

Dennis Viera's **ANIMAL MEDICINE**: The Greater Roadrunner, Protector of the Soul | **PLUS:** **PARANORMAL FICTION**: Nan Coleman's, "Psychic," Part 4

# INTREPID



**BOLDLY GOING** • OCTOBER 2011 • \$5.95 USA | \$6.95 Canada • VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 5

**Todd Allen Gates**

*The Problem of Suffering*

**FATHER JACK ASHCRAFT**

**The Bare Fisted Cleric: THE CULDEES:  
CHRISTIAN HEIRS OF THE DRUIDS**

*April Slaughter*  
**DEATH HOUSE DIARY**

**MICAH HANKS**

*Soul-Hacking 101*

**Dr. Rita Louise**

**2012: Theories. Prophecies. Aftermath.**

**Amber Keller**  
**REANIMATION**  
FRANKENSTEIN'S STORY

**PLUS**

**Donna LaCroix**

*You Can't Argue with the Impossible*

[INTREPIDmag.com](http://INTREPIDmag.com) >> BOOKMARK IT NOW!

[ Scotty Roberts ]

# Mister Roberts.

# Fear of the Dark

Times have sure changed since I was a kid. It seems that things were so much simpler back then, when black-and-white screens and four channels ruled the television set, and tinny-tuned transistor radios trebled-out Jeremiah Was A Bullfrog and Just Call Me Angel. Cars were just starting their conversion from tail fins to boxy quarter panels, and there were no catterwails of global warming nor Office of Homeland Security issuing an orange alert. Telephones had rotary dials, cellular was the stuff of science fiction, and no one (I mean no one) had a thing called a “home computer.”

Those were the days when, as soon as autumn crisped the air, we knew Halloween was coming not far behind. I don't know if it was because we were poor or if it was because my mother was intuitively creative, we kids always had homemade costumes. But they were cool disguises, stitched by the hands of an expert seamstress. I remember the year I was seven-years-old, my mother made a really cool Uncle Sam costume for my older brother, complete with cardboard top hat covered with satin stars and stripes. For me, she crafted an incredible, multi-colored gypsy outfit. I looked as if I had just walked out of a Disney cartoon, giant hooped, clip-on earring dangling against my neck. I wasn't overtly enthused with it at the time, mostly because I wanted to be the Lone Ranger toting silver six shooters on my hips, but I ended up being chosen from my class at school as having the most imaginative costume. Next thing you know I was carted off to the channel 11 studios where I made a live appearance on a local afternoon kids show with a handful of other costumed kids plucked from schools around the city. It was an exciting afternoon and one of the earliest memories I have of Halloween.

I was grossly afraid of the dark at that age, and I remember my trick-or-treating being filled with the terror of having to run from street lamp to street lamp with my eyes closed. You never knew what could get you in the dark of night, and keeping your eyes closed while running was infinitely much safer than being able to see what lurked in the shadows. Little did I know at that time just how much there was that scuttled about in the dark, thin veil of Samhain, just past the misty borders of this tangible dimension.

Awareness breeds curiosity; curiosity fosters discovery; discovery begets knowledge; and knowledge births wisdom. There is no shadow of a doubt that we are surrounded by the ghosts of the dead and spirits of the Otherworld. As a kid, I felt it in my dread imaginings and was filled with a deep sense of fear. As an adult, my curiosity has been piqued to drive me to discover who it is that traverses the shadows beyond the veil. As we all seek to find answers and research the scant facts and blips on the radar that compose the bulky insubstance of our evidences, we start to gain a bit of knowledge, albeit a knowledge filled to the brim with theories, conjectures, opinions and musings. Some day, when we break the bonds of our limited knowledge, we may gain



the embryonic glints of wisdom, as if they were tapping against our necks like hooped earrings. And what then?

So we strive and learn and grow. Make this Halloween one filled with memories. Tell your kids that there's nothing out there in the dark that does not crackle with the electricity of things greater than the sums of our combined curiosities. Ask questions, seek answers and strive for knowledge that will lead you to the next street lamp. 🍁



OCTOBER 2011  
FEATURES /  
COVER STORIES

25

- 9 Todd Allen Gates**  
The Problem of Suffering
- 13 Dr. Rita Louise**  
2012: The Theories. The Prophecies. The Aftermath.
- 19 April Slaughter**  
Death House Diary: A Look at Capital Punishment  
from the ‘Inside’ Out
- 21 Fr. Jack Ashcraft is: ‘The Bare Fisted Cleric’**  
The Culdees: Christian Heirs of the Druids
- 25 Amber Keller>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>**  
Reanimation: Frankenstein’s Story
- 27 Ronnie McMullen**  
Why We Do What We Do
- 29 Donna LaCroix**  
You Can’t Argue With the Impossible
- 31 Scotty Roberts**  
A Brief History of Samhain
- 35 Nan Coleman - “Psychic” - Part 4**  
New episodic fiction delving deep into the supernatural
- 37 Mark Collins - Metaphysical View**  
Anatomy of the Chakras
- 43 Dennis Vieira’s ‘Animal Medicine’**  
Greater Roadrunner
- 47 Micah Hanks of www.GralienReport.com**  
Soul Hacking 101: When Evolution and Innovation Collide

**Publisher & Executive Editorial Director** >> Scotty Roberts  
**Creative Director & Designer** >> Scotty Roberts  
**Editorial & Advertising** >> scotty@intrepidmag.com (651) 468-8115  
**Staff Writers** >> Marie D. Jones, Larry Flaxman, Mark Collins,  
 Jonathan Weyer, Micah Hanks, Fr. Jack Ashcraft  
**Advertising Sales** >> scotty@intrepidmag.com





[ Todd Allen Gates ]

# the problem of

# suffering

the seven supernatural answers  
vs.  
the one naturalistic

[ Painting by the late Oswaldo Guayasamin, Quito Ecuador ]

## Anthropology

When it comes to reconciling the existence of suffering with the belief that the world was purposefully created by some sort of intelligent Higher Power, the explanations we hear from theists generally fall into one of the following three categories:

- the Divine must not be All-Powerful (and thus might want to prevent suffering, but lacks the clout),
- the Divine must not be All-Good (and either doesn't care about creature suffering, or perhaps inflicts it purposely),
- and the most prevalent explanation (at least among the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam):
- the Divine—specifically, “God”—is indeed All-Powerful and All-Good, and everything really is for the best “in the big picture” (one that humans often fail to grasp).

Given that the last explanation is not only the most popular but also the most puzzling, I researched apologetic literature for the fine details on exactly how theists defend their belief that suffering fits in with “greater” Divine Plan. To date, every answer I've come across fits into at least one of the five following sub-categories:

- (1) Suffering is punishment for wrong-doing (this encompasses the Western notion of punishment for personal sins and “original sin,” as well as the Eastern notion of karma—that punishment is for sins in this life or past lives)
- (2) Suffering is sent for our benefit (even when it's not punishment for wrong-doing)
- (3) Suffering must exist for Greater Good of Free Will (depending on the theist, belief in a rival demonic god can fit into this explanation)
- (4) The manner in which “everything is for the best” is simply beyond the comprehension of the finite mind of man
- (5) Suffering is just an illusion

In contrast with the multiple explanations I found from theists, non-theists generally have only one answer: the natural world is indifferent to creature suffering.

Before I go into my examination of which of these explanations is the most likely to be true (or possible combination of explanations), I first need to explain my use of the word truth. For this task I will borrow the wording from Stephen Hawking's book A Brief History of Time, in which Hawking writes that before any theory can be considered “good”—that is, a candidate for “truth”—it must pass two tests:

- (1) it must accurately describe a large class of observations, and
- (2) it must make predictions that agree with future observations.

This leads to one final need to define my terms: what do I mean by “a large class of observations” as it relates to suffering? My proposal is that a viable explanation for suffering must be able to describe and

predict suffering in the following three categories:

- Suffering that people bring upon themselves
- the spendthrift who ends up bankrupt and homeless
  - the thief who gets caught and suffers in prison
  - the drunk driver who kills himself in a car crash
  - etc.

- Suffering that people bring upon innocent people
- the kindergarten class mowed down by a gunman
  - millenniums of slavery
  - millions of civilians crippled and slaughtered by warfare
  - etc.

- Suffering inherent in nature
- the suffering that comes with old age as the body breaks down
  - nature's prey/predator setup: that survival requires life to feed upon life
  - disease: malaria, leprosy, birth defects, etc.
  - natural disasters: earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, etc.

So my outline for reviewing the eight explanations for suffering will be the following:

### I. THE SUPERNATURAL EXPLANATIONS

I. A: In the “Big Picture,” everything is for the best because ...

A.1 – suffering is punishment for wrong-doing

A.2 – suffering benefits us

A.3 – suffering must exist for the greater good of Free Will

A.4 – it's beyond our understanding

A.5 – the perceived world is just an illusion, hence suffering, too, is just an illusion

I. B: The Divine is not All-Powerful

I. C: The Divine is not All-Good

**II. THE NATURALISTIC EXPLANATION:** the natural world is indifferent to creature suffering

—and the question I ask is “Which explanation (or combination of explanations) can most accurately describe and predict a wide set of observations?”

...

### I. THE SUPERNATURAL EXPLANATIONS FOR SUFFERING

I.A. In the “Big Picture,” everything is for the best

I.A.1 – SUFFERING IS PUNISHMENT FOR WRONG-DOING

The most straightforward interpretation of this explanation is that only the guilty suffer. An example of this type of thought can be found in Leviticus 26:

*If you obey all of my commandments, I will give you regular rain, and the land will yield bumper crops, and the trees will be loaded with fruit long after the normal time! ... You will chase your enemies; they will die beneath your swords ... But if you will not listen to me or obey me, but reject my laws, this is what I will do to you: I will punish you with sudden terrors and panic, and with tuberculosis and burning fever; and your eyes shall be consumed and your life shall ebb away ... Your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its crops, nor your trees their fruit. ... you will flee before your attackers; those who hate you will rule you ...*

Leviticus 26:3–5, 7, 14–16, 20, 17, TLB



---

---

## Todd Allen Gates

One of the weaknesses of this explanation, however, is its failure to make sense out of why so many wrongdoers escape punishment. This point is noted in the bible itself by the character named Job:

Ask anyone who has been around and he can tell you the truth, that the evil man is usually spared in the day of calamity, and allowed to escape.  
Job 21:29–30, TLB

Another problem with this “pain is always deserved!” theory is that it requires believers to justify the suffering of animals and of people too young to have committed conscious wrongdoings. Challenges include trying to figure out what guilt of the gazelle could have sentenced it to the terror of being torn apart by a pack of hyenas, and just what crimes have been committed by the over million infants and toddlers every year that bring on their punishment of death-by-diarrhea dehydration.

The fact that the innocent are just as likely to suffer as the guilty is another point made in the Book of Job:

Innocent or evil, it is all the same to [God], for he destroys both kinds. He will laugh when calamity crushes the innocent ...  
Job 9:22–23, TLB

To address these weakness, Jewish and Christian theologians who embrace the pain-is-punishment theory supplement it by explaining that “original sin”—Adam and Eve’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden—brought about God’s wrath not only upon themselves, but corrupted the whole planet, causing us to live in what may be called a “fallen world.” That is, the Garden of Eden had been a paradise: no natural disasters, no disease, no death, and all creatures were vegetarian. But once Adam and Eve took a bite of fruit from the forbidden tree, well, that’s the root cause of why mosquito saliva carries malaria, and why polar bears devour baby seals, and why the earth’s crust is made up of giant plates that move and sometime collide into one another.

Two questions I leave for theists to debate among themselves:

(1) Does the Bible even say this? Many defenders of this explanation will cite Genesis 3:17 as their source: that God “cursed the ground” in reaction to human’s disobedience. And because the ground is “cursed,” well, that explains natural disasters, disease, and why life’s creatures survive by feeding upon one another. Yet this interpretation is hardly supported by the text, for everything about this “cursed ground” in Genesis 3 is associated only with the difficulties of food gathering:

*Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread.*  
*Genesis 3:17–19, NRSV*

—or in other words, Genesis 3:17–19 serves the role of an explanatory myth, explaining why humans’ daily task of feeding themselves can be such a daily hardship. To extrapolate the likes of toddlers with tumors from these few words strikes me as a rationalization stretched beyond the breaking point of believability.

Besides, if the biblical answer to questions like “Why does God permit genocide?” and “Why are there earthquakes?” was as simple as “God cursed the ground: we live in a fallen world,” it seems that the character called God would be a bit clearer on this, and that this stance would be stated consistently throughout the Bible (for example, God certainly could have explained this to Job when He spoke from the whirlwind). But as we continue on, we’ll see that the Bible offers a

variety of explanations for suffering (from “you deserve it” to “it’s for your own good” to “Don’t ask!”).

(2) For those theists who think Adam and Eve’s first offense against God’s “Don’t touch!” rule can indeed explain everything from tapeworms to tsunamis, this leads to the question of whether this explanation should fit under the category of “In the Big Picture, everything is for the best,” or the “God is not All-Good.”

The idea of the Law of Karma (originating in Hinduism, and incorporated by most of the subsequent Eastern religions, such as Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism) offers what I feel is something of an improvement on the pain-is-always-punishment explanation: rather than saying that God’s fury over the theft committed by the naïve newborns Adam and Eve led to a punishment felt by every living creature, even kittens (which seems a tad over-reactive), karma tells us that people are punished only for their own misbehavior—but the catch is that the misdeeds could have happened in this life or a past life.

*If [suffering] is insurmountable, then reflect on the fact that this trouble is due to your own actions in this, or a previous, life. Understanding that suffering comes from karma will bring some peace as it reveals that life is not unjust. Otherwise sorrow and pain might seem to be meaningless.*  
*His Holiness the Dalai Lama, How to Practice: The Way to a Meaningful Life (pp. 131–132)*

So when it comes to, say, infants born with birth defects so severe that they suffer painful deaths in early childhood (those born with holes in their stomachs or hearts, or with bulging skulls because of too much fluid in the brain, or the horribly deformed “Harlequin babies”), the Law of Karma tells us that these suffering babies are not victims of life’s arbitrary cruelty. Rather, these infants must have been sadistic prison guards or murderers (etc.) in past lives, and their pain-filled reincarnations are simply their deserved karmic punishment. Now, explanations such as:

- “babies get cancer because we live in a fallen world” and
- “the so-called victims of Hiroshima and Auschwitz were just getting payback for sins committed in a prior life”

—are difficult to “prove wrong,” as they have the convenient aspect of citing root causes that are unobservable. But the unobservable aspects put these explanations in the same category as explanations like “evil and invisible space aliens are the root of all suffering” and “suffering exists because the Invisible Pink Unicorn wills it so!” We can’t prove that these are wrong either, but that’s hardly a reason to accept these types of zero-evidence-based explanations as correct (or even worth considering as “possibly correct”).

My feeling is that this “pain is punishment” hypothesis—whether explained by the claims of Karma, the story of Adam and Eve, or any other mythological tale of divine retribution—is the least satisfying out of all the religious explanations for suffering: it explains only a limited number of observations for those who bring pain upon themselves, and requires a tortuous stretch of the imagination when attempting to explain every other situation. But it’s only one of the seven supernatural explanations for suffering, so let’s move on.

### 1.A.2 – SUFFERING BENEFITS US

Certain biblical passages tell us that pain should not be considered punishment, but a gift from God sent to improve our character:

*Young man, do not resent it when God chastens and corrects you, for his punishment is proof of his love. Just as a father*

---

---

## Anthropology

*punishes a son he delights in to make him better, so the Lord corrects you.*  
*Proverbs 3:11–12, TLB*

*My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.*  
*James 1:2-4, NRSV*

*In the Book of Job, one of Job’s “friends” (so to speak) also depicts suffering as divinely-prescribed therapy:*

*By means of ... suffering, [God] rescues those who suffer. For he gets their attention through adversity.*  
*Job 36:15, NLT*

*... it was to prevent you from getting into a life of evil that God sent this suffering.*  
*Job 36:21, NLT*

On the one hand, the suffering-benefits-us explanation is arguably better than the pain-is-always-punishment explanation, as it can make sense out of select instances of suffering in all three categories:

Suffering that people bring upon themselves

- The alcoholic whose loss of job and family leads to a life turnaround: a sober and healthy lifestyle, and regaining all that had been lost.

Suffering that people bring upon innocent people

- Victims who mature as a result of suffering, increasing their courage, compassion, empathy, and patience.

Suffering inherent in nature

- Pain is often a beneficial signal of danger: it motivates us to get off that hot stove, and to work hard to satisfy our pangs of hunger and thirst. And suffering today can make us stronger tomorrow: just as our muscles grow stronger when they repair themselves after the strains of a vigorous workout, our characters can grow stronger when tested through vigorous strains of adversity.

—or in other words, there’s some truth behind the cliché “whatever doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” Yet even that cliché contains the caveat “whatever doesn’t kill you.” What is the benefit, however, when this alleged gift from God does kill you? Or as the Rabbi Kushner put it when trying to figure out why God lets small children fall out of open windows:

It can’t be to teach a child a lesson about exploring new areas. By the time the lesson is over, the child is dead.  
When Bad Things Happen to Good People (p. 24)

The suffering-benefits-us explanation is all the more difficult to make sense of when applied to mass tragedies: the hundreds of thousands of innocent Rwandans hacked to death with machetes during their civil war, the millions who perished in Nazi concentration camps, the millions of children who continue to die every year from disease and famine, and so on. When I pursue this point with theists who offer the “suffering benefits us” explanation, I’ve found that most take one of two approaches:

– some admit that the “suffering benefits us” explanation can’t be applied across the board—that pain is sometimes best explained by other reasons (we live in a fallen world, it’s a side consequence of Free Will, it’s all beyond our comprehension, etc.);

– some will insist that even mass tragedies are hidden blessings from God, as the survivors learn vital lessons. As for the stricken, they’re no doubt enjoying a blissful eternity in heaven. (And although believers tend not to do so, if the wish-filled and evidence-starved premise of “heaven” is truly accepted 100%, one might even celebrate disasters that claim the lives of millions.)

### 1.A.3 – SUFFERING MUST EXIST FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF FREE WILL

This explanation has it that in order to make ethical behavior meaningful, God had to give man the Free Will to accept Him or reject Him. And allowing people to be free means that in addition to giving humans the capacity for compassion, God also gave us the capacity for destructiveness—toward ourselves and others. Thus this approach encompasses the pain-is-punishment explanation and expands upon it: suffering results not only because we can choose to hurt ourselves, but we can also choose to hurt others.

Defenders of this explanation will often point out that God could have created a world free of suffering by withholding Free Will, but that such a world would have been meaningless: something akin to a world of pre-programmed robots. The only way to obtain the tremendous value of having people who could genuinely love each other and do good deeds was to also permit them to reject that path. (This explanation, at least according to some theists, also explains the existence of Satan: angels too have the choice to love or hate God.)

So if we apply this theory to trying to explain why, for example, God didn’t stop the gunman Thomas Hamilton from firing 109 rounds into a kindergarten classroom and splattering the walls with the blood of its sixteen children (Scotland, March 1996), the “suffering must exist for the Greater Good of Free Will” explanation has it that interference from God would have inhibited Hamilton’s Free Will, the higher priority.

Yet even if one does accept this reason for why God allows humans to behave inhumanly toward one another, the theory doesn’t hold up well when applied to suffering that has nothing to do with human Free Will, such as natural disasters. It would be difficult to make the case that human Free Will played a role, for example, in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that struck eleven countries, killing over 225,000. Similarly, much of the suffering of animals in the wild—famine, disease, the whole predator versus prey set-up—exists independently of human behavior or misbehavior. It seems unlikely that anyone could make a convincing argument that “human freedom to turn away from God” is the reason that infant sandtiger sharks will devour their siblings while still in utero.

When I pursued this point with those who offer the “Free Will” explanation for suffering, I once again found that theists tended to expand their explanation with supplements: we live in an evil and fallen world, Satan rules the earth for the time being, God’s kingdom will soon return, suffering is sometimes beneficial, that the infinite mind of God cannot be comprehended by the finite mind of man, etc.

### 1.A.4 – IT’S BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING

According to some interpretations, this is the message of the Book of Job: that we’re just too finite to understand the Infinite Mind of the Divine:

Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind: ... “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. ... Who decreed the boundaries of the seas when they gushed from the depths? ... Have you ever once commanded the morning to appear, and caused the dawn to rise in the east? ... Has the location of the gates of Death been revealed to you? Do you realize the extent of the earth? Tell me about it if you know!

“Where does the light come from, and how do you get there? Or tell me about the darkness. Where does it come from? Can you find its boundaries, or go to its source?

[ continued on page 34 ]



The thought of the year 2012 brings to the minds of many images of gloom and doom, death and destruction, and the potential reemergence of mankind from its ashes. In the last few years there have been countless books, movies and television specials discussing what the authors believe will happen on December 21, 2012. After investigating all of the available evidence, I have come to my own conclusion as to what will happen on that highly anticipated date.

Before I jump to the punch line and tell you what I believe, let's spend a few minutes investigating some of the prophecies that have been associated with the 2012 event.. And, take a look at as some of the theories describing what is believed will happen.

The Maya created a number of different calendars to record the passage of time. One of them is called the "Calendar Round". We learned about this calendar from a book, known as the Dresden Codex. It was spared the burning frenzy of the early Christian priests systems used by the Maya. The Tzolk'on or 260 day Sacred Calendar and the Haab, the 365 day vague calendar. When combined they form a new calendar that measures 52 years.

The Calendar Round can only distinguish 52 years then starts repeating itself. The Mayans needed a more refined dating method. To ensure that dates could be identified over these extended periods, the Maya devised the "Long Count" calendar. We became aware of the Long Count through the study of various stelae found in the ruins of many abandoned Mayan cities.

The Long Count identifies the number of days that have passed since the beginning of the last Great Cycle. A great Cycle has a length of 13 baktuns or 1,872,000 days (5,125.36 years). Once completed, like the odometer on your car, the calendar resets itself to 0 (zero). The accepted start date of the current Great Cycle, as proposed by Sir J. Eric S. Thompson, is August 13, 3114 BCE. By adding 1,872,000 days to August 13, 3114 BC we arrive at the date December 21, 2012 - the "end of the Mayan Calendar".

While the Mayan Calendar provides us with a date for its completion, some researchers believe that other prophecies support the end of a great cycle is fast approaching. According to the Hopi Indians, as reported by White Feather - a Hopi of the ancient Bear Clan - to

a minister named David Young in 1958, these are the signs of the end times:

"The Fourth World shall end soon, and the Fifth World will begin. This the elders everywhere know. The Signs over many years have been fulfilled, and so few are left."

**"This is the First Sign:** We are told of the coming of the white-skinned men, like Pahana, but not living like Pahana men who took the land that was not theirs. And men who struck their enemies with thunder."

**"This is the Second Sign:** Our lands will see the coming of spinning wheels filled with voices. In his youth, my father saw this prophecy come true with his eyes -- the white men bringing their families in wagons across the prairies."

**"This is the Third Sign:** A strange beast like a buffalo but with great long horns, will overrun the land in large numbers. These White Feather saw with his eyes -- the coming of the white men's cattle."

**"This is the Fourth Sign:** The land will be crossed by snakes of iron."

**"This is the Fifth Sign:** The land shall be criss-crossed by a giant spider's web."

**"This is the Sixth sign:** The land shall be criss-crossed with rivers of stone that make pictures in the sun."

**"This is the Seventh Sign:** You will hear of the sea turning black, and many living things dying because of it."

**"This is the Eight Sign:** You will see many youth, who wear their hair long like my people, come and join the tribal nations, to learn their ways and wisdom."

**"And this is the Ninth and Last Sign:** You will hear of a dwelling-place in the heavens, above the earth, that shall fall with a great crash. It will appear as a blue star. Very soon after this, the ceremonies of my people will cease."

"These are the Signs that great destruction is coming. The world shall rock to and fro. The white man will battle against other people in other lands -- with those who possessed the first light of wisdom. There will be many columns of smoke and fire such as White Feather has seen the white man make in the deserts not far from here. Only those which come will cause disease and a great dying.

Many of my people, understanding the prophecies, shall be safe. Those who stay and live in the places of my people also shall be safe. Then there will be much to rebuild. And soon -- very soon afterward -- Pahana will return. He shall bring with him the dawn of the Fifth World. He shall plant the seeds of his wisdom in their hearts. Even now the

seeds are being planted. These shall smooth the way to the Emergence into the Fifth World."

The signs, over the years, have been interpreted as follows: The First Sign is the arrival of the white man with his guns. The Second Sign is of the pioneers' covered wagons. The Third Sign is of longhorn cattle. The Fourth Sign describes the railroad tracks. The Fifth Sign is a clear image of our electric power and telephone lines. The Sixth Sign describes concrete highways and their mirage-producing effects. The Seventh Sign foretells of oil spills in the ocean. The Eighth Sign clearly indicates the "Hippy Movement" of the 1960s. The Ninth Sign was the U.S. Space Station Skylab, which fell to Earth in 1979. According to Australian eye-witnesses, it appeared to be burning blue.

