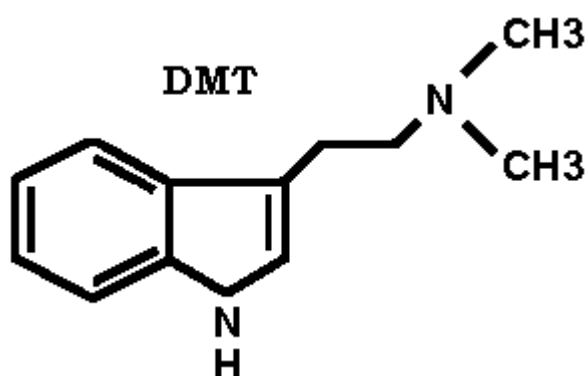


## DMT, Moses, and the Quest for Transcendence

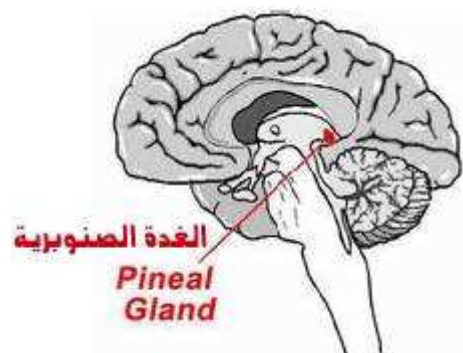
by Cliff Pickover, Reality Carnival

"DMT in the pineal glands of Biblical prophets gave God to humanity and let ordinary humans perceive parallel universes."



The molecule DMT (N,N-Dimethyltryptamine) is a psychoactive chemical that causes intense visions and can induce its users to quickly enter a completely different "environment" that some have likened to an alien or parallel universe. The transition from our world to theirs occurs with no cessation of consciousness or quality of awareness. In this environment, beings often appear who interact with the person who is using DMT. The beings appear to inhabit this parallel realm. The DMT experience has the feel of reality in terms of detail and potential for exploration. The creatures encountered are often identified as being alienlike or elflike. Some of the creatures appear to be three-dimensional. Others appear to lack depth.

Author Terence McKenna has used DMT and feels that, "Right here and now, one quanta away, there is raging a universe of active intelligence that is transhuman, hyperdimensional, and extremely alien... What is driving religious feeling today is a wish for contact with this other universe." The aliens seen while using DMT present themselves "with information that is not drawn from the personal history of the individual."



DMT is also naturally produced in small quantities in the human brain, and it has been hypothesized that DMT is produced in the pineal gland in the brain. The pineal gland appears in the

developing human fetus around 49 days after conception. Perhaps an embryo should not be considered human until DMT production commences. Note that "zygotic personhood" (the idea that a fertilized egg is a person) is a recent concept. For example, before 1869, the Catholic church believed that the embryo was not a person until it was 40 days old. (See my letter to President Bush on Cloning, Abortion, and Stem Cell Research.) Naturally occurring DMT may play a role in near-death experiences and alien-abduction experiences.

Is it possible that the reality exposed to humans by injecting DMT is in some sense a valid reality, on par with our normal reality? Our minds, which evolved to help us run from lions on the African savannas, might not be engineered to see these other realities under normal circumstances.

What is the guarantee that our minds are naturally designed to sense the "true reality"? Perhaps there is no guarantee. If this concept seems weird, consider a far-fetched example. Imagine a creature or phenomena that has been lurking among us since the dawn of evolution. If our ancient ancestors died every time they perceived the phenomena, evolution would favor creatures who did not perceive the creatures or phenomena. One might counter this argument by saying that our modern instruments, such as X-ray machines and cameras, should be able to make the creatures apparent to us, even if our unaided sensorium is not up to the task. Reasoning further, because our instruments have not made these realms apparent to us, the realms must not be real. However, perhaps our traditional instruments and theories are also not up to the task. Or perhaps our interpretation of the instruments' results is incomplete. Perhaps DMT is an instrument.

As a metaphor, consider infrared goggles. A person leans on a tree. At night, we don't see the person. Put the goggles on, and a new reality results -- a truer reality -- and we see the man. Similarly, is it possible that our brain is a filter, and the use of DMT is like slipping on infrared goggles, allowing us to perceive a valid reality that is inches away and all around us?

In my book *The Science of Aliens*, I write about some of Whitley Strieber's experiences. Strieber is famous for his book *Communion*, which describes his encounters with aliens. When I had written my book, I was somewhat "down" on Strieber due to some of the more zany descriptions he once gave of "aliens" he encountered. Some looked cartoonlike, while others were the more standard versions of aliens that most of us contemplate today. In light of reading about DMT experiences, I can see more of an overlap in Strieber's descriptions and DMT-induced aliens.

According to Phillip Klass's *UFO Abductions: A Dangerous Game*, Strieber appears to have had a lifetime of unusual experiences. For example, in April 1977 Strieber held a brief conversation with a voice that had come over his stereo system in his New York apartment. Strieber has also encountered robotlike aliens, aliens with pug noses wearing blue coveralls, an alien with an inept cardboard imitation of a blue double-breasted suit (complete with a white triangle handkerchief sticking out of the pocket), and tall aliens in

tan jumpsuits. One alien had a "ridiculous excuse for a curly black toupee on his head." Strieber once even saw a giant, ugly insect that made him feel mothered and loved. Another time he reported seeing the head of a living woman named Kathie Davis on a shelf inside a UFO. We can view these descriptions in a new light, now that we know that DMT can often produce visions of cartoon-like aliens.

If we were to hunt for the DMT elves, would we direct our attention to Hawking's waveform model of the universe or Everett's many-worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics, or even higher dimensions?

Is it possible that that some of our human ancestors produced more DMT than we do today? For example, many of the ancient Bible stories describe prophets with DMT-like experiences. (See my book *The Paradox of God*.) Consider as one example (Isaiah 6):

*Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:*

*"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."*

*At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

These sorts of ecstatic singing and repetitive exaltations remind me of subjects who took DMT and heard: "Now do you see? Now do you see?" along with singing voices. (These cases are described in Rick Strassman's book *DMT: The Spirit Molecule*.)

Maybe this is why the ancients seemed so in touch with God and with miracles and visions. Maybe Moses and Jesus had a greater rate of pineal DMT production than most.

When I asked Rick Strassman, M.D., author of *DMT: The Spirit Molecule*, about my theory, he responded: *I'm not familiar with a specific theory that we made more DMT in the old days than now. But, are you familiar with Jaynes' idea of the bicameral mind--that people routinely hallucinated until the connections between our hemispheres got evolved out for whatever reason? I don't think hemispheric connections would support his idea as much as might higher levels of endogenous DMT. If indeed we made more DMT in the past, this may have to do with the increase in artificial light that has come upon us in the last 1000 years or so.*

Also, recall that DMT experiences sometimes include 2-D cartoon-like characters. Often DMT entities lack depth. Could a higher-production of DMT in ancient people influenced artwork. Is that part of the reason why cave paintings and Egyptian art are so two dimensional?

