



Tom Butler
 Etheric Studies, (CC)2018
 Seeking to Understand the Nature of Reality
ethericstudies.org



Etheric Studies Occasional Update 1

Tom Butler, (cc) 2018

(Also at <https://mailchi.mp/3ea325e9cf38/ethericstudies1?e=8368c8380f>)

As It Is

At what point in a person's life does achievement turn to legacy? At 75, I do not consider myself old, but as a pragmatic person, it seems clear to me that I should be measuring my service by the understanding I am able to share with others. For that to be true, I must trust that the understanding I have come to over the years of seeking is of value. You are always invited to tell me otherwise.

The urge to express myself in writing has become more persistent since my 1990s effort to describe metaphysical concepts in the *Handbook of Metaphysics*. My preconscious musing sometimes sends me into the new day with bright ideas and solutions to conceptual problems. This is nothing mystical. I am not being called. I think it has always been with me, whispering behind my thoughts, turning me toward new lessons. The same whispering waits behind your thoughts, should you listen.

I really like *The Hermit*, Key 9 of the Tarot as a symbol for a wayshower. I try to fulfill that function, not because I am special or any kind of mystical teacher. As one who has lived a life full of discovery about my spiritual self, I am now beginning to accept the responsibility to hold the light so that others might also discover. You too will hold the light in turn.



So, what does this mean? First, as you must have noticed, the ATransC is dormant. All things remaining equal, it will remain so. Lisa and I are better with details than with people. Knowing this, we tried to recruit people to help us, but that never worked out. We watched Phran and Robert Gingsberg, who started the Forever Family Foundation, successfully attract supporters who help them with daily operations. They are a good role model for how a paranormalist organization can be a success. We are not.

The last NewsJournal was issued in Spring 2014 (Volume 33, Number 1.). Without a tangible benefit for membership to offer, that is also when we moved away from the membership format. The website remains but the Idea Exchange has become something of a ghost town.

A curious dynamic in our community is that people seem to prefer the Facebook over discussion boards. I notice that many boards are virtually dormant, or posts have degenerated into shallow chatter. We must consider what we are going to say if we wish to have a meaningful exchange on a discussion board. That does not seem to be the case for some posts on Facebook. These subjects are complex, and one must do the work for understanding. It appears that for most people work is no fun, even work discovering their inner nature.

With the intention of maintaining a news source for ATransC supporters, I tried to hold the course for a while with this Occasional Update. ATransC.org is still being maintained and the Idea Exchange is still there, waiting for someone to put it to good use. Karen Mossey is using a closed part of the board to coordinate Big Circle recording sessions, so I want to keep the board up.

EVP is a lot like holding a glass to the wall to hear what is going on in the next room. It works to let us know a bit, but mostly we guess. Much of my time over the years has been to develop a model describing what is in the next room, how we relate to it and how we can know truth from fantasy. My thought now is that the most important thing we can do with EVP, is first, use it as a reason to know we are immortal personality and what we do now matters here and hereafter.

EVP is a reasonably reliable test instrument. So, second, we can use it to test hypotheses. For instance, the Implicit Cosmology suggests EVP are enabled and colored by the practitioner or an interested observer according to the person's worldview. This might be tested by having many people record for the same information and examine how the responses are worded. Comparing that to the worldview of the practitioner might show that the message is worded in a way that most agrees with the person's sense of reality. For instance, is the message tainted with references to evil or to love?

The benefit of transcommunication (audio (EVP) and visual ITC, mental mediumship, automatic writing) is mostly in what it tells us about our actual nature and our etheric reality. Realizing this has directed me toward trying to put that to work for all of us.

So, here is the deal. I am going to stop trying to keep up a good face for the ATransC and focus on explaining the concepts. That is my legacy. Yes, the website will remain, and for now, the Idea Exchange. But, my work will be shown in EthericStudies.org.

This is the last occasional update from the ATransC. I will move the email list and use it in future Etheric Studies updates. Rather than making people resubscribe, if you are not interested, please use the Unsubscribe feature at the bottom of the page. I named the website *Etheric Studies* because I have the hope that others will join in. Please do join in the study and share your thoughts via the Idea Exchange or the contact tool at the bottom of every web page.

The new updates will look a lot like the old ones. It is just that I will not feel so guilty for not including more news about ITC. I hope you understand. As always, I am interested in hearing your thoughts.

Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies

I know this reaches you at the last day, but it is worth telling you anyway. Unlike the professional parapsychological organizations, the ASCS seeks to maintain a balance between academic and layperson discussions of paranormal phenomena. They are undergoing something of a metamorphosis and need your support and encouragement to help them continue that balance.

