

FRAMEWORK OF REALITY

*Understanding Our
Subtle Spiritual Nature*

Akashic Field/ZPF as Universe Template

- Spiritual Cosmology
- Multidimensional & Parallel Universes
- Energy Conscious Beings (Souls)
- Reincarnation
- Nonphysical Mind
- Mind Distributed in Subtle-Energy Fields
- Holographic Mind
- Subtle Morphogenetic Fields in Biology
- Consciousness Expressed through Subtle Fields
- Consciousness in Quantum Physics

Akashic Field/ZPF
as Quantum Source

Douglas Kinney

**FRAMEWORK
OF
REALITY**

**Understanding Our Subtle
Spiritual Nature**

Companion Book to
Frontiers of Knowledge:
Scientific and Spiritual Sources for a New Era

Douglas Kinney

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Published by Douglas Kinney

Third printing by Mira Digital Publishing

eISBN: 978-0-9912263-1-3

Cover design based on photo from http://www.astronomy-pictures.net/supernova_2.jpg

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Part 1—The Exploration of Reality

All things are subject to interpretation. Whichever interpretation prevails at a given time is a function of power and not truth.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

The only source of knowledge is experience.

—Albert Einstein

One way to view the history of knowledge is to see it as man's changing perspective on the underlying source of reality. In almost all early cultures, the source was attributed to gods. Over time in much of the world, multiple gods were replaced by a single, omniscient, all-powerful God as the source of and explanation for all existence. Running alongside this spiritual perspective, though, were mankind's efforts to gain greater control by having more secure sources of food, shelter, and defense. These efforts gave rise to technology and systematic ways of experimentation and thinking. Eventually man used such methods to explore and understand physical reality—and evolved it into modern science.

A. The Nature of Science at Its Frontiers

In the twentieth century, most scientists became enamored with the power of science and decided that the only reality was that which could be demonstrated physically. Many dismissed as superstition the belief in God as the underlying source, thus setting up the seeming conflict between science and spirituality.

Quantum Mechanics and Traces of Consciousness

The latest chapter in science's search for a deeper understanding of physical reality has been quantum mechanics (Q.M.)—probably twentieth-century science's biggest source of change in our perspective of reality. I believe that the next steps toward expanding our knowledge of reality require us to (1) complete the quantum revolution—which is largely about understanding the role of consciousness—and (2) find ways to integrate findings from unusual consciousness and spiritual experiences with Q.M.'s perspective of reality. I see a relationship between these two steps and believe they will lead us into an expansive twenty-first-century science that will provide answers to the many scientific anomalies and knowledge puzzles we are encountering.

If, as I wrote in the introduction, consciousness plays a central role in quantum mechanics, we would expect to see traces, or hints, of it in the observed phenomenology of other scientific disciplines. These would appear in the form of anomalies that don't fit within existing theories of science and the general worldview of reality they reflect. I and others believe we have found these traces, and the following are a few of the more amazing examples:

- NDE investigations are showing that the mind can exist as 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 these NDE out-of-body “viewings” have been verified by scientifically trained researchers.

- 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.
- In evolutionary biology, something more than DNA appears to be active in the development and evolution of life and complex organisms such as humans. This is seen in epigenetics, the new evolutionary biological concept of how species directly adapt to environmental changes.
- There are accounts of the transfer of memories and personality traits with organ transplants—mostly those involving the heart. Consciousness research on humans with multiple personalities provides evidence for the psychological reality of secondary centers of consciousness in which more than one personality exists within a single human mind. In some of these cases, the consciousness of each personality creates different bodily responses to allergies and medications.

Science and Scientific Revolutions

To have the right perspective for investigating and reviewing the above and similar phenomena, we need to understand three features about the nature of science. One is the great variations in how science is performed in different disciplines: there is no single scientific method. Consider as an illustration of this the extreme differences in how science is practiced in quantum physics and paleoanthropology. In quantum physics, scientists can conduct experiments and collect large quantities of data, while in paleoanthropology, there is a scarcity of data and controlled experiments cannot be conducted. Its science (and scientific method) is characterized by systematic and critical investigation by scientifically trained investigators of fossil findings and the development of theories to integrate its limited data.

The second feature of science I want to emphasize is the concept of frontier science that Henry Bauer introduces in *Scientific Literacy and the Myth of the Scientific Method*. Bauer defines frontier science as the research occurring in new scientific disciplines and at the leading edge of established ones where major anomalies are present. Here, the science is not settled.

A third feature of modern science is the great proliferation of scientific disciplines. Because of this, philosopher Sherrilyn Roush introduces what she calls the layperson-expert relationship: a scientist is as dependent as a layperson on experts in another discipline for understanding its theories and interpreting its experimental results.³ For example, we all depend for our knowledge of quantum mechanics on information that physicists working in this discipline provide. A similar situation exists for hundreds of scientific disciplines; we should not expect, for example, a biologist to provide us with useful information on consciousness and spirituality unless he or she has spent time studying and working in these areas. (A theoretical physicist, though, might have something to contribute on the general role of consciousness in our universe from

interpretations of its role in quantum mechanics.)

Thomas Kuhn—one of the most influential philosophers and historians of science of the twentieth century—has explored examples of the conditions that support dramatic changes in science. In *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, he describes how a crisis in scientific understanding simultaneously loosens stereotypes and provides the new data (in anomalies)—representing extraordinary research results—required for a fundamental paradigm shift. Prime examples of this today are (1) the near-death research that provides evidence suggesting the survival of human consciousness and hints at the existence and nature of a spiritual realm and (2) the cosmological mysteries. As Kuhn describes, when a new paradigm is fundamentally different from the previous one, it necessitates a redefinition of the science—and by implication, our views of reality.

Frontiers of Knowledge provides many examples of scientific and systematic investigations and spiritual explorations of phenomena at the outer boundaries of our current scientific knowledge. I associate these investigations with the term “knowledge discipline” because it symbolizes a broader, more general search for knowledge than we normally associate with the term “science.” It is similar, though, to what we see in paleoanthropology. All of these investigations and explorations are characterized by the systematic and critical investigation of phenomena—the key activity in all scientific disciplines.

Bias and Resistance to Change

Resistance to change naturally arises within a culture when the status quo is challenged. Scientific disciplines are specialized cultures within the general culture of Western science. When faced with new phenomena outside their current worldview—especially those that challenge basic tenets of their culture—scientists will naturally be resistant.

For most scientists, this resistance can easily become rigid skepticism because of our natural human behavior to reject new information that is not consistent with our beliefs. The following information about beliefs and biases, which came from a psychological study, describes this process:

Belief bias is a cognitive bias in which someone’s evaluation of the logical strength of an argument is biased by their belief in the truth or falsity of the conclusion. This effect has been demonstrated in psychological experiments, and is independent of reasoning ability.

Thus the general scientific population is naturally biased against accepting information and evidence supporting the existence of unusual consciousness and nontraditional spiritual experiences. The other side of this bias is that someone like me who believes in the reality of these phenomena will tend to select supporting information and evidence from a larger set that emphasizes his or her views. As a result, the reader should probably impose a higher-than-average standard of proof for what I present.

Because of the biases associated with beliefs, achieving a scientific (and knowledge) revolution is normally a very slow process. This appears especially true for unusual consciousness phenomena and even more so for spiritual experiences. Both of these areas are well outside the bounds of the current scientific worldview and imply a potentially

radical shift in how science is practiced in many disciplines.

B. Quantum Physics and Cosmology

This section and the next two expand on the scientific and consciousness anomalies I briefly introduced above. First, I select material that represents significant anomalies challenging existing scientific paradigms in a number of major disciplines. Second, I provide highlights of what I believe are extraordinary research results related to these anomalies—Kuhn’s second impetus for a paradigm change—that deserve our attention.

