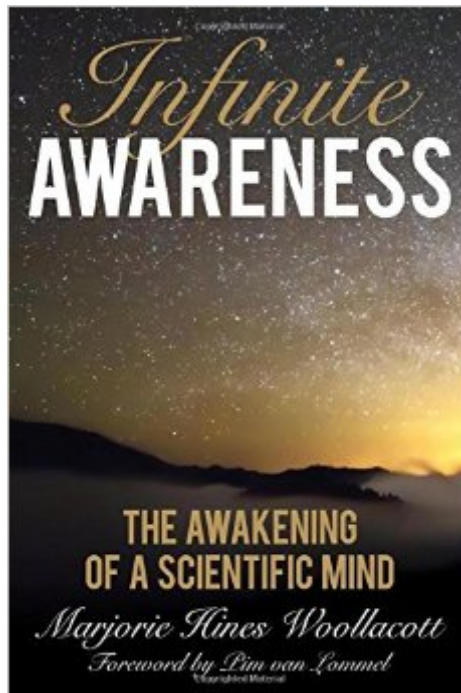


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Infinite Awareness: The Awakening Of A Scientific Mind



Synopsis

As a neuroscientist, Marjorie Woollacott had no doubts that the brain was a purely physical entity controlled by chemicals and electrical pulses. When she experimented with meditation for the first time, however, her entire world changed. Woollacott's journey through years of meditation has made her question the reality she built her career upon and has forced her to ask what human consciousness really is. *Infinite Awareness* pairs Woollacott's research as a neuroscientist with her self-revelations about the mind's spiritual power. Between the scientific and spiritual worlds, she breaks open the definition of human consciousness to investigate the existence of a non-physical and infinitely powerful mind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Woollacott's bold and fascinating book breaks new ground in the current debate about whether consciousness is created by the physical brain, or whether consciousness is primary, an elemental force that exists independently from the brain. What impressed me is that I could view her book through two very different perspectives: it's at once both scholarly and a very enjoyable read. As I read her book, I found myself going back and forth between enjoying the stories and examples she provided, and the scientific evidence and analysis she offers. I was truly surprised to see that there are quite a few MD's, psychologists, and neuroscientists doing rigorous, peer-reviewed research into these areas. Dr. Woollacott not only summarizes this research very clearly but provides many compelling case-studies quoted in this

research that seem impossible to explain in terms of our current understanding of the brain. In addition to crafting a careful and thoughtful review of the research that supports the reality of NDEs, reincarnation, and energy healing, Dr. Woollacott also describes some of her own highly mystical experiences. This is perhaps one of the strongest elements in a book that has many compelling aspects to it. By telling her own story of being "awakened" by an Indian swami and of then having classic mystical experiences that most of us think could only have happened way back when, she adds her own impressive data point to the discussion about the nature of consciousness. I was fascinated to see how this experience was so powerful that it instantly turned her from an atheist into a person who knew beyond doubt that "something else" was going on. But then again, almost all the stories in this book were both dramatic and convincing. I wouldn't be surprised if this becomes one of those "milestone" books. The research she surveys and the personal transformation she shares are dramatic enough and credible enough to provoke intense conversation and debate. It's hard to ignore what you'll read in this book (unless you're a scientist who prefers belief to data). As they say, once you've seen this material, you can't unsee it.

If you wonder why you are here, where consciousness comes from, do we really die, the grand mysteries of life....so does Marjorie Woollacott, a neuroscientist whose curiosity got the best of her. A plane ride and a mantra opened up a world of questions unanswered, a world many scientist avoid, if not dismiss. Through personal experiences and hard line research, she weaves together a subject that excites the mind and the spirit, and challenges the reader to be open to an expanded sense of self. I highly recommend it.

This is a very important book. It is also a well-written book "and perhaps more important if you're still not sure whether to buy it, a very enjoyable book to read. Dr. Woollacott, from a young age, had a deep interest in exploring the world. For years after becoming a scientist, she combined her exploration of the "outer" world with a deep, meditative exploration of the "inner" world of consciousness. After nearly a quarter century, she began to find ways to integrate these two. This book is the result of her successful efforts at this inner-outer integration. The book reads as an "inner" adventure story. She shares poignant stories of her childhood and early years as a scientist/ meditator. Then she takes us slowly through a variety of "edge-science" explorations, including near-death experiences, solid, empirical research on "consciousness after death", scientific explorations of

energy healing informed by her own experience, and several other very interesting, thoughtful and provocative areas. Dr. Woollacutt, throughout the writing of her book, was supported by Ed Kelly's group of scientists based in Charlottesville, VA. Dr. Kelly has written what I think is the single most important book in science today, *Beyond Physicalism*. His group has been meeting for 14 years, and in the last few years has come up with a well-integrated understanding of consciousness and evolution, inspired in large part by the work of 19th century philosopher/psychologist William James and educator Frederick Myers. Dr. Woollacutt's final chapter is a very well-done overview of the understanding that Kelly's group has come to regarding the relationship of consciousness and the brain, making use of Myers' and James' filter theory (I might mention here that Bernardo Kastrup, in his unfortunately titled but otherwise very well-written book, *Why Materialism is Baloney*, also presents some very interesting and quite similar views of the consciousness-brain interface.) This is a thoroughly enjoyable as well as very important book and I strongly recommend that anybody who is conscious and/or has a brain, get a copy as soon as possible!

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