

# Discovering Our Spiritual-Based Reality

By Douglas Kinney

In the Foreword to *Frontiers of Knowledge*, Dr. Herbert L. Calhoun writes:

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, the puzzles and anomalies of quantum physics . . . have raised a continuous stream of unanswered questions. Many of them take on a different coloring once they are viewed through the lens of a new broader paradigm that includes, among others, the deeper implications of the spiritual side of human existence.

This new direction is so clear that there now seems to be general consensus that the two sides [science and spirituality] have finally started moving closer together. . . . and the larger crossover is from the scientific side to the spiritual side . . .

. . . Mr. Kinney in *Frontiers of Knowledge* has one overriding goal: to bring the readers up to the very frontier of contemporary understanding about the state of our reality . . . [and] the author argues convincingly that we are now on the threshold of a new revolution—a paradigm shift, as it were—leaning strongly in the direction of more systematic investigations into what previously has been described as “unusual spiritual” phenomena. If he is correct, and I think he is, then previous competing paradigms of reality . . . will have reached a natural point of convergence where cross-fertilization is not only likely but may be the only logical next step. That convergence will occur when the quantum revolution is finally completed by satisfactorily resolving the role of human consciousness.

In this sense, *Frontier of Knowledge* is as much a progress or status report on where we stand regarding each of these separate but parallel projects—scientific anomalies and unusual consciousness-spiritual experiences—and how they are to best be integrated into one unified paradigm of reality.

In this short document, I have prepared for the reader samples of this new reality using excerpts of key concepts and their supporting information from *Frontiers of Knowledge*. These will give you a “front row seat” to the exciting new developments that are revolutionizing our understanding of reality.

## View of Reality at the Frontiers of Science

If consciousness is behind physical reality as quantum physics expresses it, and if unusual consciousness and

spiritual experiences are real, then we would expect to see traces, or hints, of consciousness in the observed phenomenology of other scientific disciplines. I and others believe we have found these traces. Following are samples from cosmology (physics of astronomy), biology, mind, and consciousness:

- Cosmologists have found that several dozen of the physical constants or ratios in our universe are phenomenally “fine-tuned” to support the stability of stars and the existence of life. Could cosmic consciousness in some form be the source of this fine-tuning?
- In evolutionary biology, something more than DNA appears to be required for the development and evolution of complex organisms such as humans. One proposed explanation includes species wide subtle-energy fields, each containing a given species’ evolutionary information. A species’ field must “connect” in some manner to each member of the species. Might this be through our individual subtle-energy fields that energy healers and martial-arts experts are able to sense?
- Consciousness research on humans with multiple personalities provides evidence for the psychological reality of secondary centers of consciousness: more than one personality existing within a single human mind. In some cases, each personality seems to create different bodily responses to allergies and medications.
- Another type of consciousness research, covering near-death experiences (NDEs), is providing information—some in the form of evidence—that the mind can exist as (or is) a nonphysical entity. In many NDEs, individuals describe viewing their “death” scenes from a perspective outside their unconscious bodies and “come back” with descriptions of a nonphysical realm. Some of the NDE out-of-body “viewings” have been verified.

The role of consciousness in quantum physics and cosmology was best expressed by John Wheeler, one of 20th-century’s top quantum physicists, when he said, “the essence of all physical objects is in their information, but this information came into being when the universe observed itself.” This is in many respects a strangely circular concept, and it brings up

the following questions: Who did the observing, and what is being observed, especially before the birth of our universe? I present my views on this in a later section.

### **Universal Energy and Information Field**

At the heart of the new scientific paradigm is posited a fundamental universal field of energy and information that forms and connects all matter and life. This field has been wonderfully introduced in Lynne McTaggart's *The Field: The Quest for the Secret Force of the Universe* and Ervin Laszlo's *Science and the Akashic Field*. This new field concept—labeled the zero point field (ZPF) and the Akashic field by McTaggart's scientists and Laszlo, respectively—offers explanations for many scientific anomalies and represents a fundamentally new scientific worldview.

Laszlo writes that hints of this field are present in many of the world's spiritual traditions and beliefs, especially Eastern ones, such as the Hindu concept of the Akasha and the Chinese Taoist belief that a basic nonphysical energy called Qi pervades all life, but its application to scientific phenomena is a new development. I believe that this nonphysical energy field was and is still being used by nonphysical intelligence sources to create our universe and direct its evolution. Let us look at some of the information and evidence supporting this.