Quantum Physics

Quantum physicists have been very successful in developing theories and models that can describe and predict the interactions of subatomic particles with great precision—up to 11 digits of accuracy. But they have struggled to relate the nature of the quantum universe to our normal world with its three dimensions and time. This struggle is known as Q.M.’s “interpretation problem,” and it remains unresolved after ninety years of progress in Q.M. Q.M.’s “differentness” is displayed in the inherent uncertainty of the location and velocity of its quanta and how the act of observing them in experiments influences the outcome of experiments. Also, in the quantum universe, two quanta can become “entangled” (cohered) in such a manner that “communication” between them—even when they are moved far apart—is instantaneous. Experiments of this phenomenon measure the communication occurring essentially instantaneously—at hundreds of times faster than the speed of light.

Quantum physics author Jim Baggott’s statement in *The Quantum Story* on the combined wave and particle nature of quanta captures a key aspect of how very different quantum reality is from our normal, larger-scale experience:

Before measurement, the properties of quantum particles ... are clearly constrained by the physics that produce them, but they are in a sense “undetermined.” Their properties are ... undetermined until the act of measurement. The nature of the interaction with a measuring device [and an observer] somehow “determines” these properties in a way that we may never hope to fathom.

Michio Kaku highlights in *Parallel Worlds* the two interpretations of quantum mechanics that get the most attention. The first is the mainstream, Copenhagen interpretation that was developed under Niels Bohr, generally considered the father of quantum mechanics. It describes the quantum wave function collapsing into a single “real world” situation when it is observed. This explanation has been grudgingly accepted for many years by the majority of physicists, but because of all the unsettled interpretation issues, many theoretical physicists are seriously considering alternatives. Of these, Hugh Everett III’s many-worlds (or parallel-universes) interpretation appears to have the most support.

Key qualities of Everett’s alternative interpretation are that it includes the observer as part of the system and does not require the wave function to collapse. But this is achieved only by allowing all of the nonrealized possible states present in the quantum wave function to continue in parallel universes. In this way, the wave function’s energy and

information in the alternative states are not lost; they continue in parallel universes with parallel observers.

Another important aspect of Q.M. is the central role of fields. Physics Nobel laureate Steven Weinberg states that fields associated with various quantum particles have become almost universally accepted as the proper framework for fundamental physics and not the particles themselves.

Cosmology

At the other end of the physical scale—stars, galaxies, and the whole physical universe—astronomers and cosmologists have been confronted over the last 20 years with major unresolved anomalies. Especially significant are those related to the motion of stars in galaxies, the continued expansion of the universe, and the fine-tuning found in universal parameters and ratios. To account for the motion of stars in galaxies that do not follow Newton’s laws of motion, astronomers and cosmologists are hypothesizing a new form of matter, called dark matter, that has never been directly detected by our electromagnetic radiation sensors (for example, telescopes) but has been identified by its gravitational effect on stars and the bending of light rays.

To account for the continued expansion of the universe, cosmologists “created” the concept of dark energy as a “placeholder” because they have no theory or concept to explain the continued expansion. Astronomers and cosmologists now believe that the universe’s ordinary matter and energy constitute less than 5 percent of the universe’s total mass and energy.

The extraordinarily fine-tuning of two dozen universal physics parameters and ratios in our universe creates the unique conditions that allow for stable stars and life as we know it to evolve (for details, see Kaku). Physicists and cosmologists interpret the source of this to be either a guiding intelligent designer or the existence of an almost unlimited number of universes (the multiverse concept). The multiverse concept is combined with superstring theory and/or Mtheory with their many dimensions—10 and 11 respectively. It is associated with the cosmology term *weak anthropic principle*. The *strong anthropic principle* is associated with the concept of a guiding spiritual designer. (I explore this topic in greater detail in [Part 3](#), specifically summarizing the views of frontier quantum physicists and what I consider to be quality spiritual sources.)

Cosmology today is a scientific discipline where the old paradigms have broken down. In the words of Evalyn Gates, one of my sources for cosmological physics, from *Einstein’s Telescope*, “we need new physics.”

In [figure 1](#), I illustrate two alternative frameworks of reality for physics and cosmology to capture these differences: (a) the left framework is based on a Q.M. in which a strong expression of consciousness is central. The many-worlds (parallel-universes) interpretation of the observer’s effect is one that is consistent with it. Cosmology’s strong anthropic principle (implicit operation of a spiritual intelligent designer) also fits in it.

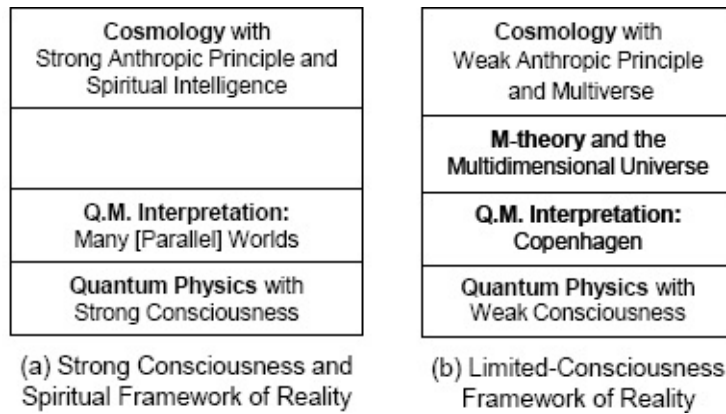


Figure 1. Two Alternative Frameworks of Reality for Physics: One Emphasizing Consciousness and the Other Limiting Its Role and Impact

In the right framework (b), consciousness plays a limited role. I include Mtheory as an aspect of this reality, even though there is no experimental evidence for it, because it supports the multiverse concept—the expression of the weak anthropic principle. The Copenhagen interpretation of Q.M. is included because it only evokes a limited role for consciousness—an observer collapsing the wave function.

I next connect the framework elements in [figure 1](#) with the following key experimental evidence from Q.M. and cosmology:

- P1: *strong consciousness* factor in Q.M. that is seen as the source for the strong observer effect in double-slit experiments
- P2: experimental demonstration of *quantum entanglement* (see [Glossary](#))
- P3: observational evidence of *cosmological fine-tuning*

I next add the Akashic field/ZPF as the “background” source for the quantum mechanics and cosmology elements in [figure 2\(a\)](#): the strong consciousness and spiritual framework of reality. I consider the Akashic field/ZPF to be a subtle-energy-information field that is one dimension “above” our physical universe. Many frontier scientists believe it is present in the background of all the space of our universe—serving as the subtle-energy framework for everything. This is depicted in [figure 2\(a\)](#). Many physicists believe it is what allows quantum entanglement, but we currently have only a very limited ability to observe and measure its effects with our scientific instruments.

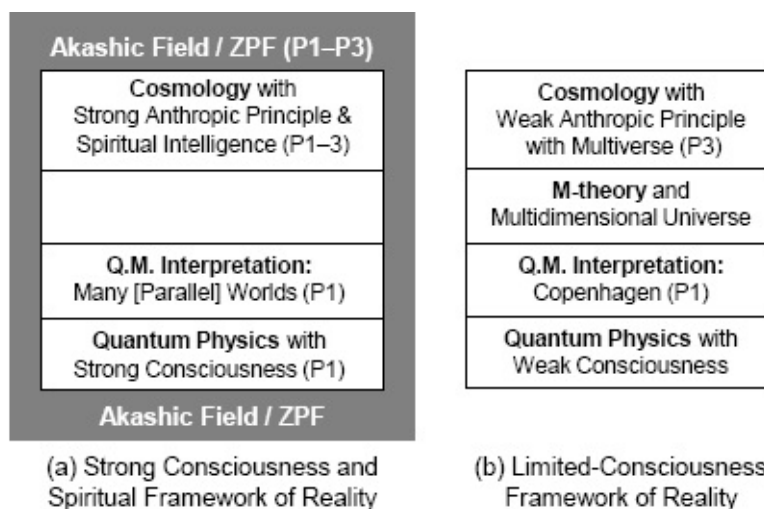


Figure 2. Physics-based Frameworks of Reality with Akashic Field/ZPF Included for the

Strong Consciousness and Spiritual Framework

I see the strong anthropic principle in cosmology supported primarily by P3, but P1 and P2 contribute and support the idea that spiritual consciousness could be behind the universe's fine-tuning. For example, P1 indicates that consciousness affects all matter in our universe and P2 (quantum entanglement) indicates that this effect is not limited by distance.

