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ARCHAEOLOGIST BACKS UP STORY OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Pool unearthed during the Mazar excavations in Ophel, at the foot of Jerusalem's Temple Mount.



Traditional depiction of Solomon reviewing plans for the temple



Dr. Eilat Mazar

Jerusalem's old city is really old—3,000 years in fact—says a new archaeological investigation. The startling finding which made news around the world corroborates the historical accuracy of many familiar biblical accounts.

A new study led by archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar has dated stone fortifications in Jerusalem's Ophel area to the 10th century BC proving, significantly, that in the time of the first temple—Solomon's Temple—the city of Jerusalem was home to a strong central government with the manpower and resources to carry out a major construction project.

Contradicted by the study is the view commonly held by conventional historians that biblical accounts of the time are largely mythical, and that there was no government in that period capable of building such a re-

markable thing as the temple of Solomon was said to be.

The section of the city wall revealed, says the *Jerusalem Post*, is 70 meters long and six meters high and can be found in the area known as the Ophel, between the City of David and the southern wall of the Temple Mount. "It's the most significant construction we have from First Temple days in Israel," says Dr. Mazar as quoted in the *Post* in late February.

An inner gatehouse for access into the royal quarter of the city was uncovered in the city wall complex along with a royal structure adjacent to the gatehouse and a corner tower that overlooks a substantial section of the adjacent Kidron Valley.

The excavations in the Ophel area were carried out over a three-month period under

the auspices of Hebrew University and with funding provided by Daniel Mintz and Meredith Berkman, a New York couple interested in biblical archaeology.

The verification of the advanced capabilities of Israel under the reigns of David and Solomon is important, not only to traditional Jews and Christians but also to Freemasons, the founders of the United States, and many other esoteric organizations which, to this day, draw wisdom and inspiration from accounts of the building of the first temple under Solomon. There are many who see that project as one of seminal events of western history. To dismiss it as being strictly fanciful is to undermine the authority of much that is still held dear in our society. ■

HUBBLE SNAPS "SIGN IN THE HEAVENS"



Asteroid P/2010 A2, January 29, '10 Hubble, NASA

When the Hubble space telescope photographed Asteroid P/2010 A2 on January 29, astronomers, it is said, were baffled. What appeared was an immense flying X flashing through space at better than 11,000 miles per hour some 90 million miles from Earth, and few seemed to know what to make of it. Nothing like it had ever been seen before.

P/2010 A2 was first discovered by the LINEAR (Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research program) sky survey on January 6. The object appeared so unusual in ground-based telescopic images that discretionary time on Hubble was used to take a close-up look.

Some think it looks like a Ninja throwing blade, or even like a science fiction spaceship out of *Star Wars*, *Star Trek* or the like. Those who think in biblical prophetic terms were quick to declare that the appearance was one of the "signs in the heavens" promised as a signal of the end times. We're not sure what "Planet X" believers make of the sighting, but it has to be giving them food for thought.

Astronomers, however, soon settled on the theory that P/2010 A2 was a debris pattern created by the collision of two asteroids. NASA says astronomers have long thought that the asteroid belt is being ground down through collisions, but such a smashup has never before been seen. ■

The evidence is mounting: placebos actually work. Mind really does rule matter and it can be proven. A new study in the prestigious British medical journal *Lancet* concedes that there is increasing data to suggest that "fake" treatments have an actual biological effect on the body.

Placebos are harmless dummy medicines with no known physical benefit which are often prescribed by physicians for purely psychological reasons or as part of double blind medical experimentation.

According to the somewhat incredulous experts, it is people's expectation of healing and their belief in the power of the inert substances prescribed which seems to do the job.

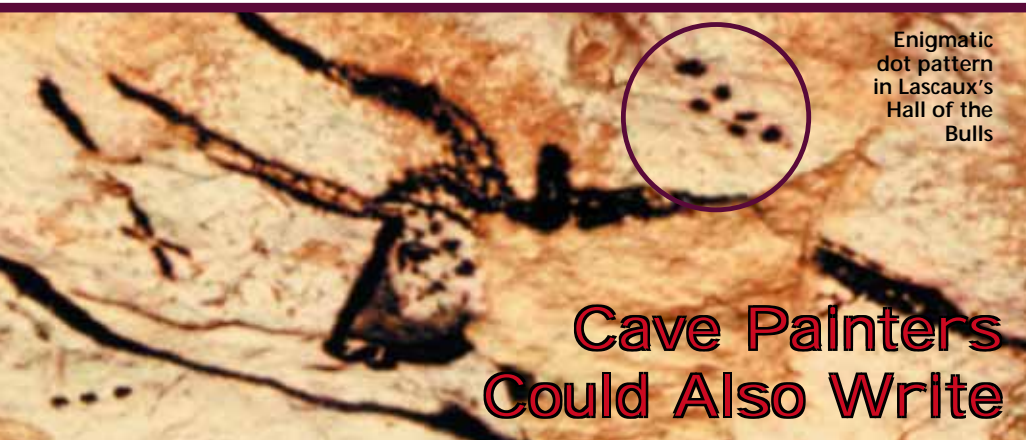
Doctors, says the study, have long believed that placebos can help people feel better but have doubted that anything medically significant was happening. In the study, though, patients with Parkinson's disease were given dummy pills which led their brains to release dopamine which not only made them feel better but also initiated other positive effects on the brain which could be measured.

Western materialistic medicine appears to be approaching a point where its own internal contradictions are becoming clear even to its own most ardent proponents. If the mind is capable of generating healing

MIND RULES MATTER SAYS PLACEBO STUDY



without the aid of some actual chemical agent, who is to say what is the real cause of healing which may occur after the administration of officially approved treatments? Does the accomplishment of healing belong to the doctor or to the mind of the patient? For patients, a little more positive thinking seems to be in order, and for doctors, perhaps a tincture of humility is indicated. ■



Enigmatic dot pattern in Lascaux's Hall of the Bulls

Cave Painters Could Also Write

The magnificent art found in caves throughout Europe has long amazed researchers. The stunning skill with which so-called primitives managed to capture the color and realism of their environment was clearly the work of genius. But still the conventional view has been that the creators were preliterate and that it would be many millennia before they learned to express themselves in writing. That conventional view may be due for reconsideration, though. It turns out that previously unnoticed markings found in the paintings were actually part of a written language.

