

THE TRUTH IN THE LIGHT: AN INVESTIGATION OF OVER 300 NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES.

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THE TRUTH IN THE LIGHT. By Dr. Peter Fenwick
and Mrs. Elizabeth Fenwick.

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Ever since man has been able to walk upright he has always been thinking about his own demise. This is exemplified by the ways in which he has disposed of his cadavers and by the contents of his graves, mounds, pyramids, temples and tombs, in which we find various implements and devices and foods provided for sustaining the body of the departed on its journey to a new existence. These ideas are supported by the *Bible*, and when a holy man or a messiah has appeared it has been thought that he had been born to rule the kingdom.

All this gave the idea of going to another world, and these sentiments appear in the *Bible* and in other sacred texts, and in wall-paintings and drawings throughout history.

So is there life after death?

Many folk nowadays live in turmoil, wondering whether they are doomed to suffer for eternity or to enter a paradise. The religions may all vary in details, but all of them assure the living that the "dead" do go on to some kind of eternal reward. Christians and also followers of other faiths believe that we humans have eternal souls and will dwell in another world after "death". (On the other hand vast numbers of people stubbornly continued to believe that all life - including human life - just evolved *naturally and without purpose*, and that what we term "consciousness" is merely the result of neurological activity in the human brain.)

My own first ponderings about the possibility of an existence beyond death occurred after I had just read a short story by H.G. Wells, *Under the Knife*, (published in 1912). It describes the NDE (near-death experience) of a man undergoing an appendectomy under chloroform. He dies, *and then looks down and sees his own body lying on the bed!*

Since the day when H.G. Wells wrote that, several hundreds of books and articles have been published on this same theme. Most of them have been published in the USA, in the fifty years since the end of World War II, and *it is amazing to see that the great majority of them have been written by doctors.*

In April of this year came another such book - a

British one, and in my opinion the most remarkable of all so far, written by the psychiatrist Dr. Peter Fenwick and his wife Elizabeth Fenwick. Dr. Fenwick is of "international repute" as a top British neuropsychologist and a world expert on the subject of survival evidence, and the book covers more than 300 recent near-death experiences all of which he has investigated personally.

This book is an absolute classic of its kind and well researched and scientifically grounded, and I recommend it as a "must" for everyone. It has 17 chapters, with an index and an extremely valuable bibliography. Each chapter enlarges on the many accounts of the folk who experience NDEs, and gives the various possible interpretations and explanations.

Most of the subjects appear to have travelled (floated) along through a dark tunnel towards a bright light (rather like looking down through inverted binoculars) and to be attracted towards the light as moths are towards a candle.

Many doctors and scientists still theorize nowadays and conclude that the NDE provides no evidence of an after-life. They suggest instead that connections inside the brain are such that these so-called "NDE effects" are simply the result of the death process of the brain that is taking place. But, if the brain cells were engaged in dying, then *memory ought to be altered and diminished, and this emphatically does not occur. Therefore, as Dr. Fenwick argues, the mind must be something quite separate from the physical brain.*

I agree completely with Dr. Fenwick, and indeed would even go further. For recent work with the Quantum Theory has shown that there are many more dimensions than the three of "our" conventional model hitherto. *It has been shown that there could be about twenty universes in all*, and the recent work on subatomic particles has demonstrated that the smallest denomination is a *vibrating string* that is partly in another dimension. Hence all the atoms of "our" world may possess duplicates in another dimension. From this it would follow that the atoms of our physical brain could, themselves possess "projections" into another dimension or another universe.

For myself I will say this: having read *The Truth in the Light*, I now know for a certainty that "death has no sting" and I know that, when it comes, I am not going to want to "stay behind".

COMMENT BY EDITOR, FSR

In recent issues we have referred a number of times to the work of Dr. Peter Fenwick.

In our article *The Mind and Brain Dilemma of Our Poor Scientists* (see FSR 40/1, early this year) we reported on his activity in setting up secret signs and markings in hospitals, at spots and at heights where patients experiencing NDEs might see them, and also on the recent Fifth Mind and Brain Symposium held at the British Institute of Psychiatry itself where Dr. Fenwick is based.

See also the note *Strong Support for ESP* on page 19 of FSR 39/4, and the Editorial in FSR 40/1.