In the limited consciousness framework of [figure 2\(b\)](#), I associate P3, cosmological fine-tuning, with the weak anthropic principle in cosmology, but I view this interpretation as a way for many physicists to avoid the concept of spiritual intelligence as the source of the fine-tuning. I don't believe the fine-tuning can be considered supporting evidence for the multiverse. There is a causation issue here—it seems to require M-theory, which, as yet, is a totally unproven concept of physics. Overall, I view the concept as speculative.

I have found indirect support for the strong anthropic concept in some of the spiritual information I will present later, but let me tell that story through the supporting information and evidence below.

C. Evolutionary Biology

Frontier biologists have started questioning the whole idea of evolution occurring as a slow, gradual, and random process that is influenced by the environment only through natural selection. The direct influence of the environment on genetics is an active area of scientific research called epigenetics, which literally means “control above genetics.” British biologist Rupert Sheldrake in *Morphic Resonance* introduces it as a process involving changes in gene expression. Bruce Lipton provides an introduction and overview of epigenetics in *The Biology of Belief*. He describes how even the random evolution of a primitive single-cell organism, with 100,000 nucleotides, into the next level of life requires an incredible set of coordinated changes. This is one of the frontier biologists' key arguments against neo-Darwinism.

Scientists have experimentally shown in the laboratory that an organism's genes quickly adapt to changes in its environment. These changes occur in real time as a response to environmental stresses and show up in the next generation's genetic makeup. How the environment turns particular genes on and off has been the focus of recent research. Lipton cites and summarizes many early research papers in this new area of biological research, and there are many good popular-science articles available today on epigenetics.

Sheldrake and Lipton identify the need for something besides DNA to account for the complex biological makeup of large organisms such as man (evolutionary biology puzzle 3 in *Frontiers of Knowledge*). The human genome consists of a little more than 25,000 genes, which is only 1,500 more genes than a 1,000-cell microscopic worm—and other species have more genes than humans. To make a point, Sheldrake cites the chimpanzee genome project in which the project manager notes at the project's completion, “We cannot see in this why we are so different from the chimpanzees.” Based on this and other information, Sheldrake notes that “there is a huge gap between gene sequencing and the way living organisms grow and behave.”

Ervin Laszlo speculates that a subtle-energy-information biofield is how organisms successfully interact with their environment. This field has been Sheldrake’s life’s work—his term for it is “morphogenetic field.” Sheldrake believes that the overall control of an organism’s growth and maintenance resides in its individual morphogenetic field. Since many complex biological organisms start out from a single fertilization cell, he argues that the fertilized egg must somehow be reading its overall blueprint from this field.

For Sheldrake, the individual’s morphogenetic field is how a complex organism accesses its species’ overall blueprint and manages its development, including the growth of organs and appendages to their desired size and geometric shape (evolutionary biology puzzle 4). This field is also believed to be the basis for amputees feeling missing limbs—the phantom limb phenomenon; within the body’s subtle-energy field, the missing limbs are still present. One medical scientist estimates that 80 to 90 percent of amputees feel the missing limb, and some even feel pain there.

Sheldrake’s morphogenetic field for each species can be considered to have consciousness aspects that operate as an adapting and integrating intelligence for a species’ blueprint as it incorporates successful adaptations of its members to environmental changes. Special communication capabilities are also required for the coordination of the billions and billions of cells in humans and other complex organisms (evolutionary biology puzzle 1). Two frontier scientific candidates for this are multiple-octave electromagnetic (EM) frequencies and subtle-energy fields, the latter probably being an aspect of the individual’s morphogenetic field.

Table 1 summarizes *Frontiers of Knowledge’s* four evolutionary biology puzzles and describes possible phenomena and scientific concepts that can explain them. The explanations for B-2 through B-4 evoke Sheldrake’s morphogenetic field concept. Also, experimental data, or evidence, is available for the phenomena in these three puzzles (designated with ExEv-B and a number).

Table 1. Summary of Scientific Anomalies in Evolutionary Biology and Potential Explanations

Anomaly Present/Observed in Evolutionary Biology Puzzles	Hypothesized and/or Possible Phenomena to Explain the Anomaly
B-1: Living organisms are extraordinarily coherent, allowing them to function and respond in a highly coordinated manner.	High-speed communication via the body’s EM signals is occurring in which the content could be greatly expanded by holographic formats; also, subtle-energy fields could be involved.
B-2: The organism is able to evolve in tune with environmental changes by epigenetically “turning on” genes (ExEv-B1).	Organism’s individual subtle-energy, morpho-genetic field senses environmental changes and triggers epigenetic response in the organism that is inputted into its species’ morphogenetic field.
B-3: There are not enough DNA genes to account for the difference between man and primitive organisms (ExEv-B2).	Sheldrake hypothesizes that a species’ genetic blueprint with the information needed for development is stored in its morphogenetic field, which includes directions for how individual genes are to express.

B-4: Large, complex organisms need more than DNA to direct the development of appendages and limbs (ExEv-B3).

Information to control developmental growth is stored in the species' morphogenetic field that is downloaded into an individual organism's subtle-energy, morphogenetic field.

Sheldrake considers the morphogenetic field concept to be an element of a larger and more extensive set of subtle-energy-information fields he calls *morphic fields*. I see a similarity between them and Laszlo's description of creation in Hindu and Chinese spiritual cosmologies as the *progressively outward expression of spiritual energy and consciousness* into more and more complex forms of subtle-energy expression. If, as I argue, the Akashic field/ZPF is the "natural" source of the strong consciousness element of quantum mechanics, then traces of this consciousness will be found in everything in our physical universe that is "built up" from our universe's "basic building blocks." Sheldrake's morphogenetic field concept is consistent with this argument. These fields have not been directly observed and support for their existence currently depends on their ability to better explain biological anomalies and their similarity with the more generally accepted Akashic field/ZPF concept.

I recognize that almost all of [table 1](#)'s explanations built around subtle-energy fields are speculative, but if we take seriously the central role of consciousness implicit in quantum mechanics and the fine-tuned anomalies of cosmology, we are forced to consider them as valid candidates for describing reality. Otherwise we will restrict our worldview in non-physics scientific disciplines to that of nineteenth-century physics.

I illustrate in [figure 3](#) the two alternative theories of evolutionary biology: in the left framework (a), it is based on morphogenetic fields; and in the right (b), on neo-Darwinism. Also included in (a) is the concept that consciousness is expressed through subtle-energy-information fields.

