

**Review: Leon Rhodes, *Tunnel to Eternity: Beyond Near-Death*,  
Chrysalis Books, West Chester, PA, 1997**

Pages: 107

**Tunnel to Deception**

As expected, this is a highly-occultic read, based on Emanuel Swedenborg's dreams and visions. The son of a Lutheran pastor, he began receiving visions in his fifties.

The main problems are his false teachings, which gives no true revelation on what an NDE is, also, what happens after death. The Bible does, however, the former being a spiritual experience either Satanic or from God, the latter heaven or hell then the judgement (Hb 9.27).

His false teachings are highly Satanic:

-“God is force.” [see Dn 11.38] [p41]

-“We will judge ourselves.” [p44]

-“Heaven is where people with good intent go.” [p55]

-“There is no ‘Devil’ ” and “God never takes vengeance.” [p73]

-‘Purgatory’ is alluded to, as well as Universalism : “The length of time it takes to make the free choice of heaven or hell may vary considerably.” [p74]

An important read if one ever comes across Swedenborgianism.

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**Foreword (pp. ix-xvii)**

**I) Discovering the Near-Death Experience (pp. 1-27)**

In 1975, NDE pioneer and medical student Raymond Moody wrote the groundbreaking *Life After Life*. One of his inspirations was *A Compendium of the Theological and Spiritual Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg*.

In 1982, George Gallop Jr. found 8M Americans had had an NDE.

Swedenborg's *Heaven and Hell* (HH) 445: "The death of man is merely his passing from one world into another."

Swedenborg was born in 1688, son of a Lutheran bishop and grew up in Uppsala. In the 1740s he began to have dreams and visions, recorded in a diary published as *Arcana Coelestia*.

After his death in 1772, his followers began reading his writings.

## **II) The Core Experience (pp. 29-48)**

Blind people report NDEs in which they see.

People report a "Being of Light", which people identify as God, Jesus, the Virgin Mary, or an angel.

"God is the unimaginable force with those human qualities with which we all are endowed. We are human because God is human." [Dn 11.38] [p41]

"We will all judge ourselves ... rather than being hauled into a spiritual judge's court." [p44]

After an NDE, the majority of experiencers felt more religious but went to church less frequently. [p47]

An NDE is thought of a "short visit to heaven". [p48]

## **III) The Real World (pp. 49-60)**

"Within the spiritual heavens, people are primarily influenced by what they *know*, whereas, in the celestial ... by what they love." [p52]

Swedenborg believed heaven is where people with good intent go.

#### **IV) Death and Near Death (pp. 61-78)**

During an NDE, “Maggie” saw another nurse and could read her thoughts: “I didn’t feel anything up there. Now I hurt”.

Swedenborg taught that children in heaven are permitted to grow and develop spiritually into angelhood.

“In Swedenborg’s understanding, there is no ‘Devil’ ... God never takes vengeance.” [p73]

An allusion to a ‘Purgatory’: “The length of time it takes to make the free choice of heaven or hell may vary considerably.” [p74]

#### **V) Unanswered Questions (pp. 79-89)**

#### **Appendix: Swedenborg and the Core Experience (pp. 90-104)**