The Hindu Yuga cycle has also been linked by many as supporting the December 21, 2012 date. According to Hindu Tradition, the length of all life here on earth is described as one day in the life of Brahma, the god of this universe. When Brahma awakens, the universe appears. When he sleeps, it disappears. It is said that one day in the life of Brahma lasts for 4,320,000 years.

Each day in the life of Brahma is broken down into ages or yugas. They include: the Satya Yuga, the Treta Yuga, the Dwapar Yuga and the Kali Yuga. Without going into a lot of detail regarding the math that supports these ages, it is believed that the Satya Yuga lasted for 1,728,000 years, the Treta Yuga, for 1,296,000 years and the Dwapar for 864,000 years. It is also believed that we are now in the Kali Yuga. The Kali Yuga is to last for 432,000 years. At this time, Brahma will again slumber and our world (what we know of as our universe) will disappear from existence.

Similar to the Long Count of the Maya, each Yuga has a particular characteristic. The Satya Yuga, for example, can be roughly translated as the "Age of Truth". It is sometimes thought of as the Golden Age of Man. During this age, goodness and high ideals ruled supreme. Human intelligence and consciousness were at their peak. After 1,728,000 years of enlightenment we entered the Treta Yuga. During the Treta Yuga, there was a fall in man's spiritual consciousness. Moral and ethical ideals began to decline.

As we moved into the Dwapar Yuga, man's level of consciousness was now 1/2 of where it was during the Satya Yuga. It was during the Dwapar Yuga that man began using what he knew for his own personal comfort regardless of its impact on others. According to the texts, during the final age, the Kali Yuga, man experiences a total loss of spiritual awareness. Trapped in spiritual darkness, we can only comprehend our physical bodies and the objects within our physical world.

Meaning "Age of Vice", the Kali Yuga is characterized by strife, discord and contention. Evil and dishonesty has replaced the truth found in the Satya Yuga. In the Hindu Text, the Vishnu Purana - thought to be written somewhere between 800 and

300BCE - we find a detailed description of the Kali Yuga. Here are a few excerpts from this document.

"The minds of men will be wholly occupied in acquiring wealth; and wealth will be spent solely on selfish gratifications. Women will follow their inclinations, and be ever fond of pleasure. Men will fix their desires upon riches, even though dishonestly acquired."

"The kings of Kali Yuga will be addicted to corruption and will seize the property of their subjects. Then property and wealth alone will confer rank; falsehood will be the only means of success. Corruption will be the universal means of subsistence."

"Princes, instead of protecting, will plunder their subjects; and, under the pretext of levying customs, will rob merchants of their property. In the Kali age everyone who has ears and elephants and steeds will be a Rájá: everyone who is feeble will be a slave."

Based on society today, it seems as if we are well into the energy dynamics of the Kali Yuga.

Prophecies derived from the Book of Revelation in the Bible have also provided ammunition to the 2012 debate. Talk about Earth changes, the 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse and the Anti-Christ have added fuel to the fire of this already hot debate.

A number of theories have emerged to explain what will happen at the end of the Mayan calendar. The outcome (according to supporters) fall into two major camps. These camps are as different from each other as day and night. The most popular theories promoted are apocalyptic in nature. They foretell of dramatic events which will virtually wipe mankind off of the face of the earth. If I had to pick from these scenarios, the most likely outcome would be that we would blow ourselves up. Nuclear weapons, a troubled economy and the growing threat of terrorism, all add to the stress and pressure governments face. It only requires one badly played card before we are all potentially toast.

Other popular theories include the Rapture which is found in the Book of Revelation. According to this theory, the Rapture begins with "the saved" being taken up and off the Earth. In the movie "Left Behind", these individuals just disappear, leaving the unworthy behind. Once saved, Armageddon can begin in full force. A war between good and evil follows and finally Jesus, flying in on his cloud, will return to end the fighting. Associated with this theory (although not supported by fundamentalist Christians) is the belief that it is not Jesus who brings about the end of Armageddon, but aliens. It is these same aliens who transport the worthy off the planet and save them from Armageddon.

[ continued on page 17 ]

# 2012: The Theories, The Prophecies, The Aftermath



“AND THE NEPHILIM DESCENDED TO THE EARTH IN

THOSE DAYS - AND ALSO AFTERWARD - WHEN THE

SONS OF GOD COHABITED WITH THE DAUGHTERS

OF HUMANS AND HAD CHILDREN BY THEM...”

GENESIS 6:4

DESCENDING

FEBRUARY 2012



WWW.NEWPAGEBOOKS.COM

THE  
RISE &  
FALL  
OF  
THE

# NEPHILIM

THE UNTOLD STORY OF  
FALLEN ANGELS,  
GIANTS ON THE EARTH,  
AND THEIR  
EXTRATERRESTRIAL ORIGINS

Scott Alan Roberts

FOREWARD BY CRAIG HINES, AUTHOR OF GATEWAY OF THE GODS





[ continued from page 14 ]

Additional end time theories include: the appearance of Planet-X (sometimes referred to as Niburu), solar winds, giant asteroids and even a magnetic poll shift. Each of these potential events could end life on this planet.

Switching theoretical sides, there are theories of a calmer and more transcendental nature. According to some, on December 21, 2012 our planet will enter into what is called the Galactic Alignment. This astronomical configuration is said to happen once every 26,000 years based upon the precession of the equinox. Due to this astrological configuration it has been said that our planet will be aligned with the center of the galaxy. This will cause our chakras (the energy centers within the body) to open, thus allowing the free flow of universal energy into our bodies.

Similar to this theory is that the beginning of a new calendar cycle will usher in a new age. It is often likened to the "Age of Aquarius" as a time of peace, love and understanding. This shift would not be instantaneous. Instead, changes to our consciousness and collective conscious would commence. This shift would lead to a new, better and harmonious life here on Earth. No one has identified how long this process would take, only that on December 21, it will have begun.

The final theory associated with 2012 is that of ascension. The Rapture describes saving individuals from an upcoming worldwide catastrophe. In this scenario, the person is present on Earth one minute and gone the next. Ascension theory is something like presented in the TV series "StarGate". The character Daniel Jackson ascends and becomes one with the Ancients. The concept of spiritual ascension is associated with a number of spiritual beliefs and practices. Through self transformation, we as humans would no longer need our physical bodies and will transcend into a higher plane of being. Proponents of this theory are unclear if ascension will happen December 21 or if it is the process of ascension will begin on that date. In any case, this one sounds pretty good to me.

The question I am most often asked when talking about 2012, is what will really happen to us. Based upon my research to date, this is what I have deduced. Starting bright and early on December 22, 2012 the sun will come up, we will rise from our slumber and we will begin a new grand and glorious day.

You might ask how I came to this conclusion? I am happy to share that information with you now.

Let's return to the Hopi Prophecies. According to their prophecies, it is the fulfillment of the identified events which will indicate the beginning of the Fifth World. Compelling as they are, like the prophecies of Nostradamus, we are left with the question... Are we making assumptions about their true meaning? What has been suggested as the fulfillment of the prophecies, is on face, value very persuasive but we will never know for sure.

There are also problems when you factor in the Hindu Yugas. The Kali Yuga is said to begin on the day Krishna died in 3100 BC. The 3100BC start date of the Kali Yuga does make you contemplate its connection with the dates given for this cycle in the Mayan Calendar. What many 2012 supporters do not tell you is that the Kali Yuga is identified as lasting for 432,000 years. If you subtract the number of years that have passed since the start of the Kali Yuga, we still have roughly 427,000 years to go until this Yuga ends - and the universe as we know it will disappear. The math does not add up to any time in 2012.

Over the centuries, prophecies derived from the Book of Revelation have been interpreted and re-interpreted to rationalize

many of the difficult time periods we have encountered. Is the Book of Revelations talking about what is going on now? It could be. But it could also have been describing the emperor Nero who banished John, the author of Revelations, to Patmos. Over the years, this same text has been used to predict the end of the world numerous times.

Finally we come to the Mayan Calendar. The date of December 21, 2012 was determined by Sir J. Eric S. Thompson and is referred to as the Thompson Correlation. As you may recall, Thompson stated that the current Great Cycle commenced on August 13, 3114BC. This date has been generally accepted as the most likely start date of the cycle. However, Thompson is not the only one who has proposed a start date. If you add 1,872,000 days to some of the suggested alternative launch times, dates for the end of the Mayan Calendar have ranged from the year 1734 AD all the way through to the year 2532 AD.

As you can see, there really isn't anything that directly supports the December 21, 2012 date. It is really just a bunch of smoke and mirrors. The net effect has been that many of us are afraid of what may, or may not, happen on that date! If you are worried that the world is coming to an end, let it go. Take a deep breath and open yourself up to contemplating a bright future ahead. Before I go, I would like to ask each of you for one thing. When you open your eyes on the morning of December 22nd, think of me, this message and say thank you. ✚

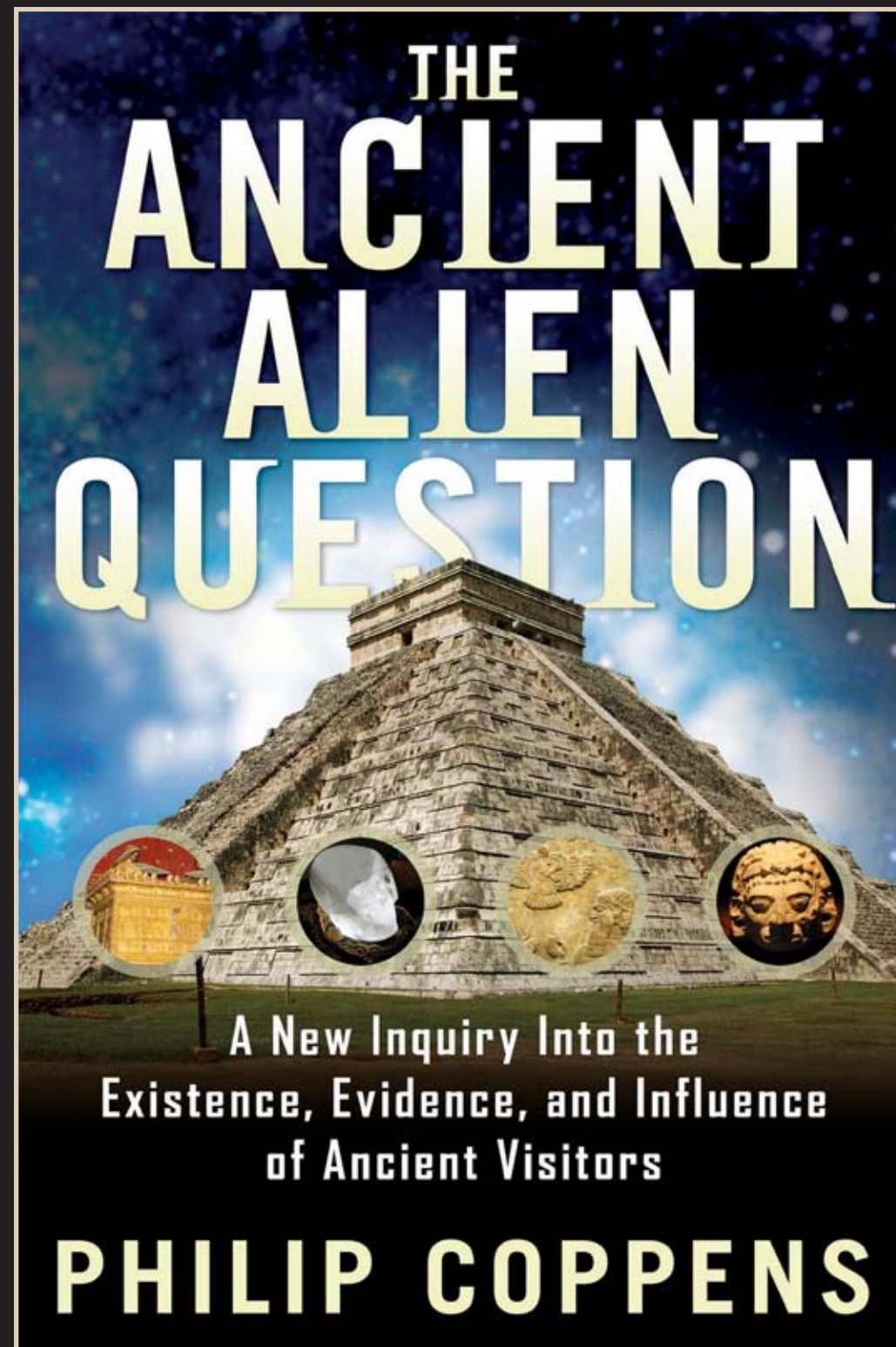
© Copyright Body, Mind & SoulHealer – soulhealer.com 2011. All rights reserved.



Bestselling author, Dr. Rita Louise is the Founder of the Institute Of Applied Energetics and the host of Just Energy Radio. She is the author of the books "Dark Angels: An Insider's Guide to Ghosts, Spirits & Attached Entities", "Avoiding The Cosmic 2x4" and "The Power Within". A 20-year veteran in the Human Potential Field, it is her unique gift as a medical intuitive and clairvoyant that illuminates and enlivens her work. Her unique insights bridge the worlds of science, spirit and culture and are changing the way the worldviews physical, mental and emotional health.

For more information visit:  
[www.SoulHealer.com](http://www.SoulHealer.com)  
or listen live at [www.JustEnergyRadio.com](http://www.JustEnergyRadio.com).

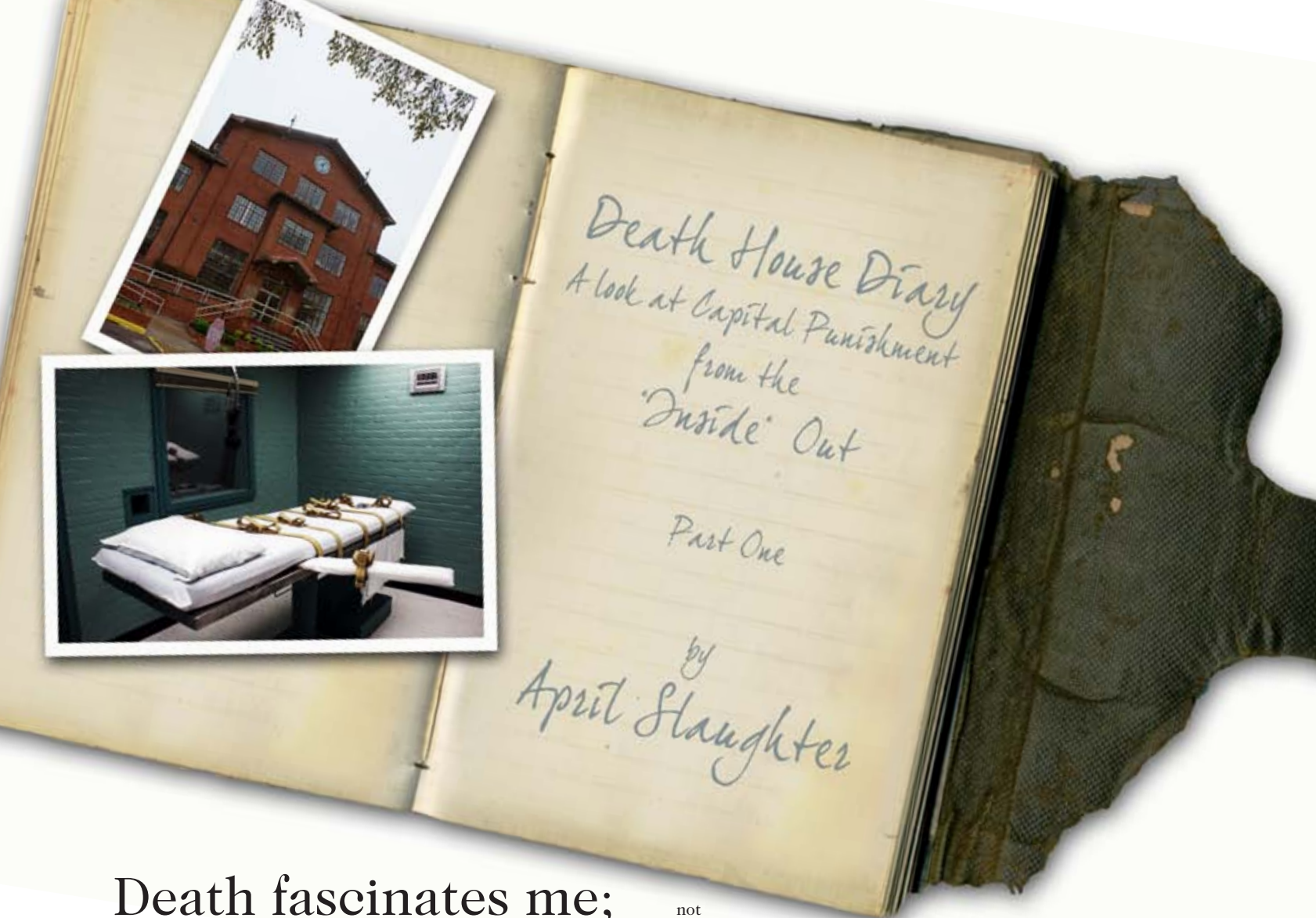
B O L D L Y   G O I N G . . .  
[www.intrepidmag.com](http://www.intrepidmag.com)



A V A I L A B L E   N O W !







# Death fascinates me;

not in that I enjoy it in a morbid sort of sense, but I do find myself oddly drawn to its mysteries. Just as new life is brought into the world on a nearly constant basis, life is also ushered out. Death occurs both naturally and unnaturally, and it is the latter that has led me down the path I now find myself on.

Last year, I stood in a room that hundreds of people have walked into, but have never walked out of again. In this room, they are strapped down to a gurney, IVs are placed in their arms, and they're asked if they have any last words to offer before a lethal mixture of drugs begins flowing into their veins. Some seize the opportunity to speak and others simply decline it. This is the Texas Death House, and I was standing in the execution chamber at the Huntsville Unit Penitentiary.

You would think that crossing the threshold into that building would have been a fairly easy thing for me to do, right? After all, I had nothing to be nervous about. I was not one of the condemned sent there to pay the ultimate price for a crime I had been convicted of committing. No, I was just an observer. I had entered the prison looking for ghosts, and I found them... just not in the way I had expected to.

The Huntsville Unit, also commonly referred to as the Walls, has had rumored paranormal activity for years. Certain sections of the building are closed off, but said to be active despite no longer housing prisoners. Being a paranormal investigator and researcher, I could not pass up the opportunity to visit the prison and to find out whether or

not ghosts truly resided within the Walls. Little did I know that one evening would spark a curiosity in me that reached beyond my initial interest to get 'inside.'

I knew from previous visits to Huntsville that the retired Texas electric chair, Ol' Sparky had been moved from the Walls to the Texas Prison Museum. It, too, was a humbling artifact to stand in front of. A total of 361 condemned individuals met their ultimate fate in that chair. In my mind, there had to be residual energy attached to it. How could there not be? Once I was able to enter the Huntsville Unit, I asked to see where the chair had originally been operated. I was taken to a nondescript, narrow room at the far side of the prison. Had I not been told this room used to be the execution chamber, I never would have guessed it. Today, this room is used as the prison's pill line where inmates wait to receive their medications.

While the paranormal investigation of the prison was interesting, my mind was continually distracted by how little I actually knew about capital punishment. Questions kept racing through my head. What was the process involved the day an execution occurred? Who was responsible for tying the inmate down to the gurney? How must it be for the Warden to give the final signal? Did the executioner ever find his/herself at odds with their job? These and many more questions began to plague me.

I had always considered myself a supporter of the death penalty. I had no reason to oppose it, as I viewed the individuals sentenced

## April Slaughter

to death as monstrous and dangerous to society. Death would be a fitting punishment for the horrendous things these people have done to others. In many ways, this has not changed, but... in other ways it has.

Most of us receive our information about crimes through various media formats. Whether it is the evening news, the local paper, radio broadcast, or article on the internet, we are given a very small taste of what is always (yes, always) a much bigger story than what is portrayed. We have the ability to absorb what is presented to us, and then when the television is turned off, we forget. We do not invest our time and energy into what is happening in the justice system. Most of us tend to trust it outright, believing it is working without really knowing that it is.

In a perfect world, we would have no need for capital punishment, but this is not a perfect world, and truth be told, the justice system in this country is seriously flawed. The same debates that rage between those in support of the death penalty and those who oppose it weigh heavily on my own mind. I find myself in the midst of an internal struggle because I equally agree with points on both sides of the argument.

Is the death penalty an effective deterrent to crime? The simple answer to that question is no. If it were meant to be, it would be called capital deterrence, would it not? The fact is that execution is a punishment. Whether or not it keeps anyone else from committing a heinous crime is irrelevant; the individual sentenced to die has already done so. This is assuming, of course, that the person is truly guilty of their crime. It is a sad fact that innocent people have been incarcerated and put to death for crimes they did not commit. Somewhere along the way, huge mistakes (intentional and unintentional) have been made, and innocent people have paid for them with their lives.

As of today, there have been over 130 individuals exonerated from death row since 1973. Imagine for a moment that they had all been executed despite their actual innocence. Obviously, the system is not working exactly as it is designed to, so do we keep operating a broken machine or do we invest our time and energy into creating another solution?

The cost of housing and caring for a death row inmate varies from state to state, but those funds are provided by taxpayers, and the amount spent over the average stay on death row can be astronomical. Here in the state of Texas, an inmate will spend an average of 10.6 years on death row before he or she is actually executed for their

crimes. At an operating cost of \$62.00 a day for each of its over 300 death row inmates, taxpayers in the state dish out over seven million dollars per year, and that number doesn't even include those in general population serving time for non-capital offenses.

After running these numbers by a respected friend and colleague of mine, he asked, "What does it currently cost to execute an inmate in the state of Texas?" When I told him it was a mere \$83.55 for the lethal injection drugs, he asked, "As a taxpayer, which figure are you more comfortable footing the bill for, life behind bars at \$62.00 a day or a one-time fee of \$83.55?" Granted, the process is far more complicated than that, but he did have a point. If execution immediately followed conviction, it would certainly save taxpayers a healthy sum of money, but that is not the way the system works.

There are a countless number of arguments both for and against capital punishment; far too many to list here, but at the end of the day I find myself unwilling to say I am in 100% agreement with any of them. I've had to stop questioning whether or not a state ordered execution is right or wrong, and look deeper into the effect it has on the people who work, live, and die on America's death row.

To obtain the information I needed, I had to speak with the people closest to the issue. I first interviewed a retired warden of the Huntsville Unit, Mr. James Willett. During his three years as Senior Warden at the Walls, he presided and gave the final signal for a total of 89 executions, all the while not wholly believing that it was the right thing to be done. This was his job. Although retired, he now serves as the Director of the Texas Prison Museum. He is also the author of Warden – a non-fiction retelling of his thirty year history working within the prison system.

I knew from the expressions on his face during our interview that he was not the most comfortable talking about the executions themselves. Jim often pointed the conversation in a different, more positive direction, explaining to me that things on the inside were not always as they seemed to those of us on the outside.

When I expressed to him that I had an interest in actually witnessing an execution for a future writing project, the only word he said to me was, "Don't." To be honest, standing next to that empty gurney in the death house was plenty close enough for me, but that one word he spoke along with that genuine look of concern in his eyes will never leave my memory. In his own way,

[ continued on page 69 ]







**“This island set apart, this motherland of many dreams, still yields its secret, but it is only as men seek, that they truly find. To reach the heart of Iona is to find something eternal.” -G.E. Troup**

The Celtic church is an enigma even for modern historians and theologians. On the one hand you had a church that was wholly orthodox and resistant to Papal control, for which it has become the fancy of Protestants and Easter Orthodox Christians. On the other hand you have a church whose primary religious order of authority possessed a spirituality that was quite creation centered, focused not just on God as transcendent deity, but also in God immanent in His natural world. This religious order was the Order of Culdees, the Christian inheritors of much of the ancient Druidic tradition and spirituality. The name Culdee itself is of confusing origin and many opinions have been offered. The most likely is that it comes from the word “culdich”, meaning “certain strangers.” This makes sense considering that Celtic Christian tradition has it that in 37 A.D., the first followers of Jesus Christ appeared on the shores of the British Isles. These followers were Jewish and would certainly have looked different, dressed different and spoke a foreign language. Some traditions say that Joseph of Arimathea was the leader of this band of disciples, who had visited previously with the young Jesus. Whatever the case, these strangers were granted

# THE CULDEES: CHRISTIAN HEIRS OF THE DRUIDS

## The Bare Fisted Cleric

an audience by Arvaragus, the king of that particular region. The king found them kind, humble and worthy of his trust, so he decided to give them a place to live in the local Druid community. Later the same king granted them a plot of land equal to “twelve hides”, where they built the first Christian Church in Britain. Celtic tradition has it that this church was built on the very site of the now ruined church at Glastonbury.