### **The Fine-Tuned Universe**

The degree of fine-tuning in the universe is staggering. Laszlo's book and Michio Kaku's *Parallel Worlds* describe key aspects of this phenomena. Both note that about three dozen physical parameters are finely tuned to create the universe we have—one that is reasonably stable and can support life. From Kaku and Laszlo, I have gathered in *Frontiers of Knowledge* four key examples of universal fine-tuning:

1. If the universe's early expansion rate had been one-billionth less, the universe would have re-collapsed almost immediately; if one-billionth more, the universe would have flown apart so fast that stars would not have been created.
2. If the weak nuclear force were much weaker, all the hydrogen in the cosmos would have turned to helium in the early universe, and hence there would be no normal stars. If it were much stronger, exploding supernovas would not have ejected their

outer envelopes, and hence would have failed to seed interstellar space with heavy elements (for example, carbon) that are required to create life.

3. A small difference (by one-billionth) in the ratio of the strength of the electromagnetic field to the gravitational field would have prevented the existence of hot and stable stars.
4. If the difference between the mass of the neutron and the proton were not precisely twice the mass of the electron, no substantial chemical reactions would take place and the universe would consist of nothing more than radiation and a relatively uniform mixture of gases.

Kaku found the large number of fine-tuned parameters, constants, and ratios to be “shocking,” and he writes, “If a single one of these accidents were altered, stars would never form, the universe would fly apart . . . life as we know it would be impossible.”

Laszlo cites the famous mathematical physicist Roger Penrose's calculation on the basic impossibility of our universe existing through random permutations: only one in 10 to the 10<sup>123</sup>, an inconceivably large number. This makes implausible the explanation offered by many theoretical physicists, the multiverse concept (based on the superstring theory) that there are billions and billions of parallel universes, each with different laws of nature, and our universe being the only one in which the laws support life as we know it.

We also need to mention the unknown nature of over 95 percent of the universe's matter and energy, currently labeled dark matter and dark energy. I believe that we will discover that subtle-energy dimensions and fields are involved.

### **Earth's “Goldilocks” Conditions**

Another aspect of universal fine-tuning is present in what Kaku describes as the “Goldilocks zone” for the conditions in our solar system that are *just right* to allow complex life forms to be created and evolve on Earth:

1. The nearly circular orbits of the planets in our solar system minimize the chances of planet collisions.
2. The presence of a large planet the size of Jupiter helps keep many asteroids from us.
3. Moon is just the right size to stabilize Earth's orbit and not allow drastic shifts in its axis of spin.

4. Earth is just the right distance from the Sun for liquid water conditions.
5. The size of Earth is large enough to keep oxygen from escaping into space.

To me the above fine-tuned and/or unusual conditions in our universe and solar system suggest a nonphysical consciousness source. Let me next start connecting this consciousness with the human mind.

### Holographic Mind and Unusual Expressions

We have all seen many accounts from brain researchers in the popular press and television of brain scans showing how specific cognitive brain functions (for example vision and hearing) have very precise locations within the brain for both humans and animals. But McTaggart in *The Field* cites findings from brain researcher Karl Pribram and others that the actual processing of information relative to a given function is not carried out by a particular group of brain cells but is distributed throughout the brain.

In experiments in which the optical nerves of cats were almost completely severed, a researcher found that the cats' vision was not greatly diminished. In the conventional scientific theory of vision, a mammal's brain creates the equivalent of an internal movie screen from its sensory input through the optical nerve. If its optical nerve is mostly severed, a mammal should see only a very small portion of the screen because it would be the equivalent of blocking most of the projector lens. Obviously in this experiment some other process for vision is occurring.

Pribram and Dennis Gabor—the Nobel Prize laureate in physics for his discovery of holography—had the insight that visual information (and probably that from other body senses) are processed in the brain as complex-frequency information. In this process, the linear-domain information (for example, objects in space relative to each other) are transformed into the frequency domain by Fourier transforms, a classical engineering signal-processing technique.

They hypothesized that the brain communicates within itself to process the visual information using wave (frequency) functions and not bits of information. Pribram believes that frequency information is processed as holograms.

