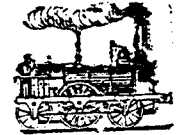


## Quantum Physics & Parallel Realities

# UFOs Mimic Subatomic Realm

By Sherie Stark



Science writer Michael Talbot suggests that UFOs may operate according to some of the physical laws that have been discovered in the subatomic world of quantum physics, an "Alice in Wonderland" place in which time and matter behave very strangely and where there seems to be no strict division between subjective and objective realities.

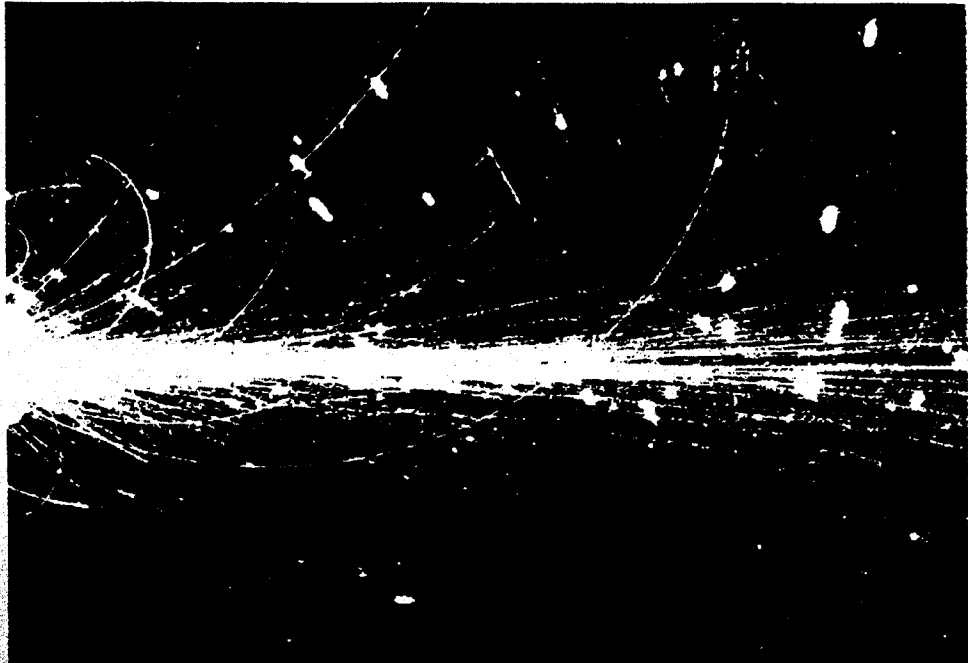
"Quantum physics is teaching us that there are probably many different levels of reality, not all of which are readily available to what we call our objective universe, or our objective senses. Reality on that level does not exist as precisely and neatly as it does in the world of everyday objects," says Talbot, who has written two books on the subject, *Beyond the Quantum* and *Mysticism and the New Physics*.

Talbot has been interested in seeking new approaches to science ever since mainstream science was unable to explain his childhood UFO experiences and his subsequent years of visitation by a poltergeist (see sidebar).

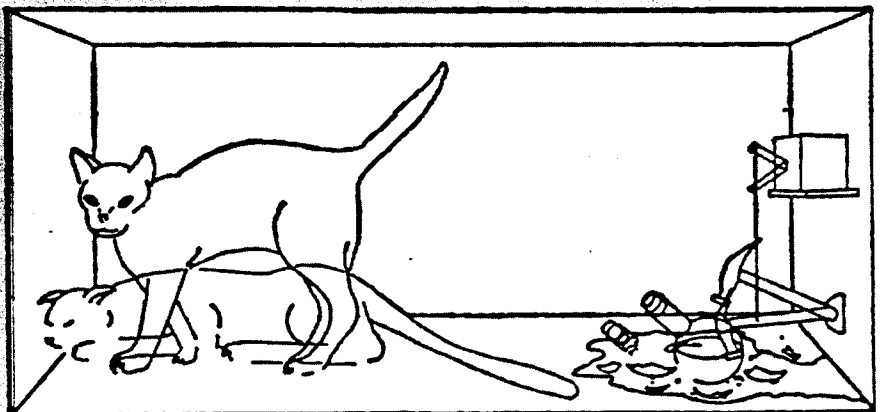
"Science is very pompous, and in every age of human history, a good percentage of the scientists feel that they're just about at the end of figuring things out. This is still the case," he says. "I worked for a literary agent who specialized in science for a number of years, so I had a lot of contact with scientists in every field. I got so tired of hearing them tell me that we knew all the laws of physics, that we knew what was possible and what wasn't. I knew more was possible, because I had experienced it."