Is there evidence for this tradition? If we take into account the record known as the Domesday survey, it appears there certainly is. A passage in the Domesday survey (1088 A.D.) states:

*“The Domus Dei in the great monastery at Glastingbury. This Glastingbury church possesses its own villa XII hides of land for which have never been paid tax.”*

Evidence also shows that after building the Glastonbury church a group of Druids also converted to Christianity. It is then no surprise that, since these Druids already possessed spiritual authority and influence among the people, they were ordained priests and certainly began to convert others-including other Druids. One of the questions we must ask is what was it that encouraged these Druids to convert to this new religion, leaving behind the path of their ancestors? The first thing we have to understand is that Druidic spirituality was syncretistic. That is, they absorbed elements of various philosophies and religions they came in contact with. The first Druids traveled to Britain from the Balkans finding philosophies and religions similar to theirs and adding what seemed to them a good fit. So when these Druids met the “culdich” it was natural for them to search out the truths that seemed right to them in this new faith and implement them. Also these strangers had received their teachings first hand from Jesus Himself, so they were as close to the source as they could get, and this would have appealed to the Druids immensely. Keep in mind that the Christianity of that time was not the Christianity of today. It wasn’t influenced by Greek philosophy. It wasn’t the product of Reformers. It wasn’t a religion merely being used to subdue and control a tribe or nation as was to happen in the future. This was the simple, pure faith taught by Jesus without the baggage of much of modern Christianity. The Druids, besides being the priestly class, were the intelligentsia. They were the physicians, priests, naturalists, musicians and historians of their people. To become a Druid one had to memorize the entire corpus of Bardic works and all other collected knowledge of their people without the benefit of writing anything down. No simple challenge and not one for the ignorant. Thus they were held in very high esteem as the protected class of society. It was considered a great crime to kill a Druid, even in war. Again, these were the intelligentsia of society, the protectors of their history and heritage. So we must assume that this new faith they encountered was one that they felt was the fulfillment of their spiritual path, and not some betrayal of their people or traditions.

When these Druids converted they didn’t just drop their traditions, they brought many of them into their Christian faith. We can find evidence of this in the symbolism of Celtic Christianity (geese, trees,

groves, wells, and other creation centered symbols), as well as in such writings as the Carmina Gadelica. The Carmina Gadelica is a beautiful collection of ancient Celtic prayers that reflect earlier Druidic nature spirituality, where we find prayers that demonstrate a strong connection to the nature spirituality of the Druids. Prayers such as:

***Thou King of the Moon,  
Thou King of the Sun,  
Thou King of the Planets,  
Thou King of the Stars,  
Thou King of the Globe,  
Thou King of the Sky,  
Oh! Lovely Thy countenance,  
Thou beauteous beam!***

Given this Druidic heritage it is no surprise that Celtic Christian tradition tells us of Culdee saints who talked with animals, much in the same way that Saint Francis of Assisi was said to do much later, or that groves, springs and wells were to be considered holy. Another strong indicator that the Culdees were the heirs of Druid tradition is their occupation of the Druid holy sites and groves, including the sacred Isle of Iona. This island is located off the west coast of Scotland and was the site of a large conclave of Druids, for which it has always been known alternately as “Innis nan Druidhneach”, old Gaelic for “Druid’s Isle”. The fact that this island held such spiritual importance in Celtic society is attested to as well by the historian Lewis Spence in his book “The Mysteries of Britain”, where he confirms this tradition by research, concluding, “Their (the Druids) chief seat in Scotland was the Island of Iona.” It was this very same stronghold of Druidic learning that the Culdees soon took over, and where Saint Columba established his monastery in the 6th century. Speaking of this succession of spiritual authority by the Culdees the 19th century historian Godfrey



Higgins wrote in his treatise “The Celtic Druids”, “In the early history of the Christian church, in Britain and Ireland, we meet with an order of priests called Culdees...They had a very celebrated monastery in the Island of Iona, and others in remote situations, and these situations, by accident or design, mostly the former possessions of the Druids...the result of all the enquiries which I have made into the history of the Culdees is, that they were the last remains of the Druids, who had been converted to Christianity..” Yet another 19th century historian, John Jamieson, wrote in his “Historical Account of the Ancient Culdees of Iona” that there is a “traditions in the Highlands of Scotland, that the Culdees immediately succeeded the Druids, as the ministers of religion..” He too notes the Culdees having inherited the Druidic holy places as well by informing us that one of the well known Christian churches at Clachan “originally belonged to a Druidical temple.”

Also present in the traditions regarding this holy Isle of Iona is one that states Jesus will return again to the island. This of course presupposes that he had been there before, which brings us back



# Reanimation: "to restore to life: REVIVE."

Man's exhaustive search for the answers to life and death is a journey that may never be complete.

The unknown spurs the quest to find out the exact moment that life starts and stops. There is much to be found on these subjects, but all in theory. For instance, it is said that the human body loses 21 grams in weight at death, leaving some to speculate that it is the weight of the soul that has departed. The myth that our fingernails and hair keep growing has been explained away as the simple breakdown of tissues during the natural process of decay leaving the skin to recede, which gives the appearance of longer hair and fingernails. Stories of man coming back to life are not new. The Bible recounts Jesus coming back briefly after his death, and leaving his tomb to ascend into the heavens. Modern day has shown an increase in popularity within the zombie and vampire cultures, both creatures who have cheated death, but can it really be done? Do we really have to die after all?

Broaching this subject early on was Mary Shelley, a British writer. She began penning "Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus" in 1815, when she was only eighteen years old. She completed the manuscript in her twenty-first year. The daughter of philosophers, Shelley's life as a young adult was filled with death and suffering. Shelley carried on a romantic affair with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, who was married at the time. She became pregnant, and gave birth



Amber Keller

# Reanimation

## FRANKENSTEIN'S STORY

prematurely to a daughter who survived only a few weeks. Mary and Percy did marry, and she bore three more children, although only one survived. Percy Shelley died in 1822 when his boat sank during a storm and he drowned. They were only married for six years.

Her life since she had left with Percy had been rough. They had lived in poverty, and were unaccepted by family due to their unconventional relationship. Depression was a big part of Shelley's life after each child's death, and following the death of her husband. Eventually Shelley died when she was fifty-three from a brain tumor. The idea for "Frankenstein" came to Shelley one night in a dream. In the summer of 1816, Shelley and some of her friends, including Percy and the poet Lord Byron, decided to see who could write the best horror story. Around this same time they had been discussing the subject of galvanism, which is the use of stimulation by an electric current in order to contract a muscle. Luigi Galvani, whom the term was named after, had conducted experiments in 1791 with disembodied frogs legs and the application of electricity in order to make them move of their own accord. Through his studies, Galvani attempted to understand the connection between life and electricity. Another scientist studying galvanism, Giovanni Aldini, has been said to have had influence over Shelley's defining work.

In Shelley's dream, a scientist created a man, but was mortified by his creation. Soon after she began writing the novel we now know as "Frankenstein", which carries on this theme. It was first published anonymously, but in it's second edition, Shelley was credited as the author. The subtitle, "The Modern Prometheus", is rarely seen today. Her choice in using this analogy was due to the myth of Prometheus. In Greek mythology, Prometheus created man. After teaching man all of his necessary skills, he then tricked Zeus by stealing fire and giving it to man resulting in Prometheus being punished. Prometheus was bound to a rock where an eagle would pick out his liver everyday, and because he was immortal, it would always grow back only to be painfully removed again.

Victor Frankenstein correlates to Prometheus in that they both created man, and they both suffered for their actions. Shelley's work showed influences in this, along with Milton and others. The monster in her novel can be found reading from the novel "Paradise Lost". Another coincidence is that Milton refers to God in "Paradise Lost" as "the Victor". One recurrent theme in Shelley's novel is the question of the monsters identity. Victor creates this hideous being, and abandons it after he sees what he has done. He never gave the creature a name, nor stayed to guide it or teach it. What he didn't expect was that the creature would have feelings and thoughts like any other person. Shelley's ability to convey the suffering of the creature is remarkable. He is a very lonely and isolated individual that is met with revulsion and violence whenever he approaches other humans. Anger causes the creature to take revenge on his creator, Victor Frankenstein, by killing some of his family members and friends. Once the creature confronts Victor, he demands Victor make him a companion, a woman

that looks like he does, so that he may live not in solitude, but in happiness. Here is where Victor battles the morals of creating another monster. His inner turmoil parallels the creature's own pain. When the book originally released, it was met with harsh criticism due to its graphic nature, yet it became a great success. It proved to be interesting to readers and has withstood the test of time to become one of the classics.

Shelley was able to see it performed on the stage. Today it is popular to adapt novels into screenplays whereas two hundred years ago one of the main forms of entertainment was the theatre. A classic film version of Frankenstein was the 1931 version featuring Boris Karloff. This movie was based on a play by Peggy Webling, instead of directly from Shelley's novel. For this reason, there are many inconsistencies with her work. The common square shaped head bearing bolts on the sides of the neck is one of the most remembered features of the film version of the creature, yet in Shelley's novel, he had long hair and a regular shaped head. Also, the creature does not speak in the film, but in the novel he teaches himself to read and speak, showing much intellect.

More inconsistencies are that the main character's name is Henry Frankenstein in the film, when it is Victor Frankenstein in the novel. Henry Clerval was Victor's dear friend in the book. A major difference was that Shelley has the monster demanding for Victor to make him a bride, yet this is not explored in the film.

One controversial scene in the film is where the monster comes upon a small girl alone. They toss some flowers in a lake, and when the flowers are gone, he tosses her in not knowing she cannot swim. Her death by drowning is a turning point for the creature. He feels guilt and remorse, and this is also what seals his fate once the townsfolk find out about the murder. Here again it was completely changed from Shelley's version. In the book, the monster actually saves a child from drowning, but is shot by her father when he sees the monster.

The classic 1931 version of "Frankenstein" is an entertaining film, and I highly recommend watching it if you haven't seen it already, but if you have read the book, be prepared for many differences.

There have been many films since that have attempted to recreate the Frankenstein tale. One that just may be the closest to Shelley's work is the 1994 film, "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein". This movie has a stellar cast, and excellent acting, yet there are still a few inconsistencies present. One interesting fact is that Robert De Niro plays the creature. He did a fine job of portraying the deep, heartfelt emotions of the monster and with the advancement of special effects and makeup since 1931, his appearance is more hideous and true to form. Kenneth Branagh brought his energy and enthusiasm to the director's chair as well as performing the role of Victor Frankenstein, and Helena Bonham Carter rounds out the cast playing Elizabeth. A unique spin on the story had Victor bringing Elizabeth back from the dead resembling the monster in appearance. Victor's attempt was spurred by his desire to be with Elizabeth, but the monster had other plans. When Elizabeth comes back, there's a tug of war between Victor and the monster to gain Elizabeth's love. Shockingly, Elizabeth comes to the realization of what she is and what she must look like, so she

[ continued from page 70 ]

Young Mary Shelley" - Esao Andrews



# Why We Do What We Do

Have you ever done something in your life and after you did it, you didn't know why? Maybe you felt stupid. Maybe you felt selfish. Maybe you couldn't even answer why you did what you did. In my lifetime I have had so many times where I've either heard from somebody, "Now, why did I do that?" Or that saying has come directly out of my mouth. For us to achieve maximum success we must understand why we do what we do. Unfortunately, this can be quite a task. Why? Because you have to look at you. In this day and age few really want to fine tune themselves to achieve beyond the norm. For those of you who are interested, this is your article.

Let's start with our first task. If you could be granted one wish that would absolutely come true, what would your wish be? Now you might think this is a very odd question, but I'm telling you this is our first task. Now that you know what your wish would be, it's time for your second question. Does your wish have to do with a monetary gain? Does it have to do with a relationship? Does it have to do with just having peace or health? Many in our society are out for monetary gain. Monetary gain can become quite a dark road for greed, jealousy, power, fame and downright ugliness. Our world is driven by monetary gain. We're not fine with one house, we must have two. Two drivers in the household with four cars in the driveway. We must build up our 401K so we can have more monetary gain when we get older. But where does all of this gain lead us? To the number one position. To numero uno! To the big Kahuna! The master CEO!

Am I making my point yet?

And what will we do to gain this number one position? Let me put this another way. To what level will we lower our standards in order to receive this numero uno position? If you were one that answered that you would like to have peace for your wish, or a relationship to last forever, then you my friends, are deep. But, for a high percentage of the masses, gain is the master game. And what people will do for gain becomes very scary. If you feel bad because you answered the question with some kind of gain, you're still on the right road. You still can be corrected to a path that will lead you out of destruction.

Here's the wild card; the real power and energy is released when you let someone else take the number one position. Humility is a power most do not practice. How is one to walk on a path of power without being in the number one position? This is the big question. I'll get to this soon, but first we must backtrack a tad so we don't get lost.

Let's start again. *Why do we do what we do?* Remember the question? Here's a simple answer. The Eagles sang the answer quite eloquently. *"We are programmed to receive. You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave."* We are being smothered with signals that make us do things we would not normally do. We might cut somebody off on the interstate. We might cut in line when we know

someone else was waiting first. It's the "me. . . then you" syndrome.

Why do we do this? Why do we do what we do? Why do we want to go first? Why will we not let people have the right of way? Why is it, "us. . . then them"? Oh, I know, because that's what *they're* doing. If we don't hurry up and grab that parking place, *they* will. We are slowly turning into animals. Why? I don't know why? I don't know why we do what we do? Subliminal? Over-exaggerated? Not true? We need to know why we do what we do. We need to be held accountable, and not by someone else, but by ourself.

Let's grab the second task. Ask yourself this question, "When you went to ask yourself the first question, was it a spiritual answer or a worldly answer?" In other words, your big wish, was it a spiritual wish or a worldly wish? Would the answer come from the heavenlies or a bundle of cash from a business, a lottery ticket, and so on? Many of the religious followers flock into the churches on Sunday so they can feel spiritual and yet, they have no idea they are so controlled by the world. "Say these words, memorize this, sit down, stand up, begin to sing, let's pray." I would feel less tired going to a dog show. The amount of control that sits inside the religious establishment is appalling. And what's worse, is the people believe they have free will.

Why do we do what we do? Was your first wish spiritual? Was it for your gain or someone else? Was it for you to help others or to help yourself? This is not me ranting on you, this is me turning on a light and you stepping under. If I told you two or three wishes you might have selected a spiritual wish. But with only one, we cut to the chase. And with this statement, I ask you this: "What is it you want out of life?" What are you willing to sacrifice or risk? How much change will you allow? And will you accomplish this? Why do we do what we do? Why do we have that boring job? Why do we stay in that terrible relationship? Why do we file into a religious establishment that teaches us nothing about spirituality, but teaches us everything about law and order? And of course, it is their law and their order. Is that a New World Order?

Let's go back to that question, how is one to walk with power and not be in the number one position? People

that wrestle for the number one position are power hungry. They will beg, borrow, steal and kill just to get into that number one position. Here's the fun part: they don't belong there. You may even know this. But if you wrestle with them for that number one position, you're drawn into the fight. As soon as you begin this quarrel, you lose. As soon as you go into the ring, you're finished. The power of humility is released when you let *them* take the number one position. Don't appoint, just step aside. They will take the number one position, and in time, they will miserably fail. If you have acted in humility and you truly are the one for the position, a great unexplainable force will come over someone and you will be appointed for the number one position. You will not have to fight, argue, beg, borrow or steal to receive what is rightfully yours. If you are not appointed to this position, you were never ready in the first place.

There is a higher power that knows all, sees all and displays all. We must be in alignment. We must know why we do what we do. We must know, (are you ready?), the motives of our heart. The motives of our



heart guide us in to why we do what we do. If your heart is good, filled with love, compassion and putting others before you, your heart will guide you into a power unseen by mankind. If your heart is filled with *you*. . . then me, or the "me-monster" world, your heart is scarred. It is dark. And you will make mistakes and err. Your err will cause you humiliation, anguish and sorrow. These conditions come from knowing who we are and plugging into an energy that far surpasses our knowledge. What you *think*, will come back to you. If you are thinking failure, you will become failure. If you are thinking anger, then you will become anger. You will be surrounded by anger. If you are scheming for first place, that too will be laid in your lap. But when you give away, it's hard for someone to steal.

Analogy: If you have five dollars in your wallet or purse, and that is your lunch money, and by noon you've given it to somebody less fortunate than you, then I ask you this question: How can a thief take your five dollars? You gave it away. There's nothing for him to steal. It is the motive of heart and how our mind processes that motive, that makes us who we are. Your mind is a powerful tool, not a hat rack.

Why do you do what you do? It's connected to your heart. If your heart is good, what you do will be good. If your heart is bad, you'll lay on the side of err. If you lay on the side of err, you will be intoxicated with humiliation and never be successful. Success is created by a mindset of heart and the power of creativity. The Creator is a giver, not a taker. He empowers those that create and humble themselves before men. The church talks, and the spiritual ones of the Creator walk.

I want to encourage you to look inside yourself and look inside your heart and begin to identify why you do what you do. Ask yourself questions: Are you happy? Do you love your spouse? Are you happy with your kids? Do you have a spiritual connection? Have you given lately? Does your face show happiness or anger? And the last question that's quite funny, is: are you healthy? If you are unhealthy, overweight, sick or such, you are not happy. Most of our health is connected to heart issues. And when I say heart issues, I'm not talking about health issues, I'm talking about heart/emotional issues.

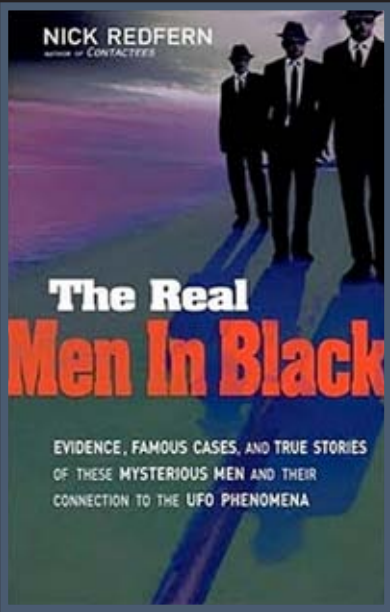
Go dig, you'll learn something. Ask someone that knows you to help you. Many people cannot identify with themselves, thus they are a walking catastrophe. As my father would say, they are an accident waiting to happen. If you want to be successful, know the motives of your heart, begin to change, and get connected to a higher source. The Creator's day-runner has openings. Boy, that's an eighties term. I could be giving my age away here. I'm not sure if the Creator carries a palm-pilot, but my point is, make an appointment. Here's a word of hope: the Creator's free, and the doctors will rape you. It's your choice. ✚

**Ronnie McMullen** is the author of *Sold Out Warning* and *The Journey Into Reflection*. He is the bold talk show host of the largest syndicated UFO Show in the United States, *UFO Encounters Live*, heard on over 40 stations worldwide. Ronnie is currently working on his sequel book, *Final Contact*, taking an even deeper look into the truth behind the government's involvement with extra- terrestrials, their super warriors, mind control, the tainted music industry and the illusion that Hollywood is creating.



[www.thepropheticwatch.com](http://www.thepropheticwatch.com)  
[www.journeyintoreflection.com](http://www.journeyintoreflection.com)

NEW FROM  
NICK REDFERN



KNOCKING  
AT YOUR  
DOOR

NOW AVAILABLE!

*If, late on some dark, thunderous and chilled night, you are awoken from an uneasy slumber by a slow, deliberate and pounding knocking on your front-door, no matter how tempted you may be, do not open it – that is, unless you wish to disastrously allow into your life one of the most terrifying, soulless and definitively macabre creatures that has ever been unleashed upon us, the Human Race. Remember you have been duly warned. Beware, always, of the real Men in Black...*

ISBN: 978-1-60163-157-2  
List Price: US \$15.99, Canada \$18.95



# Donna LaCroix

## You Can't Argue With The Impossible

No matter what the situation is  
No matter how much you are justified  
You can't argue with the impossible  
You can't argue with those in self-denial.

Hands shakes and hugs all around  
As they pour out the good 'ol lines,  
To make you feel part of it all  
As they soak in your praise and time.

We know the difference between what is right  
And what is wrong  
There is a moral responsibility  
That has been clearly ignored.

Two halves of the circle conspiring  
With each other through it all,  
Of all the money & fame you could muster  
As you built your empire tall.

You have wrangled your army with precision  
As you've ruthlessly stabbed it's heart  
You've ripped away it's ambition  
And looked the other way, as they all fell apart.

You once were our heros  
And now you are our demise,  
But, our ethical standards and judgment,  
You will NEVER compromise.

You can't argue with the impossible  
You can't argue with the impossible.

Things could have been different  
But you were careless in your choices,  
Soon the time will come  
Of revelation and truth from honest voices.

You'll wish the sweet intoxication  
From the wine of power,  
Had never blinded your reality  
Come the final hour.  
You can't argue with the impossible  
You can't argue with them at all.

Through trials and tribulations we've given our support  
But the strength of this chaotic deception is insurmountable  
As the story was always yours to contort.

Excuses of entitlement make manipulation easy to dismiss...  
But when the pain from self-delusion comes to sober,  
the truth will be hard to miss.

So give 'em your canned smiles  
because they won't see the smoking gun  
Bask in the crowd's adoration  
As you take their money and run.

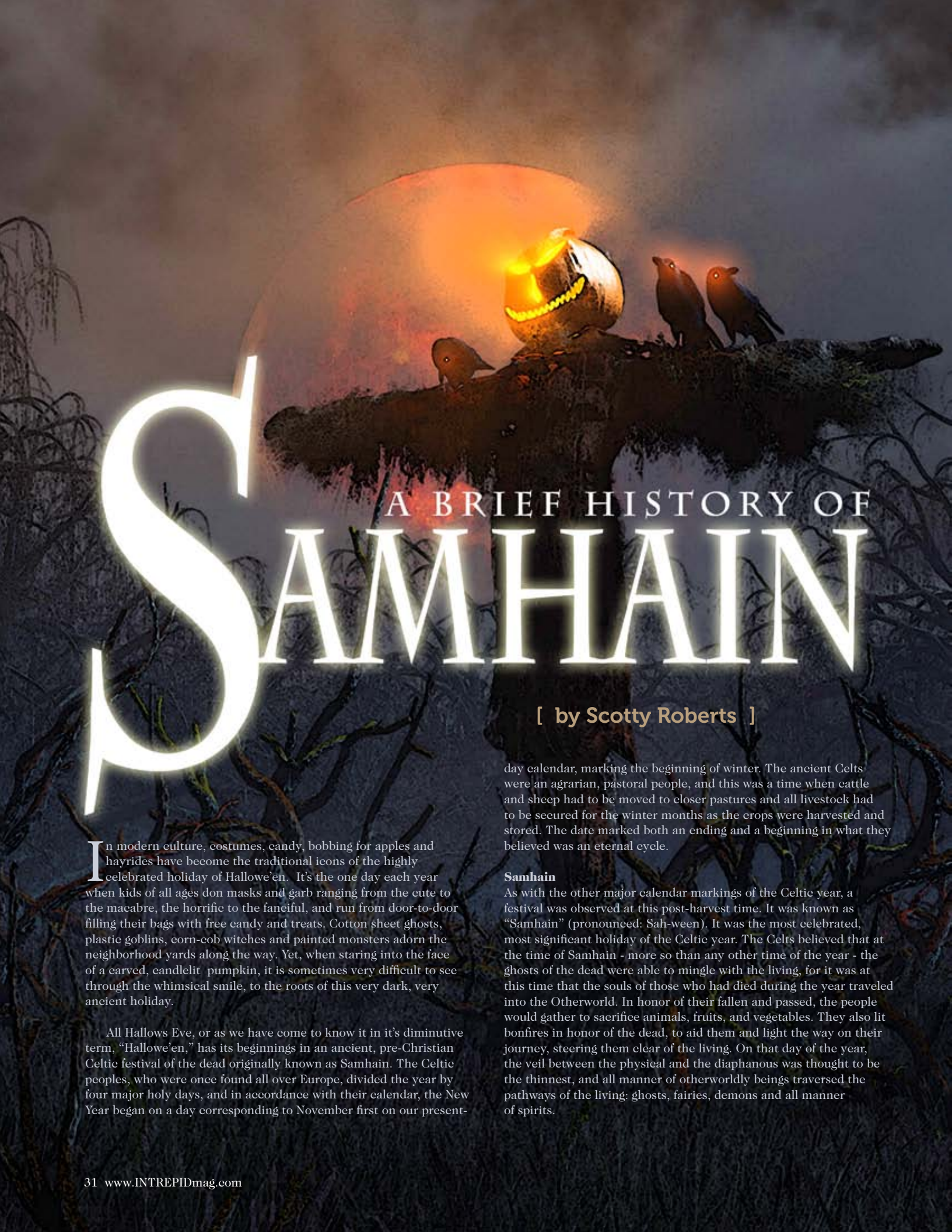
I won't argue with the impossible  
I won't argue with them at all  
Life is too short  
And our patience has grown small.

