

Editor's Foreword

At the heart of the field of near-death studies are near-death experiences (NDEs). Both at and beyond this heart are little-addressed topics. In the first two works of this issue of the *Journal*, authors enrich the field with their treatises on two such less-addressed subjects.

To date, the topic of Islamic NDEs has been among the very least addressed in the professional near-death literature. This issue opens with a Guest Editorial by Canadian M.D. Joel Ibrahim Kreps. Dr. Kreps draws on his extensive personal experience and professional expertise in Sufism, the mystical branch of Islam, to review published Muslim NDEs and bring to light cases new to the literature. Yet despite his scouring of not only professional but also popular literature, as well as his attempt to collect NDE reports from earthquake victims in Pakistan, he found only a few cases. He concludes his editorial by offering the hypothesis he believes best explains an apparent dearth of Muslim NDEs.

Next, German biologist Michael Nahm, Ph.D., presents several cases in which people with chronic mental disabilities became lucid shortly before their deaths – a phenomenon he labels Terminal Lucidity (TL). Not only does Dr. Nahm's work highlight a phenomenon previously little addressed in professional literature, but also he does so by providing translation of German cases that otherwise would be unavailable in the English professional literature. He concludes by discussing implications of TL for care of the dying and for understanding human consciousness.

Emeritus *Journal* editor Bruce Greyson, M.D., “returns to active duty” with a review of Barbara Harris Whitfield's new book, *The Natural Soul*. In his review, he provides a taste of Whitfield's more lavish feast of using NDEs “to live from the soul rather than from the ego.” He summarizes by encouraging readers to partake of that feast.

This issue ends with three Letters to the Editor. In the first, NDE investigator P. M. H. Atwater, L.H.D., responds to Jeffrey Mishlove's recent review in this *Journal* of her *Big Book of Near-Death Experiences*. She includes comments on some of the challenges of publishing popular literature in the field of near-death studies. Then

Florida English Professor Roberta Moore, M.A., M.B.A., gives mixed review of a recent *Journal* article by Simon R. Jones and Charles Fernyhough in which they speculated whether Emanuel Swedenborg had NDEs.

Normally, I would not use a Letter to the Editor to announce the release of a book. In the case of Canadian M.D. Yvonne Kason's *Farther Shores: Exploring how Near-Death, Kundalini and Mystical Experiences Can Transform Ordinary Lives*, I am making an exception. Kason's original work, *A Farther Shore*, was reviewed in this *Journal* in 1998 by . . . me. Her most recent edition includes additional sections that address her subject even more thoroughly. This enhancement further strengthens my original assessment of her work as must-read for any experiencer of the non-ordinary seeking support and any healthcare provider seeking competence to assist such experiencers. Reminding readers of the value of this work seems an appropriate way to end this issue that addresses some of the wide array of near-death-related experiences known to humanity.

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