

# Reflections on chapter 11

**Post by “Joshua” of January 28, 2022 at 7:08 PM**

The kernel of this idea is so pervasive even today, that it remains an argumentative ploy for the supernatural. How many best-selling books have been trafficked under the paradigm?

"I was dead---" sometimes the word *clinically* or *medically* appears here, sometimes the word *literally* "---for 11 minutes and I went to heaven"---sometimes *saw my past/future lives*, or *experienced the whole of being* or some such. Generally the 'experience' is culturally and religiously dependant.

Clinical death is misleading, precisely because it is *not* necessarily death. If you've come back to tell me what happened while you were dead, you weren't dead. Your brain yet lived.

Interestingly, the brain was sometimes dealt with in a rather cavalier fashion in antiquity, not just in the Mediterranean but all around the world--in a procedure called trepanation, holes were drilled through the skull to relieve pressure or headaches, to release evil spirits, or to repair damage to the skull itself. Surprisingly, people actually sometimes survived!

Then there is the story of the birth of Athena, clanking around in Zeus' head in a full suit of armor until he (Zeus) asked for it to be cracked open like an egg. Make of that what you will!