Don't dare insult our intelligence  
Our loyalty to the common cause,  
When you've done nothing but rape it  
With you deliberate, greedy laws.

I just can't argue with the impossible anymore,  
I won't argue with your manner so rude  
As dark as the devil himself,  
And as equally cunning and crude.

But, I bid you good tidings  
In all your worthless toils  
Because there WILL be a day  
Where the crowds will not be foiled.





# A BRIEF HISTORY OF SAMHAIN

[ by Scotty Roberts ]

In modern culture, costumes, candy, bobbing for apples and hayrides have become the traditional icons of the highly celebrated holiday of Hallowe'en. It's the one day each year when kids of all ages don masks and garb ranging from the cute to the macabre, the horrific to the fanciful, and run from door-to-door filling their bags with free candy and treats. Cotton sheet ghosts, plastic goblins, corn-cob witches and painted monsters adorn the neighborhood yards along the way. Yet, when staring into the face of a carved, candlelit pumpkin, it is sometimes very difficult to see through the whimsical smile, to the roots of this very dark, very ancient holiday.

All Hallows Eve, or as we have come to know it in it's diminutive term, "Hallowe'en," has its beginnings in an ancient, pre-Christian Celtic festival of the dead originally known as Samhain. The Celtic peoples, who were once found all over Europe, divided the year by four major holy days, and in accordance with their calendar, the New Year began on a day corresponding to November first on our present-

day calendar, marking the beginning of winter. The ancient Celts were an agrarian, pastoral people, and this was a time when cattle and sheep had to be moved to closer pastures and all livestock had to be secured for the winter months as the crops were harvested and stored. The date marked both an ending and a beginning in what they believed was an eternal cycle.

## Samhain

As with the other major calendar markings of the Celtic year, a festival was observed at this post-harvest time. It was known as "Samhain" (pronounced: Sah-ween). It was the most celebrated, most significant holiday of the Celtic year. The Celts believed that at the time of Samhain - more so than any other time of the year - the ghosts of the dead were able to mingle with the living, for it was at this time that the souls of those who had died during the year traveled into the Otherworld. In honor of their fallen and passed, the people would gather to sacrifice animals, fruits, and vegetables. They also lit bonfires in honor of the dead, to aid them and light the way on their journey, steering them clear of the living. On that day of the year, the veil between the physical and the diaphanous was thought to be the thinnest, and all manner of otherworldly beings traversed the pathways of the living: ghosts, fairies, demons and all manner of spirits.

## Samhain [ Sa'-win ] - Hallowe'en

### Samhain Becomes Hallowe'en

During the early centuries of the first millennium A.D., Christian missionaries, in a sincere belief to spread the word of "The White Christ," attempted to change the religious practices of the Celtic people. Prior to the proselytizing efforts of St. Patrick and St. Columcille to convert them to Christianity, the Celts practiced an elaborate religion under the socio-spiritual leadership of their priestly caste, the Druids. This spiritual hierarchy comprised the priests, poets, scientists and scholars of their culture. As religious leaders, ritual specialists, and bearers of Celtic cultural history and learning, the Druids were the absolute religious counterparts to the very missionaries and monks who came to Christianize their people. And while the missionaries saw these pagan Celts as a lost people in need of Christ, they also held them to be innately evil and worshippers of Satan. In holding to this brand of religio-centric xenophobia, these well-intentioned missionaries sought to dissemble the religious practices, holidays and places of worship of the ancient pagan Celtic culture.

### Papel Edicts

As a result of their efforts to eradicate pagan holidays, such as Samhain, the Christian missionaries succeeded in effecting major transformations to the pagan traditions. In 601 A.D., Pope Gregory the First issued a now famous edict to his missionaries concerning the native beliefs and customs of the peoples he hoped to convert. Rather than try to obliterate their customs and beliefs, the pope instructed his missionaries to utilize them. If a group of people worshipped a tree, the Pope advised his missionaries to consecrate the tree to Christ and allow its continued worship, rather than cut it down - which had been the prior practice of the overzealous Christians.

In terms of spreading Christianity and garnering followers to the cause of the Christ, this was a brilliant concept and it became a basic approach used in Catholic missionary work. The holy days of the Church were deliberately and purposefully reestablished to coincide with native pagan holy days. Christmas, for instance, was assigned the arbitrary date of December 25th because it corresponded with the mid-winter celebration of the Celtic peoples. Likewise, St. John's Day was set on the pagan summer solstice, falling on June 21st.

### Good Versus Evil

Samhain, with its emphasis on the spirit realm and all things "supernatural," led to the Church making a determination that the holiday was decidedly pagan, ergo "evil." While Christian missionaries increasingly identified and aligned their Church holy days with those observed by the Celts, they branded the earlier religion's supernatural deities and practices as evil, associating them with the Christian Devil. As representatives of the rival religion, Druids were considered evil worshippers of devilish gods and demonic spirits, and the Celtic Underworld inevitably became identified with the Christian Hell.

The underlying purpose of the Church's policy was meant to diminish but not totally eradicate the beliefs held by the Celts in their traditional gods and systems of worship. The Church's original goal was to assimilate and integrate them into Christian practice,

not drive the pagans away. Yet, Celtic belief in supernatural non-Christian creatures persisted, and many of these beliefs can still be found integrated into the iconography and statuary of the ancient Christian chapels and cathedrals of the late first millennium and early second. All the while, the Church made deliberate attempts to define these pagan deities and spirit beings as being malicious and demonic. Despite the attempt at integration, the Church gradually began to treat the followers of the old Celtic religion as the human practitioners of evil and foes of the cause of Christianity, forcing many of them into hiding, and branding them as witches.

### Feast of All Saints

The Christian feast of All Saints was assigned to November first, the day following Hallowe'en. The purpose of the holiday was to honor every Christian saint, especially those who did not otherwise have a special day of the year devoted to them. In another attempt to assimilate pagan culture, the feast day of All Saints was created to be a Christian substitute for Samhain. It's intent was to draw the devotion of the Celtic peoples, and to finally replace their need for Samhain. Forever. Much to the chagrin of Church hierarchy, however, that did not happen. And as a result, the traditional Celtic deities diminished in status, deliberately relegated by the Church to the quasi-storybook realm of faeries, elves and leprechauns now associated with more recent traditions.

But the old beliefs associated with Samhain never died out entirely. The powerful symbolism of the traveling dead was far too strong, and perhaps too basic to the human psyche to be sated with the new, more abstract, watered-down Catholic feast meant to honor it's own saints. Recognizing the necessity that nothing short of subsuming the original energy of Samhain would be satisfactory to it's diminishment, the Church again attempted to supplant it with a Christian feast day in the Ninth century A.D. This time it established November second as All Souls Day - a day when the living prayed for the souls of all the dead. But, once again, the practice of retaining traditional customs while attempting to redefine and integrate them had a less-than-sustaining effect. As a result, the traditional beliefs went into a virtual hiding while the customs lived on, taking form in newer, yet much less substantive guises.

### All Saints Day and All Hallows

All Saints Day, otherwise known as All Hallows ("hallowed" meaning "sanctified or holy"), continued with the integrated ancient Celtic traditions. The evening prior to the day was the time of the most intense activity, both human and supernatural. People continued to celebrate All Hallows Eve as a time of the wandering dead, but the supernatural beings were now, as a result of Church teaching, thought to be evil as opposed to simply traversing. The common pagan folk who still practiced their old ways despite the attempts of the Church to alter them to the point of being unrecognizable, continued to propitiate and appease those spirits - and their masked, human impersonators - by setting out gifts of food and drink. Subsequently, All Hallows Eve became Hallow Evening, which in turn became Hallowe'en, an ancient Celtic, pre-Christian, holy New Year's Day holy day in contemporary dress.

Many supernatural creatures became associated with All Hallows. In Ireland, the Fae, or faeries, were numbered among the legendary spirit beings who roamed on Hallowe'en. An old folk ballad entitled Allison Gross tells the story of how the faerie queen of the Seely Court saved Tam Lin from a witch's spell on Halloween. The tale illustrates the capricious relationship between the humans and the fairies.





Allison Gross

Oh, Allison Gross, that lives in yon tower  
The ugliest witch in the north country  
Has trysted me one day up in her bower  
And many fair speech she made to me

She stroked my head and she combed my hair  
And she set me down softly on her knee  
Says, “Gin ye will be my leman so true  
Sae many braw things as I would ye gi”

She showed me a mantle of red scarlet  
With golden flowers and fringes fine  
Says, “Gin ye will be my leman so true  
This goodly gift it shall be thine”

“Away, away, you ugly witch  
Hold far away and let me be  
I never will be your leman so true  
And I wish I were out of your company”

She next brought me a sark of the softest silk  
Well wrought with pearls about the band  
Says, “Gin ye will be my ain true love  
This goodly gift you shall command”

She showed me a cup of the good red gold  
Well set with jewels so fair to see  
Says, “Gin ye will be my leman sae true  
This goodly gift I will ye gi”

“Away, away, you ugly witch  
Hold far away and let me be  
For I wouldna aince kiss your ugly mouth  
For all the gifts that you could gi”

She’s turned her right and round about  
And thrice she blew on a grass-green horn  
And she swore by the moon and the stars abeen  
That she would gar me rue the day I was born

Then out she has taken a silver wand  
And she’s turned her three times round and round  
She’s muttered such words till my strength it failed  
And I fell down senseless upon the ground

She’s turned me into an ugly worm  
And gard me toddle around the tree  
And aye, on ilka Saturday night  
My sister Maisry came to me

With silver basin and silver comb  
To comb my head upon her knee  
Before I had kissed her ugly mouth  
I’d rather have toddled about the tree

But as it fell out on last Halloween  
When the seely court was riding by  
The queen lighted down on a rowan bank  
Not far frae the tree where I wont to lie

She took me up in her milk white hand  
And she’s stroked me three times on her knee  
She changed me again to my ain proper shape  
And I nae more maun toddle about the tree

In old England, small cakes were made as “treats” for the wandering souls, and people went a’ soulin’ from door-to-door in hopes of gathering and eating these “soul cakes.” Hallowe’en, always and ever a time of ancient magic, also became a day of divination, with a host of magical beliefs. One such belief said that if a person held a mirror on Hallowe’en and walked backwards down the stairway to a basement, a face is said to appear in the mirror, being that of their next lover.

**Halloween: the Celtic Day of the Dead**  
Unbeknownst to most children and families who partake in the current celebration of Hallowe’en, nearly every one of it’s traditions can be traced to the ancient Celtic Day of the Dead. Hallowe’en is a holiday rife with mysterious customs and the misty stuffs of ancient, bygone magicks and traditions. And each one has a history, or at the very least an historic back story. The current day custom of wearing masks and costumes, for instance, and roaming from door to door seeking treats traces to the early Celtic period and the first few centuries of the Christian era, when it was thought that the souls of the dead roamed along with fairies, witches, and demons. Offerings of food and drink were left out to placate them. As the centuries wore on, people began dressing like these dreadful creatures, performing antics in exchange for food and drink. This practice was known as mumming, from which the practice of trick-or-treating evolved. To this day, witches, ghosts, and skeleton figures of the dead are among the favorite disguises. Halloween also retains some features that harken back to the original harvest holiday of Samhain, such as the customs of bobbing for apples and carving vegetables, as well as the fruits, nuts, and spiced cider associated with the day’s ritual practices.

**Modern Halloween**  
Today, Hallowe’en has, once again, become an adult holiday, yet still quite far from it’s origins in it’s masquerades, hijinks and celebratory frivolities. Like Mardi Gras, men and women in every disguise imaginable take to the streets, unwittingly re-enacting customs that possess an ancient, lengthy pedigree. Their masked antics bear little substantive resemblance to the age-old Celtic and pagan belief system that stood to challenge, mock, tease, and appease the dread forces of the night and the soul. No longer cognizant of the thinning of the veil that allows that Otherworld to pass through the tangible, carnate world, modern society seems wholly unaware that this is a night of reversible possibilities, inverted roles, and spiritual transcendency. Yet, in the modern traditions of Hallowe’en are seen the reaffirmation of death and its place as a part of life in an exhilarating celebration of what was one time a holy and magical evening, now set to the tune of ringing doorbells and the cacophony of children seeking what delectable treats and candies await.

There is a living, pulsating world flowing just below the surface of the tangible, so next time you see a Jack-o-Lantern grinning in the night, remember the roots of your evening’s rollicks, and be mindful of the souls, spirits and beings that are crossing your path with each and every trick ‘r’ treat you utter.

Happy Hallowe’en. ♣



[ continued from page 12 ]

*“Can you hold back the stars? ... Can you ensure the proper sequence of the seasons, or guide the constellation of the Bear with her satellites across the heavens? Do you know the laws of the universe and how the heavens influence the earth?”*  
Job 38:1, 4, 8, 12, 17–20, 31–33, TLB

One theist I spoke with admitted that although explaining the suffering of the innocent was beyond her, she nonetheless found comfort in the belief that suffering in this life will somehow make sense in the next life—that we are being prepared for a “glory beyond all measure,” as described in 2 Corinthians:

*So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.*  
2 Corinthians 4:16–18, NRSV

The most convenient aspect of the “we’re too finite to understand” argument is that it doesn’t have to explain anything: theists can admit that they simply don’t understand how suffering could possibly exist if God is All-Good and All-Powerful, yet still accept this explanation. But my feeling is that saying “We can’t understand!” doesn’t quite qualify as an explanation for suffering—it only says “I hope that suffering will make sense in the next life.”

For those who point to God’s whirlwind speech at the end of the Book of Job and claim that God (or at least, the Judeo-Christian version of God) is the one who’s telling us that suffering is beyond human understanding, my reply is that of the following two explanations:

(a) even though an Almighty Being created the whole universe and then wrote us a nearly 2,000-page book to fill us in on some of the details, He omitted a coherent explanation for why suffering was part of His Program because, our intense interest notwithstanding, we just wouldn’t understand;

(b) the human who authored the whirlwind speech couldn’t figure out a coherent explanation for suffering, and concluded that “God says He won’t explain it to us!”

—the latter is more plausible.

**I.A.5 – THE PERCEIVED WORLD IS JUST AN ILLUSION, HENCE SUFFERING, TOO, IS JUST AN ILLUSION**  
A crudely brief summary of this Eastern perspective is that we are all at One with Divinity—like small drops of water in a mighty ocean—and if we could just free ourselves from our delusion of individual existence (through meditation and prayer and the like), our suffering would cease.

My own delusion of individual existence firmly in place, I suppose I’m a poor candidate to even comment on this belief. Yet I can’t help feeling that this explanation attempts to make sense of human suffering only. Can the “delusion of individual existence” make sense out of the terror and agony that an antelope must feel when being caught and devoured alive by a cheetah? Can this delusion of individuality explain the suffering of an injured cheetah that can no longer catch prey and slowly starves to death?

Or maybe because the entire perceived world is just an illusion anyway, animals in the wild are not actually suffering—our own lack of enlightenment just leads us to think they are.

Or ... maybe this explanation is yet another example of human guesswork—one that relies on a theoretical solution that’s impossible to disprove, yet offers no compelling reason to accept.

**I. B: The Divine Is Not All-Powerful**  
This is an idea that we find in polytheistic religions, and hear from certain New Agers and certain Deists. It’s rare to find Jews or Christians or Muslims defending this theory, so I was a bit surprised when I discovered that this idea is the basis for Rabbi Harold Kushner’s famous book When Bad Things Happen to Good People.

On the one hand, Kushner sounds like a true skeptic when he writes that although the idea that God punishes the wicked and rewards the good has long been Western religion’s stance, it just doesn’t fit the facts—we know too much about the world today to believe that God always protects the innocent. Kushner writes that no one, for example, can still believe that earthquakes and tsunamis are guided by a “conscience” that tells them which neighborhoods to destroy and which to spare, or believe that only the wicked went into the ovens of Auschwitz (except, I would add, possibly those who believe that such victims were being punished for really bad karma).

But on the other hand, Kushner still believes in a God that’s the Creator of the Universe—so to reconcile God with meaningless suffering, Kushner lays out his argument for why God must not be All-Mighty. Kushner in fact uses God’s whirlwind speech (of all sections!) to make his case that running the universe is such a difficult job, even God doesn’t have complete control:

... God answers Job out of the whirlwind ... [but God] doesn’t talk about Job’s case at all, neither to detail Job’s sins nor to explain his suffering. Instead, He says to Job, in effect, “What do you know about how to run a world?” ... I take [God’s] lines to mean “if you think that it is so easy to keep the world straight and true, to keep unfair things from happening to people, you try it.”

Let me suggest that the author of the Book of Job takes the position which neither Job nor his friends take. He believes in God’s goodness and in Job’s goodness, and is prepared to give up his belief in ... [the] proposition that God is all-powerful. Bad things do happen to good people in this world, but it is not God who wills it. God would like people to get what they deserve in life, but He cannot always arrange it. Forced to choose between a good God who is not totally powerful, or a powerful God who is not totally good, the author of the Book of Job chooses to believe in God’s goodness.

Kushner uses God’s speech in Job 41 about His battle with the sea serpent Leviathan as evidence of the difficulty that God has in controlling evil. Kushner writes:

With great effort, God is able to catch [the serpent] in a net and pin him with fishhooks, but it is not easy. If the sea serpent is a symbol of chaos and evil, of all the uncontrollable things in the world (as it traditionally is in ancient mythology), the author may be saying there too that even God has a hard time keeping chaos in check and limiting the damage that evil can do.

Kushner’s hypothesis is that perhaps God didn’t quite finish at closing time on the figurative sixth day of creation: that the process of replacing chaos with order is not yet fully complete. So rather than believe in an Omnipotent God who sends diseases and withholds miraculous cures, Kushner believes in a God whose powers are limited but whose love and concern is boundless—a God who is our source for strength and courage in the face of suffering:

... if we can bring ourselves to acknowledge that there are some things God does not control, many good things become possible. ... If

[ continued on page 59 ]



# PSYCHIC

[ PART FOUR ]

[ by Nan Coleman ]

[ Continued from the September Issue... ]

## The Hospital

Elaine hurried through the hallway of the Hospital. It was quiet, as it was still early, her shift didn't start for another hour. Good, nice and quiet she thought to herself. There were emails and text messages to return before the craziness of a typical ER day started. Elaine passed several Doctors finishing up their shifts, comparing notes as they prepared to leave the hospital for the day. Elaine chatted with each briefly, trying not to get caught up in any long discussions. She entered the nurses break room and turned on her computer to get some personal work done.

First the email, "Hmmm" she said out loud, scanning the barrage of messages quickly. "Shoes, nope, don't need any of those, delete; Viagra, Ha definitely do not need that, delete." Where the heck did they get her name and address, she wondered, what could she possibly have signed up for that would have generated this ad in her inbox? Shoes, clothes, prescription drugs, cheap they claimed, as if she cared. She made a mental note to call Mike, her computer guy, and see if her firewall could be updated so she wouldn't be forced to spend valuable time deleting two thirds of her inbox everyday.

## New Paranormal Fiction from Nan Coleman

Maria's name suddenly came into view, Finally, she thought, something worth reading. She clicked on the note from her friend. She and Maria had know each other for years, Elaine smiled to herself. She fondly remembered watching each others children grow up, they had lived across the street from each other for years. After the kids had graduated from High School and moved onto college, Maria had downsized, moving into the city to work at a hospital closer to her new home. They still kept in touch, getting together once and a while for lunch, when their schedules allowed.

Hi Elaine, how are you? Its been to long, we must get together. I have Nick's new story. He just forwarded it to me. I loved it! And guess what? He used your name, as a character, I hope you don't mind. I'm attaching it so you can read it. Don't worry he only used your first name so no one will really know its you! Enjoy it and let me know what you think, Love you, Maria.

Elaine smiled. Nick had always been one of her favorites. Over the years she had read a couple of his stories. She loved his characters so she knew she would enjoy this story as well.

I can't believe he used my name, she chuckled to herself, what a trip that kid was. The last she heard he was writing for some Paranormal Magazine. She didn't believe in the paranormal but a good story with good characters was a good story, no matter what the subject.

Elaine checked her watch, she still had over an hour before her shift started and most of the messages in her inbox were crap anyway. 140kb, well it looks like a short story, I'll just read it now, she thought, Why not?

She began to read Nick's story, Psychic. Almost instantly she became immersed in the story. Two Psychic twins, learning to use their powers while dealing with a non-believing Mom. She laughed when she read the description of Elaine, was she that transparent? He had described her perfectly. The scene he wrote about "Elaine" in the hospital was great, she was totally thrilled with her part although she thought the story was a little gorier than she was used to reading.

Time passed quickly and when she checked her watch Elaine was surprised to see that her hour was up in 5 minutes. She was surprised she hadn't had time to finish it, she really couldn't wait to find out what happened next, "Elaine" had just left the hospital.

As she headed into the ER the quiet morning suddenly transformed into the chaos she knew so well. Patients became a blur as she patched them up, settling them into the temporary beds while they waited to see a Doctor for their various injuries. A coughing baby with a high fever in room 1; a possible broken ankle in room 2; an older man unable to catch his breathe in room 3, that one she was sure was caused by cigarettes, the nasty smell of old tobacco and his yellowed fingernails, clearly revealing the culprit.

Suddenly a red light in the corner of the ER dept, mounted on the wall began to flash.

"Uh, oh, Rachel, the Ambulance just pulled in."

"I saw," Elaine's co-worker said, leaving room 7, where she had been taking the blood pressure of a woman, complaining of chest pains. "Lets go, I'll grab the IV's" Together they raced to the Ambulance entrance just as the EMT's were pulling a man covered with blood and cuts on his face from the rear of the truck. "Car accident, down on the highway, there's another guy right behind us, he's in worse shape, might not even make it here.

"Great," Elaine groaned, "Rachel, go ahead with this guy, I know

room 4 is free. I'll wait for the next guy."

"Got it, I'll get him situated and be right back." Rachel, called over her shoulder as she disappeared into the main room of the ER, with her patient.

Within minutes the second ambulance pulled into the driveway and the EMT's jumped out to get the patient into the ER.

"Here get him into room 5." Elaine directed while she worked to get the patient transferred from the ambulance stretcher to the hospital bed. "Thanks guys, I can take it from here" Elaine said to the EMT closest to her, she could hear their radios squawking, calling out for help with other victims needing an ambulance.

"Thanks Elaine, we're outta here" they called racing out of the room to get back to the accident scene.

She quickly got the patient transferred to the ER bed and began to access his injuries. This guy is bad, Elaine thought. Blood seemed to spurt from five places all at once, the injuries' were bad, but not fatal, she hoped.

"Help, I need help here," Elaine yelled into the din of the crowded ER. Nurses ran back and forth, rushing to take care of each assigned medical situation. It was only 11am and already the wait for care was too long.

Elaine scrambled as best she could hit to stop the flow of hot blood oozing from the groaning man's injuries. Sweat beaded up on Elaine's forehead, threatening to blind her with its saltiness, when an angel in white appeared next to her.

"Thank God you're here, help me, how is the other guy?" Elaine said gratefully to her friend Rachel, a fellow ER nurse, as she entered the room.

"My Gosh, this place is busy tonight. Rachel's extra hands helped stem the worst of the blood flow. The two women worked quickly to get the man stabilized until the doctor could come, but within minutes despite their care, the women felt the body relax. Relaxing into death, the energy gone from the flesh and bones, now just a shell.

"Damn, I thought we might save him," Elaine said to her friend.

"Man? No honey, I think it was a woman." Rachel stripped off her gloves and rang down to the Morgue.

"Hey guys, got one up here in ER for you. Exam room 5, can you hurry? We need the room....ok, thanks. Hope I don't talk to you all again tonight," Rachel said laughing.

"Elaine, you want some coffee?"

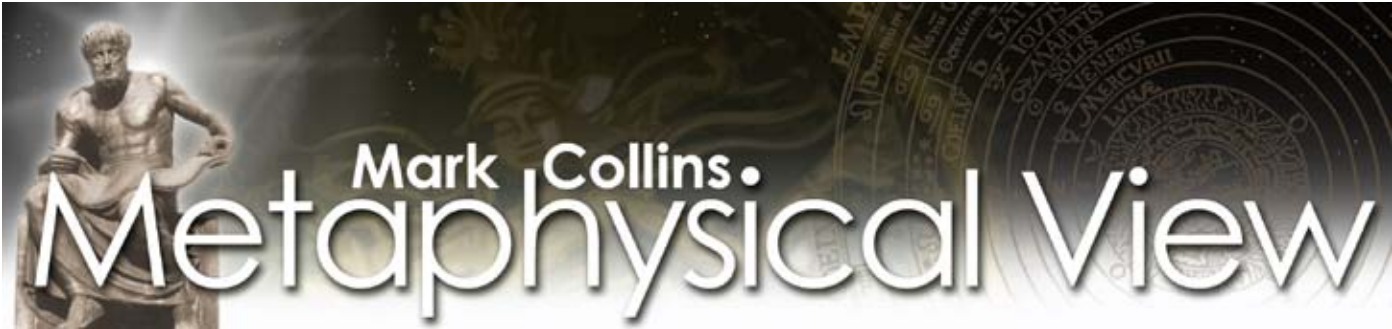
"Yeah, could you grab me a cup? Black, with extra sugar, please. Thanks!" Her blood sugar was feeling a little low, and the line of injured stretched into the hallway.