McTaggart cites experiments by the DeValois team supporting this hypothesis. They found that the brains

of cats and monkeys responded not to simple plaid and checkerboard patterns but to the interference patterns of the component waves (also true for humans too). This is illustrated in figure 1 with the comparison of a checkerboard pattern in linear space with the Fourier transform in frequency space. The transformed frequency-space pattern on the right shows a rectangular pattern of small circles in which the intensity of the circles decrease in proportion to their distance from the center: a pattern that is significantly different from the linear space pattern on the left.

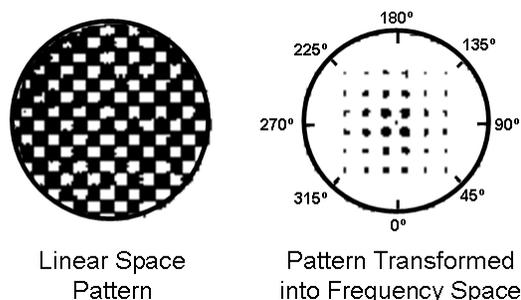


Figure 1. Transformation of Checkerboard Pattern to Its Fourier Transform in the Holographic Mind's Frequency Space

Let me next illustrate how the concept of a human holographic mind can explain some of the stranger mind-body consciousness phenomena.

### Transplant of Memories

The concept of organ transplants passing along the memories and personality traits of their donors first came to the attention of the public in the 1990s in published anecdotes.

Paul Pearsall, a psychoneuroimmunologist, has researched the transference of memories through organ transplantation, and his book *The Heart's Code*, presents many descriptive accounts of this phenomenon. One of Pearsall's cases documents the changes in attitudes, habits, and tastes experienced by Claire Sylvia after she received a heart and lung transplant in the late 1970s. Formerly a professional dancer and health enthusiast, Sylvia found herself patronizing fast-food restaurants, adding cool colors to her red-dominant wardrobe, and acting out "in an aggressive and impetuous manner." All of these behaviors matched the inclinations of the donor as reported by his associates or other evidence.

I and others believe that this transfer of memories and traits from one human to another could only occur if mind exists in a holographic, nonphysical form; that is, in a subtle-energy field. Evidence for this is found in NDE studies, which I summarize next.

### **Scientific and Systematic Studies of NDEs**

*Frontiers of Knowledge* presents three NDE studies that provide a strong degree of proof for the reality of NDEs:

1. Medical procedures and conversations that occurred in Pam Reynolds' very unusual medical operation were observed by her in an out-of-body experience (OBE) and later verified
2. NDE study of blind people by Ring and Cooper in which most experienced vision in their NDEs
3. A Dutch study's prospective approach that included all patients who had temporarily died from cardiac arrest

The second study included 21 cases of visual perception by the blind during their NDEs. In their statistical summary, Ring and Cooper stated: 15 of the 21 NDEs and 9 of the 10 OBEs reported that they could see during their experience, while the remaining participants either claimed that they did not see or were not sure whether they could see.

All but one of the six NDEs who did not positively report visual experiences had been blind from birth. Of these, Ring and Cooper write, "Nevertheless, it is not clear by any means whether those respondents, blind from birth, who claim not to have seen were in fact unable to see, or whether they simply failed to recognize what seeing was." One man classified as a nonvisualizer told them that "I don't know what you mean by 'seeing.'" Others had similar confusion.

The Dutch NDE study team conducted statistical analysis on all results in an attempt to identify significant factors related to NDEs, but van Lommel writes that none were identified that provided any real insight into why some of the cardiac arrest patients had NDEs and most did not. For example, there was no difference in the time the NDEs and the control group members were unconscious from their cardiac arrest.

The study also examined specific physiological and psychological factors that NDE critics have proposed as the source of NDEs, but they could not find any support for proposed causes from their statistical

analysis. A favorite physiological factor used by critics to explain NDE-like experiences is oxygen deficiency in the brain (anoxia). This can easily occur in cardiac arrests. But van Lommel points out that if anoxia were a true cause of NDEs, then all of the patients in the large non-NDE control group should have reported NDEs.

Van Lommel states "Looking at the interaction between consciousness and the brain, we concluded that consciousness cannot be seen as the product of brain function." If van Lommel is right about consciousness not coming from or being produced by the physical brain, what is its source? I posit it is the soul. Let's next look at the findings from the investigation of reincarnation that support the existence of souls.

