

## BOOKS ON DEATH, DYING, & BEFORE/BEYOND (Compiled by Timothy Conway, Ph.D. --Revised 1999, 2006)

\*\*\* *Scholarly, scientific, popular, parapsychological, and cross-cultural/anthropological works:*

- Almeder, Robert, *Death & Personal Survival: The Evidence for Life After Death*, NY: Rowman & Littlefield, 1992 (by a renowned Fulbright scholar/philosopher of biomedical ethics; "On Reincarnation: A Reply to Hales, *Philosophia* (Dec. 2000), vol. 28 nos. 1-4; "Recent Responses to Survival Research," *J. of Scientific Exploration*, Spring 1997, vol. 10, no. 4, 495ff.)
- Anabiosis: The Journal for Near-Death Studies* (1981- ) and newsletter *Vital Signs* (1979- ) published by the **International Assoc. for Near-Death Studies** (website: [iands.org](http://iands.org)), P.O. Box 502, East Windsor Hill, CT 06028-0502 (Kenneth Ring, Ed.).
- Aries, Philippe, *The Hour of Our Death* (H. Weaver, Trans.), NY: Knopf, 1981; *Images of Man and Death* (J. Lloyd, Trans.), Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. Press, 1985 (by a pioneering researcher on the phenomenon of death).
- Atwater, P.M.H., *Beyond the Light: What Isn't Being Said about Near-Death Experience*, NY: Carol, 1994 (by a survivor).
- Bailey, Lee W., & Jenny Yates, *The Near Death Experience: A Reader*, Routledge, 1996 (good compilation of leading authors).
- Berman, Phillip, *The Journey Home: What Near-Death Experiences and Mysticism Teach Us About the Gift of Life*, Pocket, 1998.
- Bache, Christopher, *Lifecycles: Reincarnation and the Web of Life*, NY: Paragon, 1991 (excellent, eloquent philosophical work).
- Bowman, Carol, *Return From Heaven: Beloved Relatives Reincarnated Within Your Family*, HarperCollins 2001; *Children's Past Lives: How Past Life Memories Affect Your Child*, Bantam, 1998 (good popular works, especially for parents; with novel cases)
- Brinkley, Dannon (with Paul Perry), *Saved By the Light*, Villard, 1994; *At Peace In the Light*, HarperCollins, 1995 (popular-level works by a NDE survivor who became highly psychic as a result of the "zapping" experience).
- Cockell, Jenny, *Across Time & Death: The Extraordinary Search for My Past-Life Family*, Simon & Schuster, 1994 (poignant).
- Cox-Chapman, Mally, *The Case for Heaven: Messages of Hope from People Who Touched Eternity*, Berkley, 1996 (50 cases).
- Coward, Harold (Ed.), *Life After Death in World Religions*, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997 (scholarly overview articles).
- Cranston, Sylvia, & C. Williams, *Reincarnation: A New Horizon in Science, Religion & Society*, NY: Julian, 1984 (excellent).
- DeSpelder, L., & A. Strickland, *The Last Dance: Encountering Death & Dying*, McGraw Hill, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., 2004 (widely-used textbook).
- Doka, Kenneth, & J. Morgan (Eds.), *Death & Spirituality*, Baywood, 1993 (on different religions' approaches to death/dying).
- Doore, Gary (Ed.), *What Survives? Contemporary Explorations of Life after Death*, L.A.: Tarcher, 1990 (fine anthology).
- Duda, Deborah, *Coming Home: A Guide to Dying at Home with Dignity*, Santa Fe: Aurora, 1990 (very useful).
- Eliade, Mircea, *Death, Afterlife, and Eschatology*, NY: Harper & Row, 1967 (by a leading scholar of world religions).
- Fenwick, Peter & Elizabeth, *The Truth in the Light: An Investigation of Over 300 Near-Death Experiences*, Berkley, 1997.
- Fiore, Edith, *The Unquiet Dead: A Psychologist Works with Spirit Possession*, Doubleday, 1987; *You Have Been Here Before: A Psychologist Looks at Past Lives*, NY: Ballantine, 1986/1978 (by a behaviorist-trained psychotherapist).
- Fisher, Joe, *The Case for Reincarnation*, NY: Bantam Books, 1985 (marshals lots of evidence for reincarnation).
- Grey, Margot, *Return from Death: An Exploration of the Near-Death Experience*, London: Arkana, 1985 (British cases).