With regard to the success and impact of Dr. & Mrs. Fenwick's book. I should also add that it received a very fair review and reception in the *British Medical Journal* of May 6, 1995 and in several other professional journals. Highlights and main cases from it were also serialized in many full pages of the *Daily Mail* (*Is there Life After Death?*) running from February 27 to March 2 of this year. ■

REPORT FROM AFRICA

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I. METEORITE SHOWER (?) OVER ZIMBABWE, SEPTEMBER 14, 1994

You may already have heard of the UFO activity in Zimbabwe these past few days. I have tried to let everyone concerned know, but the cost of international telephone calls from here is exorbitant and I do not have a Fax set-up yet.

It started on Wednesday night, the 14th September 1994 at approximately 20:50 hours to 21:10, give or take some minutes either side. Hundreds of people from all over Zimbabwe reported a series of bright lights moving across the sky. Prof. Euan Nisbet, visiting from Britain, immediately identified this as 'a spectacular meteorite shower' and as a lot of the reports sounded like meteorites, I accepted what he had to say. But after receiving about 50 reports, I began to realise that those who saw the light over man-made Lake Kariba, said it was in level flight and when it reached some hills at the side of the Lake, it rose up to avoid them and then changed direction. As I am Continental Co-ordinator for Africa to MUFON (Mutual UFO Network, the largest UFO organization in the world, operating under the Directorship of Walt Andrus, from Seguin, Texas) I receive the MUFON Journal on a monthly basis and this contains a report in each issue giving meteorite showers due to appear in the month following publication. There was no mention of any meteor shower during the month of September!

The second speculation as to what this could have been came from one of the South African newspapers and a British paper: they said it was one of the stages of a Russian satellite which went into orbit on the 27th August of this year. This it might well have been although I don't understand the discrepancy of 18 days from lift-off to the jettisoning of whatever it was, but I have had several reports which described a nose cone with three bright lights on it; one in front and two behind, and several streamers of light coming out from behind. So this would be a much more likely identification. Many reported a series of smaller lights either a) surrounding the craft or b) following behind in formation. These smaller bodies numbered anything from 9 - 14 depending from which angle they were viewed.

Nearly all the reports said there was no sound, with two exceptions: one reported a quiet vibration, and the other I will refer to later on.

The light was a brilliant white, tingeing to an orangey-red behind. Some said it was 'huge'; others that it was the size of a Boeing Jumbo 747 flying at its normal speed (approx. 625 mph) and that it appeared to be on fire and ready to crash. But then the object levelled

out and flew in a straight line at 'tree-top level'. Those on Lake Kariba (about 100 witnesses) said that when it reached the hills at the side of the lake, it rose to avoid them and changed direction.

Reports from Radio 702 (a commercial radio operating from Johannesburg) stated that the lights were seen above Kempton Park (near to the main Jan Smuts Airport). They then appeared to move over Botswana and overlapping the borders of Zambia; back into Zimbabwe, over Lake Kariba (around 21:00) to Bulawayo and on to Harare (21:05) passing over many rural areas. Lastly, it reached the Mutare area and over the hills into Mozambique when it seemed to fade from view. I have had no reports from Mozambique or Botswana.

Some people reported that they thought they were meteorites, but most were doubtful of this. Reports came from farm labourers to pilots, MD of a large local company, technologists and many fishermen and visiting tourists on Lake Kariba. Most people were puzzled and some said they had seen meteorites often, but nothing like this. One group of workers thought it was Jerry Rawlings, the President of Ghana (who was flying into Zimbabwe on that day) and that all the pyrotechnics were sent out of the plane to impress the people who lived here!

The reported height varied greatly but most referred to 'tree-top' level. Some reported a height of 2-3000 ft. (one a pilot report). Some mentioned 2-300 ft. and these came from different parts of the country.

At 21.04 I heard an explosion from my study in central Harare, and some workers in Fort Rixon, near Bulawayo, heard 5 explosions. Prof. Nisbet said these were the meteorites passing through the sound barrier.

Two people viewed the object from directly underneath and said that it had a flat belly and that it was metallic looking, moving on a straight course. One technician said he could see two engines in front and felt it was a machine of some kind. All objects were seen below scattered cloud level. Apart from this, the night was clear.

Two mothers reported that their children were affected: a 3-year-old child in Beatrice (40 km from Harare) woke and shouted for her mother when the lights went over, saying there was a lion inside or outside her room. She subsequently drew what she saw but I have not yet seen the drawing. An 18-month-old baby woke and could not be settled. She is normally a very quiet and contented child but kept the family awake all night with her distress.

This is merely an overview of the many reports received and I am still looking into them for more details, but I wanted to report on what is going on in Zimbabwe so those of you involved with UFOs have some idea of the situation.