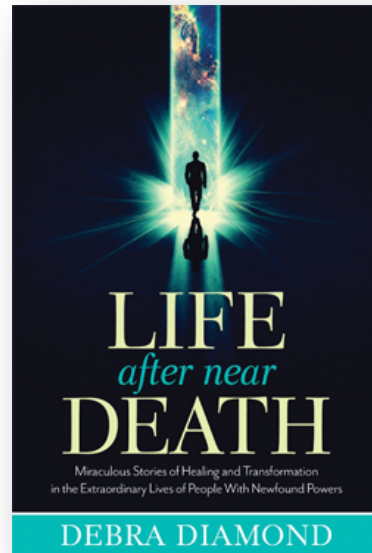


ARTICLE

The Gift of Spirit-Heightened IQ and the NDE

By Debra Diamond

(1075 words)



“PLEASE CONTACT ME. I experienced an increased IQ through my NDE years ago.” It was signed Mary Ann Mernaugh, Laguna Beach, California. This was one of many emails I received as I continued my research into NDE after-effects.

I replied to Mary Ann and by the following day, I heard back from her.

Mary Ann was one of many people I’d met whose lives had been turned upside-down after her NDE. Her experience took her on a completely new path, influencing her relationships, her career, her mission and all her beliefs.

Mary Ann’s near-death experience occurred in 1969, before 13 million Americans admitted they shared this supernatural experience, and before the term “NDE” was coined by Raymond Moody. The press and Hollywood media had yet to seize on the idea of a near-death experience, to glamorize it as an arresting and entertaining spectacle to enthrall its audience.

Mary Ann said:

“I was 26 at the time of my NDE and in labor with my first child. As I lay on the delivery table, I began to rapidly go down a tunnel. I remember thinking, *Oh my God! I’m dying.*”

“I saw a bright light in the distance and then everything went black. When I woke up, I thought I was dead and in heaven. I felt wonderful. Peaceful and warm. Someone walked in the room and my bubble broke. I knew I was alive.”

Mary Ann’s NDE was as real as any experience she has ever had—more so, she says. As she recalls, there was nothing dreamlike about it, and it continues to be a highly acute memory with details especially memorable—a complete sensory experience. In addition, she says, “It

completely defies comparison in the human experience and is permanently imprinted on my conscious mind.”

Mary Ann was uncertain what happened to her that day in the hospital, but her family was touched by the tragedy of her newborn dying only nine hours after birth.

“I had no knowledge at the time what a near-death experience was. I didn’t have the foggiest of what happened and I couldn’t put a label on it.”

Stupidly, I went to church and told the priest in confessional that I was really hurting. I didn’t understand why this was happening to me. He told me that I deserved to have my child die because I had used birth control.

Mary Ann didn’t talk about her experience to anyone until she met a woman who encouraged her to speak about it. This was long after she made several life changes that she now knows were a result of her NDE.

“I had the strong feeling after my NDE, that everyone has a path, a vocation, a mission,” she says. “Whatever you choose to call it. I had to find that mission on my own.”

After her NDE, Mary Ann knew she had to change her life. She had no money, her father had recently passed away and she was in a difficult marriage.

Mary Ann’s transformation

Prior to her NDE, Mary Ann attended Michigan Tech University. “As an undergraduate, the University did thorough testing on all its freshman. My IQ was measured at 123 at that point,” she says. Mary Ann’s IQ registered in the above-average range.

But, after her NDE, Mary Ann began to notice dramatic changes to her mental process. She noticed she was thinking in a different way. Things seemed crisper and clearer, her thought process more acute. She could compile figures in her head faster after her NDE than she could before her experience. Mary Ann recalls specific examples, including this one:

“My family and I were watching figure skating on TV and it was being judged on a ten point system with fractions. The judges compiled, then averaged, the figures. I was able to compile and average the figures before the final total was posted on TV. I was driving my niece crazy. She kept asking me how I was doing it.”

“I was able to fly through complex IQ tests. While in graduate school, I had to take a class in psychometrics. One of the exercises involved giving mental acuity test questions to a partner until the partner missed two questions. My partner finally called the instructor over and said, ‘I can’t get her to miss two questions. We just keep going.’ The instructor told us to just stop

and mark the end point. Ironically, I also scored high on the Pons test which measures the ability to read non-verbals—face, body and voice cues.”

“I didn’t understand that I had an NDE until seven years later when I read a news supplement in the Sunday paper and saw a picture of what is today known as the tunnel.”

Mary Ann had tangible evidence that her IQ increased after her NDE, that her cognitive processes changed. She also had her IQ tested by the local Mensa organization and scored 145 on the California Mental Maturity test, which put her in the top 1% of the population. Overall, her IQ increased 22 points after her NDE.

Mary Ann went on to earn two master’s degrees with 4.0 GPAs and honors. After her first master’s degree, she worked for 12 years in microbiology, and eventually completed one year of internship and two years of residency to become a clinical therapist.

How do we explain Mary Ann’s enhanced intelligence? What occurred to deliver Mary Ann’s new powers?

IQ and the NDE

What was it about the higher intelligence that Mary Ann acquired? How was she able to achieve a 22 point increase in IQ?

IQ itself is difficult to define, although put simply, it’s our ability to reason and understand and a measure of our cognitive abilities. IQ labels have changed since the beginning of IQ testing, but tests are generally reliable enough that you have similar scores throughout your life. Yet, unlike most of us, Mary Ann’s scores did not remain constant. Following her NDE, Mary Ann’s scores went from above-average to the upper extreme of intelligence, the very gifted range.

I knew from previous work that Mary Ann entered a different energetic space. She, like others, had taken the express elevator to the highest realms of consciousness. And it was there, I was sure, we would find the answers to her unique abilities, like others who had experienced the gift of NDE after-effects.



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