According to the web site NewScientist.com, researcher Genevieve von Petzinger of the University of Victoria in British Columbia has carefully analyzed the markings from 146 sites in France said to be created from 35,000 to 10,000 years ago. The study clearly revealed 26 frequently recurring signs

evidently indicating the use of some kind of symbolic language. Written language was previously believed to have dawned about 5000 years ago.

Curiously, one of the symbols is a grouping of seven dots, as shown here in the Hall of the Bulls in the caves at Lascaux, France. In the 1990s, researcher Frank Edge showed a strong correlation between those seven dots and the constellation of the Pleiades. Later Dr. Michael Rappenglueck a professor at the University of Munich reaffirmed that the painting reveals a map of the night sky. Rappenglueck said the configuration shows the three bright stars known as the summer triangle as well as the Pleiades.

Were the precocious humans who decorated the caves speaking to each other in a language derived from star lore? Further research may tell us. ■

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• BY JOHN WHITE

Will the world end in 2012? Some authors—as well as some Hollywood producers—argue as much and are making loud and very disturbing predictions of catastrophic disaster ensuing from the convergence of numerous planetary and cosmic cycles. Others expect the dawn of a New Age as the “gods” or “ETs” make a long-awaited return to our little planet. The current explosion of 2012 hysteria is not unlike the hue and cry of the 1980s and '90s when the hot, threatening phenomenon of the day was “pole shift.” My 1980 book *Pole Shift* covered the subject in depth, and the lessons I learned from that experience, I believe, have much relevance for those today looking for “doomsday” in 2012.

The

DOOMS DAY FALLACY

The Author of “Pole Shift” Looks at Another Side of Prophecy

In the early 1970s, when I was working in California as Director of Education for the Institute of Noetic Sciences (founded by Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell, the sixth man on the moon), there was a widespread rumor that the West Coast was going to experience a terrible earthquake and a large portion of it would “fall into the ocean.” This rumor owed much to the psychic readings of Edgar Cayce, “the sleeping prophet.” In the 1930s, Cayce had predicted vast changes in the geography of our planet. He called them “earth changes.” There would be terrible earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and the rise and fall of land masses, he said. They would begin in the second half of this century and increase in intensity, culminating at the end of the century in what Cayce described as “the shifting of the poles.”

Over the years these predictions had permeated the psychic community and set up the expectation of terrible global destruction. Some people came to IONS with messages of that sort. The people were well-intended and simply wanted us to alert the world. I listened with interest to their warnings because

part of the Institute’s mission was to apply psychic functioning to planetary problems. But it wasn’t our role to warn the public—civic officials do that—so I turned down all requests for help in publicizing forecasts of earthquakes, UFO landings, and so forth. It proved to be the best policy because in all cases the predictions were wrong.

Nevertheless, my interest in precognition and psychic forecasting remained high, especially with regard to predictions of global destruction involving Cayce’s notion of a pole shift. So in 1973, I began to investigate the subject. During six years of research, I gathered a large amount of data supporting the two principal questions I had asked myself: Have there been previous pole shifts? Might there be one in the near future? The evidence came from three sources: ancient prophecies, contemporary psychics, and scientifically-oriented researchers.

It pointed toward this conclusion: Yes, Earth had experienced pole shifts before and would again in the near future—at the end of the century.

The pole shift concept indicates a sudden and radical displacement of the planet’s axis of rotation or—an alternate view among pole shift theorists—a slippage of the planet’s solid crust over the molten interior so that the polar locations change. Thus, “pole shift” means an event in which the North and South geographic poles move—as much as 180°, according to some sources—either because the planet tumbles in space, changing its angular position relative to the sun, or because the geographical points on the surface of the planet marking its spin axis are shifted due to crustal slippage. The time involved is said by most sources to vary from a few days to as little as a few hours.

What would result from a pole shift? It can be described as “the ultimate disaster.” Enormous tidal waves would roll across the continents as the oceans became displaced from their basins. Electrical storms with hurricane winds of hundreds of miles per

hour would sweep the planet. Tremendous earthquakes and lava flows would wrack the land. Poisonous gases and ash would fill the skies. Geography would be altered as seabeds rose and land masses submerged. Climates would change instantly. And if the shift were less than a full end-over-end, the polar ice caps, exposed to strong sunlight by having moved out of the frigid zones, would melt rapidly—within a few hundred years at most—while new ice caps would begin to build at the new polar locations. Last of all, huge numbers of organisms would be destroyed, including people, with signs of their existence hidden under thick layers of debris, sediment, and ice or at the bottom of newly established seas.

In 1980 I published my book *Pole Shift*, which presented the evidence I’d gathered. (It is still in print.) But I said that presenting a case is not the same thing

as proving a case. I pointed out that there was a strong case against pole shifts, there were many unanswered questions, and that I neither believed nor disbelieved the concept but was simply raising questions as a journalist rather than giving answers as a scientist or psychic.

I continued to gather data bearing on the topic and by 1990 I felt a conclusion was clearly evident. I published a “Pole Shift Update” in *The Meeting of Science and Spirit*. I concluded that the pole shift concept is untenable; it is based on incomplete evidence and misinterpretation of data. I also concluded that the psychics who foresaw another one were wrong because the precursor events they predicted hadn’t occurred, and the time for their occurrence was long past. The year 2000 came and went without the predicted disasters. Today, a decade later, it is more than obvious the predictions and prophecies were just plain wrong.