One way to imagine how other realities could exist side by side with our own is to consider the forces that produced the diversity of senses and intelligences right here on Earth. In a real way, there are already alien

worlds right here among us. Every Earthly creature perceives the world in an "alien" way. Dogs. Bees. Bats. Cats. They experience the world with different kinds of senses. They can smell what we cannot, they can see what we cannot, they can hear what we cannot. If the organisms of the Earth were somehow able to describe their world to you, it would probably not be recognizable to you. It would seem like the wildest world from any science-fiction story. Moreover, if you were able to describe the world to another species, they would "see" no resemblance to their own. Our sense of reality would be different; our way of thinking would be different, and even the practical technology we would produce would be different. We do not have to contemplate aliens or science fiction to imagine alienlike senses and bodies. The animal world of Earth is so diverse and full of different senses, that creatures are already walking among us possessing "alien" awarenesses beyond our understanding.

By studying the creatures of the Earth, we can hypothesize on the diversity of realities here on Earth. Aliens would no doubt see a different world than we do. To best understand this, consider the Indian luna moth, which has a wingspread of about 10 cm (4 inches). To our eyes, both the male and female moths are light green and indistinguishable from each other. But the luna moths themselves perceive in the ultraviolet range of light, and to them the female looks quite different from the male. Other creatures have a hard time seeing the moths when they rest on green leaves, but luna moths are not camouflaged to one another since they see each other as brilliantly colored.

For a related Reality Carnival story, see "People with Charles Bonnet Syndrome See Beings from Parallel Universes" and "DMT Users See Insect Gods".

I have also covered the following stories in the Reality Carnival:

"Man Discovers Intelligent Beings After Consuming DMT,"

"The fleeting reality of DMT machine elves," and

"Psychedelics, Abortion, and the Chrysanthemum."

(Just scan through the Reality Carnival entries until you find these stories.)

## Responses from Readers

Roger Essig, aka "Rogdog", asks artist Alex Grey about the existence of DMT beings here.

Rogdog has tried DMT.

Rogdog awaits his next DMT encounter to test his theories about entity contact. *The following are excerpts from his thoughts on the subject.*

It truly is something that haunts, excites, bewilders and astonishes me everytime I think back to that fateful day I was 'cursed' with a DMT encounter.

Maybe in the end the Dzogchen buddhists provide an explanation regarding the "alien" entity contact, essentially saying that all projections are from the ground luminosity. I have a certain knowing that there was an energy in front of me, independent from me, yet only appearing to me when I closed my eyes and sought to go deeper.

How many Dzogchen practitioners throughout history have experienced first hand smoked DMT crystals, what would they say then?

While using DMT, I could perceive moving energy segments of brilliant colour all over his skin and bone structure of his face. I managed to push myself back in a last effort and lay back. About 15 seconds had passed since my second toke.

I know that I was having an intense revelation, one that I can not talk about here, but one I remember every time I use DMT, the revelation was one of Ultimate Realness, that is all I can say. The visuals I definitely recall with utmost clarity, I feel gifted this way.

I closed my eyes and focused immediately into the distance, it was very clear, crystalline and symmetric yet totally organic. Out of the terrifyingly complex colours and patterns emerged and formed an entity that sneered at me, grinning wildly with two piercing eyes, it was free floating and fractalising. Swirling arms and appendages formed out of its now more solid ethereal body of light.

I sensed or imagined that smaller invisible beings were slicing me up across the chest and stomach with laser sharp instruments, it was painful, but somewhat acceptable and bearable. In retrospect, this was perhaps the DMT vapour touching my lung pathways. The Entity formed greater within my closed eye visual perception and was growing more menacing, I felt it trying to attach it self to me, or get inside me somehow. I did what I felt had to do. I mentally said and intended the thought "COME ON THEN!" and threatened back at it what it was doing to me. With this, it started to dissipate, in the reverse way that it had formed. As it subsided away back into the colourful patterns and geometrics I pleaded with it to come back, but it had gone.

This experience was the most profoundly moving experience of my known live experience of this life on Earth. As I breathed deeper and deeper I felt body sensations, detachment , all thought was still functioning, wanted to experience union, but had a reality shift instead. Every visual perception was doubled....

● David says: I do not have much experience with DMT, so I'll compare it to a similar hallucinogen I have more personal knowledge about: "magic" mushrooms.

Do they give you a clearer vision of reality? Here is a parable to help illustrate this question in a real world example: I was sitting on the edge of my driveway about two hours after drinking mushroom tea. Just staring at a cluster of pebbles that were laying there on the ground next to me. All of a sudden my focus shifted to a particular one of these rocks and I gazed at it for what must have been approximately ten seconds. Then, quite unexpectedly, this rock bubbled up above the crowd, turned into a fly, and buzzed off. The effect this had on my thought process at the time was astounding... before this happened I was probably thinking about girls or food or something. After the event the rest of the "trip" was spent thinking about that rock. In any group of things, how many of them actually exist and how many of them are placed by my mind to fill in the gaps? zero? some? all? if any, why? etc.. To this day I know only one thing for certain about that event: The rock was never there to begin with. I have no idea whether or not the mushrooms "helped" me see it. Furthermore, I have no idea whether or not that particular rock were any different in essence than its neighbors.

● Tufr says: I suppose anything is possible. However, the people who have reported these experiences personalize them. From what I've read they aren't simply perceiving the aliens, their also experiencing the aliens examine them with little space probes.

Under the influence of DMT these people perceive instruments, machines and aliens, much of this centering around themselves. So I suppose the first question would be why and how could such a thing happen without affecting one's present normal reality. If the aliens are always there and experimenting upon us, one wonders how we have the time to get anything done.

By the way, if DMT acts to reveal the true reality, I believe it would be more accurate to label it a machine not an instrument. As far as I know, instruments are used to measure things, and machines perform work. Waking us up and pushing us into the real universe and out of our limited perception would be real work, so I think DMT would aptly be called a machine not an instrument.

● Dan Platt: Do two people who have taken DMT observing the same space see the same things? Do their actions produce the same effects as observed by both observers? Do blind experiments work? (ie when one person does something that affects the strange space, can other persons who are unaware of the first person's actions reliably see the effects?)

It seems to me that positron tomography can show which parts of the brain are metabolising, and therefore whether the images start from memory spaces or from the visual cortex; likewise, if it comes from the visual

cortex, it should be possible to trace it to images on the retina; if so, it may be possible to see whether this will work on eyes harvested from lab animals...