As a beginners' introduction to the ideas of quantum physics, Talbot gives a series of examples; adding that one of the concept's founders said that if you're not really baffled when you first start to learn about it, you probably haven't gotten its full impact:

"Imagine a pool table and a billiard ball, but instead of being able to see the pool table directly, you have a sheet of cloth over it. When the billiard ball (which is the subatomic particle) is observed, it is seen as one entity, but when you shoot it someplace, when it leaves



Subatomic particles caught on film



**THE SHADOW BOX**—*"Schrodinger's Cat" thought experiment illustrates the idea that in the quantum, shadow reality, the cat would be both alive and dead, (based on mathematical projections that the geiger counter would be both set off and not set off.)*

your immediate perception and you have it travel, we have evidence that it seems to split up into several parallel versions of itself. So when you shoot the ball under the sheet, you see two bumps under the sheet. As soon as the observer steps back into the experiment, and does something like focus an electron microscope on it or something to try to pin down what's going on, you can

only see one billiard ball. So you have two pieces of evidence—the billiard ball that we see as one entity and the shadow world that we can't see directly, which is the subatomic realm . . .

"With certain kinds of instruments we can tell when a photon of light passes a star. We can't see its path otherwise, so all the distance it travels that we aren't able to see is

analogous to the sheet on the pool table, but when it passes a star, it has an effect on the star. In that sense, the star becomes our perceiving mechanism and we can measure that the photon is passing. In some strange sense it goes around both sides of the star, but when we try to detect that as human beings, we can't see it; we perceive it only as going around one side or the other

"If you were to shoot an electron at a plate of film, and in front of the film you put a piece of cardboard with two slits in it, the particle would hit the plate in one spot. We can tell that it's going through both slits at once. It's exploring every way it can use to get to the plate, and yet all the probable cells that it breaks into don't ever manifest themselves on our level of reality; they vanish and it becomes one thing as it enters our level . . .

"Physicist John Wheeler likened the behavior of subatomic particles to the great smoky dragons in Chinese parades. We can see them when they leave their point of origin—that's the dragon's tail—and we can see them when they arrive at the instrument meant to measure them—that's its head; but in between it's all the smoke and mist. We don't know quite what's going on there, except that the particles seem to be dividing up and doing things that objects can't . . .

"What seems to make it break down and become not two things simultaneously but one thing is when an observer enters the picture. It seems to be the interaction with consciousness," says Talbot. "It's almost as if we're not ready to see that what's out there is actually many, many levels of reality all superimposed on each other, so when we start to interact with it, we can only pull one level of reality out of the blur of realities, the blur of probable universes."

"Schrodinger's Cat" is a classic thought experiment used to demonstrate how strange the quantum world is: A geiger counter is hooked up to a flask of poisonous gas, and is sealed in an opaque box with a cat in it.

"The mathematical formula of quantum physics tells us that the particle that could set the geiger counter off, the little piece of radium, will in its level of reality both set the geiger counter off and not set the geiger counter off! It will both decay and not decay. Mathematically, you will end up with a cat that is dead and alive. But we don't find that in our level of existence; we can't deal with two mutually-exclusive realities,

so we open the box and we find one or the other. Mathematically, there are two realities going on, but one of the realities collapses, and only one gets through our filters," say Talbot.

This chaotic, multiple reality is something that is going on everywhere, all the time, he says. "If you were to magnify nothing but empty space, you would see a profusion of activity, a quantum foam of particles appearing and disappearing, because on that level reality is exploring every possible state of existence. We can't yet look this small, but we can tell this is going on by extrapolation, and we can measure that it's going on. We can measure in a certain vicinity, for a fraction of an instant, that something popped into and out of existence, but never quite stepped up and became part of our level of reality. Those are called virtual particles," says Talbot.

*"It's almost as if we're not ready to see that what's out there is actually many, many levels of reality all superimposed on each other. . ."*

He says that on at this level, matter behaves according to very strange rules.

"If you have a globe or a sphere and you draw an 'X' on one side, if you want to turn it so the 'X' comes around to face you again, you'd turn it 360 degrees. If you have an electron and imagine an 'X' on it, if you turn it 360 degrees, in the electron's reality you will have only turned it 180 degrees, half-way around. You'd have to turn it another 360 degrees for the electron to make a complete orbit . . .