From the conference page: (<http://ascconference.com/>)

In conjunction with the Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship of North Carolina

2018 Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies Conference

"ASPECTS OF CONSCIOUSNESS"

(October 4, 5 and 6)

We, at the Academy, will be officially announcing our plans for the growth and expansion of the ASCSI at this year's Conference. Recent historical trends indicate that both spirituality and consciousness studies are growing ever more important in our various societies, cultures and educational institutions. To keep up with these trends, the ASCSI is planning to expand its role in these fields of study, moving from a passive role to a more active role in promoting increased levels of spirituality and consciousness individually and collectively within our societies.

This year's conference will be held at Unity of the **Triangle in Raleigh, NC** and will run from Thursday evening, October 4 to Saturday evening, October 6, 2018. We have arranged a broad program of both workshops and

lectures based on the title theme “**ASPECTS OF CONSCIOUSNESS; Theoretical, Spiritual, Anomalous, Experiential**”. We have sought to offer a comprehensive representation of the subject matter and will continue to do so in the future.

Spiritual	Experiential	Theoretical
<p>Topics that combine human psychology and traditional mysticism, aimed at personal well-being and self-development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consciousness Connection • Re-Incarnation • Energy Healing • Enlightenment 	<p>A humanistic approach to scientific teaching, learning and spiritual growth that emphasizes the experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra Sensory Perception • Near-Death Experience • Apparitions • Dreaming 	<p>The development of new theories and hypotheses to explain natural and paranormal phenomenon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics of Consciousness • Survival • Human Matrix Simulation • Multi-Dimensions

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TICKETS.**
(October 4th, 5th & 6th)

\$129⁰⁰

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 **ASCS**

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ascconference.com

Speakers:

Larry Burk – (Speaker) Transforming Symptoms and the Healthcare System

Tyler Stevens – (Presenter) The New Age Parapsychologist Presentation

Beverly Rubik - (Speaker) The Biofield: Measuring the Light Emitted from the Human Body During Ordinary and Extraordinary States Presentation

Elizabeth Rauscher – (Speaker) American physicist and parapsychologist.

Miles Edward Allen - Sex After Death Presentation

Anna Champagne - Color Healing

Ginette Nachman - Living "In-Sync" – A Personal Perspective on Synchronicity Presentation

Elisa Wike Hurley - SpiritSong Intuitive Painting Presentation

Vicki Talbott and **Terri Segal** - Communicating with Discarnate Loved Ones and Other Non-physical Personalities through Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) Presentation

Lee Lawrence - Neuroscience of Prayer

Erich Habich-Traut - Ody and Soul the Experience Of 'Self' as an Incorporeal Electromagnetic Field: Evidence for Life after Death Presentation

Rev. Bob Trowbridge - Overcoming Limitations

Suzanne Giesemann - Moving from Theory to Experience, From Head to Heart Presentation

Mary Jo Bulbrook - Multi-Dimensional Healing Ethical Practice and Teaching

Laura Jackson - The Evolution of Consciousness in The New Paradigm Presentation

Teresa A. Yuschok - Lighten Up: Mind-body-spirit benefits of laughter. Presentation

Nora Ruebrook - When the invisible and visible worlds speak to each other what language do they speak? Lifes Code®. Presentation

Debra Diamond - Near-Death Experience After-Effects

Richard Amoroso - A Physics of Mind

John Kruth - Does My Computer Know When I'm Angry? Presentation

Marsha Walters - Conscious Connection with the Unified Quantum Field Description

Robert and Suzanne Mays - Near-Death Experiences

Jim Beichler - Spirituality and consciousness in light of their physical context

Sperry Andrews - The Human Connection Project Presentation

The image is a screenshot of the website "Tom Butler's Etheric Studies". The header includes the site name and the tagline "Seeking to understand the nature of reality". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Community, Etheric Studies, Concepts, Theoretical, Progression, Methods, Research, Spiritualism, Meetings, and Directory. The main content area is titled "Paranormalist Musing" and contains three article previews:

- Cooperative Community** (Oct 2018): "Cultural Issues For Frontier Subjects". Abstract: "This essay introduces a new blog. The objective is to highlight important topics to help paranormalists gain understanding about psychic and survival-related experiences. Emphasis will be on possible best practices..."
- Morphic Fields** (Oct 2018): "Abstract: The study of metaphysics requires a cosmology based on function models that will react to known circumstances to produce expected experiences. Until I learned about Rupert Sheldrake's Hypothesis of..."
- First Sight Theory** (Oct 2018): "Abstract: A model designed to represent an aspect of reality requires a ruleset that describes the relationship amongst the functional areas. James Carpenter's First Sight Theory has proven to be..."