It seems to me that doing the experiments with multiple observers might be "easier," except that toxicity of high doses of DMT wasn't spelled out.

● Craig says: Well, maybe -- but is the DMT scenario *likely*? I mean, give the vast number of possible chemical compounds, why should DMT be "special"? Perhaps DMT is more like putting on kaleidoscope glasses? Or glasses with uranium lenses? Or glasses with spring-loaded nine inch steel spikes hidden in the frames that poke your eyes out when you put them on?

● Graham says: This DMT page is provocative and eye-catching, but not particularly strange.

(1) 'Seeing a different world' is not the same as 'seeing the world differently'. Everybody (including different species) sees the world differently: there's no basis for jumping to the conclusion they are all seeing different worlds. In any case, what we think we are seeing we may not be seeing at all - that is it may not be the result of some light from outside falling on our eyes. Retinas, optic nerves, associated brain receptors may all be stimulated by other factors, including DMT.

To prove that, just close your eyes.

(2) The concept of God (and gods) existed long before Abraham left Ur. The Biblical prophets have no claim to primacy.

I suspect the concept of supernatural forces arose quite rationally from trying to account for the origin of physical events. Why is there thunder? Thunder sounds like someone is angry. There must be someone who is angry. I can't make it thunder, neither can anyone I know. The someone who is angry must be some other kind of being - or a human who has special powers.

Hence - not unreasonably - the idea of God (or gods, demons, sprites, wizards...). No chemicals needed.

And of course, once you conceive of It, you may well dream of It.

The dream - or whatever - comes after the concept.

If you're content to accept that some things just happen - or that you don't know why they do, and don't care, then you don't need the supernatural. Or science either, since they both arise from the human need to explain things with causes.

(3) I agree with Dan Platt and Craig

● From Michael: Excellent article, Cliff. I wonder if the small amount of DMT already present in the human brain is there to act as a catalyst when the right conditions are extant. Perhaps under times of stress, when endorphins are most readily manufactured in the brain, and other hormonal balances are shifted DMT production may also be stimulated or a small percentage (that already present) of DMT will suffice tip open the 'gateway' to changed perception.

It is fascintaing to speculate on the visions of psychotropic substances. They do carry such a weight of feeling so fully real that in effect they can and do so completely absorb our attention and we accept them as real. What are these sprites, elves, entities, and dimensions that come to our attention under the influence of DMT?

To take them as the habitants of higher realms or more refined realities moves the speculation in one direction. In what direction would we proceed if the creatures were seen with a an eye towards metaphor? It could be that these sprites represent Jungian gestalt types. If this idea has any merit, here is where I make a big stretch. It could be that under certain circumstances DMT plays a role in a person's personal growth. Or, at least DMT is part and parcel to those moments and experiences having the potential to stimulate one's life into inquiry as to the nature of existance.

But what do I know... I remember the first time I heard that some scientists and doctors reported that it was impossible to dream in color. Their report indicated that humans were not wired for color dreams. What a hoot! I remember laughing out loud. I have never had anything but technicolor panoramic full-sense-around with dolby digital sound dreams.

thanks again, michael. ps - and thanks for making it easier to respond to the reality carnival site.

● Sherry says: I have had similar encounters for years with strange beings and would like to see if the ingestion of DMT does increase access to parallel universes. I am 64 and have never taken drugs at all in my life. But I have always been psychic to some degree. At 24, I had the worst case of flu and saw the grey beings making passes over my body Then my children would see beings that lived in the trees close to the house. They had conversations with the beings for about 6 years till they reached teen age years. Once, at night, our barn disappeared. I could see a figure squatting at watching me approach- it was a woman about 50 with long straight coarse hair -- lots of white in it. I was stunned that a woman could squat so easily . I stood for at least 30 min and just watched her.

Once, I noticed a light source on the brick in our den. I watched the light and it started to show pictures -- my ceilings are 8 ft tall and the brick is from top to bottom -- large ant-like creatures or praying mantis type creatures were walking and dragging humans which were screaming and praying to be saved-- they were being eaten alive- small kids too. I am not a religious person at all -- dont believe in hell or heaven. I have seen an entity



who gives me lectures. I am a old farmwoman -- had some lost time years ago-- saw one thing that I could not explain that i thought was a ship -- but otherwise my days are spent gardening and animal care and the chickens -- and caring for my husband of 72 -- our lives are quiet and the only thing about me that is different is that i have taken lessons of some kind for years as i love to study. I simply know that somehow this very normal Sherry that exists in this 3-D world is not all of me.

● Jeremy G. says: I have an interesting idea about one speculative fantasy regarding aliens called "homo feteros." Because humans have become increasingly neotonic during our evolution (larger eyes, bigger forehead, smaller nose), those neotonic looking aliens are really a future evolution of humans who learned to travel back in time. And, if Freud is right, the alien sex abduction thing would fit into that picture. In the future, once we learn to bring babies to term outside mothers' wombs, artificial gestation periods will allow the fetus's brain to continue developing to far larger sizes, perhaps. What do you think?

● Gary A. says: Some scientists says that the brain (nervous system) is the source of consciousness; an idea prevalent in the West for some time now. Personally, I'm taking a Hindu/Buddhist "holographic" viewpoint, which has Consciousness (from a monist point of view) is the "Source" of everything, including the brain/nervous system, and the latter is only monitoring the activities of all-pervasive "Consciousness-In- Itself". However, the Western term "awareness", or "consciousness" differs from that of Hinduism/Buddhism, the latter being close to Spinoza's "Substance", the ground of pure Being which Aristotle and Plotinus talked about.

The Western notion is that awareness/consciousness is an emergent property of the nervous system not possessed in any way by the lowest of organisms, the latter being perhaps subconsciously "aware" in the broadest sense. Monism on the other hand, while not dismissing that the brain mediates awareness, flatly denies that the brain is the source of awareness, either in a relative or Absolute sense. To use an analogy, say you have Einstein's brain floating in an aquarium, with various tiny fish swimming around. Then, you enhance the brain by attaching an optic nerve so it can see the fish. The brain is now aware. The water in this scenario is analogous to the all- pervasive "Consciousness" alluded to by the mystics. It's omnipresent, all-pervasive! Rocks, the sky, cars, etc; are the same "Consciousness" as is the brain; but the latter is capable of expressing relative self-awareness: reflecting upon itself. This self- reflection is what Western psychologists are referring to when they mention awareness. But not so with mystics, East and West. The brain is floating in and AS Consciousness, the expression of It. Thus, brain is not the Source of Consciousness, or even awareness; but rather an entity which is monitoring Consciousness which is everywhere. With these two different perspectives, we can see how the Western viewpoint (except for mystics and New-Agers); can reconcile supposed out of body and life after physical death with Monism. This can be done since awareness can be anywhere, even outside of the body/brain; whereas in the orthodox Western viewpoint, when the brain

is dead, YOU are dead, no afterlife since awareness in any state would be dependent upon the BRAIN. To conclude, the journal is taking the orthodox Western viewpoint which is closely allied to atheism and no life after physical death, since it's difficult to reconcile the latter with the consistency of having an afterlife with no corporeal body. In Hinduism/Buddhism and many other religions, no problem! Subtle bodies can exist independent of the physical brain, and can travel outside of the physical body.