Does that mean there was no value to what I reported? Not at all. However, the

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• BY ANDREW COLLINS

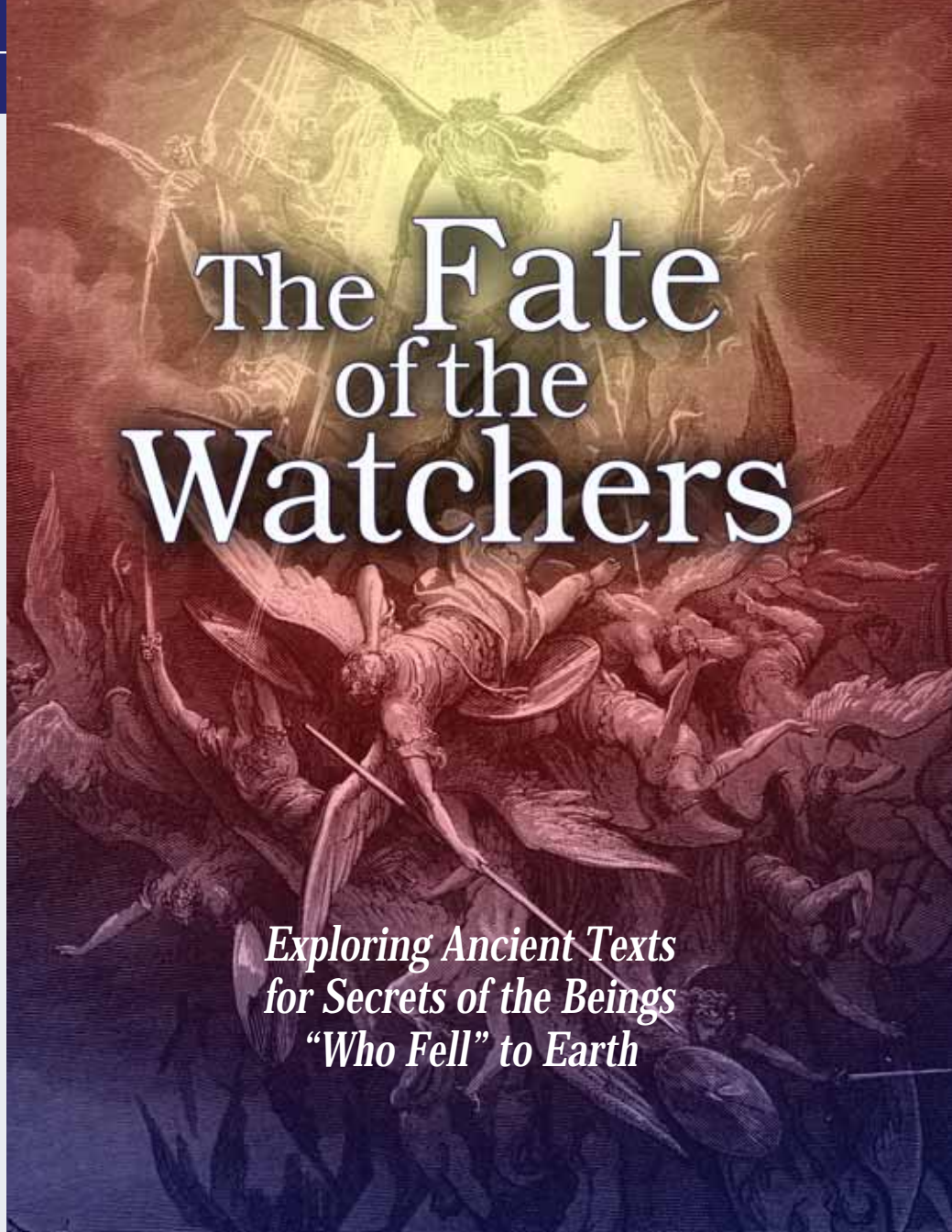
The *Genesis Secret* by Thomas Knox (HarperCollins, 2009, and see also the website <http://thegenesissecret.com>) is a novel centered around the discovery in southeast Turkey of the proto-Neolithic megalithic complex of Gobekli Tepe, constructed ca. 10,000 BC by an unknown race of people at the end of the last Ice Age.

Thomas Knox is the *nom-de-plume* of British journalist Sean Thomas, who first contacted me back in 2007. He had become interested in Gobekli Tepe, which I'd written about extensively since visiting there and nearby Harran back in 2004. He wanted to know how to get to the megalithic complex, so Sue and I gave him the necessary instructions. A few months later, his article on the subject appeared in newspapers worldwide. It highlighted the fact that Dr. Klaus Schmidt, the German archaeologist in charge of excavations at the site, had unofficially admitted that the region was most probably the biblical Garden of Eden. This, of course, was the conclusion I made in *From the Ashes of Angels*, published in 1996, which provides ample evidence that Eden was located where the headwaters of the Tigris, Euphrates, and Greater Zab rivers converge, a region close to Lake Van in southeast Turkey (a brand new theory at that time). My book appeared four years before the first announcements regarding the discovery in 1994 of Gobekli Tepe, which is even now being uncovered by Schmidt and his team. What I stated also was that the heretical Jewish work known as the Book of Enoch, spoke of Eden—known also as “Paradise” or “Heaven”—as being the home of the Watchers, a race of mythical beings often identified as human-like angels. They are credited with having revealed the forbidden arts and sciences of Heaven to mortal kind, causing mankind’s fall from divine grace and his expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

The Story of the Watchers

In both the Book of Genesis and the Book of Enoch, the rebel Watchers are said also to have come upon the Daughters of Men, i.e. mortal women, who afterwards gave birth to giant offspring called Nephilim. For this transgression against the laws of Heaven, the renegades were incarcerated and punished by those Watchers who had remained loyal to Heaven. The rebel Watchers’ offspring, the Nephilim (a word meaning “those who fell”), were either killed outright or were afterwards destroyed in the flood of Noah. However, the Torah—the first five books of the Old Testament—makes it clear that some Nephilim survived and went on to become the ancestors of giant races named as the Anakim, Gibborim and Rapheim.

