

Each of us has our own story to tell of the group of guiding experiences that have occurred to us personally and shaped our views of life. I hope you will find something interesting in the following.

In my case I have always been interested in possible aspects and answers to what I now believe to be my life's primary question of: "How are Things, *Really?*" (as in "no BS" or "no baloney"...").

One of the more intriguing idea statements that I came across in the past several years is: "We are not human beings who undergo spiritual experiences; we are instead spiritual beings undergoing a human experience."

If you accept a statement like that as true, the results would forever change your view of life! Things that used to seem important suddenly would be seen as unimportant, and things previously unimportant would become the major influences of how you chose to spend your time and live your life!

Other extremely intriguing idea statements, in my opinion, that have appeared in front of my nose, would have to include the following:

1. "Patience is the art of living in the Eternal".
2. "There are no accidents."
3. "We are exactly where we should be at all times to be learning what we should be learning at that point in time."
4. "The point of free will that we have as human beings is how we react to the events presented to us."
5. The quote from the Christian apostle Paul in Acts 17:28 where Paul refers to "God in whom we move and live and have our being".

Stunning events which are almost never reported in the news appear to be regularly occurring in our world. Because these events are so outside our everyday experiences, they seem unbelievable to most people. But that which is unbelievable or "impossible" today becomes not only possible but the normal as our understanding increases with insights and education over time.

For example, the idea of man traveling by flying seemed impossible to almost everyone a short 200 years ago; and today flying is taken for granted as not only possible but normal. Similarly, 100 years ago the idea of our being able to view events as they happen anywhere in the world or on the moon would have seemed like pure fantasy.

When something which is generally considered impossible for human beings, is shown to be possible by at least one example, the most-intriguing question is raised that if one human being is capable of something, could more,... or many,... or most,... or all human beings be capable of that same thing with appropriate training and an appropriate viewpoint or intention?

Because of the number of frauds and charlatans in our world, it would be easy to dismiss as impossible some amazing events which are claimed to have occurred, except for the extreme credibility of some of the speakers. Our challenge is "to not throw out the Baby with the bath water!"

Many of these credible individuals are respected scholars or respected students of the edges of human general understanding. Could these events such as, for example, the miracles of Jesus in the Bible, be possible for human beings of our day if our viewpoint of how we relate to our God and our universe could be put in the proper perspective? Jesus

seemed to say that when he said in John 14:12: *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do”*.

This to me is truly the Intrigue of the Possible!

While growing up I had many questions about our human relationship to our universe around us and had very little success in finding satisfying answers from those around me, through no fault of those individuals. The answers I received relied on unsatisfying information which could not answer what I thought were reasonable questions, generally starting with the word “How?...”, or a response that the answer to my question, particularly in regard to what I would now call “religious matters”, was a matter of faith.

This search for explanations lead me to major in the study of general Physics in college. This was largely to find out how much we human beings really knew about the workings of the world around us, with the additional apparent appeal of offering options for a number of interesting ways to earn a decent living.

What I found out was that we have discovered a large number of amazing things and are able to use that knowledge to engineer many amazing devices, but there are clear limits to the details of what we know. Usually we have a surface knowledge but are unable to layer that knowledge down much below the surface information. And, as is frequently and I believe accurately said when one is trying to understand almost anything; “The Devil is in the Details”. Or as they used to say on the ancient world maps when they got beyond the edge of known geographical knowledge, “Beyond Here There Be Demons”.

For example, it was stunning to me to find that our best scientific atomic structure model of all of the matter around us is currently described as follows: The ratio of the size of the hydrogen atom to its nucleus is about 100,000:1. “If an atom were the size of a typical football stadium, the nucleus would be about the size of a marble on the 50-yard line”. That seems to say that, in our best scientific atomic structure model, matter appears to be greater than 99.99% empty space! To paraphrase my understanding of that, everything that we consider solid matter around us, including our physical bodies, is 99.99+% empty space!! So essentially in a sense, you and I are 99.99+% composed of space with a smattering of particles thrown in. This physical vehicle, our body, which we consider so real is practically non existent!

Another science surprise was that the range of things we see with our physical eyes, from deep blue or violet at the short wavelength end through to red at the long wavelength end, is contained in only one Octave of electro-magnetic wave lengths or frequencies in the universe. An Octave of light has the same relationship as an octave in Music, with the highest frequency being twice that of the lowest frequency.

We perceive the next lower octave of frequencies below our visible range as heat. Lower octaves below heat include microwaves, radiowaves, and eventually the sound we hear. The next higher octave frequency is ultra-violet light, from which we protect ourselves with sun-tan lotion or which we use to sterilize our food. Most of the organisms such as germs that thrive our everyday experience will be destroyed and die in an intense ultra-violet light environment. The other hundreds or thousands of octaves in our universe are nearly unknown to us in daily life.

With the current atomic Physics view now extended down to sub-atomic building blocks called Quarks as a fundamental element in the structure of matter, physicists have had to invent new names for the characteristics of Quarks, and have standardized on unscientifically-whimsical names for quark characteristics such as “Colour” and “Charm”.