Suddenly Elaine felt the blood leave her body. It felt like someone had poured a bucket of ice water on her head. A car accident in #4, chest pains in #7, an accident victim where blood spurted from 5 places. Rachel helping out with a dying patient and then asking her if she wanted coffee cause she was feeling run down? What the hell was going on here? She just read this all in Nick's story. Wait, that's ridiculous, there is no way Nick could have written this, she thought. She was tired, she reasoned, she really should eat some food. She felt a little better, although a sick feeling sat in the pit of her stomach, refusing to subside. She didn't have time to think for long, patients continued to pour into the ER

The rest of the day went pretty quickly as Elaine tried to keep

[ Continued on Page 65 ]





Walk into just about any yoga studio on earth, and you'll most likely find a chart on the wall, showing the seven sacred symbols which represent the Chakra's, the etheric energy centers which reside within, and around our physical bodies. These symbols are often super imposed on a diagram of the body, and starting at the base of the spine, they ascend one by one, up to just above the top of the head. The Chakra's are believed to govern different aspects of our physical, mental and emotional being. They are the interface to the light body or spirit, and serve to unify, coordinate and connect the body, mind, heart and soul. As the source of our life's vital energy, they define who we are as an individual, energetically speaking. While the Chakra's are reacting and responding to emotional, mental, physical and psychic stimuli, they act to adjust and maintain our energetic vibration at the quantum core of our being. The Chakra's are the reason why we are all so very distinctly and uniquely different, they are the how and what of our defined beingness.

to transform us from the very cellular level, as they connect us to the soul, the true source of healing energy, transformation and growth.

The term "Chakra" means wheel or circle in the classical Sanskrit language from which it is derived. Thought to have originated in ancient India, there are many ideas and concepts that describe the human Chakra system. For thousands of years, the idea of the Chakra's has been an integral part of many, spiritual, energetic, religious, and personal disciplines. Theories of this energetic system relate to the ancient concept that the mind and body are actually a single integrated unit. This is known as the namarupa, or, the body mind.

**Kundalini and the Chakra's**  
In Kundalini Yoga, for example, the word Kundalini is used to describe a tingling sensation or the palpable sense of an energetic movement within the body, which is felt as it moves up and down the Sushumna.

# Anatomy of the Chakras

Below is a general summary of the meaning and purpose of each Chakra:

- Chakra 1**  
**Physical safety, security, home, career, survival**
- Chakra 2**  
**Relationships, creativity, sexuality**
- Chakra 3**  
**Life purpose, divine will, self esteem, trust, personal power**
- Chakra 4**  
**Unconditional love, emotional receptivity, compassion**
- Chakra 5**  
**Expression, decision making, inner truth**
- Chakra 6**  
**Mental power, intuition, psychic sense**
- Chakra 7**  
**Spiritual connection, oneness, divine love.**

In the Yoga disciplines, Tibetan and Hindu traditions, as well as in most Asian spiritual paths, over the past few thousand years, Chakra's have been described as spinning wheels of etheric energy, or vortices connecting to the higher realms. As such, healing our Chakra's works

(The Sushumna is the central, etheric energy channel surrounding the spinal column).

The body position, movements, chanting and visualizations associated with dedicated Kundalini Yoga practice are known to produce the flow of this tingling, enlivening Kundalini energy within the body. It is also believed that our body(s) contain an even polarity of this male and female energy, that propels the circuitry of the nervous system. The female is called the Ida and the male is called the Pingala. Once inner harmony between our male (rational and causative) self and our female (intuitive and beingess) self polarities is established, through regular Yoga practise, our life force energy or Prana is thought to then flow more freely, bringing increased health and harmony to all aspects of our beingness.

The Chakra system is the source of Kundalini energy, or Prana. The most common system of chakras outlines that there are at least 7 main energy vortices, while other systems define up to 12 separate centers. According to ancient texts, a Chakra is where 216 nadi's (meridians or energy channels) intersect to form energy spirals. As the Chakras have the highest concentration of Chi, Prana or life force, their vibrational flux is thought to be what establishes our level of consciousness and energy.

**Chakra Energy Healing**  
Clinically speaking, energy healing systems like Reiki have been shown to induce the relaxation response, while also enhancing the body's natural self-healing mechanisms. Reiki works to align and reset

## Metaphysics

#7 the Crown Chakra >>>>>>>

#6 the Third Eye Chakra >>>>>

#5 the Throat Chakra >>>>>>>

#4 the Heart Chakra >>>>>>>

#3 the Solar Plexus Chakra >>>

#2 the Sacral Plexus Chakra >>>

#1 the Root Chakra >>>>>>>>>

CHAKRA  
LOCATION  
CHART

the Chakra system to restore our sense of vitality which brings a deep sense of inner peace and calm, by adjusting our vibrational frequency.

The laying of hands at key positions on or over the body allows the energies of the healer and recipient to harmonize and re-balance each of the Chakra points. Reiki is based on the idea that adjusting the flow of universal life force energy, (Prana or Chi) via the Chakra's balances and resets all levels and aspects of our being. Reiki healing is a great example of how we can achieve subtle shifts of mind over matter, by connecting with the transdimensional force of the human spirit or soul.

**Beneficial effects**  
An effective Chakra healing session restores healthy Prana flow, activates the immune system, clears the mind for more creativity and gives us the emotional strength to manifest & support positive lifestyle changes. Physically speaking, clinical studies have shown that Reiki and similar energy healing techniques induce the relaxation response in the central nervous system, while stimulating several other measurable positive effects on the well being of the recipient. (There is published clinical data on the efficacy of Reiki, which is used in hospitals around the world to give medical patients calmness, peace of mind and emotional and mental balance). Reiki, Huna, I.E.T. and Shamballa are all similar energy modalities which have been shown to assist in healing the body, mind and emotions, by positively affecting the quantum level vibration of our being.

**Self Healing Meditation**  
When we meditate on the Chakra centers, it stimulates our energy flow within, bringing positive results externally. The movement of energy at a non-physical level first, is what then creates the possibility of energy to be moved at the sub atomic level of matter, via focused mental intent. In healing, heartfelt compassion for the self or others is thought to amplify the healing power of intent, as the power of our feelings is really what contains the true source of transformative energy, via the portals to the spiritual realms, the Chakra's. There are now many effective, guided Chakra attunement meditations available online, for those who want to try self healing with the Chakra's. On YouTube.com, for example, there are many guided step by step guided meditations to choose from, which focus on visualizing the color, sacred symbol, or vibrational tone of each Chakra. The more effective versions incorporate the sounds of crystal bowls and/or solfeggio frequencies, as these tones seem to assist in clearing stress from the mind, while also cleansing negative "emotional residue" from within the cells of our body(s).

**Ancient Wisdom, Modern Results**  
In the modern age, we have re-discovered that we can heal ourselves or others by applying focused mental energy and loving intent to the Chakra's. This ancient information has once again become common knowledge, to the benefit of all who happen upon it. Like the ancients, we are now working with the etheric energy of the Chakra's as a path to healing, self discovery and personal growth. Energy healing is now proving that spiritual focus can measurably affect and transform our experience of physical reality.

Thousands of years ago, the Buddha explained that we are all the sum of our experiences.

The Buddha knew that the ultra sensitive mechanism of the Chakra system, is what translates our life experiences through the filter of the body and mind, to then be recorded within the eternal human soul. An awareness of the Chakra system provide us all with an opportunity to know thyself, and therefore, to heal thyself. ✚



**Mark Collins** is a freelance writer, energy medicine practitioner, Yogaphile and spiritual explorer of all matters metaphysical.



---

## “Psychic”

---

[ continued from page 36 ]

up with all the work. Triage, wait, Doctors instructions, stitch them, patch them up, send them to X-ray. Clean the room and wait for the next one. The hours passed in a blur of activity.

Elaine was exhausted, running on empty at this point when a little boy came in needing stitches. Poor thing was scared, he had tripped in the kitchen while chasing his brother.

“There, there, all better honey, stay really still. You are being so brave.” She told the child as she stitched his cut together.

“Ok sweetie, count with me. One stitch,” the child whimpered.

“2 stitches.” the little boys lips moved imitating Elaine when she counted.

“Oh very good , come on what number...”

“Tfhree.” the boy whispered, with a baby’s lisp.

“Ok, we’re almost done, you are so brave.”

“Four, five six,” they counted together, “seven and eight. All done. Your Mommy’s going to be so proud of you!”

She cleaned up the child’s face just as the boy’s Mom came back into the room. As she promised she said to the child’s Mother.

“You should be so proud of him, he was so brave, he hardly cried at all.”

The child’s Mother smiled down at him and said “Oh Leo, I am proud of you for being brave, let’s go home.”

Elaine’s knees buckled from under her as she dropped into a vacant chair in the exam room.

“Are you ok?” the boy’s Mother asked, concerned.

“Oh what? I’m sorry, did you just say your son’s name is Leo?”

“Yes” she answered with a smile, “He’s named after my Father.”

“Oh well, isn’t that nice, it’s a lovely name.” Elaine managed to croak, her mouth suddenly too dry to speak.

“Yes, well, thanks again.“ The mother gave a Elaine a concerned look, took her son and left.

Elaine couldn’t move. This was too much. Stitches to a child named Leo?? What were the chances? There is no way this day could be written off as a coincidence, it was just too much. Too many coincidences.

How could Nick have been so accurate? Elaine finished her shift as if in a trance, almost totally unaware of her surroundings. Fortunately for her patients, no one left in her care was in serious distress. The shift finally ended and Elaine raced to her locker in the nurses lounge, grabbed her belongings, her laptop and headed home. The hospital was about a block away and she was home quickly. Elaine parked her car and entered her brick rancher from the side door.

Max, her sheltie, greeted her immediately and she took a moment to pet him and feed him. She wanted to get all her responsibilities taken care of so she could devote the rest of the night for reading.

Finally, after a quick bite to eat and some playtime for Max, Elaine was able to settle in on her couch and finish Nick’s story. What she read horrified her. The story was great but what happened was terrifying. A misguided terrorist, an explosion, hundreds of people killed.

Uggg, especially the guy her character had been talking to after the explosion. His head sliced in half by a pane of falling glass, Jeez, where did Nick get this stuff, she wondered, chills running down her spine. Well, one thing’s for sure, she thought, she had to call Nick, immediately.

### More Bad News

The phone rang, jarring Nick out of a deep concentration. He was working on a story for a local paper, about a nearby hotel with a haunted reputation.

“Hello, Nick Young here...”

“Nick? Hi it’s Elaine, from the old neighborhood. How are you?

“Elaine, I’m great, how are you doing? I’m surprised to hear from you, is everything ok?” Nick asked.

“ Oh I’m fine, honey. I called because your Mom sent me that story you wrote ’Psychic’ . I just finished reading it.”

“Oh, I didn’t now she had sent it to you to read. Sooo? What did you think? I guess you read that I used you for a character. I hope you don’t mind. I can change the name if it makes you uncomfortable.” Nick said.

“Oh no, no I loved the story. It was a bit gorier than the stories I usually read but it was good, I really liked it.”

“Well thanks, so what’s up?”

“Well, I’m not sure how to ask you this but ummm, how did you come up with the idea for this story?”

“Wow, it’s funny you should ask me that.”

“Really, why?”

“Well, remember my friend Kysa? She hung out at my house in High School all the time.”

“Of course, I remember her, cute girl, short brownish, blond hair. You guys were always together. Your Mom and I always thought you would end up together. She’s also from the story, I saw you used her name too.”

“Well, I did more that use her name I actually based the character on her.”

“Are you telling me your friend can really see ghosts? Nick, that’s crazy!!” Elaine asked, stunned by this information.

“I know how it sounds, but it’s true. I’ve seen her see them and react to it with my own eyes. But anyway, that’s not the issue. What is the issue is that she called me two days ago asking me the same questions. She wanted to know also where I came up with the story. She said she saw the house and the demon I described in the story during an investigation with her Ghost-hunting group.” explained Nick.

“She has a group that Ghost-hunts? Wow, I had no idea people actually did that kind of thing.” Elaine shook her head in disbelief. All this information was more than she expected when she had decided to call Nick tonight.

“Nick, that’s what I needed to tell you. Today in the ER while I was at work, the whole scene in the hospital you wrote about, actually happened.” Elaine paused to give Nick a chance to digest what she had just told him. “It was insane! The car accident victim, you know, with the blood spurting out and the heart attack. Those really

---

## New Paranormal Fiction from Nan Coleman

---

didn’t seem odd at first” said Elaine “But then, late in the afternoon, I was stitching up a little boy. Who’s name was Leo. I almost fell out of my chair it surprised me so much.” said Elaine.

Nick was silent, once again shocked to hear that the story he had written was seemingly starting to come true.

Elaine continued. “I really don’t believe in this stuff but it’s starting to sound more like a premonition than a simple short story. Ha, I can’t even believe I just said that. But if Kysa had that experience and then so did I, it’s scaring me to think what’s going to happen next. What about the character you wrote about named Adam? Is he a real person too?”

“Well, he’s a real person but I don’t really know him that well. He was a teacher that I knew from school. He taught writing and as a hobby studied Demonology.”

“Oh my gosh Nick, where do you find these people? I’ve never even heard of that.”

“I picked him for the character because I wondered how someone would end up studying Demonology. He was very interesting as a person, but other than that there are no similarities. The character is completely fictional.”

“Wow, I really don’t know what to say, Nick. Do you think you ought to contact him? How are you even going to explain this?”

“Elaine, I have no earthly idea what to do at this point. I probably should call Kysa and check on her though. I told her the situation was all her imagination.”

“Oh Nick, you have to call her and let her know. I’ll let you go, call me if you need anything or if I can help. Love you, honey. Stay in touch, I’ve missed seeing you and your Mom. I’ll talk to you soon.”

“Bye Elaine, thanks for calling”

Nick hung up the phone and thought to himself. I would love to let Kysa know the situation, if only I knew what the situation was. He pondered the facts. First, Kysa has experience and believes his story is coming true, then Elaine calls and says the same thing. How was this even possible? Could his story actually be a premonition. It seemed unlikely but what could he do? If there was even a chance that the story was coming true he had to make an attempt to stop it. If all the people he wrote about died in an explosion of a building and he didn’t even attempt to stop it, how could he live with himself?

He needed Kysa here with him. Her Psychic abilities could help him figure out how to proceed. What about Adam? The character was just based on a man he had only met once. What was his role in all of this? He wasn’t even sure where the man was right now. School was out for the summer, so the chance of him teaching was pretty slim.

Nick turned to his computer. He googled Adam’s name. Adam Leeson. 400 entries came up. Ok, lets narrow the search, Nick thought to himself. Adam Leeson and Demonology. Ah Ha. Adam Leeson, appearing at the Erickson Hotel. As luck would have it, Adam was still in town and giving a speech on Demonology at a Ghost-Hunting event, the following weekend.

This seems a little too coincidental, and I do not believe in coincidences. All Nick’s instincts told him he and Kysa needed to be at that lecture next weekend. Nick went to the website listed and purchased two tickets for the event.

“Hmm, I hope Kysa’s free next weekend, but if things keep working out this way she will be.” Nick said aloud.

Nick picked up the phone and dialed Kysa’s cell number. It rang a couple of times and went to voicemail. “You’ve reached me, you know what to do... so do it! Have a wonderful day! Beeeep.”

“Kys, it’s me, Nick call me when you get a chance, we need to talk.”

### Adam

Adam stared out the window, looking past his computer, lost in the beauty of the treetops of the valley that his home overlooked. The trees were just beginning to change, he could see bits of reds and gold leeching the green out of the late summer leaves. A bald eagle circled the forest below gliding on the warm currents of air, searching the woods for prey.

‘Hmmm, good luck is in the air’ he thought to himself. He considered the Eagle one of his animal guides and whenever one came into his presence he knew something significant would follow shortly.

He glanced back to his laptop, where his speech for the Paranormal Event next weekend sat unfinished. His specialty was Demonology and for this event he wanted to concentrate on how Demons could affect a human’s life as a sign of impending doom. Not to scare the attendees or anything but to let them know that the appearance of a demon needed to be taken seriously as they could, if they chose to, affect a person’s behavior and ultimately make them do something the individual might not otherwise do. It was a difficult subject. First to explain why demons hated the human race and then how they could manipulate a situation or person to harm others. Adam believed their goal was to capture as many souls as they could and keep them from reuniting with God.

Demons were gross, disgusting creatures, which he had personally come across in his past. Being a scholar and having written several books on the subject he had often been called upon to witness, even participate in exorcisms. He worked closely with a friend and Priest by the name of James Warren. Father James had been trained by the Vatican and was considered to be one of the best Exorcists the Church had in their arsenal to fight a demonic presence. Father James had often invited Adam to work with him, both had been trained in the field of Psychology and were well aware of the dangers of mental illness being confused with possession. The things he had seen, were mind-boggling. He had witnessed events that were beyond belief, had he not witnessed them with his own eyes he probably would not believe them either. For this reason it never upset him when he dealt with skeptics. Really, if he could, wouldn’t he rather believe that Demons were just a myth? Something to scare people into behaving in a moral fashion. He thought how nice it would be to be blind to the possibility that such ugliness existed. He almost envied the skeptics, refusing to see the other side even when evidence was put right in front of them.

Adam had a theory. He believed that sometimes Demons would or could target a specific person, someone who had seen them and would choose to harass them throughout the human’s life. But he had never been able to prove this theory. People who had been possessed usually were so terrified by the experience they put it out of their minds and follow up conversations with them were unlikely. His theory was based on his own experiences. He had seen demons and the damage they could do, now they seemed to recognize him, even call him by name. This had happened on several investigations he had participated in with different Paranormal groups. On one investigation a demon had

[ continued on page 51 ]



[ by Dennis Vieira ]

## Some wildlife species are regionally common in certain areas of North America. Such is the case concerning the Greater Road Runner or Chaparral Cock [Geococcyx californianus].

It is a member of the Cuckoo bird Family [Cuculidae], and it's range area comprises: northern and central California, southern Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, central and eastern Oklahoma, northwestern Louisiana, western Arkansas, southwest Kansas, and ranges as well southward to Baja California and southern Mexico.) "Poor little Road Runner never bothers anyone, just running down the road is his idea of having fun" (Verse from: *The Road Runner Cartoon Show*. ©Warner Bros Studios.)

Never bothers anyone? Not exactly! The real life Greater Road Runner bird is an active carnivorous predator. It is as much, true however, this crow-sized bird can be a "goofy character". Mike Blain working for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; opines you just never know what to expect in behavior from them. He says: "Some days, you can't find one in its habitual digs, and the next a roadrunner is standing in your driveway. One will hop up on your truck to watch you work, and the next is so sneaky your lucky for a glimpse." ("Not Wile E.' Roadrunner" by Mike Blair: <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/>) Roadrunners, even been reported in fact to approach people for food handouts! They will even come to backyard birdfeeders and nest boxes. -However, their intent is to catch and eat birds, which are a natural part of their diet!

Capable of flight and agile with quick reflexes, the roadrunner can jump straight up in the air and deftly catch overhead flying insects or birds. Even catch fast flyers as hummingbirds! Once any prey is caught between their bill, the roadrunner will kill it by thrashing and smashing it against a rock, or other hard ground object. Crush its head before swallowing it whole. (*Meet the Real Roadrunner* by Howard Youth: <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Publications/ZooGoer/1997/3/meetrealroadrunner> ) Most of the time however, he is a ground- hunting predator. Roadrunners eat grasshoppers, mice, and even venomous creatures as scorpions and rattlesnakes among others. Few of the creatures the roadrunner preys on, have any chance of outrunning him. Individual birds have been clocked running variously at speeds from 15 to 30 miles per hour.

Because the roadrunner is capable of both

great speed, and adept at killing and eating rattlesnakes, Native American peoples highly regard him as a being of great strength and courage. ("Road Runner" ©2007: [www.SouthwestWildlife.org](http://www.SouthwestWildlife.org) ) The Apache regarded the roadrunner as the leader of all birds. They along with other southwestern peoples as the Hopi and Zuni, cherish the obtainment of its feathers. For, they are believed powerful to use for rituals and prayer sticks. The Hopi would tie roadrunner prayer feather to a horse's tail in belief it would make it swift and tireless. A person could become empowered in the same manner, according to Hopi belief, by catching and eating a roadrunner. As well, probably gain the medicine power of the bird's courage and endurance.

Among the many kachinas the Hopi have are the Hospoa: i.e. Road Runner. The Hospoa kachina dancer is believed vested with power to attract more roadrunners for feather harvesting, to solicit rain, and to guard the pueblos against witchcraft. A roadrunner's foot is zygodactyls in arrangement. I.e. it has two toes pointing forward and two toes backwards, and it forms an "X" shaped track. It can be difficult in looking at the roadrunner's track to determine in which direction he's headed. From this observation southwestern peoples intuited that the roadrunner could confer medicine power of protection through inducement of confusion. So the Zuni for example, used roadrunner feathers in a war related ritual known as the "Scalp Kicker".

During it, roadrunner feathers were worn by the dancers, on the toes of their moccasins. By performing this ritual dance, it was hoped the bird's medicine power would similarly confuse the Zuni's enemies, in regards to the whereabouts of their warriors during combat. Since like the turkey the

roadrunner is primarily a ground dwelling bird, it was believed to be bound to the earth, and the dead beneath it. In the cosmology of southwestern peoples, he was regarded as a protector and guide to the deceased, as they made the great journey from the upper world of mortal life to the middle world of the spirit realm. Roadrunner's medicine power could serve to both protect the living from the spirits of the dead, and the spirits of the recently deceased from evil supernatural forces.

For examples, the "Pueblo Indian" people of Isleta made a circle of roadrunner tracks around their village whenever a resident died, in order to prevent any evil spirit from remaining behind. Among the southwestern peoples especially, though the dead were feared as they may pursue or return to haunt people, there were still concern for the

recently deceased safety and welfare. Their journey to the spirit world could be imperiled by evil feelings, or by witches who could trap them and enslave them to their will. To prevent this the Cochiti pueblo people for example, had a funeral practice of placing an ear of blue corn and a club alongside the deceased in their grave. Around these tokens was placed a circle of roadrunner tracks as a magic circle.

Its purpose was to prevent evil spirits or Brujos (sorcerers) from finding out where the soul of the deceased goes. Thus, it protected the soul during their journey to the spirit world from their persecutions.



**Dennis Vieira** started his writing career doing on a volunteer basis the Native American Subject column "Walk Turtle Island" for the chapter newsletter of the Greater New Bedford Circle of CUUPS at the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts, of which he is both a member and a council elder. From August 2008 to January 2011 he wrote the column "From Animals, Wisdom" for *Taps Paramagazine*.

# ANIMAL Medicine Greater Roadrunner



# Stephen Gjertson Galleries

www.stephengjertsongalleries.com



The Wilds of Lake Superior, 1986. Oil on canvas, 31 x 56. Private collection.

## The Artist

Stephen Gjertson is a well-known traditional artist. He presided as president of The American Society of Classical Realism and was a founding member of its Guild of Artists. He has organized and exhibited in more than sixty exhibitions featuring the work of contemporary realists. As an editorial advisor to the Classical Realism Quarterly and the Classical Realism Journal and editor of the Classical Realism Newsletter he has published many articles and essays. He is the author of *Richard F. Lack: An American Master* and co-author of *For Glory and For Beauty: Practical Perspectives on Christianity and the Visual Arts*. The October 1983 issue of *American Artist* magazine profiled Gjertson in a cover story. His work has appeared on the cover of numerous books and periodicals, including *Realism in Revolution: The Art of the Boston School*, *A Christian View of Men and Things*, *First Corinthians*, *Revelation: All of God's Word Revealed*, the *Artists Magazine*, *The Recorder Magazine* and the *Christian Life Quarterly*. He is also featured in *Painting Faces and Figures* published by Watson-Guption. His work appeared in *The Best of Flower Painting* and *The Best of Portrait Painting* published by North Light Books. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in American Art*. In 1993 The American Society of Classical Realism published *Timeless Treasure: The Art of Stephen Gjertson*. He is currently a member of TRIAD: Three American Painters and is an Honorary Member of the American Society of Traditional Artists.

Four O'Clock, 1988. Oil on canvas, 24 x 38. Collection of Fred and Sherry Ross.



Separation, Reconciliation, Adoration, 1985-86. Oil on canvas mounted to panel, 13' x 13'. Collection of Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN.



# Soul Hacking 101:

## Where Innovation and Evolution Collide

Following the surrender of the Japanese Empire that brought the Second World War to a close, the American way of life began to change rapidly. The necessity for production on a massive scale during the war years had begun to lead to a variety of new innovations, many of which altered the way people lived and interacted with each other. Changes were occurring right down to the kinds of things people were eating, as well as how those foods and other goods were being produced, stored, and transported. Eventually, as the United States continued to shift and change its methods of production and innovation, those elements of culture and society that were being altered began to cause the same sorts of changes among people just as well.