Hallucinogenic substances such as DMT open the door between world: the physical and the non-physical. Various visions such as the tunnel, meeting dead relatives while people on the operating table, etc; have to be "explained away" in the orthodox theory. Again, no problem with the holographic viewpoint. The entire universe is "encoded" within the brain, acting as a monitor for anything, anywhere: images in a non-spatial/non-temporal context, more like the atmosphere of Jupiter rather than a linear pathway. Substances like DMT suck you into immense eddies of universal awareness not easily dismissed as "hallucinations", among those with direct experience in these matters.

● Olly H. says: It's probably not so wise to publicly advertise one's former experience with psychedelics, but what the hell-

Years ago, I experimented occasionally with exotic psychedelics, among them DPT, which is an analogue of DMT. It was an extraordinarily intense experience. At one point during the session, I had the sense that I was in the company of peculiarly elusive "elves", which though decidedly good natured, seemed to have a decidedly mischeivous sense of humor.

The most extraordinary thing about thing about these "elves" was that if you tried to "focus in on them" in any way, they would sort of "evaporate", but if you just sort of "let go", and "forgot about them", you would "see" them clearer. Once you could "see them" clearer, you would be irresistably tempted to try to "increase your focus" in order to "see them" even clearer, which would of course make them "evaporate" again. These DPT elves seemed to find my futile attempts to get a good "focus" on them rather amusing; they seemed to be saying "catch us if you can! he he he he!!"

It was like you couldn't see them if you "tried to", but once you succeeded in "letting go"; in "not trying" enough so that you could "see them" a little, the "sight of them was so fascinating that the temptation to "try harder" so that you could "see them clearer" was irresistable- but this "effort" would render them imperceivable! And they thought this was hysterical.

Weird, but fascinating .

[PS: I am not one of these guys who thinks that drug induced hallucinations are real- whatever "real " means. I just thought it was a real cool experience worth sharing with the group!]

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One group member, who seems to want to remain anonymous sent this to me and gave me permission to post.

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Cliff,

In response to developing a group mind. I wasn't quite sure if this was appropriate for the group, but I wanted to relay this experience. You might have noted that I've made references to the entheogens here and there, & this can be a sensitive subject. Quite awhile ago I went on an out of body group excursion (stay with me here) what happened was that we each "partook" of the entheogen (in this case DMT) ,linked hands and had a verbal guide take us on a trip.

We went back to the beginning of the universe (together) and experienced the formation of the celestial bodies, the planets and eventually (big skip in steps here!) experienced the birth of humanity. It was likely a psychological phenomenon caused by suggestion that allowed "us" to have a group bonding in this way, & with thorough examination I'm sure it could be picked apart. It is very unlikely that this is what you had in mind, or is it a very realistic possibility that the group could (or would) do this.

You posed an earlier question "Do you believe that DMT provides users with valuable insight as the chemical opens the doors of perception, revealing a new reality inches away, but impossible to perceive with our ordinary sensorium? Well, I can only say that it certainly seems to feel that way, whether or not the experience is "real".

On a more feasible note about the group mind. I recently posted about accessing or inducing experiences (whatever they might be) without "taking" anything. I do believe that investigating this could be an avenue of creating a group mind. It sounds kind of "cultish" though. Maybe "we" as a human race will approach the next stage in evolution when we learn to do this. I actually had a dream about a DMT experience several years after my introduction. In my dream the scenario was different, but the same dimensional doors were accessed. I was so excited that I called a friend, who is a hypnotherapist, he was in agreement with me in thinking that the experience has been imprinted, and could very well be accessed at will. I haven't had the opportunity to look into this matter further as of yet.

If DMT is naturally occurring in the human body, how can it be considered illegal? Would this not mean that ANY person could be incarcerated at any given time for possession? including the person who was incarcerating you! I just don't get it.

I don't want you to get me wrong cliff, I'm about as straight edged as you can get at this point in my life, but my mind will always be free. -take care,

p.s. Feel free to use this ,or parts of it,with the group if you think its suitable or relevant. (I attached a picture of myself so you can see who is pestering you)

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"Do I believe that DMT provides users with valuable insight?"

I experimented with DMT on several occasions in the past, and found that it provided access to a truly extraordinary mindspace, perhaps most importantly characterized by the preposterous but nevertheless wholly convincing sensation that "it" (the DMT induced 'mind-space') was far closer to 'reality as it really is' than ordinary, everyday experience. I was left with the curious impression that ordinary, everyday experience might more aptly be characterized as the hallucination here, and that the 'warped' impression of reality I experienced under the influence of DMT was in fact more 'genuine'.

I could write a tome about my experiences with DMT, so profound and life changing were they, starting with my first few failed attempts to penetrate the 'DMT mind-space' (which failed because I was too timid to inflict a full fledged dose upon myself), and ending with an experience which would be best characterized as a genuine 'experience of the Divine'- quite a statement for an avowed atheist such as myself (there is a pithy term for such an experience, but, unfortunately, it eludes me at the moment).

I'd love to rivet you folks with the details of this saga, but alas, I am a slave of the clock.

"We went back to the beginning of the universe (together) and experienced the formation of the celestial bodies, the planets and eventually (big skip in steps here!) experienced the birth of humanity"

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This is very interesting.

One of my DMT experiences took place on a beach at night, and after the peak, when I was able 'to see reality' again, to some degree, I became fixated upon what I later realized was the moon.

It appeared to me as though I was witnessing the Big Bang- that all of reality was emanating out of that point of light I ordinarily recognize as the moon. As I returned to 'normalcy', staring at the moon, it seemed not so much that I was slowly but surely re-integrating all of the objects of ordinary experience into my awareness, but that I was, in some extraordinary sense, witnessing their creation.

I was, in some sense, witnessing the history of the entire universe, from the Big Bang to me.

It is important to recognize here that the metaphorical aspect of this was apparent. I was never under the impression that I was 'really' witnessing the 'actual' history of the universe. I was well aware that what I saw merely 'looked like' the Big Bang, and that the 'return to normalcy' was merely a very interesting simulation of 'creation'- an artifact of a powerful hallucinogen wearing off.