The universe seems to continue away from us in both directions; toward the very small and toward the very large. The distance across our Galaxy, the Milky Way, is measured in units of how far light travels in one year, 1 light-year, nearly 6 Trillion (with a "T") miles. Our galaxy is approximately 100,000 light years across! If you went about 40% of that distance in a particular direction in space, you would arrive at the center of our galaxy, and unfortunately be immediately pulled into the "Black Hole" object which anchors our galaxy and is very slowly absorbing our own Milky Way galaxy! As the name implies, unfortunately we can't see what a "black hole" is because it is so massive and its gravity is so strong that even the light it may be emitting is pulled back in and cannot escape. So with no light coming out, the appearance from the outside is black.

So how big is big? There are billions of known galaxies with comparatively few of those being close to each other...

What is our relationship with our universe? One of my favorite quotes is supposedly from Sir James Jeans, a British physicist from the 1930's, saying, after a lifetime of investigation of the physical universe: "The Universe is not only stranger than we imagine; it is stranger than we can imagine!"

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After college and some ROTC active-duty time in the Navy, my career in engineering and computer activities did little to progress my understanding of "How are things, really". However, since my interest in that question had not diminished, information seemed to keep "jumping up" in front of my nose for my consideration.

Starting over 25 years ago, about 20 years before I became a Mason, it has seemed that plausible answers to my personal "how are things, really?" questions, which I now believe equate to "What is More Light" questions, have appeared in front of me, frequently in unexpected ways and at unexpected times.

I became more interested in learning of others' unusual experiences after running across the Thomas Sugrue book, "There Is A River", a biography about a Virginia Beach 1930's resident named Edgar Cayce who is also known as "The Sleeping Prophet". Cayce had lead an admirable devout but unspectacular conservative life growing up in Kentucky. As an adult he later moved permanently to Virginia Beach.

For forty-three years of his adult life, Cayce demonstrated the uncanny ability to put himself into a kind of self-induced sleep state by lying down on a couch, closing his eyes, and folding his hands over his stomach. This state of relaxation and meditation apparently enabled him to place his mind in contact with information connected to all time and space. From this state he could respond to questions as diverse as "What are the secrets of the universe?" to "How can I remove a wart?" His responses to these questions came to be called "Readings" and contain insights so valuable that even to this day individuals have found practical help for everything from maintaining a well-balanced diet and improving human relationships to overcoming life-threatening illnesses and experiencing a closer walk with God.

Although Cayce died more than sixty years ago, the value of the material in his Readings is evidenced by approximately one dozen biographies and more than 300 other books that discuss various aspects of this man's life and work. These books contain a body of information so valuable that even Edgar Cayce himself might have hesitated to predict their impact on the contemporary world. Sixty years ago who could have known that terms such as "spiritual growth", "Akashic records," "auras," "soul mates," and "holism" would have become household words to millions? Access to further details of Cayce's life and work are available to the general public in the Virginia Beach library maintained by the Association of

Research and Enlightenment (A.R.E.), a public subscription organization dedicated in part to keeping over Cayce's 30,000 lifetime readings available to any interested individual for further research.

The website for the A.R.E. is: [www.edgar cayce.org](http://www.edgar cayce.org)

The majority of Edgar Cayce's readings deal with health maintenance and the treatment of illness. Even to this day, individuals have found physical help from information given as long as 80 years ago! Yet, although best known for this medical material, the sleeping Cayce was not limited to concerns about the physical body. In fact, in their entirety the readings discuss an astonishing 10,000 different subjects. When compiled together, the majority contain and deal with the following five categories: (1) Health-Related Information; (2) Philosophy and Reincarnation; (3) Dreams and Dream Interpretation; (4) ESP and Psychic Phenomena; and (5) Spiritual Growth, Meditation, and Prayer.

When Cayce chose to go into a sleep state, others could ask him questions whose answers would be channeled through him giving complete and useful responses to medical, philosophical, and other fields of which he had no waking knowledge. When awakened, Cayce not only had no awareness of what had been said but did not even know the meanings of some of the medical or technical words used in the carefully-transcribed responses to the sleep-state questions he had been asked. As word of his abilities spread throughout the country and the world, Cayce tried to answer all requests for help. The overload of tens of thousands requests which continued into the war years of the early 1940's lead to a deterioration of his health and to his death in the mid-1940's.

In closing for now, I'd like to recount one of Cayce's readings that demonstrates how unusual the information he received and gave could be. When he had been living in Virginia Beach for many years, one of his many letters came from someone he did not know, who was living in a Kentucky town which he had never visited. A medical condition was diagnosed in Cayce's resultant "reading" and a particular commercial medicine was recommended as the cure, saying that it could be obtained from a particular local Pharmacy. Within weeks, a response letter was received saying that the specified medicine was not available at that Pharmacy.

Leading to a reply to that 2<sup>nd</sup> letter, Cayce's subsequent "reading" said to go back to the Pharmacy and ask the Pharmacist to look behind a particular bottle on the left end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> shelf from the top. The reply from Kentucky said that the sought-for medicine was found exactly where Cayce's reading said it was!!

Edgar Cayce was the first of a number of individuals I have encountered who, in my opinion, represent powerful examples of the Intrigue of the Possible!