I wrote that the story of the Watchers is in fact the memory of a priestly or shamanic



The Fate of the Watchers

Exploring Ancient Texts for Secrets of the Beings “Who Fell” to Earth

elite, a group of highly intelligent, human individuals, that entered the Upper Euphrates region from another part of the ancient world sometime around the end of the last Ice Age, ca. 11,000-10,000 BC. On their arrival in what became known as the land or kingdom of Eden (a term actually used in the Old Testament), they assumed control of the gradually emerging agrarian communities, who were tutored in a semi-rural life style centered around agriculture, metal working, and the rearing of animal livestock. More disconcertingly, these people were made to venerate their superiors; i.e. the Watchers, as living gods, or immortals.

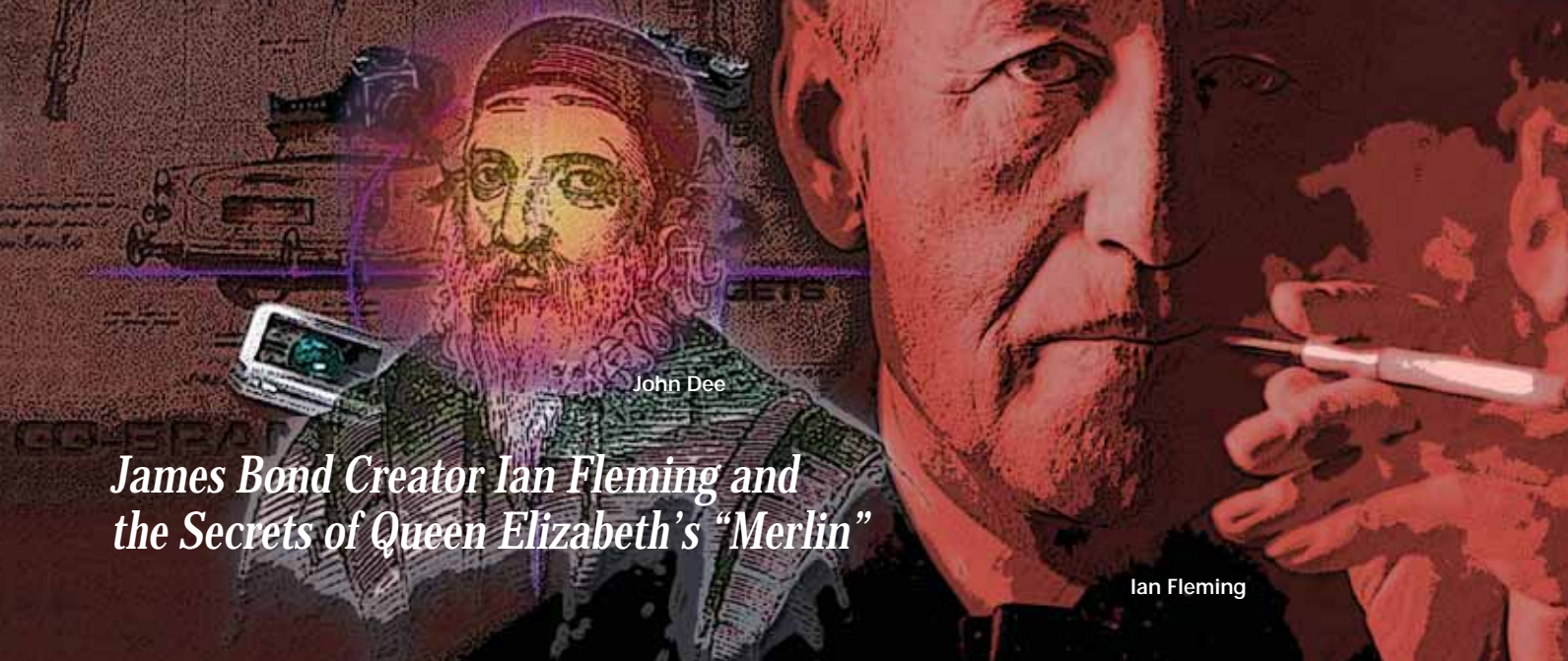
The precise same region of the Near East, now thought to be the biblical Garden of Eden, has long been held to be the cradle of civilization. Here a number of “firsts” occurred at the beginning of the Neolithic revolution, which began ca. 10,000-9000 BC. It

was in southeast Turkey, northern Syria, and northern Iraq, for example, that the first domestication of wild grasses took place, the first fired pottery and baked statues were produced, the first copper and lead were smelted, the first stone buildings and standing stones were erected, the first beautification of the eyes took place among woman, the first drilled beads in ultra hard stone were produced, the first alcohol was brewed and distilled, etc., etc. In fact, many of the arts and sciences of Heaven that the Watchers are said to have revealed to mortal kind were all reported first in this region of the globe, known to archaeologists as Upper Mesopotamia, and to the indigenous peoples of the region as Kurdistan.

Sean Thomas acknowledges my help at the beginning of the *The Genesis Secret*,

Continued on Page 61

the John Dee 007 CONNECTION



James Bond Creator Ian Fleming and the Secrets of Queen Elizabeth's "Merlin"

• BY STEVEN SORA

What do the mystical Dr. John Dee and the spy James Bond have in common? A lot more than meets the eye.

Dr. John Dee was a sixteenth century alchemist, magician, and Christian cabalist who so entranced Queen Elizabeth that she even had Dee run her astrological chart to pick the most propitious day and time for her coronation. His home at Mortlake contained more books than any private library in England as well as a magic mirror that, it was said, would astound all who dared look at their reflection. When he wasn't in England he traveled the continent to the courts of emperors and princes. He was also a spy.