Nevertheless, I also understood that this distinction was ultimately meaningless, and what I saw that night remains the most profound experience of my life.

I was so deeply moved by the experience that to this day, whenever I pass that place on the beach, I find myself overcome with a sense of awe for the fact that anything exists at all, and just how long- and how short- all of time has been.

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From: James Kent  
Sent: Tue, 27 Apr 2004 02:51:05 -0700  
Subject: DMT Elves

Hey Clifford,

James Kent here, I run the website <http://tripzine.com>. I published a psychedelic magazine for many years, and a friend recently pointed me to your article on DMT, Moses and Aliens. Since you asked people to voice their opinion I shall...

I have done DMT quite a bit, have interviewed and spent time with the late Terence McKenna, am friends with Rick Strassman, and have studied this issue very closely for the past fifteen years. And though I have not published the results of all my research (yet), I would like to share with you some of my conclusions concerning DMT and the dramatic phenomena it produces.

In short, I do not believe DMT is a gateway to an alternate dimension, nor does it provide contact with elves and alien entities. Yes, DMT produces a vivid other-worldly landscape when ingested, often including elves, aliens, insects, snakes, jaguars, etc. This is true for the majority of people who try it. Some people do not have such vivid reactions, but many do. Although this may appear at first glance to be "shocking," it is actually no more shocking than the fact that most people dream at night, or that most people see geometric patterns when they close their eyes and press against their eyeballs (pressure phosphenes). The only difference between dreams, phosphenes, and DMT visuals is that DMT is illegal and very hard to come by, so most people never have the opportunity to experience it. If we could all hold our breath for a minute and produce vivid hallucinations of alien landscapes it would seem downright mundane, a mere curiosity of the human condition. However, since this particular alien landscape is produced by a specific rare substance (DMT), people seem to think it is akin to

unlocking the mysteries of the universe when they actually get their hands on it and try it.

Now don't get me wrong, DMT is stunning in its effect, no doubt. But, like anything, when you do it many times the magic tends to wear off and reveal itself for what it is, an aberration of the brain's perceptual mechanics. To illustrate this I would like to offer the following observations:

1. DMT acts primarily at the 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptor, which is where all hallucinogenic tryptamines work their visual magic. Without going into all the details here, let's just assume for a moment that a molecule with the proper shape acting at the 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> sites can significantly disrupt or enhance visual sensory processing. If this is the case, then dumping DMT into the perceptual networks is akin to messing with the logic that produces the display on the monitor you are looking at right now. Any programmer can tell you that a single line of code consisting of only a few characters can drastically alter the way your screen presents the data coming from your video card. It can make the screen flicker, blink, warp, twist, or fall into infinitely recursive fractal chaos. If that happens is your monitor now displaying an "alternate reality" or "parallel dimension"? No, it is not. It is simply taking the same old data and processing it with a new factor in the base algorithm. Small tweak, dramatic results. Since the sensory processing system is so delicate, any chemical perturbation can cause it to fall into chaos, and as we all know chaos does not produce random noise, it produces some pretty damn trippy patterns.

2. The sensation of seeing aliens, elves, or being in the presence of God(s) is not unique to DMT users. Otherwise sane people who have never tried DMT report these sensations all the time, and it is generally treated as a sign of psychosis. However, recent research has shown that by stimulating parts of the temporal lobe you can reliably reproduce the feeling of being in the presence of God (also known as "seeing the light" or having a "religious epiphany"). It is an innate human sensation (just like the feeling that "I'm being watched" is an innate human sensation) we just don't catalog it as such because it is relatively rare, happening perhaps only once in a lifetime to those who do not artificially stimulate themselves, perhaps never in a lifetime. Some people have very dramatic religious epiphanies with angels and demons and all form of cherubim marching through with horns and such with no drugs whatsoever, and though it is a common event we generally treat it as a psychological aberration (though back in the day it was the stuff prophets were made of). Since this kind of religious vision phenomena is something our brains can already do on their own, the fact that a substance like DMT can reproduce this phenomena is not much of a stretch.

3. The archetypal DMT "entities" are pretty well categorized, with most people seeing elves or aliens or fairies or angels or some kind of loopy little spirits that dance about and tell riddles. Sometimes it is a spirit-animal like a jaguar or a snake, sometimes it is none of the above and goes totally off the map. But getting back to the elf thing (which is what many people find to be the most curious aspect), I initially found it very surprising to be

confronted by elves in my DMT experiences (and on psilocybe mushrooms as well), and did indeed perceive them as externalized disencarnate beings, even managing to carry on rudimentary conversations of sorts. However, the more I experimented with the substance the more I found that the "elves" were merely machinations of my own mind. While under the influence I found I could think them into existence, and then think them right out of existence simply by willing it so. Sometimes I could not produce elves, and my mind would wander through all sorts of magnificent and amazing creations, but the times that I did see elves I tried very hard to press them into giving up some non-transient feature that would confirm at least a rudimentary "autonomous existence" beyond my own imagination. Of course, I could not. Whenever I tried to pull any information out of the entities regarding themselves, the data that was given up was always relevant only to me. The elves could not give me any piece of data I did not already know, nor could their existence be sustained under any kind of prolonged scrutiny. Like a dream, once you realize you are dreaming you are actually slipping into wakefulness and the dream fades. So it is with the elves. When you try to shine a light of reason on them they dissolve like shadows.

4. Which brings me to my last point. Psychedelics in general have an amazing capacity to activate the mind's eye, or what I call the imaginal workspace. In our day-to-day lives we have two active areas that are processing our perception of reality. The first is the primary workspace where all our sense data is compiled in our pre-frontal cortex to give us our waking picture of reality. The second is the imaginal workspace, where we can think about abstract thoughts or visualize the contents of our cupboards from memory (or whatever). The imaginal workspace is generally running in the background, helping us plan our actions by visualizing them in advance (like driving to the grocery store for instance. We visualize the store, plan a route, and then go). All the while our primary workspace is taking up most of our attention. This balance flips, however, when we are caught in deep abstract thinking, like daydreaming or trying to solve a difficult problem. And when we sleep the primary workspace is actually taken-over by the imaginal workspace to process all the backlogged data that was set aside during the waking day. When this happens we dream. Our primary workspace is filled with imaginal data, and suddenly we are immersed in an imaginal reality that looks and feels just as solid as waking reality because it is being processed by the same high-end gear that we use to process waking reality. The only difference between being awake and dreaming is the origin of the data being processed in the primary workspace. When you are awake you are processing external sense data in the primary workspace. When you are dreaming you are processing internal (imaginal) data in the primary workspace. Now I have done many many experiments with lucid dreaming and self-induced hypnogogic states and I can tell you that the switch from external to internal data sources feeding into the primary workspace (and vice-versa) happens in a split second. It is too quick to notice unless you are waiting and watching very carefully for the hand-off. One second you are awake and listening to the faucet drip, the next second you are wandering through a dream parking lot searching for your car. If you catch yourself and wake back up again you are back to the drip-drip-drip of

the faucet. Close your eyes and the drips fade away and you are back in the dream lot (or wherever). So, knowing this, it is not much of a stretch to assume that psychedelics play some kind of role in this hand-off between sensory and imaginal data flowing into our primary workspace, muddying up the selective inputs so that everything is crashing in at once, making it impossible to distinguish what is real and what is imaginal until the drug wears off. Concrete psychedelic visuals may be nothing more than chaotic sense data overlapped with images created from waking dreams.