### **Scientific & Systematic Studies of Reincarnation**

In *Frontiers of Knowledge*, I present overviews of the three important investigations of reincarnation:

1. Documented cases of the children-who-remember (CWR) phenomenon: children (usually two to seven) whose remembered past life can be more real than their current one.
2. A historical past-life group regression study by Helen Wambach, a psychologist.
3. Investigations by Walter Semkiw, a medical doctor, that show individuals tend to reincarnate with the same appearance, personality traits, and companions in each lifetime.

The CWR investigations were started by Ian Stevenson at the University of Virginia (UVA) in the late 1960s and are being continued by Jim Tucker. UVA has a large number of CWR cases in their CWR database—some of which cover children's memories of between-lives experiences before their rebirth.

Stevenson's efforts have been prolific with many publications and books. These include research findings in which some of these children are born with birthmarks that correspond to the wounds that contributed to their death in their last past life.

In the 1970s, Wambach applied social-science research principles in her design and execution of a group-regression past-life study. In it, she created a large past-life statistical database of historical societal trends spanning four thousand years that could be compared to known historical data. Her data show that

almost all past-life remembrances were for lives as poor or “middle-class” existences—not those of famous people. Also her mostly female subjects remembered both male and female lives.

The following cases are samples from Walter Semkiw’s book, *Return of the Revolutionaries*. The first is about Jeffrey Keene, an assistant fire chief, who had spontaneous experiences of grief, sadness, and anger when visiting the Sunken Road at the Sharpsburg, Maryland, Civil War Antietam battle site.

A year and a half later he had a reading by a clairvoyant who told Keene that he had been a soldier shot full of holes at the Sunken Road battlefield. She went on to say that Keene, as the soldier, had an out-of-body experience during that battle and yelled “No!” Keene corrected Barbara and exclaimed, “Not yet!”

He didn’t know why he had said that, but in researching the battle the next day, he found that the order “Not yet” was given by Colonel Gordon to the Sixth Alabama Regiment. In his book, Keene describes how he later retrieved memories of his lifetime as Colonel Gordon from a book Gordon had written, *Reminiscences of the Civil War*. Keene found that he had habits and traits in common with Gordon and a similar writing style. Also he had face and body scars that corresponded with Gordon’s battle wounds.

Keene found that four of his fellow firefighters appeared to be the souls of officers in Colonel Gordon’s regiment. Keene discovered his facial similarity to Gordon when he first saw a picture of him. Here is what Keene writes about this experience: “This time a chill ran through me and the hair on the back of my neck stood up again. The picture was of Brigadier General John B. Gordon. The face was not unknown to me, I knew it well. I shave it every morning.” (See figure 2 for facial similarities. Also shown is Semkiw’s resemblance to John Adams.)

My second example from Semkiw is the case of William Barnes who discovered he was the reincarnation of Tommie Andrews, the designer of the Titanic. Since childhood, Barnes had spontaneous memories of a past life, very much in the manner of CWR cases, and he insisted that his mother call him Tommie and spoke of another family. As reported by Semkiw, Barnes also had recurring nightmares of a huge ship, frigid water, a steel mass falling on him, piercing screams, and dying at sea.

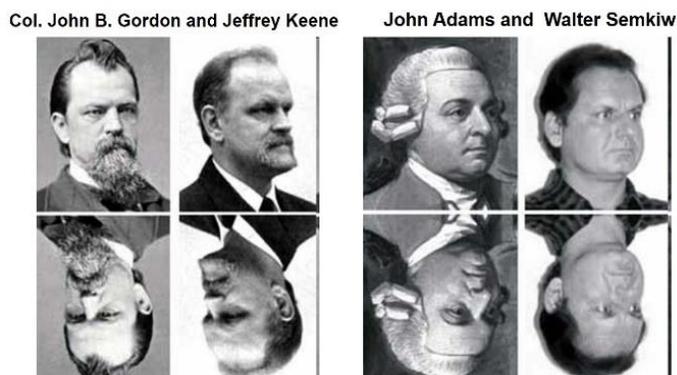


Figure 2. Facial Similarity of John B. Gordon with Jeffrey Keene and Walter Semkiw with John Adams

When Barnes was 25, he had a hypnosis session during which he sat up and said, “My name is Tommie Andrews.” Later Barnes had past-life therapy and came to understand his nightmarish visions. There were other events in Barnes’s life supporting his being the reincarnation of Tommie Andrews that Semkiw labels “symbolic synchronicity”; for example, Barnes was born on April 14, the anniversary of the Titanic’s sinking. Semkiw’s follow-up investigation of the Barnes case shows the consistency of facial appearance between Barnes and Andrews.