England was a hotbed of political intrigue when Elizabeth took the throne. Plots and counterplots, assassinations, and threats of war were constant. She needed those she could count on to keep her on the throne. Francis Walsingham was Elizabeth's chief spymaster. He seemed the right man for the job as his motto was *Video et taceo*, "See and be Silent." The Queen trusted very few indi-

viduals and wanted her intelligence reported directly. Dee reported only to the Queen and Walsingham. The Queen would sign her dispatches to Dr. Dee as "M," just as James Bond's boss. Dee referred to himself as agent "007" preceding James Bond's code name by nearly four centuries. The Earl of Leicester, a very important member of the court, who had been tutored by Dr. Dee as a child, would use a similar code. He marked his secret correspondence with two dots, or two number "0"s representing eyes. Dee would address his correspondence to the Queen with a heading "For Your Eye's Only."

John Dee had a great influence on his world. It was he who convinced the Queen she had rights in the Americas. It was he whose texts on navigation went beyond science and envisioned a British world ruled by a British navy long before the age of Imperialism. He made strides in the sciences but never received the credit for his work as he had also delved into the black arts and alchemy.

Dee, along with Sir Francis Bacon, is considered at least the inspiration for, if not the co-founder of, the Rosicrucian brotherhood. Because the brotherhood was not an organi-

zation in Dee's time, there was no established organization or rules, officers, or even members. It was what it claimed to be, a brotherhood of "Invisibles," and for good reason. To be a visible proponent of any science condemned by the Church could shorten one's life expectancy considerably. Many of the texts of the Rosicrucians were written anonymously or with pen names like the famous Christian Rosenkreutz. A coded device Dee used on his writings called the "Monas hieroglyphica" is shared by one of the earliest known Rosicrucian writings, *Confessio Fraternitatis*.

There is a considerable amount of certainty that the Rosicrucian brotherhood played a great part in Dee's role as Elizabeth's spy. His position of court mystic, his connection to the "Invisibles" and his gifts that bordered on the supernatural, at least in appearance, would help in admitting him to the esoteric circles of Europe. He left for the continent at age twenty, and his travels included a stint working for the Muscovy Company advancing Anglo-Russian trade.

Ian Fleming's biography has numerous similarities, including considerable evidence that the same esoteric studies and connec-

"All EM (electromagnetic) systems are powered by energy extracted from the vacuum. They are not powered by the mechanical energy we input to the shaft of a generator, or by the chemical energy in a battery."

Thomas E. Bearden

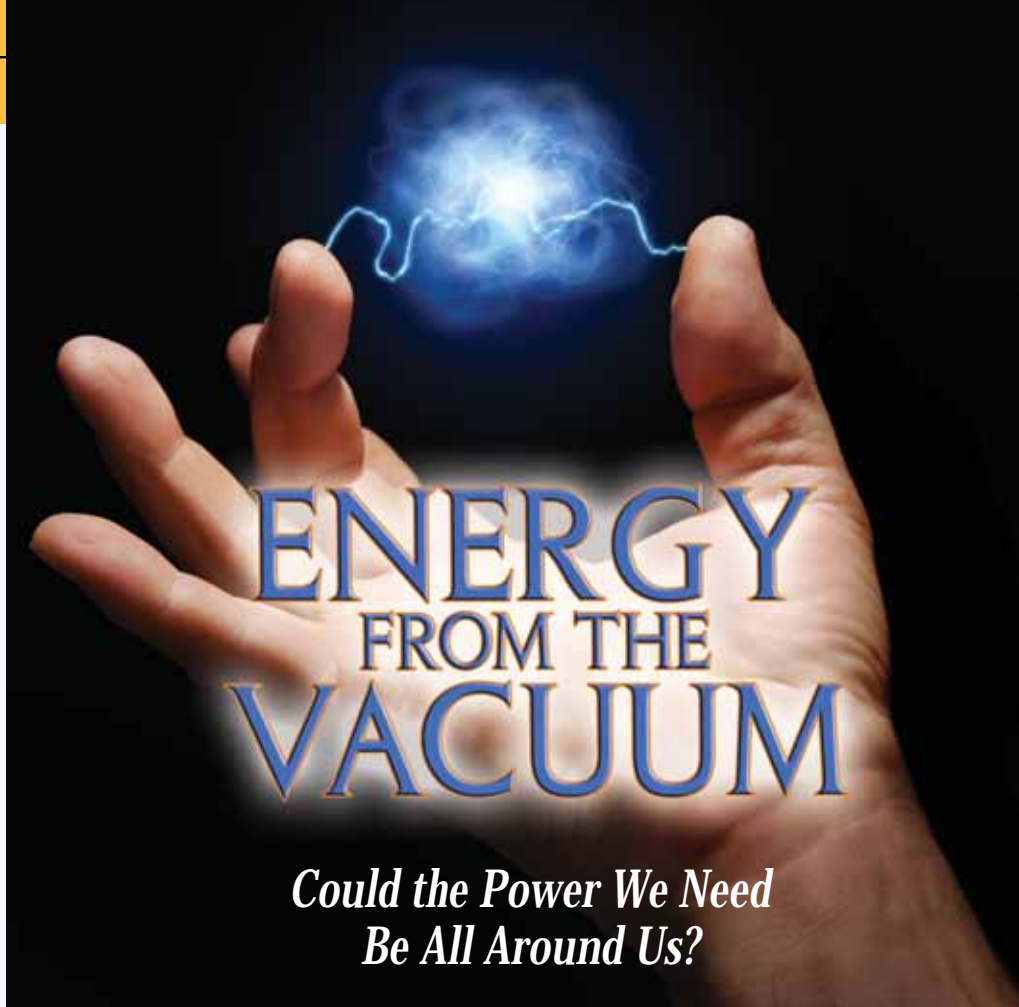
• BY LEN KASTEN

The theory that so-called "empty space" is actually a vibrant ocean of energy makes perfect sense and seems self-evident to some of us.

