

Editor's Foreword

This issue includes attention to both near-death experiences and related experiences by authors from North America and Europe. It opens with a contribution from two members of the Shared Crossing Research Initiative (SCRI) based in Santa Barbara, CA: Michael Kinsella, PhD, SCRI Chief of Research; and William Peters, MA, MEd, MFT, SCRI Founder, Executive Director, and principal investigator for the study they presented. In that study, they compared features and aftereffects of near-death experiences (NDEs) and shared death experiences. They found many similarities as well as a few noteworthy differences, leading them to conclude that the two experiences “are different perspectives of a singular phenomenon, namely the transition between physical and non-physical existence.”

In the next contribution, a research team from the UK—Gurm Bacchus, MSc, MEd, MA, MBACP at Leeds Beckett University; Divine Charura, DCounsPsych, CPsychol, AFBPsS, UKCP reg. Psych, SFHEA, UKCP Honorary Fellow at York St. John University; and Tara Fox, MA, PGCHE, MBACP (Accred.), FHEA at Leeds Beckett University—reports on their exploratory qualitative study of four UK psychotherapists who had worked with clients who reported death-related transpersonal phenomena: deathbed visions, deathbed coincidences, and/or after-death communication. The authors identified themes common to these psychotherapists' experiences—themes that may apply to psychotherapists elsewhere in the Western world, if not beyond.

Next, Dan Punzak, BS, PE, reviews one of Canadian psychiatrist Yvonne Kason's recent books, *Touched by the Light: Exploring Spiritually Transformative Experiences*. Punzak found that in this most recent rendition of Kason's original work from 1994, *A Farther Shore*, in which she details in particular the aftereffects of a variety of transpersonal experiences and suggestions for coping with them, she has continued to make a central contribution to the field of near-death and related studies.

This issue closes with three Letters to the Editor. In the first Letter, P. M. H. Atwater, LHD, offers clarification of a few points from a review of her book *The Forever Angels* that James Matlock, PhD,

contributed to the last issue of this *Journal* (volume 40, number 1). In the second Letter, James Matlock, PhD, himself offers commentary—mostly differing viewpoints—on an article on NDEs and claims of past life memories by Bruce Greyson, MD, that appeared in a recent issue of this *Journal* (volume 39, number 3). In the third and final Letter, Snežana Brumec, PhD candidate at the University of Maribor in Maribor, Slovenia, alerts readers to two studies published in other journals addressing aftereffects similar to NDEs—but experienced by pilgrims who walked the Camino de Santiago in northwest Spain.

Hopefully, readers of this issue will find its contents stimulating and broadening of their understanding of phenomena in the field of near-death studies.

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