

Consciousness vs. Brain - Dialogue with a Child

This is the dialogue with a child who seems to have been born with a strong sattvic predisposition. The child is nine years old. The book is "Proof of heaven" by Dr. Eben Alexander. Dr. Alexander is the author of the autobiographical book Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife (2012) in which he asserts that his out of body and near death experience (NDE) while in a meningitis-induced coma in 2008 proves that consciousness is independent of the brain, that death is an illusion. The child has not read or does not know anything about its content.

Child: What is this book about that you have bought as a present for your friend?

Adult: It is a book about a neurosurgeon, a doctor, who had a disease where his brain was damaged but he had an extraordinary experience during that time.

Child: So his brain was not functioning?

Adult: No his brain was completely shut down but he still had an incredible experience during the time his brain was not functioning.

Child: So did he fantasize that experience?

Adult: No his brain was not functioning at all. So his brain could have not fantasized that.

Child: Yeah makes sense.

Adult: So there must have been something else there. Actually it is an old argument and fight among the scientists: "Was the brain there before consciousness and consciousness was born out of the brain or was consciousness there before and the brain was born later out of consciousness.

Child: Why should the brain be there before consciousness? That does not make any sense. These scientists don't seem to understand.

Adult: Why do you say that?

Child: A brain without consciousness does not make any sense. What should it work on? Consciousness without a brain however does make some sense. Not a lot but at least a little.

Adult: What do you mean?

Child: Well, consciousness without a brain would not know if it would stand or walk or do anything. Actually it would not even know if it would know or not know. But at least it would be aware. But a brain without consciousness does not make any sense at all. What meaningful function should a brain have if there is no consciousness? It is rubbish. So it can only have come after consciousness.

Adult: Yeah seems to make sense.