There really is no other explanation for how billions of stars obtain the power to continuously put out prodigious amounts of heat and light for, what appears to be, indefinite periods of time. In the face of this, to argue that the universe is just a vacuum of dead nothingness is almost as senseless as contending that the earth is flat even though the sun rises and sets every day. And yet, the worldwide scientific community, men and women of high intelligence and tremendous cumulative knowledge, refuses to acknowledge that this could be so. Even when it is clearly demonstrated, as it was by Dr. T. Henry Moray, they assume it to be some sort of trickery or fraud, and they return to stale scientific dogma.

In the early 1920s, Moray, who was a boyhood admirer of Nikola Tesla, built a free-energy device, weighing about sixty pounds with no apparent power input, that produced 50,000 watts of electricity for several hours. Moray, from Salt Lake City, obtained his doctorate in Electrical Engineering from the University of Uppsala in Sweden in 1918. By the 1930s, Moray had perfected his invention and was able to demonstrate, in test after test, that the device delivered high voltage electrical power simply by tapping ambient energy.

In a well-documented and photographed demonstration, Moray's Radiant Energy Device powered 35 100-watt light bulbs and a 1200-watt iron. Moray's highly publicized demonstrations to scientists, engineers, and government representatives convinced them all that Moray had succeeded in tapping an invisible, universal sea of energy. The Radiant Energy Device utilized 29 transistor-like, cold vacuum tube "valves," or one-way gates, that trapped the energy and accumulated it until it reached a high wattage. Despite all of the publicity surrounding this device, the U.S. Patent Office never granted him a patent. Moray met with constant opposition. He was frequently threatened; his laboratory was broken into and robbed, and he was actually shot at in the streets and in his own office. He eventually installed bullet-proof glass in his automobile, and he kept a loaded gun in plain view on his desk when meeting with strangers.



Space-Time

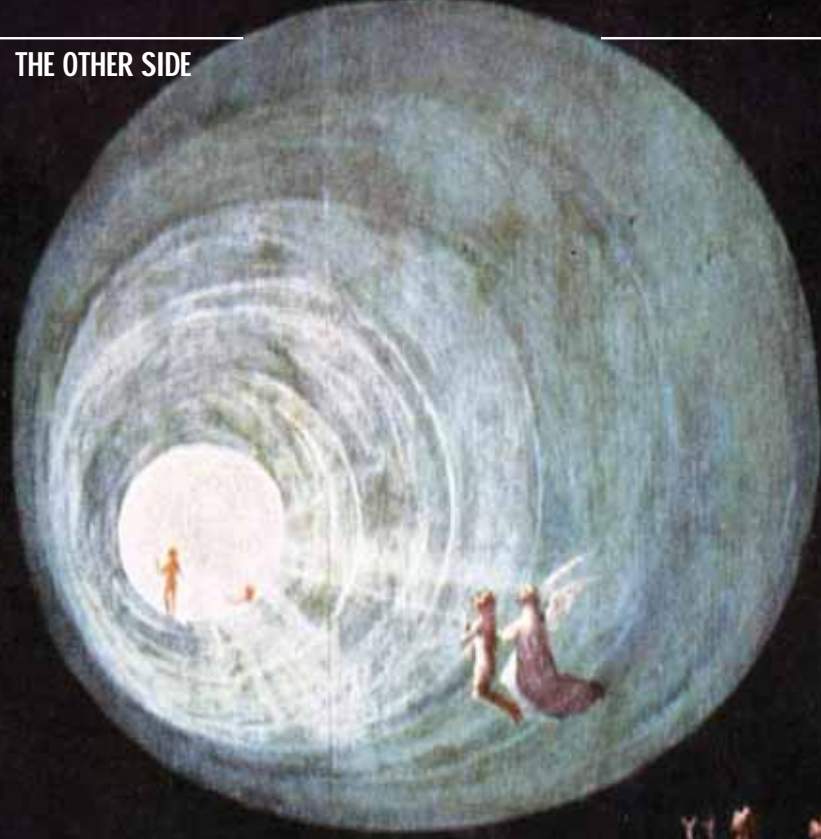
One of the theoretical keys to the understanding of the Radiant Energy Device was the work of Hermann Minkowski, a brilliant German mathematician. It was Minkowski who, in 1907, created the mathematical framework that brought space and time together and evolved the concept of space-time. Minkowski was inspired by Einstein's 1905 Theory of Special Relativity and realized that Special Relativity required an entirely new definition of the relationship between space and time. He was able to prove mathematically that time is a fourth dimension of space, and he hypothesized a four-dimensional space-time continuum. This revolutionized Galileo's flat view of space-time in which only simultaneous events were on the same plane in space-time, and substituted a space-time, non-Euclidian cone in which event timing is relative to the observer while the speed of light remains a constant. Einstein then, in 1908, using Minkowski's framework, developed the Theory of General Relativity, which is now universally accepted, and has become the foundation of modern physics. The Einstein-Minkowski framework of space-time supersedes the Galilean concept of Absolute Time. Time now becomes relative, and time and space become interdependent; and it becomes possible to convert one to the other. As the fourth dimension of space, time has its own axis in a Minkowski Diagram.

The Einstein-Minkowski space-time

theory was largely built upon the Maxwell Equations. This set of four equations developed by James Clerk Maxwell in 1865 were mathematical formulations of the behavior of electromagnetic waves in a vacuum. Maxwell was the first to include light waves and photons in the electromagnetic spectrum, and he proved mathematically that all electromagnetic radiation moved at the speed of light. Thus, this constant became an integral component of Einstein's famous formulation, $E=mc^2$, where c is the speed of light.