The information from these reincarnation studies can be viewed as evidence (or traces) of nonphysical intelligence (souls) affecting our world. Additional support for this view is provided by information from between-lives regression accounts.

### Between-Lives Regression Discoveries

Between-lives spiritual regression is a fairly new spiritual hypnosis tool for investigating the human soul. Between-lives sessions are much longer and go much deeper into the soul’s experiences than can be achieved in past-life sessions. The foremost developer and practitioner of between-lives regression has been Dr. Michael Newton with his Life-between-Lives (LBL) regression methodology. In it, hypnosis subjects experience themselves as spiritual beings leaving the dead body of a past life, traveling into a nonphysical realm, and having experiences in this realm. These are basically the same experiences found in NDEs that include experiences with spiritual beings and deceased relatives in a nonphysical realm.

Between-lives regression is a fairly new tool for investigating and researching the nature of the human soul, and I consider its credibility enhanced by how

closely its experiences correlate with those provided by NDEs with rich spiritual-realm experiences. I see NDE and between-lives regression as complementary. There are a very large number of reported NDE cases, but most provide only a limited amount of information about the spiritual realm. Between-lives cases are fewer in number, but each contains more spiritual-realm information than an average NDE case.

Between-lives regression can be viewed as a “breakthrough” development for the systematic exploration of spiritual knowledge. Newton has taken thousands of humans through the long, in-depth, 3+ hour hypnosis sessions. These sessions take the human’s soul into and through the spiritual realm and the major experiences souls have in this realm. Key ones are listed below:

1. Separating from their dead body, moving away from earth, and meeting their spiritual guide
2. Entering the spiritual realm through a portal and being met there by a welcoming soul or group
3. Becoming oriented to a new dimension and having their energy recharged and balanced
4. Having a life review with their spiritual guide of their just completed human life
5. Transitioning to their “place” in this realm and meeting their soul family in a “homecoming”
6. Meeting with their soul advisory council and reviewing key experiences and choices in their just completed past-life and their current life
7. Being placed for study and/or training (as souls advance in energy consciousness, they become members of what Newton calls “specialties”—what we would call trades and professions)
8. Planning their next life and choosing a new body
9. Preparing to leave the spiritual realm for their next physical incarnation and being reborn as an infant in a new physical body

I find that Newton’s books read like an anthropological expedition—which in a sense they are—but one about nonphysical beings in a nonearthly realm. To create a broader base of knowledge, I integrated Newton’s information with those from the between-lives regression books of Linda Backman and Delores Cannon, an LBL demonstration video, rich NDE cases, and my own between-lives cases.

Newton describes his process for deep hypnosis and why he believes that he has obtained valid information on the spiritual-realm lives of souls and, by association, the evidence for reincarnation and past lives. He found good consistency in all his subjects’ between-lives accounts, with the only significant differences being activities attributed to different levels of soul energy consciousness and development (one of his key findings).

*Frontiers of Knowledge* provides a detailed overview of the following information:

1. Soul levels, hierarchies, and organization of the spiritual realm (the key factor being the soul’s energy consciousness level)
2. Soul activities in the spiritual realm (see above overview listing)
3. The phenomenon of reincarnation
4. The purpose of reincarnation and the role of karma and free will

I find that the information provided from between-lives regression on the spiritual realm and souls meet the criteria for the sociology of a culture—the organization and structure of the society, activities of individuals, relationships between individuals, and the behavior of individuals and groups within it.

When the between-lives discoveries are combined with those from NDEs, we have ground-breaking information on the nature of souls, why souls choose to have human lives, and what happens to us when we physically die. This information supports a new paradigm of reality in which spiritual intelligent beings play a central role. (Note: these must be the “observers” at the creation of our universe that quantum physicists have been searching for.)

