

# Review of: "God's characteristics as reported by near-death experiencers"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

## God's Characteristics

Patrizio Tressoldi, Jeffrey Long, "God's Characteristics as Reported by Near Death Experiencers"

This essay offers an examination of the characteristics of God and Jesus reported by people who have suffered near death experiences. Both authors have a track record in this field and the present essay extends the field by using a comprehensive but focused data base. This has become a reasonably active field of research in recent years and the present essay augments the field without including any radically transforming revelations. Rather the aim is to extend and tighten the research.

A previous study, by Long and Perry used the Greyson Near Death Experience (NED) score and since the present study departs from this it would help if a brief summary of the score were included.

This study selects participants independently of their NDE scores and includes 'Near Death Like Experiences' occurring during non-life-threatening experiences. The study would benefit from a clearer analysis of the difference between these different experiences.

A number of books have dwelt upon NDEs but often in an anecdotal way and the benefit of the present study is the focus of its database. Out of 4709 records only 303 were chosen for the study. Nevertheless, the major features of the records: Light, Love, Oneness, Absence of Judgement and Human Form are included.

The benefits of the study lie in the rigorous database, the compilation of these features, and the range of faith traditions included. A feature that seems to need further work is the presence of non-Christian respondents, which are very few but raise some extremely interesting issues. This would require a wider reporting across faith traditions, although the range of characteristics reported is extensive

This study could be strengthened by a wider list of respondents, an investigation of the non-Christian and non-religious responses and a wider representation of subjects outside the United States, which at present constitute over 80% of the respondents/. How the national and cultural origin of the respondents might affect the findings would be an interesting area to explore.