- Grof, Stan & Joan Halifax, *The Human Encounter with Death*, NY: Dutton, 1977 (illus.; by 2 leading transpersonal psychologists).
- Holzer, Hans, *Life Beyond: Compelling Evidence for Past Lives & Existence After Death*, Contemporary Books, 1994.
- Iverson, Jeffrey, *In Search of the Dead: A Scientific Investigation of Evidence for Life After Death*, HarperSF, 1992 (excellent).
- Journal of Regression Therapy* (1986- ); published biannually by the Association for Past Life Research & Therapy, now renamed the **International Association for Regression Research & Therapies**, [www.iarrt.org](http://www.iarrt.org).
- Kalish, Richard, *Death, Grief, and Caring Relationships*, Monterey, CA: Brooks/Cole, 1977; R. Kalish (Ed.), 5-volume series: *Death & Dying: Views from Many Cultures, Caring Relationship: The Dying & the Bereaved; Death, Dying, Transcending, Death & Ethnicity: A Psychocultural Study, & The Final Transition*, Baywood Publ., 1993 (good mainstream textbooks).
- Kaplan, Steven (Ed.), *Concepts of Transmigration: Perspectives on Reincarnation*, Lewiston, NY: E Mellen, 1994 (excellent).
- Kellehear, Allan, *Experiences Near Death: Beyond Medicine and Religion*, Oxford Univ. Press, 1996 (by another fine scholar).
- Kubler-Ross, Elisabeth, MD, *On Death and Dying*, NY: Macmillan, 1969; *Questions and Answers on Death & Dying*, 1974; *Death: The Final Stage of Growth*, Prentice-Hall, 1975; *To Live Until We Say Goodbye*, P-H, 1978 (important pioneer).
- Levine, Stephen, *Who Dies? An Investigation of Conscious Living & Conscious Dying*, Doubleday, 1982; *Meetings at the Edge: Dialogues with the Grieving & the Dying, the Healing & the Healed*, Doubleday, 1984 (profound wisdom from a sage).
- Lorimer, David, *Survival? Body, Mind, & Death in the Light of Psychic Experience*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1984 (by a leading "New Paradigm" British doctor; see also his earlier work, *Whole in One*, on the Near-Death Experience).
- Lucas, Winifred (Ed.), *Past Life Therapy: A Handbook for Professionals*, 2 vols., P.O. Box 4, Crest Park, CA: Deep Forest Press, 1993 (excellent resource work on regression therapy).
- Moody, Jr., Raymond, MD, *Life After Life*, Bantam ed. 1977/1973; *Reflections on Life After Life*, Bantam, 1978; Raymond Moody (with Paul Perry) *Coming Back: A Psychiatrist Explores Past-Life Journeys*, Bantam, 1990; Moody & Perry, *Reunions: Visionary Encounters with Departed Loved Ones*, Villard, 1993 (fine works by the well-known pioneer of NDE research).
- Morse, Melvin, MD, & Paul Perry, *Closer to the Light*, Villard, 1990 (on NDEs in children; excellent research methodology); and *Transformed by the Light*, Villard, 1992 (Morse, a pediatrician, argues scientifically for the validity of NDEs).
- Netherton, Morris, & N. Shiffirin, *Past Lives Therapy*, NY: William Morrow, 1978 (Netherton pioneered regression work).
- Oppenheim, Garrett, *Who Were You Before You Were You? The Casebook of a Past-Life Therapist*, NY: Carlton, Press, 1990.
- Osis, Karlis, & Erlendur Haraldson, *What They Saw... At the Hour of Death: A New Look at Evidence for Life After Death*, Norwalk, CT: Hastings House Pub., 3rd ed., 1997 (originally published in 1977); and *Deathbed Observations by Physicians and Nurses: A Cross-Cultural Study*, NY: Parapsychology Foundation, 1961 (on impressive apparitions seen near death).
- Palmer, Greg, *Death: The Trip of a Lifetime*, HarperSF, 1993 (see also his PBS TV special on death across cultures).
- Reader's Digest, *Life Beyond Death*, Pleasantville, NY: Reader's Digest Association, 1992 (good illustrations).
- Ring, Kenneth, *Life At Death*, NY: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1980; *Heading Toward Omega: In Search of the Meaning of the Near-Death Experience*, Morrow, 1984; *Lessons from the Light*, Insight, 1998 (by a leading theorist on NDEs).