This was hardly just the case within the US, and as can be expected, not every change that was occurring globally was for the better. Furthering the demands of industrialization for industries such as agriculture and livestock would eventually bring with them the use of a variety of chemicals, hormones, pesticides, and other substances which, as we know today, can

## Soul Hacking

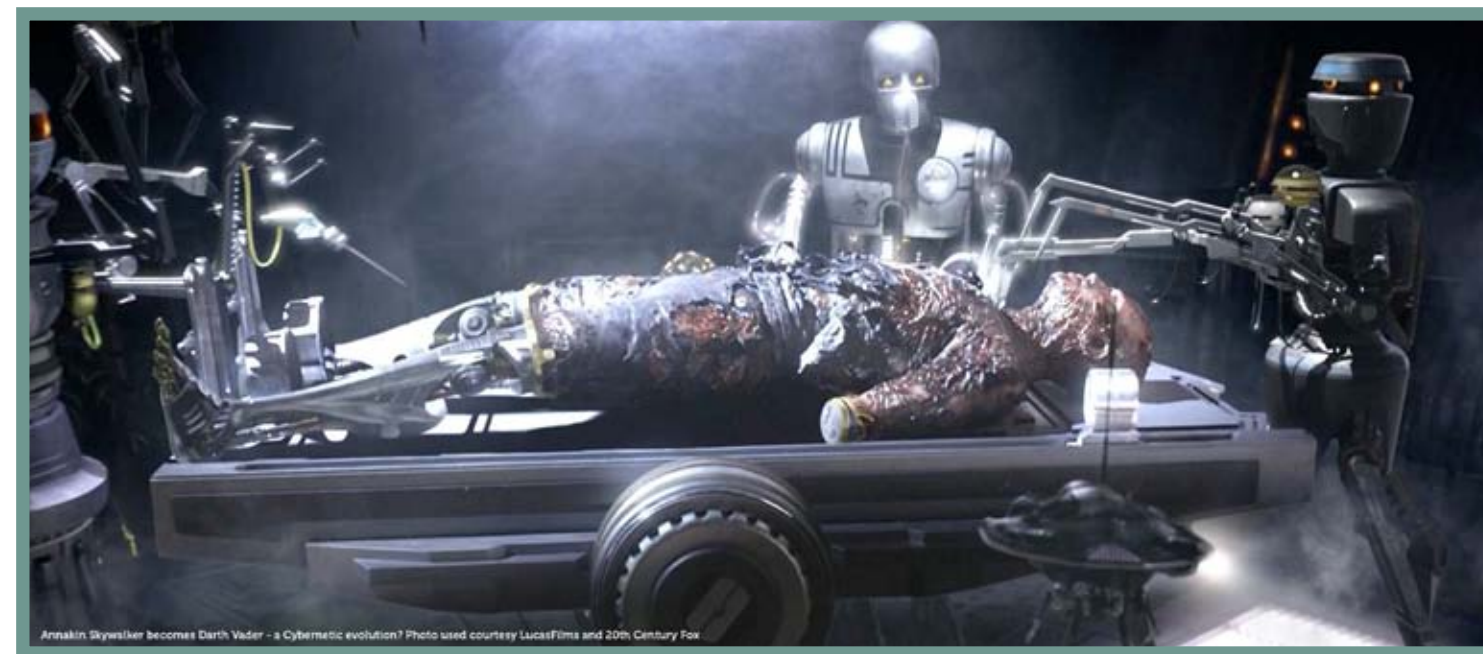
have potentially harmful side effects. Interestingly, some researchers have even suggested that the appearance of autoimmune diseases such as diabetes also seem to have increased in frequency following those tender post-war years. But could this be as a result of the same sorts of chemicals and other substances being used in the production of our food?

One slant on this proposal, with regard to what may have caused such things, involves how bacterial stimulation, the presence of beneficial bacteria in our bodies, may also have begun to diminish around the same time. One modern example of how “good” bacteria of this sort could be compromised with potential for harm relates to studies performed by the University of California at San Diego in 2009, which suggest that some hand sanitizers, while disabling the germs that make you sick, can actually kill beneficial bacteria present on the skin just as well. Considering that a variety of things we consume or otherwise come into contact with daily may have potential for disrupting helpful bacteria in this way, one potential fix for the issue involves “hacking” the body’s beneficial bacteria maintenance and production with probiotic treatments. In fact, some methods in use today have already found that implementing probiotics can promote the presence of these organisms in our bodies, and thus also encourage better health among some people who suffer from autoimmune conditions. But the possibilities don’t end here when it comes to the notion of making people healthier, stronger, and smarter through modifying subtle functions of their bodies; in fact, what we’ve described only represents the beginning of this unique

wanted to master, and doing so now would make that vacation trip overseas next summer far more enjoyable. Then again, maybe the kinds of things you’d want to obtain, rather than new skills, would involve learning to cope with existing problems, such as handling stress better, or shrugging off old phobias that have haunted you ever since an accident or other occurrence that happened decades ago.

We all have things that, if possible, we might want to change about ourselves. Some of us wish that, just like in the Matrix films, we could literally download information into our minds and bodies, learning to perform new tasks on the fly and with precision, minus the work that’s usually involved (apologies for borrowing from a series of films whose analogous convenience has already led to over-use... but hey, the example works). This is a wild concept, of course, and most would have it relegated to the hallowed halls of science fiction—or better yet, the overstocked bookshelves of science fiction enthusiasts—where dreamers whose minds exist almost perpetually in a world of tomorrow allow their imaginations to run wild with notions of cybernetic human-machine composites that function in a society where information is exchanged at an alarming rate. If anything, such a future might literally bring into reality a situation where our minds and bodies functioned in such harmony with our technological surroundings that thoughts and ideas might be expressed with near-telepathic efficiency... but more on that later.

We can only speculate about such things for now, as they still



idea of “hacking” our way to better versions of ourselves.

### Introducing the Art of “Body-Hacking”

Before we go too much further, these references to bodily “hacking” aren’t to be confused with chop-shop horror flicks from the 1970s where creeps with facemasks made of human-hide decide to play doctor in somebody’s basement. Instead, what we’re suggesting here involves innovative new approaches to learning and augmenting our own physical abilities by way of mechanical instruments and other stimulus that literally could allow us to change things about the way our bodies learn and function. Let’s try an example: think of something you’ve always wanted to be able to do, but never had the time or patience to learn. Maybe you’re thinking of playing a musical instrument; or maybe a new language is something you’ve always

exist well within the realm science fiction at present. It may be decades, in fact, or even centuries before we’re able to harness technological improvements to such an extent that we literally become able to integrate computer systems and mechanized components into the delicate fabric of our physiology. However, what can’t be denied in the here-and-now is the way precursors to this very sort of long-awaited technology—something that represents a true merging between man and machine—are already beginning to appear around us. For some, the alarming rate at which various kinds of technology are being ushered in is hardly the only unsettling element. Indeed, many will likely find it difficult to reconcile with situations where mechanical processes are able to effectively “hack” our very bodies, re-configuring the ways our bones, muscles, and nervous systems function, whether or not the end results are



beneficial. But how exactly might these sorts of processes occur, and what, exactly, constitutes “hacking” some part of ourselves mechanically?

#### Non-Idle Hands

One unique series of innovations that may represent the genesis of this technology is presently underway right now, thanks to a joint program between the Tokyo-based Sony Computer Science Laboratories and the University of Tokyo in Japan. A device that uses electrical stimulus to “hack” the muscles in a person’s forearm, appropriately dubbed “PossessedHand,” has been designed to take control of the motor functions of its user’s fingers. This, of course, has practical applications for use (aside from those notions of what nefarious activities one could train a hand to do via remote control, like we see in films). Ideally, the PossessedHand device would allow someone to program a series of exercises that would electrically stimulate the fingers of the hand in question, thus allowing them to develop the muscle-memory needed to do things like pluck out a song on a stringed instrument more efficiently, but with less actual practice. Again, we’re reminded of the notion of being able to sit down and plug ourselves into a device that would virtually “download” information into our brains; in this case, it would be the muscles within the hand and forearm that would be “remembering,” with the end result of improving one’s playing ability on an instrument like the guitar.

But what is particularly interesting about this setup, albeit creepy for some, is that this all takes place with no need for direct control from the intention of the user. “The user’s fingers are controlled without the user’s mind,” researcher Emi Tamaki of the University of Tokyo told New Scientist. Imagine the odd sensation this might cause, especially when you’re able to observe a body part of yours moving and reacting to stimulus other than your very own! Strange indeed.

There are even more complex “hacks” that are occurring in other areas of interest, some of which involve no machinery having to be hooked to a person’s body at all. The July 2011 issue of Wired Magazine featured a cover story that describes what could very easily be considered a form of “mind hacking”; this involves recent implementation of systems like digital “Your Speed” signs that provide individuals with information they are already aware of, but presented in ways that allow them to correct certain behavior. This process is called a feedback loop, and has been developed around existing ideas of interactivity and information exchange spanning the last century. Essentially, what this shows us is that, in addition to machines that might be used to control, regulate, or improve various functions of our bodies, we might very well be able to do the same sorts of things with our minds alone, modifying and improving our own behavior, changing our outlook on life, and increasing our enjoyment of living in general. And truth be known, for the last several years many therapists have indeed used similar processes with biofeedback therapy systems, used to help patients manage their anger and various other conditions by training certain brain functions using feedback loop techniques.

#### Humans: The Aliens of Tomorrow

Although these sorts of hack-jobs are available to us in the here-and-now, what kinds of things may await us in the future? Will there actually be innovative cybernetic systems designed that will literally allow people like you or I to download information from computers... or even from each other? Think of being able to retrieve the information contained within a document, perhaps as some kind of energetic signal or other data-oriented format similar to binary code, which would be interpretable by our minds just like any electrical synapse firing within the brain. Equipped with the proper technology, future humans may literally be able to download information into their brains—or transmit it from one brain to another—as simply as you or I might download an e-book and take it with us on a cross-country car ride. Such a thing, considering the advances of WiFi technology, could conceivably be on par with telepathic

communication in such a future world.

Granted, in order for this sort of technology to become a reality, there is much ground yet to be covered in terms of not only understanding how the brain functions, but what role consciousness plays in the mystery of our minds. After all, the great debate still rages as to whether consciousness is something contained within the brain itself, or whether the brain is merely the hard-drive by which something we might liken to being an “operating system” of the soul itself is able to manifest, thus completing the human condition on an individual basis. Such questions have been the impetus for a number of studies performed over the last several decades, of the same variety described almost half a century ago by Dr. Eugene Koneccki, who at the time was Director of Biotechnology and Human Research at the Office of Advanced Research and Technology with NASA. Consider the following excerpt from a speech he gave at the Fourteenth meeting of the International Astronautics Federation in 1963, which was subsequently excerpted in Arthur Koestler’s book The Roots of Coincidence a decade later:

A concentrated effort towards a highly interesting problem in modern-science—the nature and essence of certain phenomena of the electromagnetic communication between living organisms—is reportedly being pursued with top priority under the Soviet-manned space program. Until recently these phenomena have in general been ignored by Western scientists; however, the many hypotheses involved are now receiving attention in world literature.

Specific US experiments in energy transfer phenomena, or the relationship between physical fields of particles and the non-demonstrable “personal” psi-plasma field, are being carried out or planned under various advanced concepts.

...To Western scientists and engineers the results of valid experimentation in energy transfer could lead to new communications media and advanced emergency techniques, as well as to bio cybernetical aids for integrating with a conceptual design of an ultimate operational flight system.

This is a rather revealing dialogue, especially the closing sentence, since what is described here would involve a flight system that was essentially controlled by the mind of the pilot. Granted, this cybernetic process outlines the potential for how our minds may one day be used to control machinery, rather than utilizing such systems in reverse order to “hack” the way we operate on a cognitive level. But taking a second look, perhaps we should consider whether adaptive side effects might not still result from such advanced applications (and while we’re at it, extra emphasis should be added here to the word advanced, especially in light of the fact that nearly five decades after Koneccki wrote about this we are only barely scratching the surface of such technology). Modern biofeedback therapy, which we mentioned briefly already, is one area where humans actually are able, to some degree, to manipulate computers and machinery with their minds, and in ways that also help us focus our energies and thought processes, thus aiding conditions such as ADHD and emotional stress. Perhaps the implementation of cybernetic components that are controlled by people could, in the future, have a similar effect, conducive to changing the way we evolve and think in the long term. Therefore, a future where much of our surroundings could be manipulated cybernetically in such a way might also result, over time, in the emergence of a different sort of species altogether from the humans we know today. The very way our minds think, react, and process information could change in unforeseeable ways as our technological innovations of tomorrow continue to become more interactive in every way.

But in truth, these sorts of changes are already well underway. With the complexity of the Internet, humans are now migrating more and more of themselves over into the collective data cloud, maintained and kept within an intangible data system that is growing and developing at an alarming rate. This brings to mind notions of artificial intelligence and computer-based systems becoming “self aware,” just like we see in the movies. Imagine if the Internet,

representing the summation of mankind’s intelligence gathered over time, did manage in some way to become a singular form of intelligence all unto itself? Now pair this with a trend toward cybernetic interactivity of the future, as indicated by the sorts of bio-hacking described here; with the implementation of technology over time, humans may literally be creating an electronic construct for the sort of collective subconscious theorized by the likes of psychologist Carl Jung. But most astonishing of all, most of us may be entirely unaware that this is even occurring. In other words, we may not simply be advancing our technological prowess, but instead could be designing a technological fortification that, unbeknownst to the masses, will eventually bring humans to an almost hive-like state of collective consciousness.

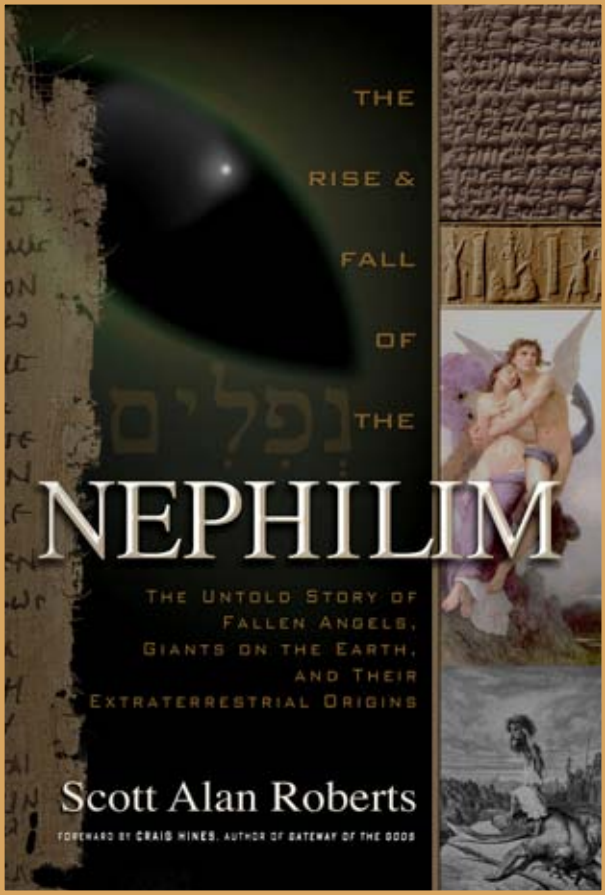
Of course, we couldn’t come this far without going at least a little beyond the fringe; therefore, it almost goes without saying that by the time we get to the discussion of cybernetically-adapted beings with telepathic abilities that behave in a hive-like capacity with one another... well, we’re likely to begin drawing parallels with alien beings, especially of the same sort described in a multitude of UFO encounters. Thus, it’s not surprising in the least that some UFO researchers have theorized that alien visitors may actually be the highly-advanced and strangely adapted humans of future epochs. In essence, the “visitors” dropping in from time to time to kidnap cattle and perform bizarre experiments on people aren’t aliens at all, but are really just our descendents from the future, dropping in on their ancestry and observing us from a future populated by “people” that are hardly recognizable any longer... and yet strangely familiar to us.

Is your mind completely blown yet? If not, then all this humble futurist can suggest is to simply wait a few more years. With the incredible rate at which our innovations are compounding day by day, such a future could be here far sooner than many would expect or could even predict. Therefore, in the end, the ultimate “hack” of all may likely amount to a bizarre kind of cybernetic soul-hacking, with potential for bringing us all together in ways we might not be able to even imagine at present. The implications of this, no doubt, are as incredible as they are unnerving... but for now, they must also remain fodder for future discussions. With any luck, we’ll manage to wring that much-desired time for debate of this sort from the proverbial stone, before startling future events eclipse further conversation altogether, thrusting us into a tomorrow we may never have imagined could exist. Will we be the same people we are today, and if such radical changed do occur, will those changes be for the better? ♣

Micah Hanks is a self proclaimed (but not self-righteous) skeptic, I have proudly contributed articles and stories regarding strange scientific discoveries and political topics to magazines like FATE Magazine, Fortean Times, Mysteries Magazine, UFO Magazine, TCS Daily, The Journal of Anomalous Sciences and several others. He has worked with numerous television programs, including the Travel Channel for their Weird Travels program, National Geographic’s Paranatural, and the History Channel’s Guts and Bolts.



Visit Micah’s websites:  
www.micahhanks.com  
www.gralienreport.com



## The Nephilim are Coming: FEBRUARY 2012

*“And the Nephilim were on the earth in those days – and also afterward – when the Sons of God cohabited with the daughters of humans, and had children by them...”*  
Genesis 6:4

*The books of Genesis and Enoch tell us that sprit beings known as the “Watchers” descended to the earth and bequeathed a race of offspring known as the Nephilim. Tales of “extra-terrestrial” beings intercoursing with humans are as old as mankind itself - even to current-day accounts of alien abductions, impregnations, and demonic sexual encounters. Those histories and accounts of visitations and mixed-blood alien-human races comprise a bulk of mankind’s mythology, legend, religion and superstition.*

*What if the old spiritualities and religions aren’t just the unsubstantiated stuffs of superstitious belief? What if there is something living and breathing beneath the surface; a tangible interlinking of religious thought and spirituality, science and myth, inter-dimensionality and cold, hard fact?*

*The Nephilim walked among us... and still do today.*

www.NewPageBooks.com



[ Continued from Page 40 ]

come through a digital recorder, called Adam by name, proceeded to curse him saying things like “We Hate Adam“ and “Adam, Leave us alone!”. There was nothing more disconcerting that a non-human being knowing your name, hating you simply for being human.

Enough day-dreaming, back to his lecture, Adam thought to himself. The words on the computer screen seemed to blur and slide in front of his eyes. Ok, maybe not. Adam closed the program, deciding instead to work on it later, he still had several days before the actual event so there was plenty of time to take a break.

Adam pulled up his email to check messages and clean out his inbox. He averaged 40-50 emails a day, questions about hauntings, possessions and requests for interviews arrived on a daily basis, if he didn’t keep up with them, he would soon be completely overwhelmed.

He spent some time looking at each email, he was careful to read them all because in his profession, it was important to take each request seriously, someone’s life could depend on it. Soul possession was a serious subject and many people truly felt that demons could be responsible for issues that plagued their lives. More often than not, their problems had nothing to do with any supernatural beings. Mental illness, bad luck, or simply life itself was the explanation. Sporadically, Adam came across a true case of a possible possession or a confrontation with a demonic force. For these instances Adam would contact Father James and bring him into the case.

While Adam continued to read, one email in particular caught his eye. An email from a man named Nick Young. The name rang a bell, he knew he had heard it before. Nick Young, Nick Young, hmmm. Got it, there was a reporter in a magazine he occasionally wrote articles for on the subject of Demonology. He had met the man once during a class Adam had taught at the University. Adam opened the email curious to see what Nick had to say.

*Dear Mr. Leeson, I don’t know if you remember me but we met at a class you taught on the subject of Demonology. I am also a writer, which is why I am writing to you today. I recently wrote a fictional story based on a friend of mine. I hope you won’t mind when I explain that I also used your first name and loosely based one of the characters on you. The problem now is that the details of the story I wrote seem to be coming true. My friend and I will be attending your lecture on Saturday. I hope you will find some time to meet with us after to discuss the situation further. Thank you for your time.*

*Sincerely, Nick Young.*

Adam was intrigued. Such an interesting situation. While still skeptical about the actual possibility that a story could come true, Adam was curious as to what could have happened to make this man contact him. He would definitely take the time to meet Nick and his friend.

### The Lecture

“Excuse me, people? Ahem… Okay now people find your seats please we are going to begin.” Sam tapped the microphone. “Is this thing on, can anyone hear me??”

A couple of people turned and stared at him so he knew they could hear him. Sam spoke again into the mic. “Okay, everyone find a seat…

Dr. Adam Leeson is here today,” Sam paused as applause drowned

out anything he was about to say. “Dr Leeson is a Professor of Psychology at Dunham University here in town.” A pause for more scattered applause. “He also is an expert in the field of Demonology and is here today to share that subject with you. So with out further ado please welcome Dr Adam Leeson…”

The crowd erupted into applause and most stood up as Adam walked towards the podium. Adam was a very popular teacher and lecturer, many people had traveled into town today to catch his lecture, the 500 seat auditorium had completely sold out. Adam stepped onto the stage pausing for a moment to fiddle with his computer and make sure his Power Point presentation was ready to roll.

“Good Morning all. Thanks so much for joining me here today. I have to admit I’m somewhat surprised at all the interest in the subject I’m lecturing on today. I think its important to note that each year the amount of people interested in the subject of Demonology increases considerably. I have even heard recently that the Church is advertising on Facebook for Demonologists.”

The crowd chuckled, many had seen the same post and wondered who would be silly enough to answer such a calling on a social network.

“So lets begin. As many of you may or may not know my background is in the field of Psychology. I approach all inquiries for my services through this lens or filter as the case may be. I differ from many of the Demonologists in this field in that I don’t believe every person who comes to me and claims possession to actually be suffering from a demonic presence.

There are many explanations for situations a person can find themselves in. Demons and possession are not something to take lightly. Feeling depressed, wishing bad things to happen to another, bad luck and in drastic cases mental illness can all be reasonable explanations and symptoms of a normal person.

Demons are unmistakable when you find yourself in their presence. Inhuman strength. Knowledge of a foreign language that the person would have no way of knowing. A total lack of compassion for anything and anyone. They have a goal.” Adam paused for effect, letting the symptoms of a possession sink into the minds of the audience, as they flashed onto the screen numbering #1-3. A picture of a black shadowed Demon hovering over a man seated in a chair thinking in a dark room flashed up from the projector, with the goal in bold letters underneath. Adam continued, “Their goal, Ladies and Gentleman is to quite simply, to destroy you. Destroy your happiness, your life and the lives of those you love.”

Adam turned to the screen and then looked out into the audience. The crowd was silent waiting to hear what Adam said next.

“There are two incidents of note where Demons and their origins are discussed in the Bible. Demons, in general, are referred to as Fallen Angels. They appear in the Old Testament in Genesis, The New Testament in Revelation and a more detailed account in the Book of Enoch. The Book of Enoch is referred to as an Apocalyptic text, loosely translated means a text that was hidden away or of questionable authorship. This book has long been argued as to whether it was to be included in the Old Testament or whether it was a stand alone text. The Ethiopian Bible, which includes this book, claim it was written by the grandfather of Noah. It was part of the Dead Sea Scrolls found in a series of caves outside of Israel in 1946 on the shores of the Dead Sea. Without a doubt contains some of the oldest written accounts we have access too. They have been dated

from 150 BC to 70 CE.

You all may have heard of the term Nephilim or Fallen Angels. This is a term from the Bible and is the earliest reference to demons in published literature. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the story, it begins in Genesis 6: 1-4“

The following lines from the Bible appeared in the screen, projected there by the computer.”

- 1. When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them,*
- 2. the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.*
- 3. Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.”*
- 4. The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*

According to the Bible this activity displeased God and he sent down the flood to wipe out the creatures, that had been born to these fallen angels, sons of God. It is insinuated that from this point on, Human woman were now off-limits to the sons of God.

According to the book of Enoch which by the way tells the story of the Nephilim in greater detail , for any of you that may be interested.” Adam paused at this point for the people scribbling frantically in notebooks. He knew the story of the Nephilim intrigued people, mainly because many had never even noticed this particular line in the Bible or heard about the Fallen Angels. It also gave evidence that the heroes whose stories everyone had grown up hearing could possibly be true. It was a totally new perspective on history and the Bible.

He continued “ The second reference in early literature is the story of how and why Demons are Earthbound. It’s the story of Lucifer also known as Satan. He was cast out of Heaven for trying to put his throne above God’s. Archangel Michael, God’s most loyal Angel, fought along with his followers, those loyal to God against Lucifer and his followers. When they lost the battle and Michael had won, Lucifer and his followers were cast out of heaven . They numbered about a third of the angels, of all different ranks. So where did they land? Anyone??? Yes! They landed right here on earth. Forced to exist among us for eternity or according to Revelations until the Messiah returns to earth for Judgment Day.