"When you throw a pebble at a piece of glass, it's either going to hit the glass and bounce off or hit the glass and break and go through. If you throw an electron at a barrier in its world, it approaches the barrier and stops before it hits it. Somehow, we don't know how, it seems to perform all sorts of calculations and understand how thick it is. If it's not too thick, it will dematerialize and rematerialize on the other side. That's called the tunneling effect, and it's this property that makes transistors able to work . . ."

He says it's also reminiscent of reports on how UFOs appear to behave when they're picked up on radar, like when a UFO is seen traveling 50,000 miles per hour, and it stops and makes an instant right-angle turn.

"For a long time scientists have

said that this quantum weirdness does not spill over into the everyday world as we know it. But I think they are just afraid to look at the implications of that idea. It's a very staggering prospect," he says.

"I've thought for some time that it must be possible to manifest quantum things on our level, and indeed the concept of superconductivity is part of that—something we thought would never become part of the sticks and stones of the world has spilled over into our level of reality, and it looks like it's going to continue to do so." (Superconductivity is a newly-discovered state in which electricity can travel forever without ever meeting resistance. Previously, it was thought to be impossible, because friction would always cause the conductor to heat up eventually, and the current would eventually stop.)

UFOs may very well be a manifestation of quantum reality, according to Talbot. UFOs do things that matter cannot do, but which subatomic particles can. It is not too big a jump of logic to hypothesize that if something is possible on the subatomic level, given the proper technology and the proper understanding of laws of physics—which we probably have yet to discover—it would be possible for a much larger object to exhibit the same behavior."

He says it seems less likely to him that UFOs are physical objects than parapsychical objects existing on a parallel universe.

"Physicality is not necessarily a black-or-white state, though—it may be just a frequency that something enters and can then leave. UFOs certainly behave physically some of the time—they leave depressions where they land, they burn the grass, they can be tracked on radar. But on the other hand they also frequently display qualities that don't seem physical—they appear out of nowhere, they seem to be connected to the observers' mental state, etc.

"It's like the Virgin of Guadalupe who appeared to Juan Diego in the 1500s. On one hand I can easily accept that as some sort of cosmic entity, whether it was the Virgin Mary or something else he had to see in a form his mind could accept. But she gave him real roses, she stepped

over that edge. She didn't go on to remain a physical being in this reality, but that gap was bridged and the nonphysical behaved in a physical way."

He says that he believes there is a level of reality at which thought, or consciousness, is real, but that it has a finer substance than that which we think of as real, something that could be thought of as an astral substance.

"Plato said our world is a shadow-like representation of a deeper realm of archetypes and ideals, and that the basic building blocks of existence, matter and energy, are shadow representations of something yet more refined and subtle.

"What I find very interesting is that scientists won't believe in the power of non-physical consciousness interacting with the universe, but they are beginning to say that there is a level of pure 'information.' And that there's a natural propensity for matter to self-organize and form greater levels of complexity. Which is their sterile way, I think, of saying the same thing."

One of the "Neo Platonists" Talbot particularly identifies with, Plotinus, speaks of the idea that man is currently "half-way poised between the beast and the gods."

"I agree that we are edging toward being godlike in the sense that our reality is going to become more and more plastic," Talbot says. "I think the only reason we can't travel to other realities now is that we're so afraid, that we program a very solid, stable reality for ourselves. But if we begin to loosen that agreement, I think reality would start playing by different rules."

"There are a lot of examples of this happening in history in terms of miracles, I think, where maybe a soul is advanced enough to let go of all the entangling rules for a moment to be released from the consensus reality."

"One thing I've always been intrigued by is the story about Magellan reaching Tierra del Fuego. He anchored his ship out in the ocean and went ashore in small boats. The Tierra del Fuegians asked him how he had gotten there, and he said, 'In that ship out there.' 'What ship?' they asked. They couldn't see the ship. They could see the small boats, because they had had a lot of contact with small boats, but a large ship was not part of their consensus of reality. They couldn't agree upon it to know what it was."

"In fact, I think that's the way UFOs are. That's one of the reasons there seem to be so many psychologically-induced or



Michael Talbot

hallucinatory aspects to the UFO experience. Like the Tierra del Fuegians, we don't yet have the context to understand what they are. So whenever someone has a UFO experience, if it's a persuasive one with evidence, I believe that they've had an experience with some other level of reality, but I don't necessarily take it at face value. You never know what form they had to put it in, because they were leaving what I call our 'reality bubble' and brushing up against a totally 'alien bubble'. The being they may see, with the large eyes and pointed ears, may be the only image their mind could put it in. It may have been something totally different, and indeed, it may have been seeing *them* as totally different from what they are."

