

Report

Frequencies of Mystical Experiences During NDEs & Faith

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Abstract

A sample frequency estimate for experiencing God, Jesus, and other major religious figures is developed based on a recent collection of NDE reports. This pilot study about deity experience appears to warrant further research to increase the sample size and scope of investigation about the nature of near death, spiritually transformative, and out of body experiences.

Keywords: Mystical experience, frequency, near death experience, faith, God.

Recently archived near death experience reports (“NDE”) on NDERF totaling 62 were studied to develop a sample frequency estimate for experiencing God, Jesus, and other major religious figures [1].

Nine categories of information were defined for scoring:

1. Agnostic, atheist, New Age, or nothing before the NDE
2. Christian affiliation
3. Non-Christian to include Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist
4. Experience of a mystical light
5. Experiencing God as a huge zone of light that enveloped the spirit
6. Experiencing God as a being with personality
7. Experiencing Jesus as a personality
8. No experience of light or a deity during an Out of Body Experience
9. A hellish experience.

Scoring for these categories was supported by answers to the NDERF questionnaire that directly asked about these kinds of experience.

Unfortunately, for "purely clean" scoring, these categories proved not to be mutually exclusive, as multiple elements were reported for the experience. For example, in one report there was a mystical light at first, then it developed into a huge zone and was experienced as God, and then Jesus was also experienced, so 4., 5., and 7. were checked. One unanticipated finding was a glaringly large disproportion of NDEs for those who did not profess belief in God.

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According to a 2017 USA research estimate by Pew reported by The Atlantic [2], 63% definitely believe in God regardless of religious affiliation, leaving 37% who do not or are uncertain. A recent academic study [3] estimated that 26% of Americans do not believe in God.

So, it is fair to set 37% as an estimate of the agnostic/atheist percentage. In this sample of 62 NDE reports, 56% were agnostic or atheist or not willing to commit to belief in God (category 1.). A test to estimate if 56% is statistically significantly different from the population baseline of 37% (using 26% would have produced a higher level of significance) yielded a Z value (2.6) which is significant for a reliable difference at a probability of .009, which is a stronger result than the .05 level generally used to decide if there were a reliable difference. Thus, it appears that NDEs are more frequent for those who do not already have belief in God, possibly suggesting that wake-up calls for a life course correction are more frequent for those not having faith in a supreme being.

There were four Muslims in this sample. Two experienced only a mystical light, and the other two had an OBE without contact with God experienced. Muhammad was not experienced. There was one Buddhist and his experience was in category 5 of immersion in a huge zone of light that produced "incredible joy." He did not see any image of Buddha, but decided it was apt to label this light as Buddha. Jesus was reported to have been experienced by 13 %, while God was experienced (from categories 5 and 6) by 29%, with two experiences as personal (6). There were two hellish experiences reported (9).

One striking result was the dominance of category 4, as 63% reported being immersed in a mystical light. . This finding appears to support the Tripartite Domain Theory of *Space, Time, and Consciousness, Part 3* [4] which theorizes that the 2nd Domain, ordinarily termed Heaven, is a universal field of consciousness functioning as a medium for light, with all entities existing in this Domain manifesting as forms of light (the 1st Domain is God alone, and the 3rd is the material Domain in which we live).

This pilot study about deity experience appears to warrant further research to increase the sample size and scope of investigation about the nature of near death, spiritually transformative, and out of body experiences.

References

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