Each article preview includes a "Share" button with social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.). At the bottom of the page, there is an "Affiliate Programs" section with a search bar and a "Search" button. Below this, there is a promotional banner for "Your Immortal Self: Exploring the Mindful Way" by James Carpenter, with a link to shop on Amazon. At the bottom right, there is a banner for "Use This Link to Shop eBay" with the eBay logo.

Blog: Paranormist Musing

I have written a series of essays intended to help explain the Implicit Cosmology in real-life terms. Many of them have been incorporated in *Your Immortal Self* and *Exploring the Mindful Way*. While not all are about the cosmology, all are for the community. Many of the community issues concern the relationship between parapsychologists and laypeople.

Our community is in something of an identity crisis as we struggle to find a balance between a tendency toward a Paranormalist's version of the New Age Culture and serious efforts to understand these phenomena. From the outside observer, we already appear to be delusional and that does not bode well for our ability to attract qualified researchers. I know a thing or two about this struggle and want to share it with you.

My current project is titled *Avatar* and is about what it might take for a computer to act as an avatar for immortal self in a similar way that humans do now. It should give hardware developers food for thought. My next project will be titled *Storytelling*.

I am trying to set up a notification system so that registered people will receive an email when new Opinions come out. There is a link at the top of the page (<https://ethericstudies.org/opinion/>). Please let me know if you have trouble with it.

Answer the Public's Questions

As a director of the ATransC, I see my job as public education. Quite a few people visit ATransC.org and a few watch the Facebook page, but too few ask questions or bother to self-educate through the literature. I am not sure how I ended up on [Quora](#), but as it turns out, there are quite a few people asking a lot of questions.

I think some are paid to ask questions and you can usually tell by the over-the-top silliness of what they ask. I usually ignore those. Some questions are quite good.

As it turns out, the questions tell me a lot about what the rest of the world is being taught. For instance, there are a lot of questions about the Ouija board that show unreasonable fear. One too many scary movies, I suppose.

There are also a few questions at <https://www.reddit.com/r/Paranormal/> that could stand answers.

The first thing I do is decide if I know anything about the subject and of the way the question is asked indicates honest interest. Then I read the previous answers to that question. If there is a good one, I will sometimes only upvote it and go on my way. Even if I would rather not bother, if some of the answers are misleading in an area important to paranormalists, I might answer just to set the record straight.

The important thing is that people are asking questions and that gives us an opportunity to tell it the way we think it is. Assuming you are reasonably well informed, an excellent way to serve is to answer those questions. One brick at a time

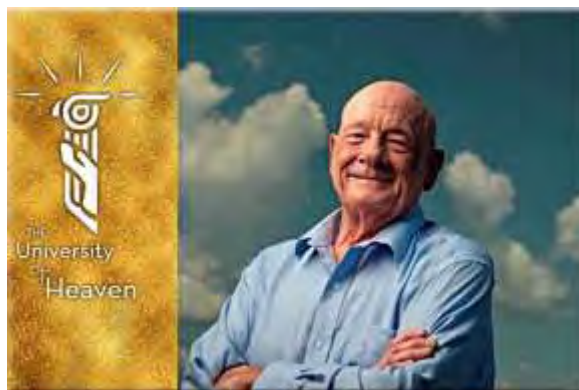
University of Heaven

We have presented at a couple venues at which Moody presented. It has been fun to watch his evolution of how he represents his acceptance of survival from maybe, to definite maybe, to probably. I think that is where he is now.

Dr. Moody has furthered the paranormalist community's understanding of our relationship between here and hereafter more than anyone we know. The respect he draws will surely attract the most excellent presenters to his new venue. See <https://www.theuniversityofheaven.com/>.

Lisa Smartt appears to be his co-founder. She wrote "Words at Threshold: What We Say as We're Nearing Death." Being a senior citizen myself, I am aware of the need to have the direct support of "the next generation."

This is a new venture worth checking into.



Please Share Your Thoughts

Lisa and I have traveled quite a bit over the years. Besides the endlessly fascinating ingenuity of other societies, I am struck with the thought that people are much the same everywhere. Like here in the USA, culture takes the first cut at shaping our point of view and that, in turn, strongly influences our perspective. So outwardly, people do seem different from one country to another.

But, look closer. Look at the expression on their faces. Try to see their eyes. You need not travel far, this can be done in your local stores. Humans have the same instincts and those take the second cut at shaping our point of view. It is not realistic to look at a person to know his or her lucidity. I have tried to be a naturalist observer of human behavior. Sometimes I see that the person's human is in charge and sometimes I can sense that the person's conscious self is holding the reins.