Ritchie, George, MD, *Return from Tomorrow*, Lincoln, VA: Chosen Books, 1978 (by Raymond Moody's mentor, a psychiatrist).

Rogo, D. Scott, *The Search for Yesterday*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1985 (by an esteemed, late psi researcher).

Sharp, Kimberly Clark, *After the Light*, Morrow, 1995 (by a prominent member of IANDS).

Shroder, Thomas, *Old Souls: Compelling Evidence from Children Who Remember Past Lives*, Simon & Schuster, 2001 (by a respected mainstream journalist at the *Washington Post* who accompanied Ian Stevenson on some of his investigations)

Spiro, Howard, et al. (Eds.), *Facing Death: Where Culture, Religion, and Medicine Meet*, Yale U. Press, 1996 (good textbook).

Stevenson, Ian, *Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation*, rev. ed., 1974; *Cases of the Reincarnation Type*, Vols. 1-4, 1975-1983; *Unlearned Language: New Studies in Xenoglossy*, 1984 (all by Univ. Press of VA); *Children Who Remember Past Lives*, Jefferson, NC: McFarland, rev. ed., 2001/1987; *Where Reincarnation & Biology Intersect: A Contribution to the Etiology of Birthmarks & Birth Defects*, Greenwood, 1996 (the full documentation in this last, highly-persuasive, landmark work is found in his two-volume *Reincarnation & Biology: A Contribution to the Etiology of Birthmarks & Birth Defects*, Praeger, 1997).

Sutphen, Dick, *You Were Born to Be Together*, NY: Pocket, 1976; *Past Lives, Future Loves*, Pocket, 1978 ("how-to" books).

Talbot, Michael, *Your Past Lives: A Reincarnation Handbook*, NY: Fawcett Columbine, 1989 (by the late psi researcher).

TenDam, Hans, *Exploring Reincarnation* (A.E.J. Wils, Tr.), Arkana, 1990 (fine, thorough work by a Dutch psychologist).

Tucker, Jim, *Life Before Life: A Scientific Investigation of Children's Memories of Previous Lives*, St. Martin's Press, 2005 (extremely important book by a pediatric psychiatrist, based on Ian Stevenson's work).

Toynbee, A., et al, *Man's Concern with Death*, NY: McGraw-Hill, 1968 (cross-cultural perspective by an historian).

Wambach, Helen, *Reliving Past Lives: The Evidence Under Hypnosis*, 1978; *The Wambach Method: A Manual for Past Life Recall* (highly recommended works by a pioneer; available from APRT).

Weiss, Brian, MD, *Many Lives, Many Masters*, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1988 (an in-depth single case study); *Through Time Into Healing*, NY: Simon & Schuster Fireside, 1993 (more case studies by a mainstream psychiatrist; a better work is Woolger's).

Wilson, Colin, *Afterlife*, London: Harrap, 1985 (by a leading researcher of the esoteric traditions).

Wilson, Ian, *The After Death Experience: The Physics of the Non-Physical*, William Morrow, 1987 (a bit skeptical).

Wren-Lewis, John, "The Darkness of God: A Personal Report on Consciousness Transformation Through an Encounter with Death," in *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, (28):2, Spring 1988, pp. 105-22 (a more profound NDE than most cases).

Woolger, Roger, *Other Lives, Other Selves: A Jungian Discovers Past Lives*, Doubleday, 1987 (deeply insightful; must-reading).