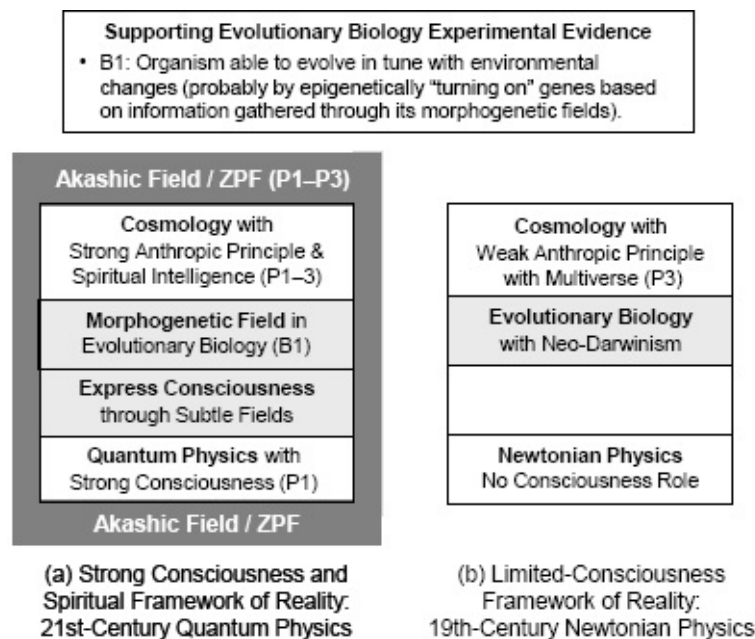


Figure 3. Frameworks of Reality with Two Evolutionary Biology Perspectives

I believe neo-Darwinism reflects a mainstream materialistic-scientific perspective that completely ignores quantum mechanics' implication for consciousness. I see it "stuck" in

nineteenth-century physics because it denies the potential for the creative expression of intelligence, or consciousness, present in the evolutionary process—one that we are now seeing in epigenetics. I posit consciousness is present in all expressions of form and life in our universe because all are composed of the quanta of our universe. This is the primary basis for the “express consciousness through subtle fields” element in [figure 3\(a\)](#).

D. Mind and Brain

In *Frontiers of Knowledge*, I describe and explore seven mind/brain puzzles. In mind puzzle 1, frontier neuroscientist Karl Pribram showed that while cognitive processes have very precise locations within the brain (both for humans and animals), the actual information processing of a given function is distributed throughout the brain and is not carried out by particular brain neurons or a group of brain cells.

Using her scientific sources (primarily Pribram), Lynne McTaggart describes the conventional scientific theory of vision as one in which a mammal’s brain supposedly creates the equivalent of an internal movie screen from its sensory input through the optical nerve. If a mammal’s optical nerve is mostly severed, the mammal, according to the conventional theory, should see only a very small portion of the screen—the cutting would be the equivalent of blocking most of a projector lens. But in experiments, researchers found that cats’ ability to see was not significantly diminished when their optical nerves were almost completely severed (mind puzzle 2). Obviously, the conventional scientific theory is not correct and some other process is occurring.

Researchers also found that memory is distributed throughout the brain and not in a specific location (mind puzzle 4). This has been demonstrated in tests in which animals still retain key memories when almost all of their brain matter has been scrambled and/or removed. In an assessment of recent mainstream scientific research on memory, Edward Kelly’s provides us with insight into its striking limitations: “We remain largely ignorant of where and in what forms our past experience is stored and by what means it is brought to bear on the present.”

Working with Dennis Gabor—a Nobel Prize laureate in physics for his discovery of holography—Pribram came up with the theory that vision is being processed in complex holographic frequency formats. (In these formats, the whole picture is still retained, though with diminished clarity, even if much of the sensor input data is blocked.)

The additional mind puzzles covered in *Frontiers of Knowledge* are

- M-3: brain communicates with the body using EM frequencies, possibly in holographic formats
- M-5: the brainlike features of the heart (from research by HeartMath)
- M-6: multiple personalities exist in some human minds
- M-7: the mind operates with quantum feature in the subtle-energy Akashic field/ZPF

The full set of mind and brain puzzles is presented in [table 2](#) along with possible explanations, many of which include the holographic mind concept. For a consciousness

present in all levels of life (even cells), the distributed mind concept is a better representation of mind. Mind puzzle M-5, the anomaly on the brainlike functions of the heart, also supports this concept.

Table 2. Summary of Anomalous Observations for Mind and Brain Anomalies, and Possible Explanations

Anomalies Observed in Mind and Brain, Puzzles	Characteristics and Processes Involved That Can Explain Observations
M-1: Brain processes are distributed throughout brain—not isolated to particular neuron groups (ExEv-M1).	Brain processes rely on frequency interference patterns (holograms) using a network of neurons and other features.
M-2: Vision still occurs when optic nerve is mostly severed (ExEv-M2). Experiments show vision processed as holograms.	Vision is processed throughout the brain in holographic frequency formats, and brain transforms distance-related data to frequency-interference patterns (holograms).
M-3: The brain communicates to the body using EM frequencies, possibly in holographic patterns (ExEv-M3).	Continuation of frequency functioning (B-1: body coherence); also, EM communication described in M-5's evidence.
M-4: Significant memory is retained in animals even when most of the brain matter is removed (ExEv-M4).	Memory is distributed throughout brain in holograms (and possibly in Akashic field).
M-5: The heart appears to “conduct” brainlike process supporting the mind’s intuition and intelligence capabilities (ExEv-M5).	Mind is a bodywide, distributed capability—not limited to the brain—that is facilitated by EM, and possibly subtle-energy communication using frequency formats.
M-6: Multiple personalities (centers of consciousness) appear to exist in some human minds.	These exist as multiple, organized holographic energy and information structures within the holographic mind.
M-7: The mind operates with quantum features in the subtle-energy Akashic field outside the body (probably using holograms).	Speculative theory but based on evidence from frontier scientists on memories transplanted with organs, and the NDE-documented OBEs discussed later.

The holographic mind model is probably the only one that can support the anomaly of multiple personalities existing in one mind (M-6). I do not show multiple personalities supported by evidence in [table 2](#), but some investigations by scientifically trained observers support the reality of this phenomenon that sometimes includes different psychophysiological responses (for example, allergies to different substances) in a single physical body. This strongly implies a bodywide field—one that probably exists in subtle dimensions. How else could all of the cells within a physical body “shift” their expression from one personality to another? This is one of many very strange phenomena related to the mind being studied at the frontiers of science.

The speculative nature of the last puzzle (M-7)—mind operating with quantum features in the subtle-energy Akashic field—does not seem completely unreasonable in the

context of M-5 and M-6. Only a very radical concept of mind can explain the phenomena of a distributed mind, multiple personalities existing in one mind-body, and the unusual phenomenon of consciousness detached from its physical body in near-death out-of-body experiences (covered in the next section). It is also generally consistent with Sheldrake’s concept of subtle-energy-informational morphogenetic fields supporting the evolution of biological species and the development of individual organisms.

Figure 4 adds the mind and brain findings into figure 3’s two frameworks of reality, and presents two different theories and concepts for mind. Figure 4(a)—the strong consciousness and spiritual framework—presents mind as holographic and distributed through the whole body. Figure 4(b) on the right represents the mainstream scientific perspective in which the mind is equated with the brain. Again, I associate (b) with nineteenth-century Newtonian physics because it does not acknowledge the reality of a basic consciousness present in quanta being expressed in all the processes of our universe.

E. Consciousness

With the overview of mind-related anomalies presented above, the stage is now set to examine the many puzzling expressions of human consciousness. What we have labeled the “normal” state of consciousness are those involving human interactions and relationships with what we think of as our “normal” world or reality. In the context of the previous sections, unusual consciousness experiences reflect phenomena outside the boundaries of our mainstream-scientific worldview of reality. Most of the anomalies I presented above are based on observations and experiences that meet these criteria. This is what makes them anomalies.