At that time they and whoever else is considered a sinner will be cast done into Hell. Its interesting to note the Bible states that Hell is empty at this time and will remain that way until Judgment is passed.” A picture of a cave-type room filled with flames appeared on the screen.

“You can imagine how angry demons were to be cast out of Heaven and forced to live among us whom they consider to be completely inferior to themselves as well as preferred in God’s eyes to themselves. They consider it their mission on earth to capture and possess as many souls as possible through murder, suicide and satanic worship. One may think that Satanic worshippers may have an advantage with Demons and are capable of having them do their will. But this is untrue. Demons are master manipulators and think nothing of lying

and cheating in order to trick the worshiper into thinking they have an upper hand.

I believe that Demons are attracted to people who possess stronger than average psychic abilities. Once a Demon has identified an individual as someone who can see them, they will continue to harass the individual. Maybe not constantly like an actual possession, but sporadically throughout their lives attracted to them almost like a beacon of light. It is crucial that the individual either ignore or seek professional help in extricating the Demon from their life. Hopefully it is a low level demon who can be easily persuaded to leave. The higher in rank it is the more difficult it will be to convince to move on. This corresponds also to the strength of the psychic ability of the individual. The stronger the ability the more the individual will glow to the demon.” At this same time the picture on the screen changed to a pretty girl surrounded by a glowing neon yellow light.

I’m even going to go one step further and say that I believe there are individuals out there who have repeated encounters with demons through out their lives and may at some point be forced to confront them. Not a possession, per se but an actual confrontation against evil. It’s very rare for a person without some kind of training or religious background to be able to avoid becoming possessed when confronting these evil creatures. In rare cases these demons can be harbingers of impending doom.”

Adam paused to let his message sink in. This was a concept that most people had never considered. “ Okay, Sam how much time do we have left?”

“We have some time about 15 minutes if you want to answer some audience questions.” Sam responded.

“Perfect, thanks Sam.” Adam moved to the front of the stage and looked out into the audience. “Ok who’s got a question?”

Dozens of hands immediately shot into the air. Adam leaned over and said to Sam, “Can we use an additional mic and give it to the people who are speaking, it may be hard to hear the questions.”

“Sure Adam, no problem.” Sam took an extra microphone and moved into the crowd.

Adam looked around.

“Ok you ma’am here in the front in the yellow shirt. What’s your question?”

Sam handed the woman the mic. “Thank you,” she said to Sam and turned her attention to Adam.

“Hi Mr. Leeson, I’m a huge fan. I’ve read all your books. My question is when you come across an evil entity while investigating, how can you protect yourself?”

“Ahhh, that’s a very good question. One way to do it, and this is assuming you are not dealing with heavy duty satanic activity, would be to say a prayer to St Michael. I would ask him upon leaving a location to protect and surround you with a white light. I would also make it clear to any spirits or entities on the premises that they are not welcome to come home with you or to attach to you. People this also brings up an interesting point. I know in film and pictures Angels are often seen as pretty white light shimmering and floating with little gold halos around their heads. This is untrue. Angels are soldiers, soldiers for God. They appear on God’s behalf to fight Demons in order to protect and save humanity. True Angels wear Military garb and are often seen by humans dresses as such. This is a Battle people, a Battle

[ Continued on Page 65 ]



God is a God of justice and not of power, then He can still be on our side when bad things happen to us. ... Our misfortunes are none of His doing, and so we can turn to Him for help. Our question will not be Job’s question “God, why are You doing this to me?” but rather “God, see what is happening to me. Can You help me?” We will turn to God, not to be judged or forgiven, not to be rewarded or punished, but to be strengthened and comforted.

I don’t know why one person gets sick, and another does not, but ... I cannot believe that God “sends” illness to a specific person for a specific reason. I don’t believe in a God who has a weekly quota of malignant tumors to distribute, and consults His computer to find out who deserves one most or who could handle it best. ... I don’t believe that God causes mental retardation in children, or chooses who should suffer from muscular dystrophy. The God I believe in does not send us the problem; He gives us the strength to cope with the problem.

Now, I can understand how Kushner’s approach has a certain appeal to it, as it places God firmly on the side of the “good”: concerned, comforting, and loving. For the following three reasons, however, I find that his philosophy doesn’t hold up to scrutiny:

(1) Kushner’s interpretation of a “struggling God” is nowhere in the text. I’m baffled by his interpretation that God is saying the Leviathan is difficult for Him to control—in Job 41:5 God even specifies that compared to His Own Terrifying Almightiness, the fearsome sea serpent is nothing more than a pet bird that one gives little girls to play with.

(2) Kushner paints an incoherent portrait of our said-Creator’s powers: mighty enough to control the orbit of the forty-million-degree stars that He molded with His own Hands, yet too weak to prevent tragedies that stem from the likes of preschoolers playing with matches.

(3) Suffering is not just something that occurs occasionally (as with earthquakes and birth defects): it’s a built-in part of nature. Predators’ very survival depends on the violent process of catching and devouring their prey alive—and failure to catch prey means the predators themselves suffer an agonizing death by starvation. It doesn’t seem coherent to say that “Divinity would like this stopped but can’t manage it” when suffering is an integral part of the natural world’s design.

I. C: The Divine Is Not All-Good

Believers in dualistic and polytheistic religions have an easier time reconciling their supernatural beliefs with the reality of suffering than do their monotheistic counterparts. The dualistic Zoroastrianism, for example, tells us that the “good God” (Ormazd) would stop evil if He only could:

The Zoroastrians do not have the theological problem of evil in the world which most monotheistic religions have to struggle with, namely, why does God allow suffering. The Zoroastrian answer is, he does not. All that is horrible in man and the world, both physical and moral evil, is the work of [the evil god] Ahriman. Evil is a fact which God [that is, the good god Ormazd] cannot at present control, but one day he will be victorious. History is the scene of the battle between the two forces.

John Hinnells, Persian Mythology (p. 56)

Followers of polytheistic religions—the Aztecs, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Vikings, etc.—likewise had no problem explaining the existence of suffering. For not only were their gods and goddesses alleged to have limited powers, these celestial beings were also believed to have limited degrees of goodness—some of the crueler ones even went out of their way to hurt us on purpose.

But although dualistic and polytheistic religions don’t share the same philosophical difficulties with the problem of suffering as do

monotheistic religions, the overall general weakness they do share is that they offer no credible reasons to believe that their tales stem from anywhere other than the fertile human imagination.

II. THE NATURALISTIC EXPLANATION FOR SUFFERING: THAT THE NATURAL WORLD IS INDIFFERENT

That the natural world is indifferent to creature suffering is the only explanation, I propose, that can coherently explain a wide set of observations.

Suffering that people bring upon themselves

—this needs no presence of an active and punitive Creator to explain things: the reckless spender causes his own bankruptcy; the thief is punished by the community he has offended; and so on.

Suffering that people bring upon innocent people

—this is easily explained in an indifferent universe. Cooperation and compassion have their place in the struggle for survival and reproductive success (as discussed in my January 20 post on “The Pre-Religion, and Pre-Human, Roots of Morality,”), but so does aggression and even cruelty. A community’s self-interest will result in laws designed to minimize community-destroying tendencies—creating rewards for good behavior, and punishments for bad—but these measures are unlikely to be able to eliminate destructive tendencies altogether. (And any government strong enough to completely stop people from hurting one another would probably have to squash all freedom, and thus end up substituting abuse from individual citizens for abuse from an all-controlling government: a cure worse than the disease.)

Suffering inherent in nature

—this too involves no complex rationalizations. Evolution’s driving force of favoring whatever best survives and reproduces can explain a wide range of creature suffering, from viruses to the lion’s fangs to the Ichneumonidae wasp’s macabre mothering (the wasp lays her egg inside a caterpillar so that her larva can slowly eat the caterpillar alive).

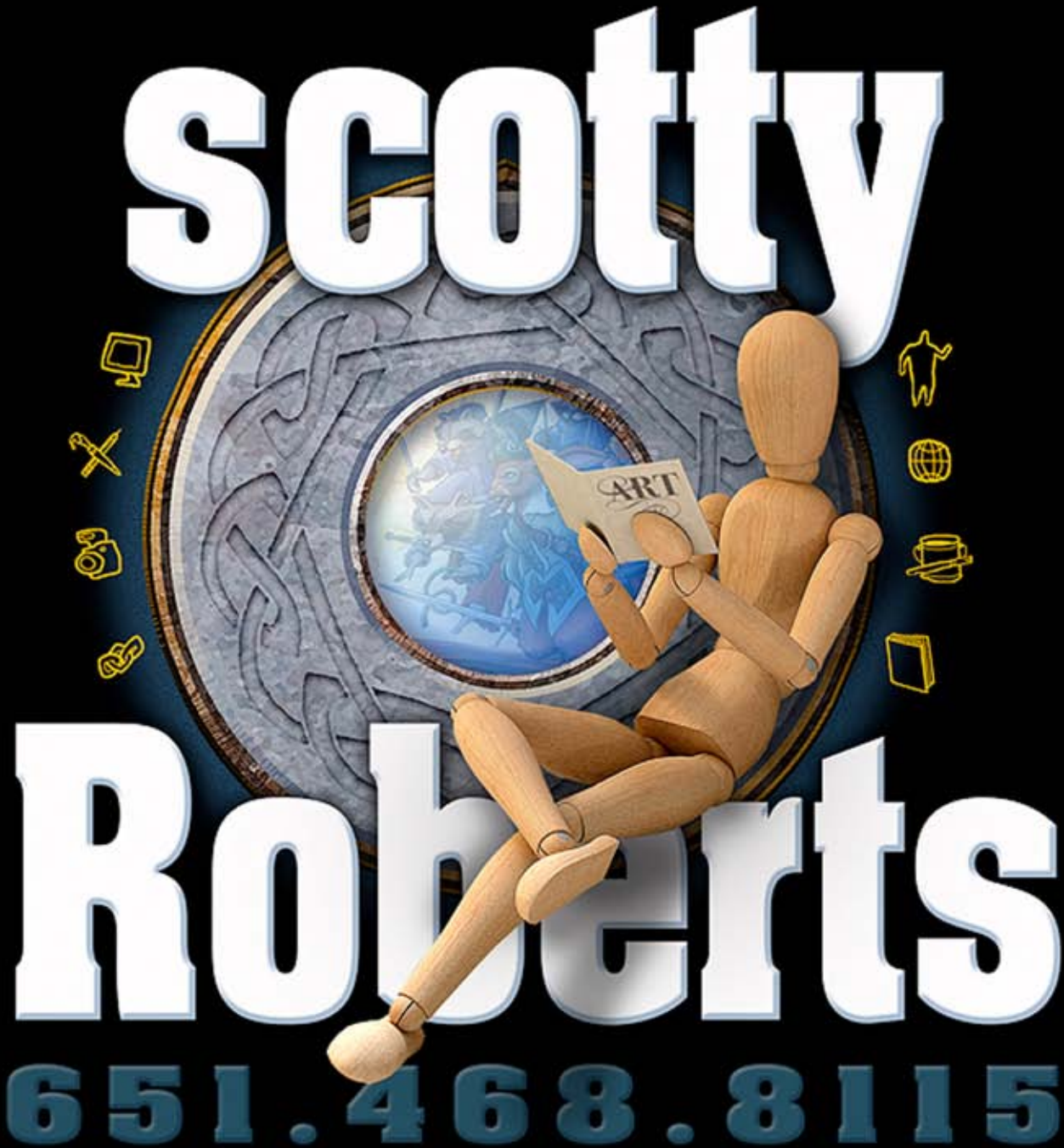
Natural disasters, too, cause no mysteries. When it comes to earthquakes, for example, there’s no struggle with wondering what a quake-ravished village did to so anger the unfathomable gods: everything is comprehensible from the premise that earthquakes are an inevitable aspect of living on a planet with a core hot enough to keep its crust of giant plates slowly shifting.

...

The advantage of supernatural-free examinations of the “whys” of suffering—looking at nature-based suffering from the viewpoint of natural science, and human-caused suffering from the viewpoint of the social sciences (sociology and psychology and the like)—is that the sciences not only stand a better chance of coherently explaining disasters and other causes of human misery, they can also better help minimize future occurrences. ♣



**Todd Allen Gates is** a father of four, a technical writer for a pharmaceutical company (creating training material for use of the Drug Safety database), and a former professional musician. He studies skepticism, Christian apologetics, comparative mythology, and the anthropology of religion so he can write books in his spare time. His YouTube channels are [youtube.com/ToddAllenGates](https://www.youtube.com/ToddAllenGates) (for discussions on religion) and [youtube.com/ToddGates](https://www.youtube.com/ToddGates) (for his piano and blues harp videos). [www.toddallengates.com](http://www.toddallengates.com)



GRAPHIC DESIGN  
BOOK COVER DESIGN  
ILLUSTRATION  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
WEB DEVELOPMENT



---

## “Psychic”

---

[ Continued from Page 52 ]

for your souls. If an Angel appears looking like its wearing a white gown it may simply be that human eyes are unable to see through the white light that surrounds them. Now back to my comment concerning Satanic Activity. If a home or location has been used for satanic worship or extreme evil has been done there, you may need an extra intervention of a professional. Ok next question. How about the gentleman in the back on the right,”

Adam pointed to the back of the room as everyone turned. The man stood and began to speak.

“Wait Sir, we can’t hear you. Sam, the mic, please.” Sam headed to the back of the room and suddenly, with the addition of the mic, the man’s voice boomed out into the room startling the audience.

“Hi Adam, my question is How do you deal with Skeptics?”

Adam chuckled. “I do talk to and get a lot of emails from Skeptics and Cynics. Yes people, there is a difference. Skeptics are those people who simply have never seen anything paranormal for themselves. When they do, they have the potential to become believers. A Cynic on the other hand is quite different. A Cynic is a person who no matter what they have seen or heard will always find an explanation for what they have witnessed . No matter how ridiculous their explanation sounds to anyone else.”

Adam turned to the podium and paused to take a drink of water from a bottle placed there for him. “Ok I think we have time for one more question. Sam, how are we time wise?”

“Yep Adam, we have time for one more question. Plus there will be time after the lecture if people want to buy your book and speak with you briefly.”

“Good, People in case you didn’t hear that, I will be signing autographs and selling my book, 10 True Cases of Demons and their Prey, after the lecture. I hope you all will come by and chat after this. Thanks Sam. Ok, one last question.”

Adam looked out into the crowd and spotted a familiar face. “You there Sir, in the yellow polo shirt. Sam over here in the middle row please.”

Adam waited until Sam could come around the room with the microphone.

Sam handed the mic to Nick.

“Hi Adam, my name is Nick Young and my question is concerning Demons attaching to individuals. Have you ever seen a case where a demon appeared on several different occasions to an individual, without harming them?”

“An interesting question, Nick” Adam stared at the young man realizing where he knew him from. The email Nick had sent.

“I believe that Demons do visit certain people periodically during their lives. We and by we I mean those in the field of Demonology don’t really have any idea what attracts a Demon to certain people, why some become possessed, while others are ignored. Now if we are not speaking of an actual possession I think that people with strong Psychic abilities will attract the attention of Demons and might possibly be plagued or followed by them throughout their lives. I do think it’s very rare though and I don’t know anyone personally that this has happened too.”

Adam smiled at Nick and mouthed the words “Meet me after.”

Nick nodded and Adam said, “Ok Folks that’s it for me today. The

next lecturer up on the agenda for today is Mr. Jeff Belanger, he will be lecturing on The History of Ghosts, starting in about ½ an hour. I’ll be signing books out in the lobby, I hope you’ll join me there. Thank you very much.”

The crowd stood and erupted in to applause, Adam waved to the audience and left the stage. Immediately he was surrounded by a swarm of fans as they moved into the lobby of the University lecture hall. A nearby table sat laden with Adam’s books waiting to be sold. They flew off the table and soon the line was 20 people long, everyone waiting to get Adam’s John Hancock and to have their moment with him for either a photo shot or a question. Nick and Kysa wandered into the lobby and found a couch to sit on until Adam finished. Before long the crowd began to thin as the table emptied of book for sale. After the last person had their book signed Nick got up and went over to greet Adam.

“Hi Adam, I’m Nick Young. I took one of your classes last year at the University.”

“Really? you look a little young to be in college, Nick”

“Yes Sir, you’re right, I’m a senior in High School this year, I was taking your class for college credits.”

“Oh I see. I did get your email last week too. So tell me what’s going on, the situation sounded serious.”

“Thanks so much for listening and taking this seriously. It sounds a little crazy but I promise I’m telling you the truth.” Nick turned and motioned Kysa over from the couch were she sat waiting. “Adam, this is my friend Kysa.

“Hi Kysa, nice to meet you” Adam shook Kysa’s hand, immediately she felt comfortable with the thought of explaining this extraordinary situation to him.

“Well, I’ll start with my story. I wrote this story that I called Psychic, for a magazine I write for. The editor had called and said he needed a story quickly for a space he had to fill. The story had been buzzing around my head for a while and I thought it would be perfect for the magazine. Looking back now I realize I don’t really even remember writing the story. It seemed to just flow out onto the pages, almost as if I was there and just writing what I was seeing.”

“Hmmm, interesting” said Adam “What is the story about?”

“Well it’s about these twins, boy and a girl , they’re psychic and their Mom, who’s an ER nurse. She’s a non-believer so the conflict is between the kids as having this ability and their Mother’s struggle to believe and understand what her kids are going through.”

“Oh, Interesting, I like it.” said Adam.

“Well, then, in the story, there’s this terrorist. A middle eastern guy who’s being manipulated by his circumstances and long story short, he blows up a building. Now, here’s the weird part, I sent it to Kysa to read before I sent it to the mag, to get her feedback on it, and she calls me to ask where I got the story idea.”

Adam leaned forward in interest. “She said that the beginning of the story where I had written about her Ghost-hunting on an Investigation, had happened and it was the same as I had described in my story.”

Kysa cut in at this point. “Now I don’t mean similar, Adam, I’m talking exactly. There is a demon in Nicks story that he describes and I swear I saw the thing in this house I investigated. It dragged a little girl kicking and screaming through the wall and the other spirits he described where there too.” Kysa’s eyes were the size of saucers as she

---

## New Fiction from Nan Coleman

---

recalled the frightening encounter with the monster from Nick’s book.

“Oh no....so we are talking demons, huh? Adam sighed deeply and put a hand to his forehead. “Not good. Demons are insidious creatures....” he murmured to himself.

“There’s more.” said Nick “One of the other characters in the book, Elaine, she was the inspiration for the mother in the book, called a day or two, after Kysa. My mom had sent her the book and the day she read it the part that took place for her character came true also. She was so upset.”

“Was hers as similar too?” asked Adam.

“Yes, right down to the name I had used for a child in the hospital.” “Wow. Nick, I don’t know what to tell you. My first instinct is to tell you its got to be a coincidence, but I have to say that doesn’t feel right to me. I have another question for you. Why me? Why did you search me out?”

“Well, this is hard to say considering how the other characters have been pulled into the story, but I used your name too.” explained Nick.

“Oh interesting..... Well then there’s good news, nothing out of the ordinary has happened to me at all this week.”

“I thought about that too as we were driving over. Your character was more fictionalized than the other two.”

“Really how?”

“Well, he was a high school football player with the power to move heavy objects with the power of his mind. Really, the only similarity concerning the character and you was the name.”

Adam listened and thought about the situation. “Well this is interesting, so already the story has changed. And you said there was a Demon involved, correct?”

“Yes, I had written about a home that had experienced some satanic activity and was now possessed by a demon keeping the souls hostage at the home.”

“I find it interesting that of all the names to pick, you picked me and I’m a Demonologist. Probably one of the few people who could actually help you. So it’s possible we may be dealing with some divine intervention also.”

“Kysa and Nick looked at each other and smiled. This was something that gave them hope. They hadn’t considered the possibility that something good could be helping them. Nick said to Kysa, “That makes sense, I couldn’t understand why this was all happening to me, sorry, us. But now I think I know, this story is to show us what could happen. We need to stop it from happening. Stop this bomb before it goes off and kills someone or a lot of someones.”

“But Nick, we have no idea where to look or even what to look for?” Kysa pointed out.

“Well actually, I have an idea about that” intervened Adam. “I think the clues may be in Nicks manuscript. Do you have it with you?”

Kysa pulled her knapsack from her shoulder and said “Yes I have it right here.”

Nick sighed with relief as she pulled out a battered and dog-eared copy of Psychic. He hadn’t even thought to bring it with them. It was still on his computer but with all the chaos he never thought to print it out.

“I’ll tell you what, I think I need to read this. There’s a coffee shop

around the corner, let’s get a bite to eat and I’ll read the story if you guys don’t mind sitting around for a bit while I read.”

“That’s a good idea.” said Nick.

“I’m glad you agree because I’m starving. Let me grab my stuff and we’ll head over.

The group grabbed their belonging and walked a short distance to a local café to relax, read and order some food. While they ate their meal Adam took to opportunity to read Psychic. Kysa and Nick sat in relative silence watching Adam read. The story was a fast read and by the time Kysa ordered her second cup of coffee Adam was done.

“Well, what did you think?” asked Nick.

“I liked it” said Adam. “Your description of the demon and the home he possessed was creepy, so real when I read it. I really liked the Adam character, although I may be a bit biased.”

He smiled and winked at Kysa. She knew exactly what he meant, it was a little strange and exciting to read a character, that was based on yourself, in someone else’s story.

“I have to admit having that kind of gift, like the one Adam had would really be amazing.” Adam chuckled. “Ok, back to the story. Elaine is the character you mentioned from the Hospital, you said she had already witnessed her part, correct?”

“Yes, she called me about earlier this week, about 4 days ago now and told me.” answered Nick

“OK, so we can assume that the next thing will be the explosion, we could be talking hours, if we are lucky, days. One of the things that comes to mind is your description of the building. I think that its important. The second thing that comes to mind is the terrorist and the way he is being manipulated. I feel like this is a clue. I feel like it would be a mistake to only think a terrorist would be Middle Eastern. I’m going to go one step further, I believe the person we need to look for will be someone who is being manipulated. A classic trick of a demon is to manipulate someone to do its evil activities. But don’t kid yourselves it could be anyone, young, old, pretty, innocent, whatever. Keep your eyes open. I also think that us all being together is a clue also, the characters were all together after the explosion. So wherever and whenever this is going to occur I think it will involve all of us being together.” Adam finished his synopsis and looked at Nick and Kysa. “Well what do you all think?”

Kysa answered first. “That all makes sense to me and know I feel like at least we have some clues about what you can do.”

“Yeah but it still is just a waiting game. I mean how will we know what to do next?”

“I don’t think there is anything you can do but wait” answered Adam. “But consider this. The story was given to you for a reason. When the time comes whoever is giving you guidance will continue to provide clues for you to follow. Listen to your instincts, your inner voices. So many times our inner voices, whether they come from a higher being , source or simply our higher selves the answers are there. We just need to be quiet enough to hear them when they speak to us.”

Kysa and Adam still looked puzzled at the explanation. “Ok guys look at it this way. Have you ever talked to a real Psychic or read anything about actual Psychic ability?”

Nick answered “Well, I have read articles in the magazine I write for, written by Psychics.

[ Continued on Page 65 ]

---



---

---

## “Psychic”

---

[ Continued from Page 62 ]

“And what is the first thing they tell you, Nick?

“Oh I see, they always are talking about the idea that everyone has Psychic abilities, and it’s the degree to which you pay attention that shows how Psychic a person is.”

“Hmmm, I’ve read that too” commented Kysa “but I didn’t really believe it. Especially since I’ve never met anyone who even really believed what I do is anything but weird.”

“I know Kysa, we are all surrounded by skeptics but remember what I said in my lecture? It’s easy to be a skeptic, until you’ve seen something with your own eyes.”

Kysa nodded. “My friends in my Ghost-hunting group all believe me and it’s definitely because they’ve all seen things themselves.”

“Kysa, I didn’t know you were a Ghost hunter“ commented Adam. “That brings up a question for me.”

“Sure Adam, anything. What’s up?” asked Kysa.

“When you investigated the home that you said was exactly like the one in Nick’s story. Was that the first time you ever encountered a Demon?”

“No it’s not. Why do you ask?”

“Well, I touched on it in my lecture but I believe that Demons recognize and even seek out psychics because of their ability to see them. Not a possession but an interaction thought a human’s life time.”

“Well, I never actually saw the Demon I suspect was in a location I investigated. I never saw anything resembling a full body type apparition but what I do remember is hearing the flapping of giant wings and seeing piercing red eyes. I think what I remember the most about the situation was the feelings I had.”

“What do you mean?” asked Adam.

Nick listened intently. Kysa had never really gone into details about her experience.

“There was a feeling of extreme anger, but really more than that, hatred is a better word. I also felt an overwhelming feeling of wanting to kill. To kill someone, but I didn’t feel like I knew who I wanted to kill. But you know what? I knew these feelings weren’t mine. They felt completely alien to anything that I’ve ever felt before.” Kysa explained. “I know it doesn’t make any sense but that’s how it felt.”