He recounts a UFO story in which half of the witnesses remember one of their party shooting at the UFO with a gun, and the other half swear nothing of the sort ever happened. "I am also always struck by Betty and Barney Hill's story that the aliens had Nazi emblems on their uniforms. I can't help feeling there is some filter there, that this has something to do with the fact that they were feeling so traumatized, and not that there are Nazi space people flying around."

"There are so many reality questions in the UFO experience that haven't been addressed. It is not a purely objective experience, and it is not a not purely a subjective experience—so I coined the term, 'omni-objective experience' in *Mysticism*

and the New Physics. UFOs have a foot in each realm, like the quantum physics reality."

He says he particularly leans away from the idea that UFOs are extraterrestrial, not because that might not be so, but because it doesn't explain enough. "Their behavior could primarily be categorized as ultra-dimensional, being that it is intertwined with our mental state to such a large degree."

"The mere fact that after my UFO experience the poltergeist haunting ensued indicates that there are nuances to this process unlike any we have studied before. It demonstrates that we're foolish to believe that what we perceive of as reality is all there is to reality."

"I think we exist on one channel, and it's quite possible that if we went to an alien planet we might not see any civilization there, but if we could move up a channel it might be filled with civilization."

"But they could just as easily exist on channels here on our own planet, or they could exist on levels of reality that may not even be organized."

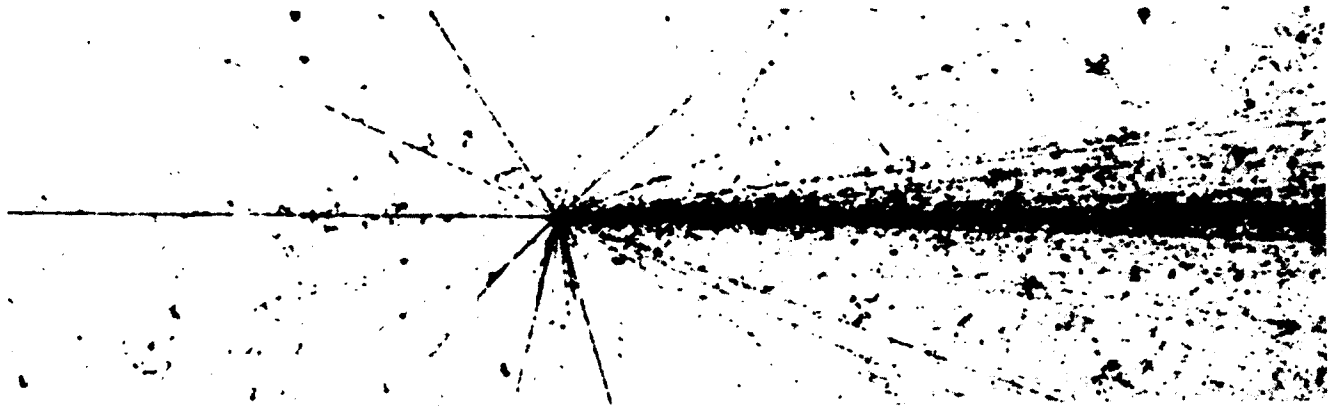
Their universe might not even be composed of planets and suns—they may exist in some region that has a structure so foreign and alien to ours that we couldn't conceive of it at this point because we've never encountered reality organized in that particular fashion."

Talbot says that he believes there are an infinite number of reality channels "out there," and we've been living on a very narrow wavelength for a long time. "We're about to start turning the dials," he says. "There have been sensitives all throughout history who have been able to turn the dials a little bit, and each of us is able on an unconscious level to access information in this way, but I think this is going to be on a much wider scale," he says.

Probably the best way for us to explore other realities is through our heads and in our dreams, he says, noting that a large percentage of UFO encounters seem to take place in dreams or dream-like trance states.

"There are all sorts of universes awaiting us in our inner spaces, and I have had a lot of encounters in my dreams that I believe are other realities. I have to say they're dreams because I was asleep, but they are vast worlds and cities that are not of this earth, and I can't see how my earth experiences could possibly have caused me to manufacture them."

"I think they have something to




A star-burst of quantum matter, exploring as many paths as possible

do with my own level of spiritual growth. They're not just regions in separate pigeonholes of reality; they seem to have something to do with the psychic reality of the human race as well."