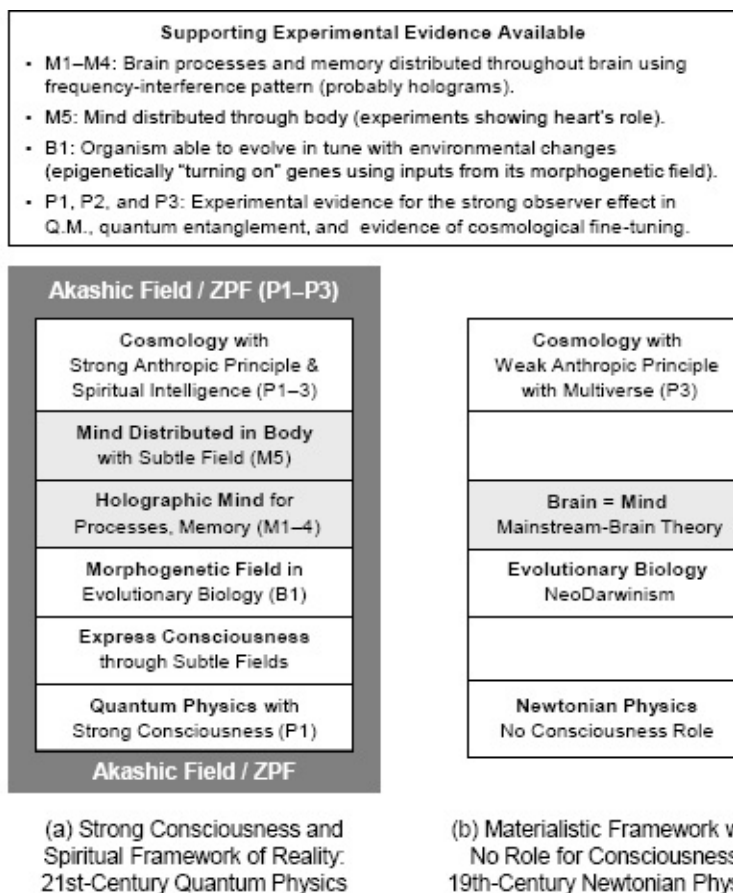


Figure 4. Frameworks of Reality with Two Perspectives of Mind and Its Processes

Epilogue—Sharing the Knowledge

The soul takes nothing with her to the next world but her education and her culture. At the beginning of the journey to the next world, one's education and culture can either provide the greatest assistance, or else act as the greatest burden, to the person who has just died.

—Plato, *The Republic*

Everyone I saw [in the spiritual realm], looking back on it, fits perfectly into my understanding of what that person looked liked at their best during their lives.

—Pam Reynolds, reflecting on her NDE

Researching and writing this book has been a grand intellectual and spiritual journey of discovery, and I feel a responsibility to share another dimension of what I have learned. Up to this point, the book has focused on detailed information and complex ideas; it is filled with material that engages the intellect. I designed it for those who enjoy interesting and challenging concepts.

Others, though, learn best through a more experiential process that engages their feelings. It was these people I had in mind on November 10, 2011, while I was preparing to officiate my older brother Jeff's funeral the following day. I wanted to share some of what I had learned with those who were grieving his departure, and I knew that wordy prose would not be adequate.

As I searched for a different way to express my knowledge of death and the afterlife, the following poems came to me. Combined, I call them my "mini-epic poem of human transition." It represents the message I believed Jeff would want to share with all those gathered to honor his life.

Nearing the End

As my days wind down,
I think of home from whence I come.
A place so pure and full of love.
One where my body never feels
the ravages of time.

It's hard to let go and leave behind
those bound by heart.
The love's still there,
But the body's too weak
to express the heart.

Dreams come at night
of enchanted delights.
Where my body's young

Endnotes

- 1 See Lynne McTaggart, *The Field: The Quest for the Secret Force of the Universe* (Harper Perennial, 2002).
- 2 Ervin Laszlo, *Science and the Akashic Field: An Integral Theory of Everything* (Inner Traditions, 2004).
- 3 Sherrilyn Roush, “Fallibility and Authority in Science,” 2; Department of Philosophy, UC Berkeley College of Letters and Science. <http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/people/files/134> (retrieved September 1, 2012). Roush describes in her opening paragraph how “the volume of information involved makes us all epistemically dependent on others.”
- 4 Their son, Jerry, drowned in a bathtub, and the visit occurred when Carter was older. Information from a web article by Larry Dossey at www.wholepersonhealing.org/WPH/Larry%20Dossey%20JSHO%20paper.pdf. Retrieved September 5, 2012.
- 5 As reported in Raymond A Moody, Jr., *The Light Beyond: New Explorations by the Author of Life after Life* (Bantam Books, 1989), 139.
- 6 I left out the following two NDE elements: 1) encountering a boundary or barrier and 2) a return to the body, either voluntary or involuntary. She did make a conscious choice to return, and she never encountered a barrier. For some NDErs, a barrier is encountered beyond which the NDEr somehow knows they will not be able to return to their physical body.
- 7 Ian Stevenson, *Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation* (University Press of Virginia, 1974, rev. ed.).
- 8 Ian Stevenson, *Reincarnation and Biology: A Contribution to the Etiology of Birthmarks and Birth Defects*. Vol. 1: *Birthmarks*. Vol. 2: *Birth Defects and Other Anomalies* (Praeger, 1997); *Where Reincarnation and Biology Intersect* (Praeger, 1997).
- 9 Wambach’s group past-life hypnosis induction script is provided in Winfred Lucas, *Regression Therapy: A Handbook for Professionals—Volume I: Past-Life Therapy* (Transpersonal Publishing, 1992), 559–64.
- 10 The results from the fourth session are not covered in this book. They are reported in Helen Wambach, *Life Before Life* (Bantam Books, 1979).
- 11 Semkiw’s website: <http://www.iisis.net/index.php?page=walter-semkiw-reincarnation-past-lives-past-life-expert>.
- 12 Assuming that each could have died at any time in the twenty years before July 4, 1826, the likelihood of their dying on the same day is approximately 1 divided by (20 years times 365 days/year), or 0.000137. The likelihood that they would both die on the symbolic day of July 4 reduces the overall likelihood by another factor of 1 over 365; the total likelihood of all this happening is only one in 2.66 million.

Glossary

Note: terms in italics within these definitions also have their own separate glossary entries.

Akashic field: Another name for the *zero point field (ZPF)*, used when a field holds information (in a template) that guides the development and evolution of our universe and serves as a medium to connect “cohered” elements such as “entangled” quanta and emotionally connected minds.

Anthropic principle: This is usually associated with the *fine-tuned* nature of our physical universe. The general meaning of the anthropic principle is that what we observe must be compatible with our existence or, more generally, with the existence of advanced life. Cosmologists consider two major levels of this principle: (1) the strong anthropic principle, which posits that an intelligence tuned the physical constants to support stable stars and the conditions for life to evolve and (2) the weak anthropic principle, which merely states that the constants of nature must be tuned to allow for intelligence—otherwise we would not be here—while leaving open the question of what or who did the tuning and how. (Also, see descriptions for *multiverse* and *metaverse*.)

Belief bias: Strongly held beliefs about the reality and nonreality of certain phenomena that lead individual scientists and nonscientists to deny and/or ignore evidence of the reality of experiences and/or observations that contradict their culturally based beliefs, including those based on mainstream scientific theories.

Between-lives regression: The form of hypnosis used to explore spiritual dimensions of life, specifically the experiences of consciousness in the *spiritual realm*. This book highlights the general structure of the between-lives regression subject’s experiences is the same as that found in *NDEs with rich spiritual-realm experiences*. The primary developer of this new form of *spiritual hypnosis* was Michael Newton with his *life-between-lives (LBL) regression* approach.

Brain as a subtle-energy interface: Some frontier scientists believe that the mind displays quantum qualities and can interact with the *Akashic field/ZPF* (see mind puzzle 7). These qualities are hypothesized to allow the brain to operate as a subtle-energy receiving device, interfacing with the soul’s subtle-energy mind.