Zaleski, Carol, *Otherworld Journeys: Accounts of Near-Death Experience in Medieval & Modern Times*, Oxford U., 1987 (see especially chapters 6-11 for an exceptionally fine, if somewhat dated, overview of NDEs).

**\*\*\* Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Jewish, Spiritualist, Theosophical, New Age, Indigenous and psychic perspectives:**

Besant, Annie, *Death—And After?* Adyar, Madras: Theosophical Publ., 1972 (theosophical view; see also Besant's colleague, C.W. Leadbeater, *The Other Side of Death, Scientifically Examined & Carefully Explained*, Theosophical Publ., 1961; and see works on death and afterlife by two prominent offshoot theosophists, Alice Bailey and Rudolf Steiner).

Brandon, Ruth, *The Spiritualists*, Knopf, 1983 (history of those psychics and mediums from the 1850s on).

Cerminara, Gina, *Many Mansions*, William Morrow, 1950; *Many Lives, Many Loves*, NY: William Sloane, 1963 (analyzes the past-life readings from noted psychic, Edgar Cayce; see also Noel Langley, *Edgar Cayce on Reincarnation*, Warner, 1967).

Cerutti, Edwina, *Olga Worrall: Mystic with the Healing Hands*, Harper & Row, 1975 (see pp. 69-129, on her husband's postmortem revelations about the after-life state).

Cruz, Joan Carroll, *The Incorruptibles*, Rockford, IL: TAN Books, 1977 (on postmortem miracles of saints).

Foos-Graber, Anya, *Deathing: An Intelligent Alternative for the Final Moments of Life*, York Beach, ME: Samuel Weiser, 1989.

[Free John], Da, *Easy Death: Talks and Essays on the Inherent and Ultimate Transcendence of Death and Everything Else*, San Rafael, CA: Dawn Horse Press, 1983 (must-read work, but don't join the cult of this abusive American teacher).

Gauld, Alan, *Mediumship and Survival: A Century of Investigations*, London: Heinemann, 1982 (by a president of the S.P.R.).

Gershon, Yonassan, *Beyond the Ashes: Cases of Reincarnation from the Holocaust*, Virginia Beach, VA: ARE Press, 1992; *From Ashes to Healing: Mystical Encounters with the Holocaust*, ARE, 1996; and *Jewish Tales of Reincarnation*, Northvale, NJ: Aronson, 1999 (by a Breslover Hasidic rabbi; see also Simcha Paull Raphael, *Jewish Views of the After-Life*, Aronson, 1994).

Harding, Douglas, *The Little Book of Life and Death*, London: Penguin Arkana, 1988 (excellent work by a true sage; see also his *On Having No Head*, Arkana, 1986 and many others; [www.headless.org](http://www.headless.org); Virginia Parcell, 3474 Mandeville Cyn., L.A. 90049)

Harpur, Tom, *Life After Death*, Mclelland & Stewart, 1997 (popular-level work by an open-minded Christian researcher).

*Inquiring Mind*, Vol. 6, No. 2, Winter/Spring 1990 (special issue on dying), Dharma Foundation, P.O. Box 9999, N. Berkeley Station, Berkeley, Ca. 94709 (articles by leading American Buddhist *vipassana*-meditation teachers).

Kapleau, Roshi Philip, *The Wheel of Death*, NY: Harper & Row, 1971/1974 (tales of death in the Zen tradition).

Kennett, Roshi Jiyu, *How to Grow a Lotus Blossom: Or How a Zen Buddhist Prepares for Death*, Mt. Shasta, CA: Shasta Abbey, 1977 (relates a NDE from the Buddhist viewpoint of a Western-born Zen priestess).

Klimo, Jon, *Channeling: Investigations on Receiving Information from Paranormal Sources*, L.A.: Tarcher, 1987.

Maharaj, Nisargadatta, *I Am That* (Maurice Frydman, Trans.), Durham, NC: Acorn Press, 1982 (first published by Chetana, Bombay, India, 1973) (a Vedanta sage of pinnacle spiritual realization offers supreme, liberating wisdom).