So, with all of this in mind the one question remains: Why is the alien/elf archetype so common to the DMT experience? The only answer I have is that we humans must have some kind of innate evolutionary wetworking that forces us to latch onto any piece of anthropomorphic data that pops up in otherwise random sensory data, such as spotting a face peering out from behind the bushes, or spotting another human form hiding in the tall grass. The evolutionary advantage of such a trait is obvious, and in standard Rorschach tests even the most ambiguous blobs are found to look like faces or people no matter what culture the observer is from. Now, given the amazing swirling kaliedescopic imagery produced in the typical DMT trip, it is inevitable that anthropomorphic shapes will emerge and then express themselves in even greater detail as the mind latches onto them and "dreams" them into focus. With the imaginal workflow kicked into high gear, it is not surprising that these emergent anthropomorphic entities can then speak to us, revealing shocking details from our own subconscious in a conversational stream of visual theater. Given all of this, in a nutshell, the case for automous disencarnate DMT entities is closed. All that is needed to produce them is our own over-activated imagination, and thus Occam's razor wipes them right off the table and into the fairy-dust bin.

In conclusion I would just like to mention a couple more things. The visions produced by DMT are not solely elves and alien entities. A wide variety of archetypes and just plain-old whacked-out stoner shit creeps into the mix. It is highly individual and in many cases is heavily dependent on set and setting. This fact alone (more than anything else) leads me to believe that the DMT entities are mere figments. If, for example, everyone always saw talking penguins and only talking penguins while high on DMT, that would be much harder to explain and much more mysterious. The fact that DMT "consciousness" reveals itself in so many forms tells me that the "messenger" -- be it elf, alien, jaguar, or whatever -- is basically arbitrary within the context of the patterns and

archetypes our minds are generally trained to pick out of random noise. However (and this is the good part), the really interesting thing about DMT experiences is not the elves (messengers) themselves, but what it is they are saying (the message). And when you get to the heart of what the typical DMT message is, it is usually something about the environment or living systems or the vast plant consciousness that penetrates our world. The "Gaia consciousness" that infuses the experience is undeniable, and what to make of that I don't know, other than to entertain the possibility that this ancient plant consciousness actually exists and is attempting to make itself known



through the DMT-enlightened mammal brain. If so, then this is the real discovery of the DMT experience, and this is the topic that should be looked at more closely. In the context of DMT being a two-way radio for plant-human communication, the "elves" themselves are nothing more than a cartoonish interface for the exchange of information.

Whoah dude, that's heavy.

Thanks for reading all the way through. If you're interested in doing an interview for our website I'd love to set something up.

Peace out,

James Kent  
<http://tripzine.com>

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More from James Kent:

Hey, thanks for writing back. Comments below:

> Hi, thanks for your great note! May I have permission to excerpt from it in a book I'm doing? May I have permission to excerpt from it for my web site?

Sure, as long as you include my name and provide a link to tripzine.com with the excerpt. This is just a quick summary of a larger piece I am working on with all the related research notes and sources, but it provides the basics.

> Is the magazine still going?

No, we published our last issue in Feb. It was taking up too much of my time and not really making any money, so I am not printing anymore. I will continue to release new material on the website, which gets more readers by far than any issue of the mag, and will probably release books and compilations in the future, but I'm done with the magazine business. Since 1993 I have published 15 issues under various names (Psychedelic Illuminations, TRP, and Trip).

>> Benny Shannon's excellent book has many pages telling us why DMT visions are NOT like dreams.

I have not read this book, but I know the argument. This is a discreet point so I will try to make it again. I agree that DMT visions are not dreams, but suspect they utilize the same internal brain organs and neural circuitry that dreams do to produce the internal imagery. Psychedelic visuals are generally kinetic geometric matrices (2-D or 3-D depending on substance and level of trip, DMT being very good at producing 3-D matrices) with "embedded images" which emerge from the matrix, morph, and fade along with the user's own train of thought or subconscious inclinations. The

geometric matrices are a result of the visual processing system falling into a chaotic state, thus causing feedback, trails, and frame-translation errors (visual flanging, perspective distortion, etc.). The eye receives light on the retina in a series of concentric circles with the highest concentration in the center. We only receive about 80% of the actual picture of what's in front of us on the retina, and the rest (like the stuff left out on the periphery and in the blind spot) is "added in" by our own brains to fill in the missing pieces in the final picture of reality. This "fill in the blank" aspect of the brain sometimes causes us to mistakenly see something "out of the corner of our eye" which on closer inspection is not actually there. Along the pathway from the retina to the prefrontal cortex, the sense data must be translated from a series of concentric rings of dots to a concrete image of outlines, fills, and shading that we perceive as reality. This process is called "frame translation." Lines are etched out on our retina by a process called "lateral inhibition", which allows one retina to take priority over the retina next to it if it perceives a hard line or shift in shading that infers an outline. If lateral inhibition is inhibited, the edges of what we see tend to drift and blur, causing perspective distortion, creeping light and shadows, and patterns that seem to "crawl". At more dramatic levels of this kind of activity, the "frame" of reality actually begins to rotate and twist, and if you leave "trails" on an image that is rotating you create a 2-D geometric lattice. If this lattice twists forwards or backwards it produces depth of field, thus a 3-D matrix appears.

