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| **Andrew P's** **NDE** |

**Experience description:**

***In the summer of 1955, a few days before my high school graduation, I experience an unusual, frightening, and incredible event.  The memory of this event is not only crystal clear, but it remains intact, exactly as it happened.  Every thought, word, image, action, and feeling of this memory abides unchanged in my body and thoughts.  I have spent years trying to forget it, but I always remember it, and I always remember it as if it happened today …***

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**I am filled with joy and excitement. In a few days I will finally graduate from high school and move forward with my life. Our class decides to have a picnic at a nearby lake as our final class outing before graduation, and I’m excited about going.**

**I arrive at the lake and it is a great day for a picnic. The sun is shinning, the sky is painted a beautiful shade of blue dotted with perfect cotton ball clouds.  A warm breeze blows the fresh smell of the trees, sand and lake everywhere.**

**I change into my swimsuit and begin the party with some beach games before lunch.  After I eat, some of my friends swim out to a floating platform, about one hundred yards off shore.  Once they get to the platform, they wave and yell for me to join them.  The water is much too cold for me to ease in slowly, so from 20 feet back, I take a running leap and hit the water in a gigantic belly flop.  My body warms a bit as I get into my swimming rhythm.  Then about half way to the floating platform, I feel the first cramping pains in my stomach and groin.  *“But the cramps aren’t that bad,”* I tell myself, *“and besides, I’m almost half way there. I can make it.”***

**With every stroke the cramps and pain increase, and my knees buckle into my stomach.  I can no longer kick my legs or straighten my body.  I’m scared.  My arms move, but I don’t go anywhere but down.  As I struggle beneath the surface of the water I start gagging on the water.  It’s in my nose, down my windpipe, and in my lungs … I’m submerged, and then sink.**

**As I struggle, I finally get my head up out of the water.  Frantically, I search the water’s surface for the platform and my friends. No one recognizes my dilemma.  Down I go again, deeper than before.  My arms feel frozen in place, and every muscle in my body screams with pain.  I never imagined that I could be in such unbearable pain.  I sink deeper as the beautiful June sunlight fades to blackness.  “*Oh my God, it’s all black, I can’t see anything.*”  A loud, painful, ringing sound is in my ears.  It feels as if someone stuck an ice pick in my ears.   I’m convinced my brain will explode any second.  I‘m falling endlessly down this freezing black hole.  My body trembles uncontrollably in freezing water.**

**I continue to sink into this ice-cold, black hole; it seems to last forever.  Wait, I feel something.  It’s the slimy, cold weeds at the bottom of the lake.  Struggling in this tangle of weeds feels horribly like falling into a frigid snake pit.**

**Finally I hit the bottom.  I try to push myself up with trembling, numb hands, but the goo at the lake bottom holds me down an sucks me deeper into the mud.**

**Then, I hear a strange voice inside my head say, *“Andy, rest, for just a moment, you need to let go.”* I reply, *“No, I can’t, I have to get to the surface for some air.”* Then the voice says again, *“If you let go for just a moment, then I promise that you can return to the struggle.* And I respond, *“Do you promise?”*   And the voice answers back, *“Yes, I promise.”***

**In my frozen panic I say to myself, *“All right then, OK then, I’ll stop for just a moment of rest.”***

**I stop struggling.  I let go …**

**The very instant I let go, I am hurled into a dark, black tunnel.  I look back and see my body stuck in the weeds at the bottom of the lake.  I look forward and see a brilliant Light shining at the end of the tunnel.**

**Instantly, the freezing cold is gone, I feel warm.  The horrible pain in my body is gone, and I feel peaceful, calm, and very, very happy.  The ringing in my ears and head is gone, replaced by a gentle silence, as if I was in the middle of a redwood forest with a gentle breeze blowing through the tops of the trees.  The radiant Light that looks like a thousand exploding suns overtakes the blackness.  My retinas should have been burned out by its brightness, but I can stare into the Light and it doesn’t hurt.  Again, I realize that all of the pain that consumed me an instant ago is completely gone.  Warmth, joy, and an indescribable feeling of love replace the cold, terror, panic, and fear that enveloped me.**

**For some unknown reason, this dramatic rush toward the Light causes me no concern. I have no fear of the Light.  I’m pulled closer and closer, as if I’m drawn into the Light by a gentle, giant magnet.**

**Then, in the next instant, I’m suspended inside the center an immense sphere, bigger than our high school gymnasium.  The inside of the sphere looks like an enormous, unending movie screen, with hundreds of movies playing in every direction at the same time.  I am completely surrounded by images of my experiences.  Wherever I look in the sphere, I see all the events of my lives; and I can hear, feel, touch, and smell the exact experience of living those lives. In this place there is no beginning; there is no end.  I observe all of the moments of my lives all at the same time, all around me.  All my lifetimes are somehow mystically connected to each other.  Strange, I sense no fear or judgments, no guilt or accountability, and absolutely no blame or shame.  I re-experience every thought, word, and action of each life experience whenever I focus on them.  I am suspended in a world of unlimited dimensions.**

**Then after what seems like hours in the sphere, I am instantly back in the tunnel again, drawn toward the Light.  I can actually feel its brightness, warmth, and love. As I get closer to the Light, I am absorbed by its brilliance and perfect love.**

**I am in the Light!  Oh my God, I am actually in the Light.  I am the Light!**

**I look directly into the source of the Light and it appears to me in a human-like form.  It looks like a massive, human silhouette that is radiating with the brightness of thousands of suns.  Although I can’t remember seeing its form before, somehow I recognize it.  The Light speaks to me, “*Andy, do not be afraid.  Andy, I love you.  Andy, we love you.*”**

**The Light—It actually knows me.  The Light knows my name.  The Light called me Andy.  Surrounding the central Light form are millions and millions of other Lights welcoming me back home. I know them all and they know me, we are all pieces of the same Light.  I hear myself say, *“It’s good to be back home.”*  We are All home together again.**

**Although I am in the Light, and the Light is in me, I am still Andy.  I’m everywhere and I am here at the same time.  I see me as a person and I see me in the infinite, warm, and loving Light.  I become the Light.  The Light has a voice that I have never heard, but it is not strange to me.  The Light has a smile that is indescribably beautiful, and I recognize that too.  The Light has an incredible sense of humor and an infectious laugh, and we talk and laugh together.  The Light has the answers to all of the questions in the universe—and I don’t have any questions, because I know everything that the Light knows, and that is everything!**

**The Light also knows everything that I have ever done or will do, and the Light loves me without conditions.  The Light loves me because of who I am—Andy, a piece of the Light.  There is no fear.  No judgment.  No punishment.  No blame.  No shame.  No ledger of good and bad deeds. Only warmth, peace, joy, happiness, forgiveness, and love in the Light.  I am one with the unconditionally loving Light.**

**I’m home.  I am home forever.**