About Maxwell, Einstein said, "The precise formulation of the time-space laws was the work of Maxwell. Imagine his feelings when the differential equations he had formulated proved to him that electromagnetic fields spread in the form of polarized waves, and at the speed of light! To few men in the world has such an experience been vouchsafed . . . it took physicists some decades to grasp the full significance of Maxwell's discovery, so bold was the leap that his genius forced upon the conceptions of his fellow-workers." (*Science*, May 24, 1940). It should be noted here that both Maxwell and Minkowski were mathematical theoreticians and made their proofs strictly with pure mathematics. It was up to Einstein to translate their results to the realm of physics. Einstein's formulas have been demonstrated in the real world many times, although nowhere as dramatically as in the development

Continued on Page 36



"When I was fully into the light I realized it was the most incredibly beautiful light that I had ever seen. It seemed to have a personality that was beyond belief-loving. I was happy just being in the light. I remember then that I heard a voice that I thought was the light that surrounded me. Without having a body, somehow I talked to the voice. I was shown that the white light was really made up of all the colors. I was shown the zillions of colors in the light, more than I have seen on earth. They were all beautiful.

"I don't remember the exact words, but I do remember discussing that all things were made of the light. I asked if even mountains and people were, and the voice (which I now think was God) told me even mountains, and a long list of things, everything. He also told me that the people there were in the light. I don't remember much about that except that I was aware that people were about to come to take me into some beautiful place and I wanted to go."

So begins one description of one person's experience at the edge of death.

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The Case For Immortality

**Ancient Wisdom Upheld
by Cutting-Edge Science**

• BY PATRICK MARSOLEK

According to a Gallup poll, as many as five percent of the public have had some kind of Near Death Experience (NDE). This is one description from over 1300 that have been compiled since 1998 by Dr. Jeffrey Long on the Near Death Experience Research Foundation website. (www.nderf.org) Dr. Long has recently published the book *Evidence of the Afterlife* documenting the results of research he has conducted using these reports. He concludes that there is reasonable scientific evidence of an afterlife. This is an impressive statement for a non fiction book that made it as high as 14 on the New York Times bestseller list.

Though the term Near Death Experience is fairly new, coined and popularized by Raymond Moody in the 1970's, there have been reports of these kinds of experiences throughout history: in early Greek and Roman literature, in early Western religious writings, in the ancient literature of Buddhism, and in the oral history and folk-

Visione Dell'Aldila
Ascesa All'Empireo,
Hieronymous Bosch

lore of aboriginal societies all over the world. The typical NDE experience generally includes some, but not all, of the following elements: separation from the physical body; heightened senses; intense and generally positive feelings; passing into or through a tunnel; encountering a mystical or brilliant light; encountering other beings, often relatives; a life review; encountering unworldly realms; and encountering or learning special knowledge.

NDE's are a popular topic. There are many books on the subject ranging from scholarly research to personal accounts, all of which have been scoffed at by mainstream scientific researchers. No doubt this book will also spark similar criticism since what NDEs offer goes contrary to the materialistic paradigm that is predominant in our culture. Dr. Long is proposing that there is undeniable and verifiable proof that NDEs are real and they can be studied. I asked him to define what he meant by real. He said, "It is something that actually happened that is part of reality. Anything that is consistently observed is real." Materialist scientists have staunchly held that the content of NDEs are hallucinatory fabrications of the brain and have no basis in reality.

Dr. Long's research is based on personal reports collected on the web and does have room for fabrication, exaggeration, and language constraints. Thus it will likely be questioned and challenged for validity. Of course the staunch materialists will ask for physical proof, which is difficult to come by. Yet, it is the consistency and content of the over 1300 reports that have been collected that have convinced Dr. Long and led him to propose nine lines of evidence proving that they are real. To briefly summarize, they are:

- 1 - It is medically inexplicable to have a highly organized and lucid experience while unconscious or clinically dead.
- 2 - Experiencers may see and hear in the out-of-body state, and their perceptions are nearly always real.
- 3 - NDEs occur during general anesthesia when no form of consciousness should be taking place.
- 4 - NDEs take place among those who are blind, and these NDEs often include visual experiences.
- 5 - There is a life review of real events, many of which had been forgotten by the individual.
- 6 - Experiencers encounter deceased beings and relatives.
- 7 - The consistency of the experiences of young children with adults suggests NDEs are not due to preexisting beliefs.
- 8 - The reports are consistent around the world from different cultures.
- 9 - Experiences are transformed in profound ways by their experience, often for life.

I'll look briefly at a couple of these lines of evidence, starting with Out-of-Body (OBE) experiences. OBEs occur in approximately 50% of NDEs. While in the OBE people perceive things they simply couldn't know by physical means. There are many documented descriptions of events occurring around where the person's body is, in an operating room or at an accident scene. In one report a woman saw a tennis shoe on a third-story window ledge of the hospital. She described it as a man's shoe, left footed, dark blue with a wear mark over the left toe. A curious nurse heard the story and looked out through all the windows of the hospital until she did find that shoe exactly as described. In Dr. Long's research, he claims 97% of the OBE experiences that were described were



"entirely realistic without any unrealistic content."

It is this lucidity that is also one of the hallmarks of the NDE and Long's first line of evidence. A large percentage of the case reports in his study occurred when the person was clinically dead. In this state, the heart has stopped beating, blood has stopped flowing into the brain, and the electroencephalogram (EEG), which measures brain activity, has gone flat. Though there may still be some lingering electrical activity in the lower parts of the brain, one would expect any conscious experience to be fragmentary, delusional, or dreamlike. Yet 80% of experiencers described their thinking during the NDE as "clearer than usual" or "as clear as usual." They also often have vivid recollection of these events, continuing for many years after the experience. These experiences contradict the materialist view that consciousness is a product of the brain. If it were so, awareness should be diminished or absent during clinical death. However, this is exactly when many experiencers lucidly report the happenings around their bodies. As the experience progresses, the intensity of their emotions and the clarity of their thinking increases rather than decreases.

As a researcher of other forms of altered states, I find the clarity and consistency of NDEs compelling. In remote viewing, meditation, shamanic journeying, or other forms of altered states, one can have similar experiences: being dislocated from the body, encountering other beings and intelligences, and even having vivid intuitive or clairvoyant perceptions. Yet the contents of these altered states tend to be quite varied and contain elements colored by a person's belief system and cultural beliefs. These kinds of experiences rarely can be recalled with the clarity of NDEs months and years later or have the same long-term impact on a person's life. It makes me wonder if it is the complete separation from the physical body and brain that gives rise to the profound clarity and impact of NDEs.