Okay, so that is part one. These shifting lines and shadows and geometric lattice imagery I have described should be familiar to anyone who has taken a psychedelic tryptamine. Now, when you add an over-active "dream engine" trying to impose patterns and order on these kinetic matrices, an infinite number of patterns and visions can emerge. They are unlike dreams in that they do not appear as a slightly different version of hard reality, but this is because dream data comes from the hippocampus (memory), which generally stores data related to everyday stuff. DMT data comes from the brain's own pattern-matching systems trying to impose order on a chaotic pattern, thus "filling in the blanks" and trying to piece together what is going on, which is why "visuals" become more elaborate on the periphery -- ie in the corner of the eye where there is more missing data to fill -- and tend to become less-so when examined front and center (for example, "elves" tend to hang out in the periphery, and tend to disappear when you try to focus directly on them). Since what we are seeing in the psychedelic state is so "alien" to our normal sensory input, it is no wonder that the landscapes and visions our brain tries to impose on them are likewise very alien. That said, I have seen all kinds of mundane stuff in DMT visions: toasters, faces of people I know (usually family), people copulating, scenes of human suffering and warfare, clowns and harlequins, trains, skulls, trees, oceans, animals, dancing cartoon rats, strands of DNA, rotating atomic and molecular structures, etc. All very terrestrial stuff. The basic difference between dreams and DMT visuals is that dreams are snippets of incongruous memories forced into a consistent narrative by the pre-frontal cortex, DMT visuals are chaotic geometric patterns forced into a consistent narrative by the prefrontal cortex. The source of the data is different (though sometimes

overlapping), but the process of turning random data into "contextual meaning" happens in the same place in the brain, whether we are awake, dreaming, or tripping.

> DMT visions have nothing to do with the psychonaut's life and they are not as chaotic or illogical as the plots of our dreams. They do not contain simple household objects that you see in dreams.

I disagree with this. You can impose any imagery you want in the DMT state. I know a guy who always sees tricked-out cartoon hot-rods when he smokes DMT. I know a woman who only sees hideous zombie-like faces of corpses. I have seen vivid images from my own life (memories, family members, etc.) as well as mundane objects in the DMT state. If the user stays "unfocused" the imagery tends to dribble randomly out of the subconscious (hence the archetypes) and will swirl into the realm of the fantastic, but if you are "looking" for something in the visions you can generally make it appear.

> No matter how hard I try, I can not imagine the vast, intricate, ornate palaces and temples common in the DMTverse.

True! But this is because you cannot consciously "will" your visual system to collapse into a chaotic state, or you cannot "will" your temporal lobe to become excited and produce the presence of god (well, maybe long-practicing mystics can). There is too much neurochemical redundancy to keep your brain from falling into these states just at any old time (unless you are schizophrenic). The ornate places and temples are heavenly archetypes, this is obvious when you look at ancient architecture, especially in the middle east and asia. This does not mean they are "real" in the sense that they actually exist somewhere in hyperspace, they are imaginal blueprints forged from the subconscious. I think you sell the human imagination short when you say things like "No one could ever envision such things on their own." Maybe people raised on the limited flotsam of TV and pop culture can't, but brilliant creative types sure can. That said, I am not adverse to the notion that there is some kind of "ancient alien history" embedded in our DNA somewhere that produces these kinds of visions, or that the heavenly archetypes (such as vast temples, angels, etc.) are actually representative of some kind of hyperspatial kingdom where souls dwell after death (or something like that), but such things are impossible to prove in any empirical way, so flatly saying that this is the case is highly suspect to me. What I will concede is that humans across all cultures have alien and heavenly archetypes embedded in their subconscious, and psychedelic tryptamines can access the archetypes with a high level of success. Where these archetypes come from or what they mean is the subject of eternal debate.

> Many psychonauts have the distinct feeling that the visions are not simply products of their own mind.

True, but most psychonauts are just beginning to explore thier own mind and are usually very surprised at what pops out when they they start

messing around with it. The first people who discovered fractals had the distinct feeling that these amazing other-worldly images and patterns could not simply be the products of a single line of code, and yet they are. Complexity breeds all kinds of weird shit, and the human brain is the most complex system on the planet.

> The goal for future researchers is to determine whether the psychonauts can return to our world with new "factual" information.

I have attempted this experiment in many ways and with many people. The answer seems to be "No." I have had many people argue with me about this but none could provide a concrete example that was convincing in any way. The information retrieved from the psychedelic states is usually generalized common wisdom applicable to the user's own life (or human life in general). The notion that a rainforest shaman can divine "information" about a plant just by ingesting it in an ayahuasca brew illustrates to me the mind's amazing ability to extrapolate holistic data on a specific system when only given on little bits and pieces of data to work with. This ability is amplified by the psychedelic state, but it does not produce "new" information, just more refined and detailed analysis of what we already know. This is the "fill in the blanks" property of the brain I discussed earlier in the context of the visual system, but logic systems use this technique as well.

> I discuss in the book I'm doing that we should search out these entities just like scientists search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

I'm all for trying to get a grip on the phenomena, but have little expectation that anyone will ever make "absolute contact" that proves an autonomous existence of hyperspatial entities. I am more inclined to believe that they are very strange and unexplored facets of the human psyche, but I also believe in samsara and the transmigration of souls, which makes the notion that these entities could be "disembodied souls" who are floating around in hyperspace very tempting to latch onto. And yet, even wanting to believe that I have not been able to convince myself that this is the case even after repeated experimentation and confrontation with these entities. All I can come up with is that they are figments, or that if they ARE disembodied souls or hyperspatial entities, the disconnect between their intelligence and human intelligence is such that they are not able to reveal anything lasting, tangible, or definitive about their own nature. In short, they say all kinds of things, some of it profound, some of it gibberish. But none of it points definitively to any deeper truth about what they are or where they come from.

> What do you think of the ornate palaces that people see and seem to be able to traverse?

I could ask you the same thing about J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth. He (and legions of fans) could certainly envision this world and traverse it with very adept skill. The product he produced is very vivid, ornate, and fantastical. Does that make it real? No. DMT visions certainly do have their own very

unusual aesthetic, to be sure, as do mushrooms, LSD, 2-CB, Mescaline, etc. Each one produces a distinct set of visual imagery, each one a slightly different variation on a basic fractally recursive theme. But this is no more surprising to me than the fact that two different fractal algorithms produce different results, and yet they all share the same intrinsic qualities and are instantly recognizable as "fractals." As I said, the ornate places may be heavenly archetypes, they may be the product of the mind imposing order or chaotic patterns, but I have seen nothing that implies to me that they are "real" places somewhere. They are by definition fleeting and ephemeral. The fact that DMT produces a consistent "style" of visions in human brains across all cultures is no more surprising to me than the fact that pressure phosphenes the same kind of geometric visuals in human brains across all cultures, or that a specific fractal algorithm will produce the same imagery no matter which computer it is running on. It would be more surprising to me if DMT produced wildly different visions in each person who tried it (as LSD tends to, which I find infinitely more fascinating). As it is, DMT appears to produce amazingly consistent visual patterns in all users. That is a scientifically significant fact, and yet it only points to the conclusion that it is very simple in its action with not a lot of room for variation.