Chakras: Chakras are collection-and-transmission centers for both subtle energy and biophysical energy. The human subtle-energy system has a total of 12 major chakras, 7 of which are within the human body going from the crown chakra at the top of the head to the root chakra at the base of the spine. These seven are described as being located at the main branchings of the body’s central nervous system. Barbara Brennan describes the chakras as “sorting out” specific energies to govern specific functions in the body. For example, she associates the fourth chakra with the heart and the energy of love.

Children who remember (CWR): In this phenomenon, certain young children—usually between the ages of two and seven—remember their previous lives in detail, which can seem more real than their current lives. The CWR phenomenon has been extensively investigated by the late Dr. Ian Stevenson of the University of Virginia’s medical department and by frontier scientists throughout the world. Strong evidence exists for the

reality of this phenomenon.

Conditioned space: This is a physical and/or mental space conditioned by the emotional beliefs of people to support unusual psychic and psychophysical (mind-body) phenomenon. Examples I present in the book include spiritual healing sites such as Lourdes in France for miraculous healings, medical healing centers for the *placebo effect*, and a temporary conditioned space created to support a firewalking event.

Consciousness: This book describes and defines human consciousness as a quality provided by the soul's energy consciousness, connected with and operating through the human physical brain. This is also the book's concept of *mind*, which is posited to exist in *subtle-energy fields* as a nonphysical entity. It is through this soul-based mind that we operate in the world and experience the qualities we associate with consciousness: subjectivity, awareness, the ability to experience feelings, wakefulness, having a sense of selfhood, and the executive control system of the mind.

Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics: This interpretation states that an observation—often in the form of a measurement—is necessary to collapse the *quantum wave function* for a quantum element to be in a clearly defined state. Before an observation is made, a quantum element exists in all of the possible states present in its wave function. Kaku writes that this interpretation is being challenged because many physicists believe that the macroscopic world must also follow the probabilistic nature of the quantum wave function. The uncertainty about the correct interpretation is known as quantum mechanic's interpretation problem.

Copernican Revolution: In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, astronomical observations and analysis of planetary motion led to the concept that the planets, including the earth, revolve around the sun. Most science historians believe that these efforts paved the way for the development of modern Western science.

Cosmology (physical): Physical cosmology, as distinct from religious cosmology, is the scientific study by astronomers and theoretical physicists of the large-scale properties of the universe as a whole in order to understand the origin, evolution, and ultimate fate of the entire universe.

Dark energy: The energy of empty space that supports the continued expansion of our physical universe with a weak antigravity force. It is thought to be related in some way to the *zero point field (ZPF)*, but physicists' estimates of the energy/volume present in the ZPF are many, many times too large. Dark energy is estimated to constitute 73 percent of our universe's mass-energy.

Dark matter: Matter that cannot be detected with our current optical or radio telescopes operating in visible and other electromagnetic frequencies. Its presence has been clearly identified through its gravitational effect on large celestial objects such as stars in galaxies and the bending of light. Dark matter is estimated to constitute 84 percent of our universe's matter and 23 percent of its mass-energy.

Double-slit experiment and wave-particle duality: A basic quantum-physics experiment used to demonstrate that matter and energy have both wave and particle characteristics. It also demonstrates the fundamentally probabilistic nature of quantum mechanical phenomena and the effect that an observer can have on what is measured: a wave

interference effect or the presence of individual quantum particles. Quantum physicists, such as Feynman, have noted that these experiments contain all of the strangeness of quantum mechanics.

Frontier scientist William Tiller believes that quanta originate at the interface of the physical and subtle nonphysical realms. This is why our physical-realm quanta, which come from this interface, display a wave-particle duality reflecting aspects of both realities—the wave aspect coming from the etheric domain’s frequency dimensions. Tiller sees this interface as the source of other quantum mechanics anomalies.

Dying, the three stages: Several spiritual sources describe death as a three-stage process in which the soul progressively sheds limitations. In the first stage, it sheds the physical body (similar to what occurs in the NDE OBE—see *near-death-experience* and *out-of-body-experience*); in stage two, it sheds its human beliefs about what occurs after physical death (for example, going to either heaven or hell, depending on how the entity lived his or her life); and in stage three, it sheds other limiting human beliefs formed by our human culture, family conditions, and personal life experiences.

Epigenetics: The study of heritable changes in gene expression caused by mechanisms other than changes in the underlying DNA sequence. It refers to functionally relevant modifications to the genome that may remain through cell divisions for the remainder of the cell’s life and may also last for multiple generations.

Etheric subtle-energy dimension and body: The first subtle-energy dimension identified by energy healers and frontier scientists such as Dr. William Tiller. Energy healers describe the etheric *subtle-energy body* as forming an energy template or matrix for the development, maintenance, and repair of the physical body through a vibrational energy counterpart (or pattern) for each organ, blood vessel, and bone.

Fine-tuning of the universe: Cosmologists have identified several dozen physical constants and ratios that are amazingly precise (for example, within one part in a billion) allowing our universe to have stable stars, giant stars that create the heavier elements, and life on earth (and presumably other planets). Cosmologists discuss this fine-tuning under the *anthropic principle*.

Framework of Reality: The book’s 11-element structure of reality is based on an integrated set of elements that capture the new information and insights coming forth: the *zero point field* as the source of quanta; the strong role of consciousness in quantum physics; the role of subtle fields in unusual psychophysical expressions of consciousness; the role of a species *morphogenetic field* in its evolution and the development of individuals; the holographic nature of mind and how it exists in a subtle field as a nonphysical entity; the reality of *reincarnation* ; the existence of *parallel universes* and *multiple subtle (spiritual) dimensions* ; the existence of *spiritual intelligence* as souls in the *spiritual realm*; and how advanced souls of high-energy consciousness are involved in the cosmology that created our universe’s *fine-tuning* that we see as a template aspect of the *Akashic field/ZPF*.

Frontier science: The scientific research occurring in new scientific disciplines and at the leading edge of established ones where major anomalies (puzzles) are present. The opposite of frontier science is described as “normal,” or textbook, science where problems

can be solved using conceptual and instrumental techniques close to those already in existence.

God: The descriptive concept of God that emerges from *between-lives regression* accounts and information from advanced soul teaching groups is that of a *Source God*, which “devolved” itself into all the universes by creating souls with free will. These souls advanced creation and are continuing to do so through the expression of free will. All of the multiplicity of individual energy consciousness is considered to be the collective expression of God.

Higher self: That part of the soul’s holographic energy consciousness that remains in the *spiritual realm* when a portion of it is split off to create the *soul consciousness* for its incarnation that will be merged (connected) with the physical human brain. The human soul consciousness is always connected with the higher self and continuously receives supporting love, inspiration, and encouragement from it.

Holographic mind: According to this scientific concept, processes and memory take place within a holographic framework of neurological wave-interference patterns. It was originated by Karl Pribram in collaboration with Nobel Laureate physicist Dennis Gabor, the discoverer of holography. Support for the holographic mind model is provided by experiments on animals in which they are still able to see when most of their optic nerves have been cut and able to retrieve memories when most of their physical brains have been removed (demonstrated by their ability to navigate a maze they had mastered before the surgery).

Karma: The essence of karma is the setting in motion of conditions that foster the soul’s learning, and karma can be seen as the details of a situation the soul has chosen for purposes of promoting its learning. Often this might look like punishment, but it is almost always seeing the other side of a difficult situation that gives us an opportunity to transform our experience and create desired spiritual growth. The human *soul consciousness* creates growth by breaking out of a pattern of reaction and making a choice based on love or another higher human-soul quality of expression such as forgiveness.