In mainstream science, behavior is dictated by instinctual reaction to circumstance. That Scottish schoolboy I saw from the tour bus, who was walking home from school, was in some way, acting out his part as a member of humankind. The fruit of his labor furthered his people; ... end of story. We drove on.

If you are familiar with the Implicit Cosmology, you will know that I think there is evidence that each of us is a member of a collective. Our collective is composed of other life fields seeking to gain understanding as intended by our common local source. If I am right, that schoolboy was doing as mainstream science predicts by furthering his community, but he was also increasing understanding that furthered his collective in the etheric.

I want to understand the meaning of that boy's existence. (And thereby, my own.) Metaphysically speaking, is it legitimate for me to see him as possibly a member of my collective and to see the understanding he gains as a gain for my collective? Ultimately, we are all one, so whatever collective he shares, his understanding helps all of us.

There is a case for this. Take a look at Rupert Sheldrake's [Hypothesis of Formative Causation](#). In it, you will see reason to think each of us makes an incremental contribution to the collective consciousness.

I would like your thoughts on this. As you can probably tell, I am still trying to figure out how to speak of the concept and your feedback would help.

So, here We Go

The one promise I can make is that I will continue to seek ways to model, understand and teach these concepts. I hope you will understand why we have moved on from the ATransC's experiments to studying our spiritual nature. It is this time for me to consider legacy. Perhaps I will return to experiments when I finish.

Thank you for your support over the years.

Tom Butler

ATransC.org

EthericStudies.org

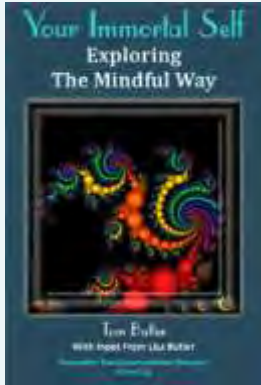
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Your Immortal Self

Exploring the Mindful Way
[Book's dedicated web page](#)

We Can Know the Nature of Reality



Our understanding of the nature of reality is undergoing an important shift from mostly supposition and belief to actionable facts based on important developments in parapsychology and transcommunication. This means the emergence of new tools which are helping us better understand our nature and the nature of the world we live in.

To be sure, this shift involves theory and research, but it ultimately comes down to who we are and what we can become. The best way to describe this future paradigm is in terms of mindfulness and the middle way of mindful living. This is not the mindfulness of living in the moment based on the belief that you are your body. It is the mindfulness of experiencing life from the perspective of your immortal self.

This book is written to show you the evidence of survival and the implications of that evidence as an important model for future research. While your personal progression depends a lot on understanding the evidence, the community sharing your journey is equally important. To help you learn where to look for help, a comprehensive survey of our paranormalist community is included.

Mindfulness can lead to important growth in your ability to work with nature, to sense the subtle fields influencing your life and more confidently commune with your loved ones on the other side. But it is important to understand how this paradigm shift is changing our understanding of the phenomena of transcommunication and interconnectedness in our community. The last part of this book includes a comprehensive discussion of the phenomena, including EVP-ITC, healing intention and mediumship transcommunication phenomena.

Exploring the Mindful Way

Companion to *Your Immortal Self*
[Book's dedicated web page](#)

Immortal Self-Centric Mindfulness

The most important understanding seekers of spiritual maturity must come to is the difference between lucidity and hyperlucidity. Lucidity is the degree to which we are able to clearly sense information from our mostly unconscious mind. Hyperlucidity is a term used in the Implicit Cosmology for a complex of behaviors motivated by the belief we are lucid when we are actually only sensing what we have been taught to expect.



The second most important understanding is that lucidity is the seeker's objective, but that it is achieved in small steps. The only real conscious influence we have on our mostly unconscious mind is the expression of intention. This means that we must learn to consciously examine what we think is true. Mind changes only slowly, and so, the seeker's objective is to habitually express the intention to align perception with the actual nature of reality.

In the first book, *Your Immortal Self*, the process of consciously seeking greater lucidity is referred to as the Mindful Way. Many people practice mindfulness simply to improve personal wellbeing. A few step onto the Mindful Way to seek greater understanding of their immortal nature and the nature of the reality they inhabit. Even fewer remain as wayshowers for those who seek greater lucidity.

The fact of our immortality is explained in *Your Immortal Self*. This book, *Exploring the Mindful Way*, includes twenty-one essays explaining some of the more important concepts encountered on the Mindful Way. While you will benefit from first reading *Your Immortal Self*, there are sufficient explanations in this book to make it a stand-alone text.

Will you be a wayshower?