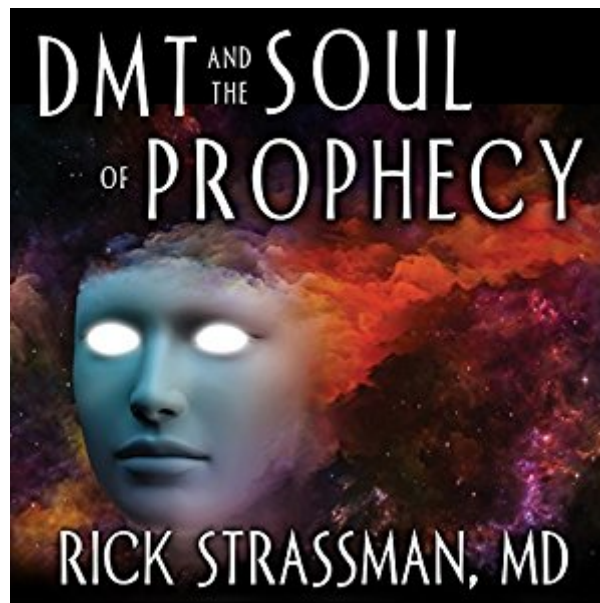




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DMT And The Soul Of Prophecy: A New Science Of Spiritual Revelation In The Hebrew Bible



Synopsis

After completing his groundbreaking research chronicled in *DMT: The Spirit Molecule*, Rick Strassman, MD, was left with one fundamental question: What does it mean that DMT, a simple chemical naturally found in all of our bodies, instantaneously opens us to an interactive spirit world that feels more real than our own world? When his decades of clinical psychiatric research and Buddhist practice were unable to provide answers to this question, Strassman began searching for a more resonant spiritual model. He found that the visions of the Hebrew prophets were strikingly similar to those of the volunteers in his DMT studies. Carefully examining the concept of prophecy in the Hebrew Bible, he characterizes a "prophetic state of consciousness" and explains how it may share biological and metaphysical mechanisms with the DMT effect. Examining medieval commentaries on the Hebrew Bible, Strassman reveals how Jewish metaphysics provides a top-down model for both the prophetic and DMT states, a model he calls "theoneurology". Theoneurology addresses issues critical to the full flowering of the psychedelic drug experience. Perhaps even more important, it points the way to a renewal of classical prophetic consciousness, the soul of Hebrew Bible prophecy, and unexpected directions for the evolution of contemporary spiritual practice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a third significant contribution by Dr. Strassman toward understanding the mind-brain dichotomy. The noted mind-brain philosopher John Searle concludes one of his several books on

this problem by pointing out that seven billion people have the subjective experience of a mind in addition to obviously having a physical brain. He argues that a common subjective experience of seven billion people is an objective fact of biology, so deal with it! Dr. Strassman has been dealing with it and doing so very well. His third book transports his research from the clinic to the very concrete, pragmatic, and historical world of the Hebrew Bible and its prophets. He demonstrates the similarity of these experiences by comparing the testimony of his DMT (dimethyltryptamine, a mild endogenous hallucinogen created by the pineal gland along with melatonin) research subjects with the testimony of the Hebrew prophets on their communications from a non-material realm and its spirit inhabitants, in particular YHWH. The experiences are remarkably similar with the exception of the message content, which was largely nil from his DMT subjects and remarkably rich and consistent over several centuries from the prophets. Dr. Strassman hypothesizes that the human brain may have been designed or perhaps evolved to receive messages from the spiritual world as prophecy, but without the individual's call of prophecy and a received message, it is like a radio receiver not precisely tuned to a broadcast station and hence only static. So, perhaps Descartes' Rationalist Dualist conjecture that the pineal gland was the portal between the mind and the brain, between the soul and the body, and hence between the spiritual world and the world of matter may after all be correct, and according to Dr. Strassman, certainly worthy of further scientific study. Most current scientific mind-brain research sees the mind as an epiphenomenon of measureable neural electrical activity in the brain, but the brain is an electro-chemical, biological machine and seems to need DMT as part of its input to maintain its self-awareness. My favorite chapter in this book was the one on Kavod, the Glory of God. Dr. Strassman has garnered and classified the entire literary evidence on this topic from the Hebrew Bible; the evidence has been marshaled and is now ready for theory formulation. So, what think ye?

His first two books seemed to make more sense to me, while it was interesting comparing the two states. It felt like the book didn't have as steady a direction to it. I also was left wondering what really was the point he was trying to make other than he wanted to tie dmt into the Jewish tradition. Rather than an eastern or shamanic tradition. Maybe others will have gotten more out of it than I did. Was still an interesting read at the start but bogged me down in the middle and the end.

I read this book to see what the authors point of view was about the dmt experiences and experiments he documented. I understood by the title he was going to elaborate and compare

psychedelic experiences to prophets in the Hebrew Bible. The first few chapters were him introducing aspects of the Hebrew Bible which sparked my interest in the book, which I might read later down the path. Then he just starts comparing the smallest aspects between prophets and dmt trips in a way that bored me away from reading the rest of the book. I felt as if the comparisons were forced and the book was just a bunch of compiled quotes from his "test subjects" and excerpts from the Hebrew Bible. He starts the book asking himself "so what" and I felt he was so desperately trying to fabricate and align everything to go along with what he wanted to believe and what he wanted to be true. He even explains this in part at the beginning of the book where he states he left Buddhism because he wanted there to be more to the story. This of course is my bias and the author is entitled to his own but this book doesn't really expand on his previous work, instead he tries to classify dmt experiences under a religious system which I don't mind due to my belief that all religions have some truth in analogies and metaphors but again the way he presents the comparisons made me skim the book for information I could salvage but it was more of the same. This might appeal to others but not me. But I think I might check out the Hebrew Bible and make my own insights and assumptions. I hope you find what you're looking for, friend.

First rule of speechifying: tell 'em what you're going to tell 'em. Tell 'em. Tell 'em what you told 'em. Man, does he ever do that. Nonetheless, if you can skim through the prolixity, he presents an interesting premise that still doesn't impress me much. I have BA in Biblical Hebrew (from secular university) and have read everything he has in Hebrew. I am not utterly convinced that he has woven a complete picture. The Hebrew Bible is amazingly complex.

I read this book because I loved DMT the spirit molecule by the same author and while it is interesting in some parts it didn't captivate me as much as his other works has. Maybe it's because I am an atheist who is very interested in buddhism and this book goes very deep into biblical prophecy and scripture and I don't have anything against that and I tried to read it with an open mind but it just wasn't that convincing to me. If you are however Jewish or Christian I think that you'd very much enjoy this book but if you're not I don't think you'd find it to be of much interest to you.

Strassman's transition from Buddhism/Vedanta to Biblical theism is amazing because it shows his willingness to follow the evidence in spite of it going against his personal religious views. It is inspiring and instructive.

Excellent written metaphysical material! Dr. Strassman correlates and compares thoroughly the DMT compound inherent to all of us to the Prophetic States referenced in the Hebrew Bible. A must read for anyone interested in the potential perpetual nature of consciousness! If you haven't already, another must read is his groundbreaking book, "DMT the Spirit Molecule"!

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