

Taking Past Life Therapy into Turkey

Janet Cunningham, Ph.D. and Jeffrey Ryan, CRT

Dr. Janet Cunningham, PhD, and Jeffrey Ryan, CRT, were invited to be presenters at the First Parapsychology Conference in Istanbul, Turkey. This was not a metaphysical conference; it was a scientific exploration of the current research being conducted in parapsychology. Before leaving the states, they realized that all the other speakers were research scientists. They would be the only therapists in the very impressive line-up. They further noticed, according to articles on the Conference site, that although research was being conducted in reincarnation, along the lines of Ian Stevenson's model, work in past lives as a therapeutic tool did not seem to be included. They both rightly decided to correct this ASAP. Following is a brief summary of their trip.

Neither of us had visited Turkey, so the opportunity to visit this country so filled with history excited both of us. We did have friends and colleagues caution us, saying that this is not a time for Americans to be traveling to or near the middle-east. The political climate outside of the United States is very negative towards us. Although we took that into consideration, we both intuitively felt that we were supposed to make this trip...and we both wanted to go.

The Conference was sponsored by The Bilyay Foundation and topics to be covered included:

ESP (Extra Sensory Perception): Telepathy, Mind over Matter (Psycho kinesis-Telekinesis), Precognition, Altered States of Consciousness (Hypnosis, Dream Studies), Clairvoyance.

Energy Fields : Healing, Bio-energy, Auras, Alternative Medicine.

Quantum Philosophy : Holographic Model of the Universe, Quantum Healing, Synchronicity.

Holistic Living : Positive Thinking and Living, Yoga, Meditation, "New Humanity-New World"

Life Beyond Death: Near Death Experiences, Proof of Life after Death, Reincarnation.

Jeff's talk was on past life therapy, titled The Journey to Self-Healing. My talk was about a model that I had created that could be used in researching parapsychology; it was titled Ancient Egyptian Spirituality as a Model for Consciousness.

It was an impressive slate of speakers:



P.M.H. ATWATER - Dr. Atwater is one of the original researchers in the field of near-death studies, having begun her work in 1978, being a near-death survivor and having three such episodes in three months in 1977. She became a researcher because of her third near-death experience. Seven books contain her findings, some of which have now been verified in clinical prospective studies and in "The Lancet," 12-15-01 (the Dutch Study). Sessions held with adult and child experiencers now number nearly 4,000. She has served twice on the Board of the International Association For Near-Death Studies, once as Second Vice-President, and was a columnist for their magazine "Vital Signs" for several decades.

JURGEN KEIL, Ph.D. - Dr. Jurgen Keil studies reincarnation cases through scientific methods and he has studied reincarnation cases in Turkey and other countries with well-known reincarnation researcher Prof. Ian Stevenson. He has published his findings in leading journals such as Australian Journal of Psychology, Medical Journal of Australia, Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, Lexikon der Psychologie. He also explores phenomena related with mediumship.

KONSTANTIN KOROTKOV, Ph.D. - Konstantin Korotkov is Professor of Physics at St. Petersburg State Technical University in Russia. He has published over 70 papers in leading journals on physics and biology, and he holds 12 patents on biophysics inventions. Prof. Korotkov has led a research career for over 25 years, combining rigorous scientific method with an insatiable curiosity about things of the spirit and the soul with deep respect for all life. His technique, known as the Gas Discharge visualization technique (GDV), is a breakthrough beyond Kirlian photography for direct, real-time viewing of the human aura.

JOHN A. PALMER, Ph.D. - John A. Palmer graduated from Duke University with an undergraduate degree in psychology and received his doctorate in psychology from the University of Texas. After spending two years on the psychology faculty at McGill University, he entered parapsychology on a full-time basis. In addition to heading the graduate program in parapsychology at John F. Kennedy University from 1977-1981, he has held research positions at the University of Virginia, University of California at Davis, and the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Until last year he was Director of Research at the Rhine Research Center, where he also administered their Summer Study Program. He is currently Visiting Research Associate in the Department of Neurology at the University Hospital Zürich in Switzerland. Dr. Palmer is editor of the Journal of Parapsychology and was President of the Parapsychological Association in 1977 and 1986.