This all may sound unscientific, he admits, but points to research showing a brain wave that occurs in the sleep patterns of people who are astral projecting or having an out-of-body experience—but not in people who are having ordinary dreams.

"When we go to sleep, the part of us that scientists are now calling the 'pure information' part—the consciousness, the subtler energies—is able to detach from the agreement of consensus reality. We know next to nothing of what this means at this point. Even lucid dreaming has only in the last half dozen years been considered an actual physiological state (*lucid dreaming* is the state in which the dreamer has control of the outcome of the dream and is aware that he's dreaming).

"We've discovered a new land and have yet to sketch out its cartography. It would be foolish for us to enter a sea and after finding one or two creatures, conclude these are all the phenomena we're going to find here. I think there is probably a universe of distinctions and nuances we're going to discover in the dream state. We are on the very threshold of this aspect of reality." 

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
issue coming  
September, 2000

## Entities and Poltergeists

**M**ichael Talbot's UFO experiences began with an entity who came to him when he was about three years old. "I didn't think of it as a UFO entity. It was tall, had long white hair and wore a long white robe," he says.

"Even though it didn't look anything like my mother—she had red hair, was not tall and didn't wear a white robe—I convinced myself it had to be her and I went with her into the woods near our house one night.

"We got to the edge of the woods, at the edge of a lake, and it stopped and asked if I was afraid. I nodded, and it said 'then hold your hand with your palm up to the moon,' and I did, and it said 'now close your hand.' And when I did, I felt a softness, just like when you hold your hand out of a car window and feel the air, but I wasn't feeling any wind, just a strange, palpable softness. It asked me 'do you feel that?' and I said yes, and it said 'there's one thing I want you to always remember, whatever happens to you in your life, don't be afraid because for you the darkness is soft.'

"This was very comforting to me, and I went to my mother later and said thank you for telling me that, and she didn't know what I was talking about, of course. I didn't have the intellectual savvy to say 'wait, wasn't it you? Something profound has happened to me.'

"When I was five, my parents and another adult couple were camping out in a rural area of Michigan where my parents were building a house, and my dad and the friend of his went to get food for the campout. They saw a UFO—a big green ball of light anyway—come out of the sky and land in the woods. They thought

at first it was a fire ball, and they stopped to watch it to see if it was going to start a fire. After about 20 minutes, it seemed no fire was going to start, and they were just about to go when out of the woods walked this entity with a long white robe and long white hair. It scared them.

"They were less than a quarter of a mile from the campsite, so they stepped on the gas and zoomed back to where we were. They took us all back there and there was the entity still standing there. My dad said he was going to go talk to it, but my mother told him not to; she was very upset by the idea. I just thought oh, that's the entity that came and gave me that message. But because I was a child, I took it very much in stride. I didn't say 'hey wait a minute guys, I've seen this entity,' or piece together how profound this experience was. It wasn't until I grew up that I started to see the gravity of it.

"In any case, we watched the entity watch us for about 20 minutes, and finally went back to the campsite, not knowing what to do because my mother was too frightened to let my dad go near it. They were all in a state of quasi-shock.

"My father went back the next day with a neighbor who taught astronomy at Grand Rapids junior college, and they found footprints of the thing. They never found the landing site, but they found strange footprints, which looked somewhat human, but that were very narrow and very long.

"My dad's mother was a Theosophist. She was very mystical and had a lot of mystical friends. I don't necessarily endorse this explanation, but it is part of what happened: one of her friends said those are people

from Venus, and that it was very strange for them to have landed there, because they don't usually present themselves, they usually keep hidden.

"She said it must have meant something, and that if we wanted she'd take us to one of their regular landing spots. We all got very excited about that, but the night she was supposed to take us she died of a cerebral hemorrhage—which was spooky.

"Six years later, when I was 11, my grandmother, who I always called Bubba, got very ill. She was in the hospital, and she got a letter that said, 'We're sorry you have to die now, but don't worry, all is love. You're needed on other planes, our little Venusian,'—referring to her. The letter had no address, and it was mailed locally. A few days later she died of leukemia."

"It was right after the UFO incident that our house became infected with a poltergeist, which I talk about a great deal in the beginning of *Beyond the Quantum*. Strange things started to happen. Showers of gravel rained on the roof at night, and my dad would have to go and literally sweep the gravel off. I would be walking down the street, and gravel would peck me out of nowhere. It would pick up the vacuum cleaner and throw it around the living room. I only saw it actually move things maybe four or five times, but I'd hear the things move and hear the crash and see the things on the floor. The poltergeist stayed in the house until I moved away to college, and it followed me to New York.

