher education dean and parapsychologist Jeffrey Mishlove examines a voluminous work that addresses primarily contemporary NDEs, P. M. H. Atwater's *The Big Book of Near-Death Experiences*. He evaluates the strengths and limitations of this work that he considers "the most comprehensive presentation of knowledge concerning ... NDEs ... yet assembled"

This issue concludes with a letter to the editor from NDE investigators Robert G. Mays and Suzanne B. Mays. In it, they examine methodology in critical care physician Sam Parnia's recently announced AWARE study to expand understanding of the nature of consciousness at death. They recommend modification of the proposed methodology to more fully achieve the study's aim by maximizing future knowledge of apparently nonphysical veridical – that is, verified as accurate – perception during the first moments of death.

It is my hope that readers of this volume will enjoy an exploration of NDEs ranging from the distant past to the much-anticipated future.

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