Maharshi, Ramana, *Be As You Are: The Teachings of Sri Ramana Maharshi* (David Godman, Ed.), London/Boston: Arkana, 1985. (See Ch. 18 on reincarnation & the illusion of separate selfhood) (by the most illustrious Vedanta sage of the 20th century).

Martin, Joel, & Romanowski, P., *We Don't Die: George Anderson's Conversations with the Other Side*, Berkley, 1989; *We Are Not Forgotten: George Anderson's Messages of Love and Hope from the Other Side*, Berkley, 1992 (on the much-tested, extraordinary Catholic "discerner of spirits," George Anderson; see G. Anderson & Andrew Barone, *George Anderson's Lessons from the Light*, Putnam / Berkley, 1999).

McGregor, Geddes, *Reincarnation in Christianity*, Wheaton, IL: Quest, 1978; *Reincarnation As a Christian Hope*, Barnes & Noble, 1982 (must-reading for Christians, by the late Anglican vicar & USC philosophy professor).

Mills, Antonia, & Richard Slobodin (Eds.), *American Rebirth: Reincarnation Belief Among North American Indians & Inuit*, U. of Toronto Press, 1994 (based on papers presented at annual meeting of the Canadian Anthropological Soc., Montreal, 1990).

Mother Meera, *Bringing Down the Light: Journey of a Soul After Death* (illus.), 26 Spruce Lane, Ithaca, NY, 14850: Meeramma Publications, 1990 (a contemporary Hindu spiritual master describes & illustrates the after-death state).

Neufeldt, Ronald (Ed.), *Karma and Rebirth: Post Classical Developments*, Albany, NY: SUNY, 1986 (a scholarly work).

Obilor, John Iheanyichukwu, *The Doctrine of the Resurrection of the Dead and the Igbo Belief in the Reincarnation: A Systematico-Theological Study*, Peter Lang, 1994 (by a Nigerian Catholic priest on the afterlife-beliefs of his people).

Parrish-Harra, Rev. Carol W., *The New Age Handbook on Death and Dying*, Santa Monica, Ca.: IBS Press, 1989.

Rama, Swami, *Life Here and Hereafter*, Honesdale, PA: Himalayan International Institute of Yoga Science & Philosophy, 1976 (and see work by his colleague, Pandit Usharbudh Arya, *Meditation and the Art of Dying*, Himalayan Internat'l Inst., 1979).

Reyes, Benito F., *Conscious Dying: Psychology of Death and Guidebook to Liberation*, Ojai, CA: World Univ., 1986 (fine work).

Singh, Kirpal, *The Mystery of Death*, Delhi: India, 1975 (by a leading adept of the Radhasoami sect of India).

--Specifically on the Tibetan Buddhist approaches to dying and the afterlife, see W.Y. Evans-Wentz (Ed.), *The Tibetan Book of the Dead (Bardo Thodol)* (Lama Kazi Dawa Samdup, Tr.), NY: Oxford Univ. Press Galaxy Books ed., 1960/1927 (the first English edition of this classic Tibetan Buddhist text); Francesca Fremantle & Chogyam Trungpa (Tr.), *The Tibetan Book of the Dead: The Great Liberation Through Hearing in the Bardo*, Shambhala, 1975; Detlef Ingo Lauf, *Secret Doctrines of the Tibetan Books of the Dead* (Graham Parkes, Tr.), Shambhala, 1977; Glenn Mullin, *Death and Dying: The Tibetan Tradition*, Boston: Arkana, 1986; Tsele Natsok Rangdrol, *The Mirror of Mindfulness: The Cycle of the Four Bardos* (Erik Pema Kunsang, Tr.), Shambhala, 1989 (by a Tibetan Buddhist lama); Sogyal Rinpoche, *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* (P. Gaffney & A. Harvey, Eds.), Harper SF, 1992 (excellent work by a leading Tibetan Buddhist meditation master); Robert Thurman, *The Tibetan Book of the Dead: Liberation through Understanding in the Between*, NY: Bantam, 1994 (by the scholar and former monk with the Dalai Lama).

