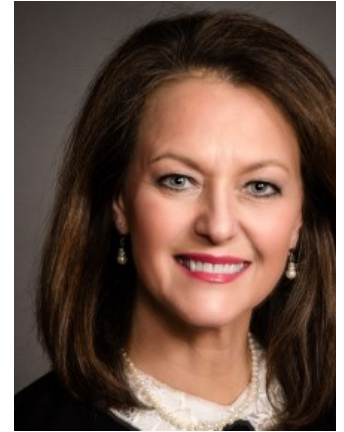


A Physician's Near-Death Experience—1977

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While taking an all-day standardized college exam I unexpectedly and unexplainably developed very troubling intermittent double vision. After completing the exam I called my physician dad to report what was happening. He was sufficiently alarmed to send me to an emergency room. I drove to the hospital with one eye closed. I was met by an assembled team of physicians, who decided to admit me. I was developing additional neurological deficits. As the paralysis descended, I developed severe respiratory distress. I was sent to the pulmonary department for testing. Unfortunately, the amount of medication I received proved to be an overdose, which results in acute respiratory failure.



The last thing I heard was the therapist calling “code blue”. I saw, as if from above and apart, emergency resuscitation efforts frantically start. I viewed the frenetic activities around my dying body with detached interest. My essence, my soul, my consciousness, my being, my spirit—was at peace and serene. Now I had no need for a physical body. Matter and gravity were no longer barriers to movement. Ahead emerged a wondrous, brilliant ball of the unimaginably whitest light from which emanated perfect love and peacefulness. Despite its infinite luminosity, the light was pleasing and caused my eyes no discomfort.

As I departed, I failed at first to conceive that what lay below was my dying body. It was not a part of me and the surrounding medical drama was not my concern.

This radiant ball of loving light initially appeared at a distance and rapidly surrounded my soul during my journey. I became aware that this source of transcendent light was a peaceful, living, loving thing. From it originated the most tremendous transference of pure love and acceptance, far beyond human imagination. Very naturally and effortlessly, I was drawn to this living ball of loving light. As I moved toward the light the quicker it surrounded and insinuated itself within my soul. The love source and my soul merged within the light. We became one and the same.

The decision of whether to return to my life or move toward and into the light was a very difficult one for me. It fascinated me that I felt I was being offered a choice. Upon saying, “No” the process halted and a voice spoke to me from within this amazing living ball of lighted love. The voice surrounded me. The voice said directly to me, “Don’t worry. It’s not your time yet. Return!”

I suddenly awoke on a respirator in the intensive care unit. Once I got my hands on pen and paper, I wrote out a description of my near-death experience. Now was not my time to die. My father observed how happy I looked. There was no wiping the smile off my face. I was at total peace.

I was forever changed by this experience. I was thrilled to have felt the wonder and beauty of the amazing love-light source that awaits us beyond life here on Earth. I believe and choose to call this love-light source God. I will never again fear death for myself or others.