## Consciousness and the Nature of Reality

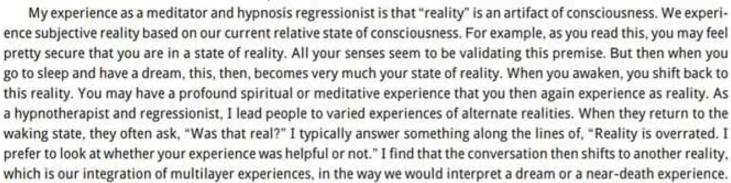
by Peter Woodbury

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ACH SOUL IN ENTERING
the material experience
does so for those purposes
of advancement towards that
awareness of being fully conscious of the
oneness with the Creative Forces." (EC 2632-1)

Almost every religious or spiritual tradition speaks to the nature of reality. Our everyday waking reality is oftentimes referred to as maya or "illusion." Jesus said that in His Father's house, there were "many mansions," and the Cayce readings explain this as referring to many

states of consciousness. The readings state that the true nature of reality is oneness, but that this world deludes us into experiencing reality as separateness and isolation. According to Cacye, the illusion of our separateness—our forgotten oneness—is the root cause of most human problems.



Let me now correlate this with another experience. I have met and interviewed three people who were present when Edgar Cayce was said to have levitated: Harmon and June Bro and T.J. Davis (TJ). The Bros and TJ each recounted separate incidents of seeing Mr. Cayce levitate. June and Harmon attended a reading where someone present could not hear Mr. Cayce and spoke out saying, "Up, up!" Mr. Cayce apparently took the suggestion literally and proceeded to levitate up off the couch! I wonder if they then said, "Umm...down, down!" to get him back on the couch! T.J. Davis, as many of you know, was the nephew of Gladys Davis, and came to live with the Cayces and Gladys shortly after his birth. Mr. Cayce was like a father to TJ, up to the time of Mr. Cayce's death, when TJ was still a boy. TJ told me of an

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## Dandelion Misunderstood Why am I misunderstood My yellow bloom a frown Iblossom all the summer long In fall, a gossamer gown My beauty is surpassed Only by my heart Of mellow wine and healing tea My leaves a tasty part When will man begin to see His folly and neglect When all else dies upon the earth And I am all that's left? - From the book Soul Sounds by Catherine MacDonald Excerpted with permission Ordering information: jschmidt@muskoka.com

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evening when Mr. Cayce told him not to go to bed that night and sit on the steps and watch. TJ said that two men came to the house later that evening and Mr. Cayce proceeded to lie down on his couch and shortly thereafter levitated! Now if we are to believe these three accounts as true, it would go against the conventional understanding of the physical law of gravity. But it might also shed light on Cayce's esoteric reference to how the Great Pyramid was built:

- (Q) How was this particular Great Pyramid of Gizeh [sic] built?
- (A) By the use of those forces in nature as make for iron to swim. Stone floats in the air in the same manner. (EC 5748-6)

Accounts of levitation are documented across various religious traditions. The accounts of Edgar Cayce and levitation have in common that he was in the so-called hypnotic trance state, a de facto altered state of consciousness. It is common in hypnosis parlance to speak of hypnosis as a process of "putting someone under" or "putting someone to sleep" and then "waking" them back up. My experience has led me to believe that the real trance state is our current waking reality and that hypnosis is a process of "waking" a person up to another, deeper, more true soul reality. Then, once they come back to this state, they come back to the "illusion," but somehow altered by their glimpse of this alternate reality.

In the case of Edgar Cayce's levitating in this altered state, I ask the question, what would have happened had he not fully returned to this waking state of reality? In the altered hypnotic state, Mr. Cayce could levitate. But once back in the waking state, he could not. Now when we think of "awakened" souls like Buddha or Christ, what do we make of Jesus' walking on water? That is not a common waking state experience. Jesus also taught that we are "in the world, but not of the world." In His awakened consciousness, was He, like Cayce, able to exist outside of commonly accepted laws of physics? Was He permanently in the state Mr. Cayce could only glimpse while in trance? Was He walking on water as Edgar Cayce had levitated? Is reality based on our state of consciousness, and are physical laws subject to our state of consciousness? My premise is yes, mind is the builder and where the mind is, so is "reality." In the oneness reality, we are not subject to the physical laws, all time is one, past life and future life experiences are available to us. Psychic ability is another by-product of an altered state of reality. I would say that this is the oneness-consciousness.

In conclusion, I believe that the New Age dawning upon us, as Cayce predicted, will invite us into our multidimensional realities. And just as Peter could temporarily walk on water because Jesus invited him to believe that it was possible, so are we all beginning to awaken to our deeper soul reality. Slowly, one by one, we are awakening to our oneness in this physical world, and breaking the matrix of consciousness. In the awakened oneness-consciousness, we can truly live as brothers and sisters while on the earth. Edgar Cayce and many others have paved the way.

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Peter is in private practice as a psychotherapist and hypnotherapist in Virginia Beach, Virginia with a focus on the use of spirituality and faith as tools for personal transformation and liberation.

A student of the Edgar Cayce readings for over 20 years, he is a popular presenter on key topics from the Cayce readings, both at A.R.E. Headquarters and in the field. Fluent in three languages, he is also known for his outstanding leadership of A.R.E. Tours to South America, India, and Egypt. He also finds time to play Edgar Cayce in the popular one-man show titled "An Evening with Edgar Cayce."

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Peter Woodbury will be the keynote speaker at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Spiritual Awakening Retreat in Châteauguay, Quebec, September 20-22, 2019.

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