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EXPERIENCE OF GOD AS LIGHT AND SOUND by Treecia Richie

On black ice, at 35 mph, crashing into the tow truck in front of me was imminent. Those last seconds passed dreamlike. In a deafening silence, all time stood still, as I knowingly and quietly surrendered [lie outcome of what was to be to the God I *wanted* to believe in. (At age 27, I was existentially agnostic.) Before my head went through the windshield of the vehicle, I was already out of my body, up above. ..watching the “accident” continue. Three cars from behind rammed into my vehicle, which was by now atop a new Corvette being towed in the snowfall by the tow truck.

Wherever I moved my attention, I knew everything about the many people involved. I knew their names, their thoughts, their feelings — and the consequences that would result for each from this “accident” that we’d all (together, *before* time) “agreed” to be part of, for each other’s personal growth.

I watched men removing a bloodied body from one car; they were having much difficulty getting it out of the mangled wreckage. Bystanders were shaking their heads, feeling sadness, reflecting on their own lives, on the meanings of their own loved ones to them. One of the paramedics said, “She’s gone.” I noted with absolutely no emotion of any kind that the body lie was referring to and helping to place on the gurney was my own. With no grief, no fear, no anxiety, I simply watched as the gurney was placed in an ambulance. The ambulance sirened away from me, into the snowy night.

I felt myself completely surrounded and taken up into an indescribably warm Loving Light and Sound Presence. The serenity and unconditional Love emanating from N, through me, is beyond verbal description. Direct unimpeded transference of thought -- more like a shared knowingness -- was washing through every cell of my being. IT was me and IT was not me. I was IT and I was not IT. I was in IT, of IT, yet still simultaneously my individual unique beingness. I knew myself to be preciously priceless to this Presence of Light and Sound, as WI was an atom of IT. A drop of the ocean is the essence of the ocean, though not the ocean; the ocean is not complete except for the existence of the presence of every single drop of which it is composed. That is how I related to the Light and Sound in which I was immersed.

Author and NDEr P.M.H. Atwater describes the experience as, “...a million suns of compressed love, dissolving everything unto itself, annihilating thought and cell, vaporizing humanness and history, into the one great brilliance of all that is and all that ever was and all that ever will be. You know. You can no longer believe in God, for belief implies doubt. None. You now know God. And you know that you know. And you’re never the same again.”

I did not see this Presence of Light and Sound so much simply, totally knew and loved IT, within and about me, as *IT* knew and loved me. There was no space. no time, no separation, no duality of anything, as every cell of my being was flooded through and through with knowingness of how *all* that is. just is; of how it *all* makes Divine sense, of how *all* is *in* Divine Order. Of how every religion on earth serves a purpose of spiritual growth for those who find their happiness, however long or temporary in us teaching. Of how even the attitude I have pouring cat food in the kitty dish or putting my laundered socks in the

bureau drawer is about expressing love for all. Of how loving one another *is* loving self and loving God, of whom each of us is an atom.

Simultaneously, my entire life (past, present and future), was “passing” through my knowing each thought, word and deed — the seemingly significant and the seemingly menial. As I re-experienced these deeds and yet watched them at the same time, every happenstance was colorfully vivid. This life review gave me total understanding of the relevance of every single second in my endless unfolding as an individual and how important every second was to God. It served to awaken me to a remembrance that God is having experiences of being human *through* me. From this omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent Being of Light and Sound there was no negative judgment, only appreciative, Unconditional Love.

I *knew*, in that moment and for all time, that I am, and always have been a unique “atom aspect” of this Being. In a quickening of awareness, I felt illuminated with the remembrance of how every single person and thing in existence is unified in Oneness, how life itself is really “all for one and one for all”. Remembrances of one spiritual principle after another flooded through my being. They were entirely about realizing the countless, multi-faceted aspects of Love each of us *is* while in human embodiment amidst the illusions of matter, energy, space, and time.

Then the Presence of Light and Sound gave me a choice: go back into my body (which was then made visible to me in a hospital critical care ward) or go on into another direction of experience. I understood the purpose and probable outcome of either choice. Whichever choice I made was of no importance, but that I *make* the choice was imperative.

I have no recall of choosing to return to this body. But I’m back here, so I must have! I re-entered my body like a genie swooshing back into its bottle. I’ve not been the same since, but that’s a whole ‘nother story...

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