

“It is not that I have accomplished too few of my plans, for I am not ambitious. But when I think of all the books I have read, and of the wise words I have heard spoken, and of the anxiety I have given to parents and grandparents, and of the hopes that I have had, all life weighed in the scales of my own life seems to me a preparation for something that never happens.”

W.B. Yeats, *Autobiographies*, page 106.

Life seems to take a long time while it is passing, but at a certain age you look back and realize that you’ve already had most of the time you’re likely to have on this earth. You think: What did I accomplish? What was it all about? Where is the meaning in any of it? When I was young, I’d look at famous people who had achieved things, and I’d wonder how they felt when they knew they were dying. Even more than that, I’d think of how we all – famous or unknown – spend our lives learning things, accumulating skills and experiences, constructing inner worlds that could never be translated to anyone else. I’d think, “all that work, all those connections made, all those books read and associated one with another, all that time invested in people – in anything the person loved – all gone, the moment they die.” I was all but paralyzed by the pointlessness of achieving or learning or even experiencing anything. If it all crumbles as soon as we do – what’s the use?

Obviously this doesn’t strike everyone the same way. Some people don’t seem to notice, or they don’t think about it. Others, having abandoned hope of physical immortality, work to “leave the world a better place,” or seek to leave an immortal name through achievement. Others concentrate on actively enjoying every moment. Still others hope for eternal life in paradise – and even this makes anything we do or strive to do on earth, other than being “good” in order to be “saved,” irrelevant.

None of these ways of experiencing life gave any indication that our lives were meaningful. None of them seemed to *connect* with how we actually live our lives. The afterlife in scriptures remained a vague idea, at best nothing one could grasp, at worst perhaps merely a threat and a promise designed to keep people in line. But life without an afterlife, as postulated by materialists, made even less sense of life.

But if neither the believers nor the materialists provide us with a credible picture of the meaning and nature of life, where could we find one? Ideally, we would go right to the source, communicating directly with the other side of life, the non-physical side. Direct communication would be as close to first-hand information as we could get until we ourselves drop the body and cross over. Interestingly, some people insisted that this is possible.

So the question became, is it possible? And if possible, is it safe? And if both possible and safe, could we trust anyone and everyone we might contact on the other side?

These questions aren’t new. They have been asked and answered for as long as people have been aware that material life is only half the picture. The answers have come in different forms, shaped to the needs of different peoples, different civilizations. Any culture’s scriptures deal with interaction between the physical and the non-physical

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aspects of the world. The problems, the techniques, the models are, after all, just so many varieties of packaging. Old words go dead on new generations, and so old truths have to be restated to be heard. The reality is the same.

Over the past five years, communicating with certain minds in the non-physical world, I have gotten information that amounts to an intellectually respectable model that makes sense of our lives in the physical and non-physical world. I've gotten it over time, in bits and pieces, but they've left it up to me to put together the pieces as best I could (no doubt, with their behind-the-scenes prodding). This book is my attempt to do just that.

The way I communicate is shaped by who I am and how I came to the work. I offer you my experience because, as a modern version of the ancient quest, it may seem less strange to you than previous offerings. But of course, I am aware that with every tick of the clock, my experiences recedes and becomes less current. That doesn't matter. The future will have its own testimonies. The important thing is not that the message be chiseled in stone, but that it be delivered.

It's a good message, and hopeful. When we realize that we do not cease to exist when we drop the body, that the mind that we shape continues to function and may be used more surely and accurately and accessibly than ever, then not only was nothing lost, much was gained. And in the meantime, while we are still living in the physical world, non-physical beings are here for us. It is merely a matter of learning how to communicate with them.

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So there is an example of the kind of material I have been bringing through. What, if anything, it means to your life is for you to decide. The only guarantee I can offer is that I am not deliberately deceiving you. Whether what you hear is true, and whether the source is as claimed, is for you to discern.

Isn't the first question how it can be possible? This is where experience is superior to theory. When we have experienced certain things, we don't have to speculate as to whether those things are possible. Experience gives us grounding in a way that theory cannot. So, here, based on that experience, I propose to answer certain questions. Among others: How can dead people talk with us, and talk to each other – regardless when they lived – and talk about our time, which was their future? How can they be aware of us, and of each other, and of everything we know? And why should they be interested in talking to us or to each other?

I start with “A Model of Our Minds on the Other Side,” which gives us a way to see the interaction of our lives in the three-dimensional physical world and the greater life that exists on the non-physical side of things.

“The Individual as Convenient Fiction” reinterprets our lives and essence, showing that what we think we know about ourselves is true only partially, and only from a particular point of view.

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“The Physical and the Non-Physical” sets out, as plainly as possible, the differences and interactions between the two sides of the metaphorical veil. This chapter, more than any other, shows how and why our lives here are important to both sides.

Chapters Four and Five, “Living Connected” and “Shaping Your Life,” move from description of what is to suggestions about what you can do to live a life that is richer, more satisfying, more meaningful.

Let’s begin with a model of how we function on the other side, as described by the guys upstairs.