

Living out of the Body

CAN HUMANS THINK without a brain? see without eyes? have experiences outside their physical bodies and remember them, even though their hearts have stopped beating and their brains show no measurable electrical activity? Yes, according to Sam Parnia, one of the doctors from Southampton General Hospital in England who have been studying near-death experiences (NDEs) and have published the results of a year long study in the February 2001 issue of the journal *Resuscitation*. The study interviewed 63 heart attack patients who were judged clinically dead but were later revived. 56 of these patients had no recollection of being unconscious but reported having vivid memories, which included seeing a bright light, entering another realm, and communicating with dead relatives.

These findings defy current medical reasoning. When the brain is deprived of oxygen, researcher Parnia explained, people become totally confused, thrash around and usually have no memories at all. "Here you have severe insult to the brain but perfect memory."

So what is happening? Clearly, the seat of consciousness is not in the brain but somewhere else. Parnia admitted that the brain, like all the body's organs, is made up of cells which in and of themselves are not capable of producing the subjective phenomena of thought that people have. He suggested that gray matter in the brain is simply a mechanism to manifest thought. He added that further research might reveal the existence of a soul. Here is an open-minded researcher!

As more NDE's are reported and as the increasing laxity between the higher and lower ethers in the vital body make more common the separation of the soul body (composed of the light and reflecting ethers) from the dense physical instrument, the general public will come to accept the truth that man is a spirit-being who lives in a physical body to gain experience.

Since his initial studies, Parnia and his colleagues have found more than 3500 people who had lucid memories while they were pronounced clinically dead.

One patient was a 2-1/2 year old boy who "drew a picture of himself as if out of his body looking at himself. It was drawn like there was a balloon stuck to him. When asked about the balloon the boy said, 'When you die you see a bright light and you are connected to it.'"

Students of Western Wisdom Teachings may have seen this "balloon" in the Rosicrucian Fellowship publication *The Silver Cord and the Seed Atom*, containing the image from a slide which Max Heindel had prepared. It shows the desire body "floating like a balloon over the sleeping body, attached by the Silver Cord" (p. 17, see figure above). When the higher vehicles return to waking consciousness in the dense and vital bodies, they may impress on the brain centers, through the medium of the reflecting ether, the memory of the out-of-the-body experiences which occur when we are "dreaming true."

Contemporary clinical science is on the threshold of being compelled to admit the objective existence of man's supra-material being. □