"The mentality that it manifested seemed like a small, impish animal. Occasionally it would do something mean, like throw nail-like needles at me. Whenever it would do something wicked, if I was alone in my apartment I'd yell at it to stop, and it would. It would bring peace offerings, like a saucer full of nickles and quarters. One time after it had been doing some wicked things, I was typing, and I opened a new package of paper and found a crisp five dollar bill in the package.

"One morning, I woke up to a rather strange gift—a pile of cooked spaghetti on my chest, with no sauce. Its usual activities were harmless, mischievous things, like taking all the socks out of my drawer and draping them over the house plants, or throwing drift glass [like you'd find at the beach] at me out of nowhere.

"I felt all along that this poltergeist was connected to my psyche. I'm open to the possibility that it

might be some kind of being from another reality, but I'm more apt to think that it had something to do with what was going on with me.

"I think the poltergeist manifested from my own psychic powers, unconsciously, perhaps because the UFO experience had opened up those abilities in me. I say this because it seemed there was a connection between my moods and its behavior. Whenever it got malevolent, it was usually connected to some sort of bad mental attitude I had. On a couple of occasions it got mean when I found out that other people were wishing me harm. But as long as I would take control, and not just let whatever wanted to happen happen, if I said 'no you can't hurt me,' or 'none of this is happening,' it would always stop. So I feel I had control over it."

He says the poltergeist also followed one of his sisters and with her, it behaved more as an entity rather than a psychokinetic phenomenon. "Perhaps she's more mediumistic," he ventured.

When Talbot began trying to make sense of his experiences, he realized that as drawn as he was to science, nothing he'd been taught in science classes went anywhere near explaining any of this. Until he found quantum physics

"The concept that every portion of the universe is alive and has the spark and potential to organize and become more and more self-aware rings true to my understanding of the poltergeist. I believe it was a portion of my psyche that broke off and became a subset, an entity in and of itself, that organized—perhaps as parts of single personalities break off and become multiple personalities."

A particular book about quantum physics that he encountered added an even stranger note of mystery to his worldview.

"This book gave me the oddest sense of *deja vu*. It seemed that the writer was having the exact same thoughts, and expressing them in exactly the way that I would. I wrote to him about this feeling and he wrote back to me that he had been waiting for me to write to him. I wrote him back asking him what on earth he meant, and he wrote me a very nice letter and signed it 'with you always, Bubba,' which is what I had called my grandmother! I believe she temporarily projected into the writer of this book," says Talbot, who was interviewed about this in Brad Steiger's book *Gods of Aquarius*.

Talbot exhibits many characteristics typical of what Steiger calls "star people," including

anomalous vertebrae and contact with a white-robed UFO entity in early childhood. Steiger conjectures in his 1981 book *The Star People* that this segment of the population, exhibiting a host of unusual characteristics, has extraterrestrial ancestry and is destined to play a part in our society's spiritual evolution into the "New Age."

"I have the typical lower body temperature and the strange blood type Steiger talks about," says Talbot. "Doctors have always told me my blood is not shaped in a normal way, but they haven't been able to find any reason for it." He also has the typical childhood memories of past lives, of not belonging on earth, or to his parents, and of wondering why he was here.

His past life memories have led him to conduct research into that subject. He has just written a book called *Your Past Lives: A Reincarnation Handbook*, in which he recounts stories of past life regressions which point to how this era is thought to be a time of tuning into a wider frequency of consciousness.

In thousands of hypnotic regressions conducted by the late psychologist Helen Wambach, subjects recounted very personal reasons for most of their lifetimes, ranging from "sorting things out with my father," to "needing to learn how to love." When she got to the 20th century, however, people said things like they wanted to be born during the age of great change in consciousness. She also encountered an unusual number of souls from the East who were being reborn in the West, who said it was important for the transformation of consciousness that was going to take place during this time.

"I have come to think that we are all multi-dimensional beings, and that part of my psyche exists, or has existed in other lifetimes, on other dimensions. I think the reason I feel a great pull to these levels is that I'm beginning to exist multidimensionally on those levels. I think a lot of people are

"I believe the universe itself exhibits the basic lesson of quantum reality: that it seeks to explore every possible level of existence. This is a philosophical point, but I think that what reality itself has done is burst into trillions of splinters of self-organizing awareness for the purpose of exploring every possible level. Our reality, with its rules, is just one variation on a theme, just one answer to a question that has infinite answers."