

“ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA:”

Implications of Modern Consciousness Research for Parapsychology

Stanislav Grof, M.D.

Various avenues of consciousness research conducted in the second half of the twentieth century, such as psychedelic therapy, thanatology, field anthropology, and powerful forms of experiential psychotherapy, revealed a rich array of “anomalous phenomena.” These findings have undermined some of the most basic assumptions of modern psychiatry, psychology, and psychotherapy about consciousness and the human psyche in health and disease. Many of these observations are so radical that they question the basic metaphysical assumptions of materialistic science concerning the relationship between consciousness and matter, more specifically the brain. Careful study of these phenomena would lead to a radical revision of psychology that would by its nature and scale resemble the conceptual cataclysm that physicists experienced during the first three decades of the twentieth century, when they had to face the philosophical implications of Einstein's theories of relativity and quantum physics. In a sense, they would represent a logical complement of this revolution that has already happened in our understanding of the material world.

In this lecture, we will explore such phenomena as access to new information mediated by various transpersonal experiences, consciousness in near-death situations, astral projection, past life memories, unorthodox healing, communication with the Beyond, psychoid events, and remarkable synchronicities. We will discuss the most important major revisions that would have to be made in our understanding of consciousness, of the human psyche, and of the nature of reality to respond to these conceptual challenges.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Stanislav Grof, M.D., is a psychiatrist with more than fifty years of experience in research of non-ordinary states of consciousness. In the past, he was Principal

Investigator in a psychedelic research program at the Psychiatric Research Institute in Prague, Czechoslovakia, Chief of Psychiatric Research at the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, and Scholar-in-Residence at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, CA.

Currently, he is Professor of Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) in San Francisco and Wisdom University in Oakland, CA, conducts professional training programs in Holotropic Breathwork and transpersonal psychology, and gives lectures and seminars worldwide. He is one of the founders and chief theoreticians of transpersonal psychology and the founding president of the International Transpersonal Association (ITA). In 2007, he was granted the prestigious Award »Vision 97« from the Václav and Dagmar Havel Foundation in Prague and in 2010 the Thomas R. Verny Award from the Association for Pre- and Perinatal Psychology for his pivotal contributions to this field.

Among his publications are over 150 articles in professional journals and the books **LSD: Gateway to the Numinous; Beyond the Brain; LSD Psychotherapy; The Cosmic Game; Psychology of the Future; The Ultimate Journey; When the Impossible Happens; Healing Our Deepest Wounds; The Stormy Search for the Self; Spiritual Emergency;** and **Holotropic Breathwork** (the last three with Christina Grof).

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Durch die Heranziehung international renommierter Gelehrter als unsere Referenten wird nicht nur unsere Gesellschaft, sondern auch der Wissenschaftsstandort Wien aufgewertet.