Extract from 'The Airmen who would not die' by John G. Fuller. A session with Eileen Garrett.

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What I want to tell you is what very few people understand: how it feels to go out of the body, what I personally have been doing ever since the realization of the fact came to me and finally to acquaint you with the impressions I have gained in the new life here since.

Transition from the physical body to the ethereal body occupies only a matter of moments. There is no pain in the severance of the two, and so alike are they that it is some while - probably in some cases, days - before this transition from one state to the other is noticed. In my case it was noticed quickly because I had been conscious of facing Death for many hours before actually passing.

As you can imagine yourself, when I found myself high and dry in another country (he had been flying a plane over water), I began to think. What had happened? Only one of two things could have happened. Either I had been rescued whilst unconscious and taken to a land I knew nothing of - or I had died.

It was the latter. If therefore the waking up in my case was attended with so little change registered in my mind, you will understand what an easy process passing from one life to another is.

Actually, I feel no different. Nothing angelic, nothing ethereal, nothing one would think of as being connected with Heaven or the Hereafter.

My actual experience is that I am as real in the life as I have been to you, and that all growth towards that great happiness and that great Heaven they talk of must be a slower process than most people believe.

Milly (his wife's name), people will not agree that this is true, but it is my firm belief that I am right. The soul or ego is such a delicate structure that no quick change can take place without shocking that soul and, for a moment, putting the whole thing into a disorganised state.

If you ask me where I am, what I am, and what I see. I have to tell you that in the first instance, I found myself in a grey, damp, and most disagreeable country that looked to me barren, almost like the wastes of Belgium I used to fly over. Imagine such a country, with here and there groups of three or four badly grown, distorted trees visible under a grey fog, and I think you will get an idea as to what I awoke to. You should know why I should want to get out of such a state - one in which many people dwell for years...

I cannot understand why humans say that after Death all is happiness, all joy, all rest, all cheerfulness, all brightness. Surely they should be brought to the realization that as they have lived on Earth, and worked, and done the right thing, so shall their reward be in the hereafter. For though here physical suffering is not, mental suffering is much more severe than it can ever be on earth.

People will say: Why? Because here you are more awake, more alert, more able to perceive things by virtue of possessing a much freer mind housed in a much finer body, which does not bind you as much.

Altogether, you are in a refining process, and not until you have passed through every scrap of refining process there is in every state of life here, are you permitted into the brighter state.

This brighter side exists, but at first you are only allowed to see it for moments.

I passed over holding no thought of the future, like the average young man of my age. And, as on earth, I always wanted to get out of the mess as soon as possible on finding myself in it, so here did I determine to get out of the dreary, dreary country I found myself in when I first realised I had passed over...

The communicator died in an attempt to cross the Atlantic from East to West against head-winds and came down in a storm when the fuel ran out.

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What do we do? *[the words apparently coming from her husband began].* We do everything for which we are fitted. There are huge systems of education, huge laboratories and institutions that deal with all the conditions for which a man has fitted himself while on earth. Here our necessities are met by mental thought, and are organized and focused.

The organized thought starts here, travels around the spiritual states, gathering strength as it does, and eventually finds its final capacity for work through its human receiver.

None of this destroys free will. Rather, it helps you who are still on the earth, I have so latterly left, to realize your affinity with those who have gone on; to realize their very great humanity and interest in you. Instead of taking anything away from the beauty of the picture, does it not add to it that your day of usefulness is only dawning when you come over here?

I have not found any evil here. I have found many people, I assure you, who are

ignorant of every law, but that does not constitute evil. I have nothing to say about the man who is an atheist. So long as he truly believes what he professes, he stands as great a chance as the man who is bound up in his religion. Each one of us has an absolutely straight chance of working out his own salvation.

There are hells and there are heavens, just as we have been taught to believe. There are weak people, dissolute people, vicious people, all seeking to still take part in the life they once knew rather than enter fully into this new life. The man who takes a risk is the fellow you find in the higher states here. Each of these states has to be reached by man's own endeavour.

There are laboratories full of youth, full of life, all working for good, just as there are others whose energies are mistaken ones. Really there are no evil spirits; there are ignorant ones, interfering ones, malicious ones, and blind ones - that is blind to their own faults - and these constitute the so-called evil here, just as they are the pests of your life.

I work all the time mentally and, in a sense, physically in the things that interest me. One does work. I revel in it because here, in this state, I find myself free, alert and decisive; my energies no longer curtailed or held down by all the pains, ills and depressions.

What do we work at? We work mentally, and rejoice in so doing - except at making money. Only now one desires to possess the gifts for the soul, and the gift of knowledge, and the gift to enable one to see more clearly; to understand and to realize the greatness of the Universe.

Do we eat and drink? That's another question many people often ask. Certainly not in the way you sit down in your lavish restaurants. Such a pity because I liked doing that. This ethereal body, so like our earthly body, has still some of the physical structure about it, and it is therefore not perfected yet. It must retain something that is very akin to the physical state. We take food in what would seem to you a compressed or compounded form.

Do we use our senses in the same way? Yes, we do. After a while we begin to drop our earthly need for speech, and begin to use thought transference by sending and projecting out thoughts from mind to mind.

Such a lot of nonsense is being told. I assure you this is all the truth. It may upset some people, for few have the courage to tell the truth of their experiences.