--Other useful books/websites on exploration of the "intermediate realms": Stephen LaBerge, *Lucid Dreaming* (Ballantine, 1985) and *Exploring the World of Lucid Dreaming* (Ballantine, 1990); Jayne Gackenbach & Jane Bosveld, *Control Your Dreams* (Harper & Row, 1989); Robert Monroe, *Journeys Out of the Body* (Doubleday, 1973); Edwin Steinbrecher, *The Inner Guide Meditation: A Spiritual Technology for the 21st Century* (Weiser, 1988). Contact the International Association for Regression Research & Therapies ([www.iarrt.org](http://www.iarrt.org)); the Assoc. for the Alignment of Past Life Experience (AAPLE), 1147 Hacienda Blvd., Hacienda Hights, CA 91745 (Netherton Method); or Laughing Bear Productions, 5 River Rd., New Paltz, NY 12561 (Woolger's work) for regressions into the before-birth state. Also useful is *Going Home* cassette tapes, a training in conscious dying, developed by Robert Monroe, E. Kubler-Ross and Charles Tart, available from Monroe Institute, Box 175, Faber VA 22938.

\*\*\* *Conservative or Fundamentalist (Anti-New-Age) Christian Approaches to Death, NDEs, Reincarnation, etc.*

Gibson, Arvin, *Echoes from Eternity: New Near-Death Experiences Examined*, P.O.B. 490, Bountiful, UT: Horizon Press, 1993 (anti-New Age approach to NDEs by a Mormon Christian).

Groothuis, Douglas, *Deceived by the Light*, Harvest House, 1995 (by a fanatically anti-New Age Christian evangelist).

Habermas, Gary, & J.P. Moreland, *Immortality*, Nelson, 1992 (by two mainstream Christian evangelical theologians).

Rawlings, Maurice, MD, *Beyond Death's Door*, London: Sheldon Press, 1978; *To Hell and Back*, Thomas A. Nelson, 1993 (by a Christian cardiologist; the second work betrays extremely fundamentalist views).

Sabom, Michael, *Recollections of Death: A Medical Investigation*, Harper & Row, 1982; *Light & Death: One Doctor's Fascinating Account of Near-Death Experiences*, Zondervan 1998 (influential studies of NDEs by a devout Christian cardiologist).

Weldon, John, & John Ankerberg, *The Facts on Life After Death*, Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1992 (more fundamentalism).

Wilkerson, Ralph, *Beyond and Back: Those Who Died and Lived to Tell It*, Anaheim, Ca.: Melodyland, 1977 (a leader in the charismatic Christian movement gives his perspective on NDEs and the after-life).

\*\*\* *Skeptical and Pseudo-Skeptical / Reductionist Works:*

Alkon, Daniel, *Memory's Voice: Deciphering the Mind-Brain Code*, NY: HarperCollins, 1993 (reductionist view of NDE).

Arvey, Michael (Ed.), *Reincarnation* (Opposing Viewpoints series), San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 1989.

Blackmore, Susan, *Dying to Live: Near-Death Experience*, Buffalo, NY: Prometheus, 1993; and *Beyond the Body: An Investigation of Out-of-the-Body Experiences*, Chicago: Academy Chicago Pub., Amer. Ed., 1992 (by a skeptic from CSICOP).

Edwards, Paul, *Reincarnation: A Critical Examination*, Prometheus, 1996 (a devastating critique of this flawed work is Robert Almeder, "A Critique of Arguments Offered Against Reincarnation," *J. of Scientific Exploration*, 11/4, Winter 97, 499-526).

--Note: Books published by Prometheus on post-mortem survival and other "paranormal" topics are flatly rejecting in their orientation, not truly skeptical (open-minded), but "pseudo-skeptical," as skeptic Marcello Truzzi has charged. See also articles in professional and "skeptical" journals by Russell Noyes and Roy Kletti, Ronald Siegel, Michael Persinger, and Ernst Rodin.