> There is a sense of enchantment, of sanctity, of beauty, a sense of gaining privileged access to knowledge and that their intelligence is increased.

Yes! I agree that all these aspects of the human mind are amplified under the influence of DMT. One does not have to take DMT to have epiphanies of beauty and sanctity. DMT does increase intelligence, which I define as the brain's ability to retain many specific pieces of data in working memory while simultaneously performing analysis on them. DMT (and other psychedelics) certainly amplify this capacity, and thus amplify the brain's capacity to apply contextual meaning or "profundity" on whatever it may be experiencing. If the psychedelically amplified brain happens to be focused on an imaginary alien landscape, then the profundity of that alien landscape suddenly goes through the roof!

> The world around them appears to be constructed, composed with care like a work of art or an intricate hand-spun fabric, and guided like actors in a play. They feel as if a veil has been lifted and so that they see something that has always been transpiring.

Yes, this aspect of the experience is more relevant to me than the elves or whatnot. The exposing of the deeper fabric of reality that we don't normally see is the big secret of the DMT (and other psychedelic) state. This is a product of the amplified mind exploring the nature of hard reality. The quantum levels of flux become apparent and the "hardness" of reality disappears into a vibrating mass of infinitely deep energy, which it actually is. The profundity of this realization is very heavy, yet it is nothing that we do not already know. It is just that quantum nature of our world made manifest for our limited senses.

> Shanon tells us that the DMTverse appears to be another world with an existence independent of the psychonaut.

Well, the "real" world exists independently of the observer, we just don't dwell on this fact very often. Why does a deeper understanding or vision of this world have to be classified as "another" world or a parallel world? Why not just assume it is a hidden (or hard to see) aspect of this one? Sensing quantum reality is not the same as entering "another world." It is just experiencing another layer of the same old world we already live in (like the infrared goggles thing). Giving this hidden layer of reality some kind of vague "mystical" properties only mucks up the analysis of what is really going on when we experience it.

> The worlds exhibit internal consistencies and at times seem to be even "more real" than our ordinary world and exist independent of our ordinary flow of time. Many psychonauts return with a certainty that consciousness continues after death. They return with the idea of a soul existing beyond the body, somehow woven into the fabric of the universe.

I agree. This may well be the case. Time is an illusion of our senses. The soul may be timeless. Again, this conjecture is metaphysically savory but impossible to prove. The mystery just gets deeper when you probe it. My conclusion is that the things we see in the psychedelic state are a confusing mixture of a "deeper hidden reality" that is there all the time (the product of amplified senses), plus detailed imaginal renderings of our own subconscious desires and fears (made manifest by an overstimulated brain imposing order on chaotic patterns). Sorting out which is which (separating the "hard signal" from the "chaotic noise" and "imaginal rendering") is the hard part of the psychonautic journey. Flatly accepting the entirety of the experience as "undeniably real" and "truth" is a mistake that makes "psychedelic philosophers" appear as little more than new-age jokes enamored with their own visions and with no capacity for deeper analytical thinking. It drives me crazy.

> DMT psychonauts may see a new world superimposed on the "normal world"

So do people suffering from delusions.

> This new world is completely navigatable

I disagree. This new world is fleeting and ephemeral, constantly shifting and morphing. You can "navigate" somewhat by choosing which direction you would like to "morph into" next, but the "imaginal worlds" of the DMT experience do not have a solid and consistent structure. They are transient and elusive. If you want to talk about total delusional immersion in a hard imaginal world, you need to get into the kind of experiences people have on Datura and the like. These substances can make you think you are standing in line at the grocery store when you have actually walked into your own coat closet. These are what I refer to as "concrete" hallucinations that are

fully immersive. In contrast, the DMT visions appear as "perceptual distortions" which produce stylized renderings of the reality that is in front of us. Close your eyes and you get a swirling, highly detailed alien landscape. Open them and you see a very distorted view of the space in front of you overlapped with these same swirling geometrical lattices, with the occasional "hard" object such as an elf or something popping out of the mix.

I think in general people like to romanticize the DMT state and make it more than it is because they desperately want there to be a hidden hyperspatial world filled with mischievous sprites and god-like entities. However, when one closely studies the experience over and over again over time you come to see that a lot of the romanticized notions are not what is actually happening in the state, and people tend to "editorialize" the content of the experience in hindsight in order to make it into something more than what it actually is. As I've said, I've done DMT a number of times, each time with the intent to find some deeper truth to the experience. The only thing I can say for certain is that it is different every time. The aesthetic of the visual phenomena is consistent, unique, and wonderful, but the content that is generated within the experience conforms to no hard or simple rules like "entering a hyperspatial dimension" or "visitation from alien entities." Everybody experiences something slightly different, and yet they all want to apply it to some kind of "Alice in Wonderland" style trip down the rabbit-hole and convince themselves that they've been exposed to a deeper truth or something of vast spiritual significance. In doing so they revise the experience to fit into some kind of narrative that makes sense, thus creating wishful non-truths, such as the statement that DMT worlds are concrete navigable spaces, or that elves appear for everyone every time. This is simply not the case. It is a mis-representation of the actual experience. It would be cool if it was true, but the truth is far more elusive and complex than the simple metaphysical fairy-tale notions we like to apply.

Gotta go,

James

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From Chris:

Years ago I experimented with these spaces too and for a couple of years there I was visiting almost every week and certainly at least once a fortnight. The beings I worked with were in numerous forms and communicated in various ways although the essence was that everything is love, there is nothing less. Reality is constructed from our imagination and the reality we experience is made from their bodies holding forms for us to experience. There is nothing essentially you can do wrong and all experience is just that experience.

Of course this frequency of usage blew my circuits wide open to the point where I was 'hearing' the beings talk to me telepathically and over time I

came to realise that they were initiating me and preparing me for the final experience.

If you find what i am writing interesting you may want to look at my articles on my art site:

the first details the connection between all facets of reality as we experience it...

[http://www.cjbarnaby.com/aarticles\\_everythingisimplied.htm](http://www.cjbarnaby.com/aarticles_everythingisimplied.htm)

and this second one was the last huge experience I had...

[http://www.cjbarnaby.com/aarticles\\_beyourownguru.htm](http://www.cjbarnaby.com/aarticles_beyourownguru.htm)

There were many other experiences that I am still writing down and will put onto my website in the future.

In the meantime I am creating visual art about the work and have been involved in the creation of the erowid visionary arts vaults for the past 3 years.

Hopefully my information helps to fit more pieces of the puzzle together.

Right now I am in the process of mapping hyperspace from my past experiences. When I have finished that I will put up a website about it and hopefully people will be interested in seeing the information and can map themselves and experiences to it or add to it.

may the source be you  
chris