Layperson-expert relationship: A scientist is as dependent as a layperson on experts in another discipline for understanding its theories and interpreting its experimental results. This means that a scientific expert in one discipline—for example, neuroscience—cannot provide expert opinions about the phenomena occurring in another scientific discipline such as *near-death-experience* research.

Life-between-lives (LBL) regression: A structured form of *between-lives regression* developed by Michael Newton to explore the spiritual dimensions of life and consciousness. Newton conducted thousands of between-lives regression sessions and created a highly descriptive account of the lower *spiritual realm*.

Love: In its full expression, human love is a quality of *soul consciousness* that comes about through the integration of a part of the soul’s energy consciousness with the human physical brain. Most of the many expressions of human love are posited to be the result of soul connections, most of these set up by souls in their pre-incarnation planning. Support for this perspective is provided by Semkiw’s discovery that a soul incarnates in successive lifetimes with generally the same set of souls, most of whom are members of its *soul*

family.

Many-worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics: Hugh Everett III's interpretation of quantum mechanics allows all of the alternative states present in a *quantum wave function* to continue in *parallel universes* after an observation (measurement) results in one realization being present in our universe. Scientific supporters of this concept explicitly integrate the human observer into a "larger *quantum wave function* " in which our choices are continually creating parallel universes—each as real as the one we live in and have awareness. These other versions of "us" continue on creating other parallel universes with their choices.

Metaverse: A proposed explanation for the extraordinarily *fine-tuned* nature of our physical universe that is based on the existence of a "mother" universe, the metaverse, that has viable parameters to support stable stars and life. In this concept, our universe was "born" from the metaverse; cosmologists speculate that this occurs as a "tear" in the metaverse.

Mind: The concept of mind emerging from the investigations summarized in this book is a distributed subtle-energy form that has a holographic structure. The distributed quality is supported by research on the heart-mind connection and the presence of donor memories and personality traits in some organ transplants. Mind as a nonphysical, subtle-energy form is required to explain the verified near-death *out-of-body experiences*. The scientific research supporting the holographic quality is included above in the *holographic mind* glossary description.

Morphic (subtle) fields for species: Sheldrake hypothesizes that each species has, in addition to its *morphogenetic field* , a motor field that supports individual members in finding food, escaping predators, mating and copulating, etc.; collectively, these can be thought of as a behavior field. The integrated behavior fields of higher-level species can be viewed as an overarching social field, similar in many ways to Jung's collective unconscious.

Morphogenetic field: A species' *subtle-energy field* that contains the overall genetic information and patterns to support the species' development and evolution. In regard to development, it refers to how a particular organ or limb is formed by a collection of cells. Rupert Sheldrake has hypothesized that this field also collects successful evolution information from individual members of a species and makes it available to the whole species.

Multidimensional reality: Reality that is considered to consist of multiple dimensions of progressively more subtle (spiritual) dimensions reflecting progressively higher levels of spiritual energy consciousness toward *Source God*. The first nonphysical dimension of reality is present and demonstrated during *near-death out-of-body experiences* in which humans cannot observe and communicate with the *NDEr's* nonphysical consciousness.

Multiverse: An explanation proposed by some theoretical physicists for the *fine-tuning* of our universe. In their explanation, there are billions and billions of *parallel universes* , one of which (ours) has the right laws of nature and parameters to support life. This concept is closely associated with *superstring theory and M-theory* in which the underlying reality is composed of 10 or 11 dimensions, and the number of possible four-dimensional universes

is almost infinite.

Near-death experience (NDE): Individuals' experiences that take place with their consciousness in a nonphysical form. NDEs are initiated by a temporary physical death or a distressed health condition, or may happen spontaneously. NDE researchers have identified up to 12 elements or experiences that can occur in an NDE, most of which take place in a nonphysical setting—what I call the *spiritual realm*. NDE researcher P.M.H. Atwater identified four different types of NDEs: (1) initial and simple (such as an OBE), (2) pleasant and/or heaven-like, (3) transcendent, and (4) unpleasant and/or hell-like.

Heaven-like NDEs include many elements that closely relate to the experiences found in *between-lives regression*. Transcendent NDEs tend to be nonpersonal, expansive revelations of greater truths and experiences of alternative realities—otherworldly dimensions and scenes. Hell-like NDEs seem to occur for those who feel that they deserve to be judged.

NDE elements: The set of experiences that are used to categorize and help measure the depth of an NDE. This book uses 15 elements: 3 key *between-lives regression* experiences are added to Long's 12 elements to create the book's expanded set. Most of these experiences occur in the *spiritual realm* or in the transition or travel to this realm.

NDEr: Person who has had a *near-death experience*.

NDEs with rich spiritual-realm experiences: Many NDEs include experiences in what I call the *spiritual realm*: for example, the majority of the expanded 15 *NDE elements* are about experiences in this realm or transitioning to it. Key NDE spiritual-realm experiences include meeting deceased relatives, encountering spiritual light beings, undergoing a life review, encountering unworldly realms, learning special knowledge of the universe or self, and other spiritual-related experiences.

Nonphysical reality: “Reality” that occurs in nonphysical (subtle) dimensions. Prime examples are *near-death experiences* such as the *out-of-body experience* and the many experiences that take place in the *spiritual realm*.

Observer effect in quantum mechanics: Before measurement, the properties or states of quanta are in a sense “undetermined” and become “determined” with the act of observation or measurement by an observer. It is connected to the many interpretations of quantum mechanics, some of which relate this to the collapse of the *quantum wave function*.

Out-of-body experience (OBE): What occurs in *near-death experiences* when the *NDEr's* consciousness has first separated itself from its physical body. OBEs appear to take place in a nonphysical dimension because the OBEr can hear and see humans, but humans are unaware and cannot interact with the OBEr.

Paradigm shift: This term is often used in science to characterize a new way to see the world and practice science. The term was popularized by the scientific historian and philosopher Thomas Kuhn in his book *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Kuhn describes how the impetus for a major shift sometimes comes from extraordinary research results that frame an anomaly and provide the requirements for such a shift in thinking. Other times it comes from the incremental accumulation of data that requires a

fundamental change in thinking to accommodate this data—this was the process that led to the *Copernican Revolution*.

Kuhn associates an existing scientific paradigm with “normal” science in which a group of scientists in a mature discipline are able to practice their discipline using conceptual and instrumental techniques close to those already in existence.

Parallel universes: The speculative concept that physical observations and choices individuals make when facing an issue or decision with multiple possibilities creates a branching of our universe in which each possibility is occurring in a separate, parallel universe. It is associated with the *many-worlds interpretation* of quantum mechanics.

Paranormal (or psi) phenomena: Usually refers to “non-normal” phenomenon such as telepathy, *remote viewing*, and telekinesis, but it is often expanded to include such phenomena as seeing ghosts and having conversations with the deceased.

Past-life group regression study: Helen Wambach collected past-life memories in a group regression setting to compile statistical data on remembered past lives in order to create historical trends for the percentage of lives experienced as different races, genders, and social status; types of personal products used and foods eaten; how the people died; and other personal experiences.

Past-life regression: A type of hypnotic regression used to explore a subject’s past life to heal physical illness or emotional distress and/or to explore spiritual aspects of life.

Placebo effect: Controlled medical drug trials have demonstrated that patients given placebos frequently receive as much benefit as those getting the real drug. This effect has even been demonstrated for surgical operations. The effect can be so powerful that some placebo patients can even exhibit the side effects of the real treatment that they have been warned to watch for.

Prayer healing: In this phenomenon, one person or a group of people are praying for the healing of another. The book provides descriptions of several studies in which successful healing results were achieved. It is part of a class of *psychophysical phenomena*, and its likelihood of occurrence depends on the general factors supporting all psychophysical phenomena.