### **A Spiritual-based Worldview of Reality**

Additional subject matter presented in *Frontiers of Knowledge* include: (1) the human subtle-energy system with multiple subtle-energy-information bodies (from Barbara Brennan and Cyndi Dale), (2) the hierarchy of physical elements from subatomic particles (via the Akashic or zero point field (ZPF) to morphogenetic information fields for atoms, biological cells, animals, and humans, (3) specieswide subtle information fields supporting each species evolution, behavior, and social interactions (from

Rupert Sheldrake), and. These are illustrated in figure 3.

At the Society for Scientific Exploration’s 2014 conference, I presented a paper on how the model of the human multiple subtle-energy-bodies can explain many unusual mind-body phenomena. Examples are stigmata and birthmarks in CWR children that correspond to the wounds that contributed to their death in their previous life. [Paper available on request.]

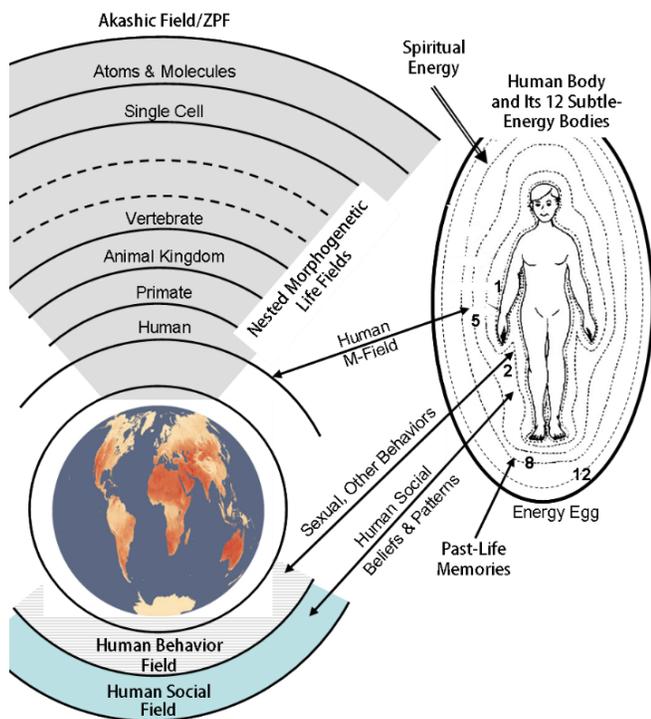


Figure 3. Illustration of Earth’s Subtle-Energy Fields and How Spiritual Information and Energy Is Influencing Individual Humans

Near the end, *Frontiers of Knowledge* has a chapter on parallel universes and multiple dimensions (using information from physicists and spiritual sources). Another chapters outlines a new knowledge-based discipline for consciousness and spirituality. One that can provide us with insights on the two “hard problems” of science: consciousness and spirituality. All of this provides and supports the foundational concepts and information for a spiritual-based world-view of reality.

It is an amazing story that at one level can be viewed as uncovering the “fingerprints” of God through all existence in the form of souls,

individualized nonphysical consciousness with free will. For those coming from the scientific perspective, it provides the consciousness behind quantum physics. For example, it answers the question implicit in John Wheeler insight and statement on information being the essence of all physical objects: What source of consciousness was available to *observe* the universe before our universe came into existence?

This answer is nonphysical beings (souls). This will seem “too strange” for most, but John Bell—probably 20th-century’s most insightful quantum physicist on consciousness—must have had a sense of how strange the answer would be when he wrote “the new way of seeing things will involve an imaginative leap that will astonish us.”

The potential payoff from our investigation of unusual consciousness and spiritual phenomena is also captured by Physics Nobel Laureate Steven Weinberg statement that “If it could be shown that there is any truth to any of these notions [referring to subjects such as telekinesis, astrology, precognition, channeling, and clairvoyance], it would be the discovery of the century.” He did not list NDEs, investigations supporting reincarnation, and the between-lives information that correlates with rich NDEs, but I think he would have put them in with the other phenomena when he wrote that statement in 1992. I believe the information and evidence I present in *Frontiers of Knowledge* would meet Weinberg’s sense of “any truth” and its source—individualized, nonphysical consciousness—will be “the discovery of the [21st] century.”