When I asked Dr. Long what he thought about the quality of consciousness in NDE, he said, "We're saying that consciousness can exist apart from the body, and it does this fairly regularly. Now during our everyday, waking state, I don't think we're aware of that. Perhaps you can be during meditation or other alert, conscious experiences. However, when you're unconscious or clinically dead, you have that ability to be aware of what another person is thinking or feeling. This is clearly a shared consciousness."

This assertion of separation of consciousness from the body in NDEs seems to support the philosophical thesis of dualism: that mind and matter are independent substances, neither of which can be reduced to the other. Some of the strongest critics of the validity of NDEs are scientists who are also materialists who believe that consciousness is simply an epiphenomenon of the brain. For some materialists, there is no possible evidence that could convince them of something that is false to begin with; hence, there is no point in arguing the matter. The philosopher and NDE research Neal Grossman has suggested that for people whose belief in materialism is more an ideology than a working hypothesis, we could use the term 'fundamentalist.'

The verdict of materialistic science is usually that, although the reported NDEs are most certainly real and powerful, they can be explained more easily in terms of the brain and its altered states of consciousness than in terms of consciousness being separate from the brain and interacting with it. This case is often made regardless of the quality and quantity of evidence that it may not be a mechanistic phenomenon. This view is perhaps most strongly argued by neuroscientists, biologists and even psychologists who spend their whole lives in the realm of the physical brain.

A recent proposed explanation for NDEs was published in the *Journal of Neurology* suggesting that Rapid Eye Movement (REM) intrusions may cause NDEs. Common examples of REM intrusion occur in phenomena such as sleep paralysis and hypnagogia. This

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When Children Struggle with Past-Life Trauma

War and Reincarnation

• BY JOHN CHAMBERS

The eight-year-old boy had been sobbing into his mother's lap for fifteen minutes. Now he straightened up. He and his mother and father stood on the gently rocking deck of an oceangoing fishing boat that was moored some distance offshore in Chichi-Ima's Futami-Ko harbor. Around them rose up the green mountains of this Pacific island that is close to Iwo Jima and 650 miles from Tokyo, Japan. It was September 4, 2006.

As the crew watched in rapt, awed silence, the boy picked up a bouquet of flowers, walked to the boat's side, and threw it overboard. He returned to his mother and sobbed for a few minutes more.

The bouquet floated in the dark-blue choppy waters. Far below, on the bottom of the harbor, lay the rusted hulk of a World War Two FM-2 Corsair fighter plane. Inside rested the bleached bones of 21-year-old ensign James McCready Huston Jr., VC-81, killed in action on March 3, 1945, during a fierce battle with the Japanese.

The eight-year-old boy was James Leininger, of Lafayette, Louisiana. He believed he was the reincarnation of the gallant warrior whose earthly remains lay hundreds of feet below. In tossing him the bouquet, the boy was bidding farewell to his previous self of whose presence he had been aware, as if it were a second personality, since he was two years old.

Now James felt bereft but finally freed from a beloved burden.

This heartrending if unparalleled scene is the culminating event in *Soul Survivor: The Reincarnation of a World War II Fighter Pilot*, by James's parents Bruce and Andrea Leininger (June 2009). It tells how, six years

before, James began to have frequent nightmares in which he screamed and from which he awoke with words like, "Airplane crash on fire, little man can't get out." James became obsessively interested in fighter planes, identifying obscure parts like drop tanks. He made crayon drawings of crashing planes, signing them "James 3" and insisting the pilot was "James 2." His mother and grandmother wondered if a previous reincarnation were involved. Carol Bowman, a therapist skilled in enabling children to remember and accept their past lives, was consulted and helped James become calmer and more open. He said his fighter plane, a Corsair, had been shot down by the Japanese, crashing in a bay near Iwo Jima. He described features of the Corsair and said he had flown from the ship *Natoma*. He mentioned a name: Jack Larsen.

His father, Bruce, was as stubbornly skeptical about reincarnation as he was stubbornly determined to get to the truth. He scoured the Internet, combing through military records. He discovered that an aircraft carrier, *Natoma Bay*, had been stationed near Iwo Jima in March 1945. He tracked down pilots who were on *Natoma Bay* or near. Attending a reunion of the carrier's veterans, he learned that a pilot named James Huston Jr. had gone down on March 3, 1945.

Bruce found and interviewed a real Jack Larsen, who knew where James Huston had gone down. The younger James told him that "Billy, Leon and Walter" had "met me when I went to heaven;" Bruce discovered that three pilots with these names had known Huston and been killed at Iwo Jima



James Leininger

some months before him.

James' mother, Andrea, tracked down James Huston's family. His sister, Anne Barron, was still alive at 84. She visited the Leingers. She and James shared intimate details of the family that no one else knew. Bruce took his son, now six, to another veterans'

reunion. Without prompting, he identified many of James Huston's friends. He became sad, telling his father this was because "everyone is so old."

The family appeared on nationally-syndicated *ABC Primetime* on April 15, 2004. The program provoked great interest, including phone calls from other vets who were able to give Bruce additional information and further support James's belief that he had once been James Huston. A Japanese network invited the Leingers to Tokyo to film an interview; the producers would cover all costs and pay a fee. After the filming came the 650-mile sea voyage to Chichi-Ima; and, at its end, James's absolution from his former life as Huston.

Was James Leininger really James Huston? The evidence in favor seems overwhelming, though a determined skeptic can always find much to criticize. But there have been other instances where evidence has emerged, sometimes in a strange and unexpected fashion, that some traumatized children—often they are autistic—are this way because they suffered a violent death, usually in wartime, as children in a previous life.

Eve Hanf-Enos is an autistic woman now in her 30s and living in the Netherlands. She

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