“Actually, I know exactly what you mean Kysa,” Adam leaned over and took her hand. “I’ve heard that description before from people I’ve worked with on cases.” Nick could sense the relief Kysa felt as her body relaxed with understanding. He had never realized she was worried about the things she had experienced. But then again why wouldn’t she, he was only the writer of the story, she was the one who had to witness it, firsthand.

“Hey, you all gonna eat anything else, you been squattin on this table for owas. C’mon, girl’s gotta make a livin, ya know....” the waitress’s voice interrupted their discussion bringing them back to the present.

Adam startled, looked up and said, “Oh sorry, actually we’re done. Could we just have the check please?”

The waitress stared at them, nonplussed, cracking her gum. Without changing her expression or looking away, she tore the bill off the small green pad and slapped it on the linoleum tabletop. As she walked away she said over her shoulder “Pay at the register and uh,

have a nice day.” The group all looked at each other and burst out laughing, breaking the tension. The group of three headed out of the Café and said their goodbyes.

Adam gave Kysa a big hug and said “Hang in there kiddo I know first-hand how it feels to confront these creatures. If you ever need to talk just give my a call. Nick, said Adam it was a pleasure to meet you, again and I hope you will continue to write. I really enjoyed reading Psychic.”

“Thanks Adam, for everything. I will be in touch as soon as something significant happens.”

Adam paused and looked at his new friends.

“Somehow I think the situation will take care of itself. Go get some rest and stay in touch.”

Adam picked up his briefcase and disappeared into the late afternoon crowd of people, filling the streets.

“Ok then, I guess we wait.” said Nick to Kysa, watching him go. “Let’s head to my house.”

The two walked the short distance back to the lecture hall, picked up the car from the parking lot and rode home in silence, each contemplating events of the afternoon. They reached Nick’s home, parked the car in the driveway and headed inside.

“Dad? Dad, are you home? I brought Kysa with me.” Nick called into the silence of the house.

Kysa wandered over to the breakfast bar that separated the kitchen from the living room.

“Hey Nick, there’s a note here from your Dad” said Kysa.

Nick walked over and picked up the note from the counter.

Nick, had to go to a meeting in Chicago. Be back Sunday. There’s food in the fridge and your Mom called, call her when you get a chance. Give Kysa a hug for me! Love you, Dad

Nick rolled his eyes, jeez that man was so mushy sometimes, he thought smiling.

“Dad says Hi Kysa. He’ll be home Sunday so you can see him then.” “Cool, I love your Dad, Nick.” Kysa smiled. She would have given her left arm to have a Dad like Nick’s.

“So what should we do?” asked Nick.

“Adam said to just wait, so I guess we wait” said Kysa. “How about I make some popcorn and we watch a movie?”

“Sounds good, what did you have in mind?”

“Have you seen Case 39 with Renee Zellwinger? Great movie, I could watch it again if you haven’t seen it.”

“No I haven’t seen it yet.” answered Nick.

“Great, you find it on the Cable Demand and I’ll start the popcorn.” said Kysa, heading to the kitchen. Nick could hear her banging around looking for a good popcorn pot while he scanned the online movie menu.

Movie found and popcorn popped, Nick and Kysa settled in for the movie. Nick was exhausted from the long day and laid down on the couch. I should sit up before I fall asleep, was Nick’s last conscious thought as he drifted off to sleep. He flowed through a warm sea of black, rolling and moving with the tide of deep sleep. He dreamt of nothing.

---

---

## New Paranormal Fiction from Nan Coleman

---

The hum of test patterns woke him from his rest. Drifting in and out of sleepy unconsciousness, he saw Kysa sound asleep of the couch across from him, her soft snoring made him smile as he waited to fall back to sleep.

“Hey”

Nick heard a male voice. Groggily he opened his eyes, still hovering between this world and Lala Land. Before him stood a man dressed in a white tunic type outfit covered by a gold breast plate, a golden sword hung by his side and carrying a gold helmet under his arm.

“Hey” the man said again “Are you awake?”

Nick blinked his eyes and shook his head to clear it, wondering if he was having some kind of weird dream. The man laughed.

“Feels like you’re still asleep, huh? I know. Relax, it’s the only way I can appear to you. I wouldn’t want your brain to explode.”

“Am I dreaming you?” asked Nick

The man ignored the question. “Listen I only have a minute, just hear me out. I’m here to give you some help. God sent me. I have a message from the Big Guy himself for you.”

Nick’s jaw dropped. God has a message for me?, he thought.

“Yes and I don’t have a lot of time to explain. The message is: The clues are in your story.”

That’s it? thought Nick what kind of message is that?

“Hey, no need to get pissy kid,” responded the man, “I’m just the messenger. That’s what I supposed to tell you. Oh and that we’ve got your back.”

Okay... thanks, I think.... Nick thought.

“No problem, kid and Good Luck you’re going to need it.”

Next to the man, a blinding white light appeared. Nick gasped in pain from the brightness.

“Michael, tone it down, he’s only human” Nick heard one say to the other.

“Oops sorry, Gabriel. Come on we gotta go, Now. There’s a problem over in the Sudan. Lucifer is riling things up over there and Peter needs some help getting everyone checked in.”

“Well, Good Luck kid” said Gabriel to Nick. “See you soon, I think in about 72 years, give or take.....”

And with that the men disappeared into thin air. Nick rolled over and fell back to sleep.

The morning sun rose and hit Nick in the face through the living room window. Why didn’t I shut the blinds he thought as he sat up on one elbow, rubbing his eyes. The dream from the night before slammed into his memory and he instantly became awake.

“What the hell was that? he said aloud, his mind reviewing what he remembered. “Holy Shit, Kysa, Kysa wake up!!!!”

“What? Jesus, Nick. What time is it? Is that the frigging sun rising? Ugghhh, I’m going to kill you” she said into her pillow as she rolled over onto her stomach, ignoring him.

Nick sat there in silence thinking about what had happened last night. It wasn’t a dream, he thought, he was awake the whole time that guy had spoken to him. What was his name? Gabriel popped into his head in response to his question. GABRIEL??? The frigging Gabriel from the Bible, Gabriel? He said he was a messenger from God. Jesus,

he thought and then quickly apologized, completely weirded out by the thought of who could be listening.

He swore he heard laughter in his head. And that other one, Michael... talking about a guy named Peter.

“KYSA, wake up NOW. I am freaking out.” Kysa groaned and uncovered her head.

“WHAT? What’s wrong?”

“I had the craziest thing happen last night. You are not going to believe this.”

“I’m not going to believe you? That’s rich.” smirked Kysa. “What’s wrong with you this morning?”

Nick quickly, in what seemed like one breath, blurted out the story of what he had seen and heard the night before. Kysa listened and sat their with her mouth hanging open when she realized who he claimed had come to him.

“Wow... YOU ARE SO FRIGGIN LUCKY!” Kysa screamed. “I would give anything...”

“Kysa..”

“Why you? I am so jealous all I’ve gotten...”

“Kysa...”

“...to see is some foul looking..”

“Kysa...

“...Demon, never any thing like an ANGEL!”

“KYSA!”

“What? Oh sorry Nick, I just can’t believe how awesome that is.”

“So you believe me?”

“Of course I do, why wouldn’t I?

Nick looked at her and raised an eyebrow “Oh I don’t know, why do you think?

“Nick seriously, look at it this way. If there are Demons then it only makes sense that there are Angels. Remember what Adam said in his lecture? Angels are involved in a war with Satan.”

“I had forgotten that, hmmm, know what else? The guy, Gabriel, was wearing armor and had a sword. They mentioned Lucifer too, not Satan.” “Lucifer, Satan, whatever... I know who you mean. Soooo....”

“So, what?” asked Nick.

“What was the message?”

“Oh yeah, the message, I almost forgot. Let me think...the message...” Nick reviewed everything in his head trying to remember the message Gabriel had told him. He drew a blank, in all the excitement of the stranger’s appearance he had forgotten the stupid message. Nick thumped the palm of his hand repeatedly against his forehead, as if this would help him to remember.

“Nick stop it, you’re going to get a headache. Relax and stop trying, it will come to you.” said Kysa. “I’ll go make some breakfast.” She got up from the couch and headed to the kitchen in search of eggs.

Nick sat on the couch, staring at nothing, furious at himself for not remembering the one thing he was supposed to remember. Soon the smells of sausage cooking pulled him into the present, he went to sit at the table and eat the breakfast Kysa had made for them. Everything



## “Psychic”

was delicious, at least it smelled delicious, Nick was so distracted he could have been eating cardboard and not notice the difference.

“Earth to Nick, Earth to Nick...”

“What? Oh I’m sorry Kysa. I just can’t stop thinking about last night. I know the message had something to do with figuring out what we are supposed to be doing. It’s right on the tip of my tongue, but I just can’t...” Nick shook his head in frustration.

“Ok, I have an idea Nick. Let’s talk about something else. Maybe you are just trying to hard.”

“Fine” Nick said resigned. “What should we talk about?”

“Hmm,” said Kysa. “Well, what should we do today?”

“You mean besides figure out where some total whack job is going to blow up a bunch of people?” Nick said sarcastically.

Kysa gave Nick a look. “You’re funny.” she said dryly.

“Sorry ok, I don’t know, what do you want to do today?”

“Hey isn’t today the day Paranormal Viewpoint comes out on the stand?”

In all the excitement Nick had forgotten the Mag came out today.

“Lets take a walk and head down to the store. We can pick up a couple of copies for you to send out to your relatives.” said Kysa

“Yeah, that’s a good idea, my Aunt, Uncle and Grandparents don’t subscribe, I always just send them the issues I have articles and stories in.”

“Cool. I cooked, so you can clean up. I’m going to jump in the shower” said Kysa, heading to the bathroom to get ready.

Nick quickly cleaned up the kitchen and got ready to go. They headed out to the store walking the short distance to the town center, chatting about their plans for the rest of the day. They entered the Convenient stare and there on the rack by the door was the magazine. The cover featured a beautiful female vampire with claws and fangs ripping into the throat of a Werewolf.

Nick chuckled, Dave was so dramatic. Well, at least they weren’t making out or all sparkly or I’d have to puke, thought Nick, regarding the current obsession with paranormal romance. He studied the cover and noticed in the top corner the words New Fiction: Psychic, read at your own risk....

What? thought Nick, its not that scary, I should have added more blood and gore. Well, I could always do a sequel. Nick flipped through the pages to the story. He admired the unique artwork Dave had added to the front page of the story, a hand reaching out of a pile of rubble grasping at nothing. Very nice he thought.

“Kysa, check this out.” Nick said showing her the picture.

“Nice, very creepy looking. You should probably read through it and see if your Editor changed anything.”

“Yeah, I should read through it...read through it, why does that sound familiar. READ THROUGH IT KYSA That’s it!!” Nick yelled, grabbing and kissing Kysa in his excitement.

“The clues, that’s what Gabriel told me last night. The clues are in the story. You know, Adam said the same thing the other day. How could I have forgotten that?”

Nick snatched another copy of the magazine off the shelf and quickly went to the counter to pay for them.

“Here,” walking back Nick thrust the mag into Kysa’s hand “read

the story and see if anything sounds like a place around here that’s similar to the one in the story.”

The two quickly sat down at a sidewalk table and began to read through the story looking for a clue to the location of the bombing.

“Nick, what about this part? You described the building as all glass, and reflecting the sunset. What building do we have in the area that fits that description?”

“I can think of several off the top of my head but wait, here I said something about the building being a financial center and then a little later talk about pulling kids from a crushed daycare center. Oh my god, Kysa... I know where it is...”

“Where?” questioned Kysa.

“The James Monroe Financial Center. Even the name is similar. Get it. Jefferson and James Monroe?” said Nick, excitedly.

“Where is it? I don’t remember that building,” Kysa looked puzzled.

“You wouldn’t, it was built when they renovated the River Front after you had already moved to California.”

“Oh. Well, what are we waiting for? Let’s go.”

“Crap we didn’t drive, we’ll have to run back to the house.”

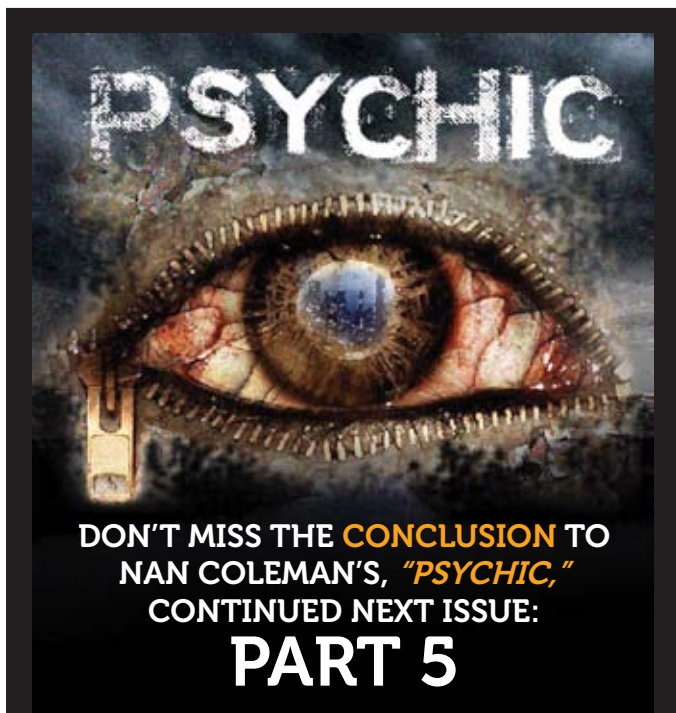
“Great, I’m so glad I showered.” said Kysa, sarcastically.

“Take the magazines, Let’s go.” Kysa grabbed them off the table, as they took off running the short distance back to Nick’s home.

Entering the house Nick realized he had left the TV on while they were gone. On the screen was a news report with the Reporter standing in front of an all glass building

“Kysa,” Nick choked out “Look at the TV.”

Kysa looked over and her mouth dropped open as she listened to the Reporter say “Here we are folks in front of the James Madison Building, celebrating its 5th year of existence located here on the busy Riverfront....” 📌

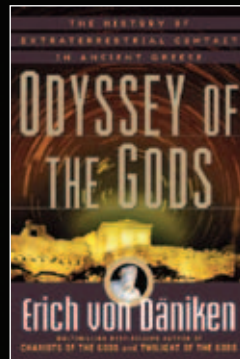


## Exposed, Uncovered, and Declassified: Ghosts, Spirits, & Hauntings

Am I Being Haunted?

Original Essays From Loyd Auerbach, Joshua P. Warren, Andrew Nichols, and Many More

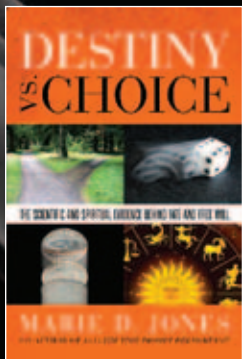
EAN 978-1-60163-174-9  
U.S. \$15.99 (Can. \$18.95)



## Odyssey of the Gods

The History of Extraterrestrial Contact

Erich von Däniken  
EAN 978-1-60163-192-3  
U.S. \$17.99 (Can. \$19.95)



## Destiny vs. Choice

The Scientific and Spiritual Evidence Behind Facts and Free Will

Marie D. Jones

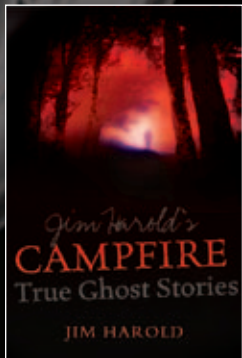
EAN 978-1-60163-156-5  
U.S. \$15.99 (Can. \$18.95)



## The World’s Most Haunted Places

REVISED EDITION  
From the Secret Files of Ghostvillage.com

Jeff Belanger  
EAN 978-1-60163-193-0  
U.S. \$15.99 (Can. \$17.95)



## Jim Harold’s Campfire: True Ghost Stories

Jim Harold

EAN 978-1-60163-194-7  
U.S. \$14.99 (Can. \$16.95)



## The World’s Creepiest Places

Dr. Bob Curran  
Illustrated by Ian Daniels

EAN 978-1-60163-190-9  
U.S. \$15.99 (Can. \$17.95)



NEW PAGE BOOKS

A Division of Career Press  
NewPageBooks.com  
NewPageBooks.blogspot.com



[ Continued from Page 20 ]

he was showing me what toll being in that room during all of those executions had taken on him. I did not pry further.

Over the next several weeks following my interview with Jim, I began to think about the inmates themselves, and what life was like for them on the row. Did they often think about the crimes that they had committed to get to where they were? How did it feel when their death sentence was handed down? What was their first night in prison like? I had so many questions, and to answer them, I had to go directly to the source and ask the inmates themselves.

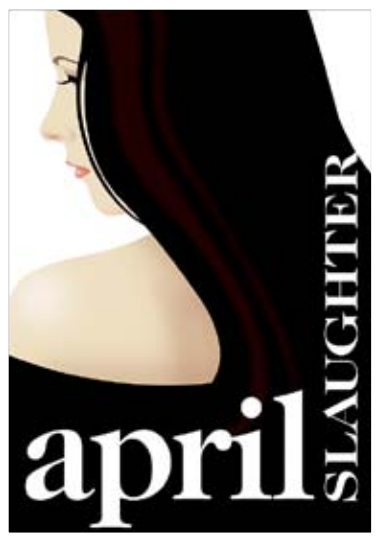
As I began to draft letters to inmates on Death Row for this particular project, I tried to put aside my own personal judgments with regard to their crimes so that I could objectively ask questions without injecting my own biases into the research. This project is not driven by my desire to sway the public either in favor of capital punishment or against it. I simply want to share information from various perspectives in the hope that something new is learned and an open dialogue occurs.

As a rule, I only exchange letters with one inmate at any given facility at a time, so as not to incite discord among the prison population. At present, I correspond with seven inmates in various states throughout the country.

The first letter response I received was not as positive as I had hoped it would be. An individual serving time in San Quentin sent me a letter written entirely in gothic calligraphy, declining to assist me with the project and making it abundantly clear that he did not appreciate my contacting him.

"Thank you for your letter. No, I am not at all interested in reopening the wounds of my case and slowly bleeding for the entertainment and profit for others." He went on to conclude his letter by stating, "While many of the condemned accept and welcome our fate, we wish the dignity of not becoming side shows in the process."

Clearly, he misunderstood my intention entirely. Every other individual I have been in contact with has been largely cooperative and understands the scope of what I am trying to accomplish. In the next installment of this article series, I will be sharing insights from inmates as well as those who work (or have worked) in the corrections system. You might be surprised at what they have to say. ♣



April  
Slaughter's  
*Death  
House  
Diary*  
will be  
continued  
NEXT  
ISSUE.

[www.aprilslaughter.com](http://www.aprilslaughter.com)  
[www.aprilslaughter.wordpress.com](http://www.aprilslaughter.wordpress.com)  
E-mail: [contact@aprilslaughter.com](mailto:contact@aprilslaughter.com)

[ Continued from Page 26 ]

decides to kill herself. The ending of this film shows Victor in death being placed on a funeral pyre, with the monster choosing to join him. There is closure here where in the book that isn't really obtained. Shelley ends it with the monster saying he will go as far north as he can and kill himself, but you are left seeing him float away on a sheet of ice, never really knowing what became of it. This type of ending would not be as satisfying for a modern movie and audience, and leaves me believing her work should not be recreated exactly the way it is written for the screen.

At the core of the reanimation sequence in the 1931 film version, you see Frankenstein using a table that lifts high in the air through an opening in the roof where the monster is exposed to the elements. A bad storm happens to be occurring at that time, and lightning becomes the catalyst to the experiment, giving the creature life. In the 1994 film, Frankenstein uses electric eels as the main source of current. The eels are stored in a womb-like sac suspended from the ceiling that undulates as they swim inside. At the precise moment, he releases them into a tank filled with amniotic fluid that houses the monster. The eels shock the creature back to life, along with various other instruments. Two very different methods, yet the basic premise is the same. Electricity will reanimate the corpse.

There have been many studies on this subject since Luigi Galvani's experiments on frog legs. In the 1920's, Soviet scientists used a machine called an Autojector to keep a disembodied dog head alive for short periods of time after it had been removed from the body. It was also successful in keeping a canine heart beating once it had been detached from the body, as well. Other experiments are performed today to try and reanimate animals with minimal or no lasting damage. The goal is to cheat death, but questions on the practice lie in the moral and ethical realm. Should they be performed at all?

Much practical research has been done involving exposing different parts of the body that are experiencing paralysis to reanimation techniques. However, there is a completely different premise when applying these methods rather than attempting to bring someone back from the dead all together.

A current trend in books and movies is the subject of zombies and vampires. Both of these can be thought of as a form of reanimation. Zombies are deceased humans who are brought back to life often by a pandemic virus, which can be spread by receiving a bite from an infected individual. Vampires, also known as the undead, are also humans who have been bitten by another vampire, drained of their blood, and then turned into an immortal being. Both of these creatures can be killed. Zombies need to have their brain destroyed, usually by blunt trauma, whereas vampires need to be staked through the heart. Coincidentally, Lord Byron's story from the friendly challenge was written about vampire legends from the Balkans. John Polidori later expounded upon Byron's story, and the novel, "The Vampyre", was published in 1819. This book has claim to being a starting point for the current vampire romance genre. It is fascinating to think that a group of friends informal contest would result in these two famous manuscripts.

Real life instances of zombies can be found in Haiti where voodoo practices that have been utilized for many decades result in a type of reanimation that renders humans into what they term zombies. An author and anthropologist, Zora Neale Hurston, was staying in Haiti in 1937 to complete research in the subject of folklore when she found out about a woman who had appeared in a village some thirty years after her death and burial. She was one of the first known zombies. A Harvard ethnobotanist, Wade Davis, traveled to Haiti in 1982 and performed his own investigation into the zombie mythos. He concluded that a person could be turned into a zombie by the administration of two special powders into the blood stream. The powders, one tetrodotoxin (TTX) and the other being comprised of datura and other dissociative drugs, would cause a state much like death where the person would have no free will and eventually

become completely under the control of what is known as a bokor. A bokor is a type of sorcerer or priest that practices both dark and light magic. The creation of zombies here would be considered dark magic.

The process is as follows. Once the person has received the drugs, they appear dead for a brief period of time, awakening to exhibit behaviors such as a mask-like face, lurching and swaying movements, inability to speak resulting in incoherent moans, and dull, glazed eyes.

When the first drug is given, the victim falls into a coma, which is mistaken for death. The tetrodotoxin is a neurotoxin found in pufferfish. It can be fatal, but poisoning from the drug gives a variety of symptoms including numbness and paralysis. They are then buried, and dug up by the bokor. The other drugs are given afterward, leaving the person in a state of psychosis that allows the bokor to assume control over them. The individuals are usually unable to articulate very well, and along with their appearance, they have the markers of the zombie that we are familiar with. The local Haitians do not fear the zombies themselves; however, they go to great lengths to ensure family members are not able to be turned into one at death. They stand guard over graves until the body has decayed sufficiently, cut the heads off of corpses, or pierce their hearts, all to keep them from being able to reanimate.

There is a social stigma attached to the process. History has the Haitians falling prey to the slave trade, so it is theorized that once the person is under the influence of the potent drugs, the bokor is easily able to convince them that they are indeed dead, and are now mindless slaves there to do his bidding. The zombies are often found hanging around graveyards, ironically, and generally stay away from other people. In this respect, reality is truly more horrific than fiction.

The subject of people coming back from the dead will probably be around for a very long time. So long as there are people with the desire to watch the movies, or read the books, the demand will be there, and those of us who like to write the stories will keep supplying them. New twists and spins are inevitable, but the core remains the same.

Now that we are nearing the spookiest time of the year, and with Halloween quickly approaching, there will surely be many zombies and vampires roaming about. Maybe even a Frankenstein or two. Keep in mind that somewhere in a lab, not so far away, someone is applying a specific dosage of current to dead tissue in the hopes that there will be life again. And maybe, just maybe, they will succeed. Sleep on that one, and have a happy and safe Halloween. ♣

### Amber Keller

is an English major with eBooks published under a pseudonym. She is a published poet and has two horror novels in the works and has written articles for Associated Content and the Yahoo Contributor Network.



Amber is a member of the Horror Writers Association, as well as Savvy Authors.

You can visit her blog for interesting facts about creatures, author interviews, blog tours, and book reviews.

<http://adiaryofawriter.blogspot.com>



# HONOR

IS THE GIFT A CREATURE  
CAN ONLY GIVE HIMSELF.



The Rollicking Adventures of  
**TAM O'HARE**

written & illustrated by scotty roberts

**BARNES & NOBLE** .com

[www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com)

[tamohare.com](http://tamohare.com) • [twitter.com/scottyroberts](https://twitter.com/scottyroberts) • [MorganJamesPublishing.com](http://MorganJamesPublishing.com)