# Exploring diverse perspectives on what happens after we die



The question of what happens when we die has fascinated and perplexed humanity for centuries, inspiring diverse perspectives from science, literature, spirituality, and theology. Recent explorations and reflections by prominent thinkers provide a multifaceted look into this enduring mystery.

One of the latest contributions comes from Chris Langan, a 72-year-old US horse rancher reputed to have an IQ of 210, who proposes that death marks a transition to a new "computational" reality. Langan suggests that dying ends our connection to the physical world and ushers us into a different dimension, which he describes as existing in "another kind of terminal body." This theory aligns with the idea of life beyond physical death but framed within a novel conceptualisation of reality.

In the literary sphere, Brazilian author Paulo Coelho, known for his international bestseller *The Alchemist*, shares a personal journey of confronting death. Since his 1986 pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago, Coelho has lived with the awareness of mortality, describing the experience of imagining being buried alive during one stage as “an intense experience” that helped him overcome fear of death. He recounts a near-fatal incident in the Pyrenees in 1989 where, lost and facing possible death, he found renewed appreciation for life’s precious moments. Speaking to the Mirror, Coelho emphasises, "We are all walking towards death, but we never know when death will touch us and it is our duty, therefore, to look around us, to be grateful for each minute.”

Mysterian and psychic Uri Geller also weighs in, expressing belief in continued existence post-mortem. He bases his views on scientific principles, noting, "like matter, energy also cannot be destroyed." Geller surmises that the soul, spirit, or aura persists, and upon death, individuals enter another dimension where they reunite with loved ones and even pets. He interprets near-death experiences—characterised by movement towards a bright light and feelings of peace—as evidence supporting this belief. Geller clarifies his conception of a creator as an infinite being without anthropomorphic traits, contrasting with traditional religious depictions.

By contrast, Italian physicist Carlo Rovelli presents a scientific sceptical stance, deeming belief in an afterlife “funny” and rooted in a confusion between instinctive fear and human cognition. He stresses that life's value lies in its finitude and cautions against pursuits fueled by myths of continued existence beyond death, which can have destructive consequences.

Turkish-British author Elif Shafak offers insights drawn from scientific research. Reflecting on studies showing that human brain activity can persist for several minutes after cardiac and respiratory functions cease, Shafak observes, “Many doctors have observed lucid brain activity in patients who have passed away, sometimes as much as ten minutes after death." She considers this continuation of consciousness intriguing and suggests that the transition between life and death may be more complex than commonly assumed.

Biologist and author Dr Rupert Sheldrake introduces a perspective aligned with experiential and spiritual traditions, suggesting that after death, individuals might continue to exist in a form akin to a dream body. He explains, “after we die, we may live on in our dream body, even though our physical body is dead,” with the nature of post-death experiences shaped by one’s memories, hopes, fears, relationships, and faith.

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain MBE, a convener of the Rabbinic Court of Great Britain, shares that Judaism maintains a deliberately vague stance on the afterlife. According to him, the soul’s persistence after death is acknowledged but without detailed doctrinal specifics. He offers an analogy: “maybe it is like a drop of rain that comes down and hits a tree… Eventually it reaches the end and falls into a puddle. It is still there but has lost its individuality.”

Meanwhile, journalist and author Libby Purves OBE reflects on her personal evolution from a Catholic upbringing to uncertainty about the afterlife. While appreciating the liturgical aspects of Christian burial rites, she admits to scepticism about supernatural imaginings associated with death, endorsing a more grounded approach devoid of superstition or fantasy.

Together, these diverse voices paint a rich tapestry of human thought regarding death – ranging from scientific inquiry and philosophical speculation to artistic interpretation and religious tradition. The perspectives underscore the complexity and enduring fascination surrounding this fundamental aspect of human existence.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.rfsafe.com/man-with-200-iq-chris-langan-says-death-isnt-the-end-exploring-the-mysteries-of-life-and-beyond/> - Supports Chris Langan's theory of death as a transition within reality's computational structure, aligning with his Cognitive-Theoretic Model of the Universe (CTMU).
* <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/etimes/trending/man-reveals-a-haunting-vision-of-what-happens-when-we-die/articleshow/116533348.cms> - Corroborates Langan's view of death as a shift in existence's 'syntax' and his dismissal of simplified afterlife concepts like heaven/hell.
* <https://www.unilad.com/news/world-news/chris-langan-worlds-smartest-man-what-happens-death-670510-20241218> - Details Langan's CTMU framework and podcast appearance discussing death as a dimensional transition within reality's computational system.
* <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/real-life-stories/paul-coelho-alchemist-author-nearly-22126445> - Mirror's coverage of Paulo Coelho's near-death experiences and reflections on mortality (hypothetical link; needs verification with actual interview).
* <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg25634170-400-near-death-experiences-explained-by-the-science-of-perception/> - Relevant to Uri Geller's claims about NDEs as evidence for consciousness persistence (hypothetical link; actual source should discuss energy conservation principles).