

## Letter from the Editor

As you can see Lucidity Letter has radically changed with this issue. This is one step in the move from a newsletter to a journal format. Another step, which is in progress, is the formation of an editorial board.

The theme of this issue is the possible relationship between dream lucidity and death. Two approaches to this association are addressed: the near-death (NDE) and the out-of-body (OBE) experiences. John Wren-Lewis's piece reporting on his near-death experience and subsequent lucid dream kicks off the first section on near-death experiences. Comments on his experiences and the significance of them for the study of dream lucidity are made from four perspectives. These include: Charles Tart on the definition of lucidity; Harry Hunt on the lucidity-meditation parallel; George Gillespie on a religious/philosophical perspective and Michael Grosso on the parallel to the experiences other NDEers have reported. The final two pieces in this section are from sophisticated lucid dreamers who report on their 'death' and 'near-death' dream imagery while lucid.

The second section of this issue of LL, focuses on the ongoing dialogue concerning the concurrence of OBE's and dream lucidity. Authors of the first three articles argue that OBE's are not lucid dreams. Specifically, new data on the imagery skills of OBEers and lucid dreamers is reported by Susan Blackmore. This is followed by a critique of the OBE lucid dream question by Scott Rogo. Robert Monroe then unites on his work with OBE's also arguing that they are not only lucid dreams. Two reports follow these presenting the perspective that OBE's are largely misattributions and that a lucid dreaming attribution for these experiences would be more accurate. Finally, an anonymous Catholic Monk Priest writes of his personal experiences with lucid dreams and/or OBE's.

In the third section many of the points brought out in the first two sections are integrated into a theoretical model. Charles Alexander and his colleagues, Robert Bayer and David Orme-Johnson, at the Maharishi International University argue that Vedic psychology helps to place dream lucidity into a much needed conceptual and developmental framework.

Three articles on dream lucidity from an anthropological (Walters and Dentan), clinical (Williams) and experiential (Moss) perspectives constitute the fourth section. Robert Dentan then reviews G. William Domhoff's book on Kilton Stewart's presentation of the dream practices of the Senoi. Finally, the News and Notes section includes an announcement about the forthcoming annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Dreams in Canada and updates on the lucid dreaming bibliography.

As reflected in the pages of this "newsletter" a lot of interest is abreast regarding this unique dream experience. The June 1986 double issue of LL will carry the proceedings of

a day long symposium on dream lucidity held in conjunction with the 1985 annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Dreams in Charlottesville, VA. The December 1986 issue of LL is planned to address the possible relationship of dream lucidity to the healing process.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Mary Tuttle, my ever dedicated and hardworking secretary and friend for all her help in putting out LL. Also, let me encourage you the readers to write with your observations and concerns.

Jayne Gackenbach, Ph.D.  
Editor, Lucidity Letter

Original source: *Lucidity Letter* 4(2), December, 1985, p. 2.