GARY E. SCHWARTZ, Ph.D. - Gary E. Schwartz is professor of psychology, medicine, neurology, psychiatry and surgery at the University of Arizona and Director of its Human Energy Systems Laboratory. After receiving his doctorate from Harvard University, he served as a professor of psychology and psychiatry at Yale University, director of the Yale Psychophysiology Center, and co-director of the Yale Behavioral Medicine Clinic.

RESAT GÜNER - Resat Güner is one of the founding members of the Izmir Spiritual Investigations Society and he has led many conferences and seminars in the field of spiritualism and parapsychology. Mr. Güner has written two books: Occultism (Okültizm) and Self-Suggestion (Kendi Kendine Telkin). He is currently the director of Izmir Spiritual Research and Development Association.

ISMET YALÇIN, Ph.D. - Ismet Yalçın graduated from University of Ankara, Faculty of Agriculture as agronomist in 1988. He earned M.Sc. degrees from IAMZ (Spain) and from Ankara University in Agricultural Economics in 1991 and 1994 respectively. He received a Ph.D. from Cukurova University in Agricultural Economics in 2003. Dr. Yalçın has been working on parapsychology and spiritual development as an amateur for more than twenty years. He writes articles in Spirit and Matter (Ruh ve Madde) and presently holds presidency of the Ankara Spiritual Research and Development Association.

TARIK ARIKDAL - Tarik Arikdal graduated from Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering in 1990. In 1989, he graduated from Bogaziçi University Information Technologies Department, System Analysis and Programming. In 1987, he became a member of the Metapsychical Investigation and Scientific Research Society (MISRS). After 1990, he began to present conferences and lead seminars which he still continues. His interests include fundamental parapsychology, quantum physics, spiritual development and fundamental spiritualism. Mr. Arikdal presently holds the post of publishing director of Spirit and Matter Magazine, president of the Metapsychical Investigation and Scientific Research Society and vice president of Bilyay Foundation.

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From the time that we arrived at the airport in Istanbul, we were greeted with staff and volunteers of the Bilyay Foundation and taken to our hotel to rest before the first dinner meeting. This attention was indicative of the entire stay; there was a constant attention to detail and efficiency, as well as care for our needs that went beyond many of our trips abroad as well as in the States.

The next morning, we had a press conference. The room was filled with reporters, cameras flashing, and video cameras. There was an air of excitement in the room. A head table with microphones for each presenter offered an opportunity for more photographs and questions from reporters. Initial questions seemed to center around the subject of reincarnation.

After the group press conference, each speaker had individual interviews. The result was an outstanding array of articles and photographs in several newspapers throughout the Istanbul area.

The Qu'ran, as the Christian Holy Bible, does not speak directly on reincarnation, so we were unsure of the Muslim response to our subject. Nevertheless, Muslims as well as Christians in Turkey and across the world have inquisitive minds; some are curious about the concept of reincarnation and interested in exploring it further.

The Conference was well attended - a beautiful facility with comfortable chairs, good acoustics and lighting. There were simultaneous translations with headphones between English and Turkish for each speaker. Speakers were very well received.

Additional enjoyment during this trip included the marvelous food and friendships we gained by having an opportunity to share time informally together. We, as presenters, felt overwhelmed with the generosity and open heart shown us through words and actions.

It was a marvelous experience, and one that we will never forget.

Both Jeff and I have been invited back to Turkey in 2005 to teach the first class in Regression Therapy. It is an exciting step for them, and another advancement world-wide for the work that we do.

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Janet Cunningham, Ph.D., is an internationally-known specialist in regression therapy, and a transpersonal counselor, seminar leader, and author. Dr. Cunningham is Vice President of IBRT, past-president of the International Association for Regression Research and Therapies, Inc. (formerly the Association for Past Life Research and Therapies, Inc.), and has served on the faculty of the Professional Institute for Regression Therapy in California. Her current research interests include (1) an exploration of the ancient Egyptian spiritual beliefs related to bodies and current consciousness research and (2) the Interlife planning stage before the present incarnation.

Jeffrey J. Ryan is an internationally known teacher in Past-life Therapy. He is past president of the International Association of Past-life Research and Regression Therapies, Inc. (IARRT), formerly the Association of Past Life Research and Therapies, Inc.(APRT) and he has instituted curriculum standards for Past-life therapy training world-wide which are now the accepted standards throughout North America. He is part of a training staff which travels North America to train health professionals entering the field of Regression Therapy, serves on the certifying board of the International Board of Regression Therapy, (IBRT) and is the author of numerous publications.

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