Probabilistic Nature of Quantum Particles: This is known in physics as the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, which in its usual expression states that we cannot precisely measure both the position and momentum (velocity) of a particle. An alternative expression is that we cannot know both the energy and time location of a particle.

Psychic sensitivity: This consists of the individual qualities that are hypothesized to support *psychophysical phenomena*: strong emotions, beliefs, and intentions; the ability to sustain vivid imagery; being highly suggestible and/or impressionable; and the ability to enter altered states of consciousness.

Psychophysiological (or psychophysical) phenomena: Unusual physical effects can be created by psychological processes: emotions and beliefs. Examples provided in this book are *stigmata*, spiritual healings through prayer, hypnosis healings of very difficult-to-cure skin diseases, and spiritual healings that are attributed to the spiritual energy present at spiritual sites. Emily Kelly in the book *Irreducible Mind* has summarized the extensive

psychophysical research literature that exists for these phenomena. She has also identified the factors this book calls *psychic sensitivity* that seem to support these phenomena. An additional supportive factor identified in this book is the concept of a *conditioned space*.

Quantum entanglement: Quantum theory states that cohered, or “entangled,” quantum particles remain connected no matter how far apart they are moved. Experiments have demonstrated that measuring one particle’s state for a key variable, such as its spin, will instantaneously “communicate” this to its entangled pair even when they are hundreds of kilometers apart and collapse its wave function to the other spin state, seemingly in violation of the speed-of-light limitation. Quantum entanglement was originally conceived by Einstein and two colleagues in a “thought experiment” derived from the inherent qualities of the *quantum wave function* to refute quantum mechanics because of this “nonsensible prediction.” This thought experiment is known as the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen (EPR) paradox.

Quantum reality: At the quantum level, reality is characterized by a probabilistic wave and particle behavior in which a “particle” is distributed throughout all space and time around a most likely position and time, but one that is influenced by consciousness through the *observer effect*. Many of the top theoretical physicists believe the deeper realities in physics are best represented by field descriptions that usually cannot be directly measured except through their effects (for example, gravity’s effect on matter); so in one sense, physical reality is the product of quantum fields.

Quantum wave function: The basic mathematical representation of matter and energy at the quantum level. For example, the probabilistic location or velocity of a quantum particle is captured in its wave function—a mathematical description of its distribution in space and time. Kaku writes that all of quantum physics, including string theory, is formulated using quantum wave equations.

Reality: Reality is considered to be how things really are: the nature of the universe (or universes), the source of the universe(s), the laws (or rules) governing them, and the source and role of consciousness. The mainstream scientific view of reality is centered on physicality, and consciousness is assumed to evolve from the physical. This book presents a greatly expanded and different version in its *framework of reality*, the concept of multiple dimensions or planes of reality based on soul energy-consciousness levels, and the concept that the many planes of reality and the souls populating these planes were devolved from *Source God*. This book presents evidence and information supporting this expanded perspective of reality.

Reincarnation: The spiritual concept that souls, nonphysical conscious beings, choose to have reoccurring human lives as part of a process that supports the development and growth of their spiritual energy consciousness.

Reincarnation and symbolic synchronicity events: Semkiw and others have noticed many synchronicities associated with remembered past lives. An example is William Barnes being born on April 14, the anniversary of the *Titanic*’s sinking. In his previous life, Barnes is believed to have been the designer of the *Titanic*.

Reincarnation continuity hypothesis: Semkiw’s hypothesis that there is a continuity of the soul’s human-body appearance, personality traits, and family and friends from lifetime

to lifetime. He found this present in the correlations between his closest family and friends with those of John Adams's family and in many of his independently researched reincarnation cases. Semkiw's ideas are corroborated by other spiritual sources including between-lives *spiritual hypnosis* discoveries that (1) the soul's personality is the basis for its human personality and (2) souls plan their future human lives with other souls in the *spiritual realm*, who are usually those closest to them and members of their *spiritual family*.

Reincarnation's purpose: A soul incarnates on earth to help it evolve toward a higher awareness and state of energy consciousness as it learns more about the essence of qualities such as love and forgiveness.

Remote viewing: The phenomenon in which an observer attempts to use psychic senses or abilities to gather information about places and people outside the range of his or her physical senses. Remote viewing experiments were conducted by both the United States and the Soviet Union during the latter stages of the Cold War.

Scientific advancement: This occurs at the boundaries of scientific knowledge where *scientific anomalies* are present and many ideas and theories are very tentative, controversial, biased, and unreliable because the issues have not been settled. Progress is made over time by multiple researchers conducting systematic and critical exploration of relevant phenomena and developing new concepts, theories, and explanations for the observed phenomena.

Scientific anomalies: Observations or experimental results that do not fit within existing scientific concepts, theories, or understandings. Their existence defines the boundary of normal science and the existence of potential new scientific, or knowledge, concepts.

Scientific disciplines and culture: Thomas Kuhn describes participants in a scientific discipline as sharing, or being indoctrinated into, a "disciplinary matrix"—starting with their initial undergraduate studies and, later, the technical problem-solutions found in their discipline's periodical literature. In a sense, they have all learned to see the world of their technical discipline in the same way. This is seen by observers, such as Kuhn, as a specialized culture.

Scientific method: A process that includes systematic investigation, critical review, defining and testing hypotheses, and independent verification. There is no single procedure that can be used in all of the different scientific and knowledge disciplines because each discipline has unique aspects related to the availability of data, the ability to conduct controlled experiments, the impact of human consciousness on outcomes, etc.

Soul: A holographic being of energy consciousness living in nonphysical realms, or dimensions; it is described as created or devolved from *Source God*. The soul's home is the *spiritual realm* where NDErs and between-lives subjects describe souls as members of a highly evolved culture based on the development and expression of their energy consciousness. The soul does not have a gender. As it develops, its energy consciousness is expressed as a higher vibrational "color" that other souls can "see." Newton describes a soul as having a misty, ghost-like shape that can take on the human appearance, especially the face, it had in a previous human life to help a newly returning soul recognize the human relationship it had with this soul.

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and scientific advancement, [19–20](#), [22](#), [157g](#)

Framework of Reality highlights unfolding developments that are revolutionizing our understanding of ourselves and our place in the universe. Scientists and scientifically trained researchers are providing us with a rich and expanding base of knowledge about strange and unusual phenomena observed in quantum physics, cosmology, biology, psychology, disease and healing, death, and reincarnation investigations.

Insights from quantum physics suggest that the basis of our physical universe is mental—conscious thought. Other discoveries are causing us to redefine our concepts of mind and this elusive thing we call consciousness. New concepts of reality are needed to explain the incredibly fine-tuned characteristics of our physical universe. The mysterious nature of dark energy and dark matter suggests that their source resides in subtle-energy dimensions. Strong hints of subtle dimensions are also provided in near-death out-of-body experiences, subtle-energy healings, and documented accounts of very unusual mind-body effects.

Thousands of between-lives spiritual regression cases and the deeper near-death experiences provide us with fairly consistent descriptions of a non-physical realm populated by souls living in a highly developed culture that is interacting with humans. This revolutionary information demands a revised and expanded view of reality—one in which spirituality is the underlying source of reality.

Highlights on all of the above and more are presented in *Framework of Reality*, and they provide readers with the first outline of a new revolution in knowledge.

“This is a brilliant book! There are few books that I can think of that present such a comprehensive overview of such complex theories yet such an enjoyable read.”

Jared Rosen, CEO DreamSculpt Media, Inc., Author of *The Flip*

“Here . . . are the ‘Cliffs Notes’ for the fundamentals of a new era. [He] has touched on all of the big pieces . . . and provided an unparalleled and very useful overview.”

John L. Petersen, President of The Arlington Institute, editor & publisher of the FUTUREdition e-newsletter and author of *The Road to 2015*

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