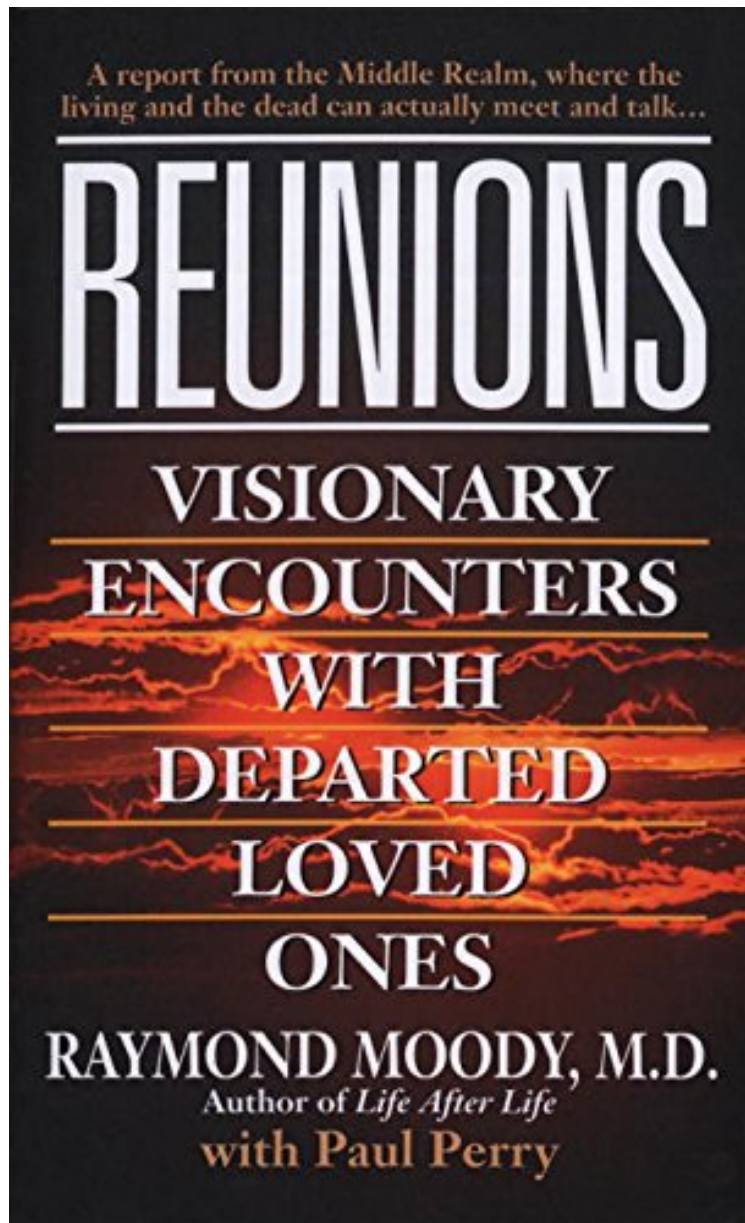


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Reunions: Visionary Encounters With Departed Loved Ones

Raymond Moody Jr., Paul Perry

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Raymond Moody Jr., Paul Perry : Reunions: Visionary Encounters With Departed Loved Ones before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reunions: Visionary Encounters With Departed Loved Ones:

76 of 78 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly Informative!By Imperial TopazI bought this book sight unseen, on the strength of one of Raymond Moody's previous books that I had read and loved, many years ago, Life After Life. I was hoping for more of the same, and was quite surprised to find that this book is not at all about reincarnation, but about mirror-gazing. This was not something I was initially interested in, but having liked his previous book so much, and having paid for this book, I decided to persevere. I'm glad I did. It was a very worthwhile read. Being new to this subject, I knew absolutely nothing about it before. More than half of the book is devoted to the HISTORY of mirror gazing in various cultures, throughout time. I didn't even know that there had been a history. One of the most fascinating parts was reading all about the ancient Greek oracles, and how they had worked. I had heard of the Oracles, but previously just imagined they had some kind of fortune-teller. Actually, it was quite complicated. People consulting the Oracles had to undergo a month of preparation, in near total darkness. Then there was a huge, underground metal mirror that they were taken to consult, in which they then had visions. Moody and his wife visited the remains of one of the Oracles, and he describes his trip there, and how he was able to find all the various parts of the oracle chambers. Moody describes how mirror gazing was a well-accepted diversion during the Middle Ages, and before, in almost every culture, and how it went out with the rise of science, especially after 1900. Even the American Indians had a form of mirror gazing which they practiced. Different cultures had different ways of gazing to try to conjure spirits, including looking into water, looking at shiny silver cups or mugs, and gazing into crystal balls (mentioned only briefly). The most fascinating historical information was a description of how the Xhosa (pronounced Khosa) people of South Africa, in 1856, after fighting many unsuccessful battles with the British, gazed into the river, and saw the spirits of six dead ancestors. These ancestors convinced the whole tribe that if they would sacrifice all of their cattle to the ancestors, that the ancestors would come back to life, and lead them to a victory over the British. I asked someone I know from South Africa if they had ever heard of this, and they had not, but they suggested to me that I check on the internet. I did, and found MANY references to The Great Cattle Killing of 1856-1857, in which because of the visions seen in the river, they killed ALL of their cattle, AND did not plant their crops. Apparently, the British even tried to stop them. However, they didn't listen, and the subsequent year, 20,000 Xhosa starved to death. After acquainting the reader with the complete history of mirror gazing, Moody tries to research the practice scientifically. He builds a chamber in which to mirror gaze, following the same methods he has researched from historical cultures. He chooses a number of people, who fit certain criteria-such as being professional, well-balanced, no belief in metaphysics, and lastly, having a relative or friend who has died that they would like to see again, if it were possible. He then has them follow a preparation procedure similar to what the ancients did-although he devised his chamber and preparation from a melange of historical research, synthesizing his own ritual to experiment with. Before he started, he was expecting a very low success ratio, if any success at all. To his surprise, about 50 percent of the subjects reported communication. A number of interesting case histories are included in the book. Lastly, he gives the reader good directions, and suggestions, as to how they can pursue mirror gazing, if they are interested in trying it on their own. I would not recommend this book to the average reader. However, if you are interested in mirror-gazing, or a person of a very open scientific mind, this book will interest you. I think Moody has done a careful, scientific study, and presented his findings. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Vincent A Bernard good book 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read! By R. Vogel Saw Dr. Moody many years ago when he presented his experiment on which this book is based. It was before a group of approximately 200 Psychiatrists. I had expected to hear more about near death experiences, having read several of his books on that subject. I had read several books about mediums contacting spirits, but had never heard of anyone able to make them physically appear. Dr. Moody disclosed his success both in person and in his book. No one in the audience disputed his claims. I was glad to be able to obtain the "how to do it" book. It is great to have an open mind. After all, the Bible itself mentions spirits appearing to people on several occasions. Overall a great read!

A collection of the experiences of men and women who have communicated with the dead using the easy-to-learn techniques developed by Dr. Raymond Moody. As proof of life after death, these stunning testimonials promise to launch even more research and give comfort to people around the world.

From Publishers Weekly This fable/homily is the third and last book in Burnham's inspirational angel cycle. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Moody (Life After Life , Mockingbird Bks., 1981) continues his pioneering studies on death and the afterlife in this fascinating book, making a cogent and persuasive argument for the ability to contact the deceased. Moody describes his experiments with the ancient technique of mirror gazing to induce visions of the dead. Many of the 300 subjects with whom he has experimented had surprisingly real encounters with deceased friends and loved ones while using this technique. Moody seeks to elevate the use of mirror gazing to a respectable level and demonstrates its potential as a therapeutic tool to heal grief and promote self-discovery. He challenges the mind-set of traditional psychologists and doctors and shows the need for open-mindedness in studying the realms of consciousness. This well-written book is likely to be controversial but is sure to be popular in public libraries. - Elizabeth Salt, Otterbein Coll. Lib., Westerville, Ohio Copyright 1993 Reed Business

Information, Inc. From Booklist Will the first medical doctor to establish a scientific basis for near-death experiences be able to bring the same sort of legitimacy to visionary encounters? He hopes so. Thanks initially to Moody's best-selling *Life after Life* (1981), those now-familiar characteristics of the near-death experience--the tunnel; the bright, white light; the sightings of dead relatives--have become part of popular culture. Now Moody's here to offer another breakthrough: you don't have to be hit by a truck to see the dear departed. By researching and experimenting with ancient techniques such as mirror and crystal gazing, he claims to have developed a way to reach the dead without being near death, and according to the many personal accounts given here, these meetings are not like seeing a ghost. They are "more real than real" and "in no way like a dream." Although Moody facilitates these encounters at his Theater of the Mind in rural Alabama, not to worry: there's no need to take the midnight train to Alabama because he gives directions for making a pschyomanteum (an apparitional chamber, more or less) in your very own home. Moody doesn't say much about what happens if the reunions go bad, though he does warn that sometimes a different loved one might appear than the one who was expected, so you have to be as prepared for your grumpy uncle to turn up as your beloved aunt. The book is filled with historical and literary accounts of visionary experiences, proving that the desire to contact the departed is as old as life itself. It doesn't take a visionary to know that this book will be very popular. Ilene Cooper