

writings on mediums, ESP, PK, apparitions, and deathbed visions, and his research on Sai Baba that is documented in Erlendur Haraldsson's book, *Modern Miracles: An Investigative Report on Psychic Phenomena Associated with Sathya Sai Baba* (Fawcett-Columbine, 1987).

I was profoundly affected in a personal way by Drs. Osis and Haraldsson's book on deathbed visions, *At the Hour of Death* (1986b). "May you find there a window to something more than our mundane life," wrote Dr. Osis in his autograph of my copy, thereby echoing the attraction this book continues to hold for me. I anticipate referring to it and citing it repeatedly as I write more about death, dying, and grieving.

I am grateful for the gifts that Dr. Osis has left in his substantial body of work. I am grateful not only as a writer, but simply as a human being. Dr. Osis explored and illuminated the frontiers of the unknown. His outstanding contributions to knowledge will be consulted on into the future by researchers, writers, and others in search of truth. His influence is and will continue to be far-reaching, to the benefit of us all.

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A Tribute to Karlis Osis

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One of my early research involvements with Karlis occurred in the period when he was director of research for the ASPR and demonstrated for me his total selflessness in carrying out his duties.

Having received a brief claim from a retired lady in Washington, DC to the effect that she was having repeated contact with the spirit of the historic Florentine, Lorenzo di Medici, Karlis asked me if I would interview the lady, record her story, and attempt to validate her claim. This I was pleased to do, but I was surprised to learn that he would not supervise me and that the ultimate report would be entirely my own. It turned out that she had recently retired as Chief Librarian of the U. S. Department of the Interior, that the types of spirit contact were quite varied and covered more than two years, and that there was validation of several sorts involving in part a participation by her son who was a college professor of history. My lengthy report to Karlis was ultimately filed in the society's archives.

My numerous participations related to his research function for the society clearly demonstrated not only his technical capability but as well his availability at all times, his courtesy, helpfulness, and lack of egotism. Karlis Osis will be missed.

A Bibliography of the Publications of Karlis Osis

CARLOS S. ALVARADO AND RHEA A. WHITE

Note: all publications under a given year are listed alphabetically by title, whether or not Osis was the sole author, the first author of a joint publication, or the second author of a joint publication. The citation itself will make it clear which of the three is the case. If more than one publication is listed for a given year, letters a, b, c, and so forth in alphabetical order will follow the year so that the specific item can be located quickly.

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Core Visions of Psychical Research: Is There Life After Death? A Cross-Cultural Search for the Evidence¹

KARLIS OSIS

Good evening. It is nice to see old friends here and new ones. Thank you for the nice introduction.

We are here tonight to honor Gardner Murphy. He has a warm place in my heart! He really was a genius. When I knew him, he was chair of the ASPR Research Committee, and it was so good to work with him. He insisted that, in addition to all the exploratory research on topics that could be quantified, we also get to the real core questions in psychic research. We should attend, not just to the little tidbits—an anomaly we might investigate here or there—but to what is central about our subject matter, that which really tells us more about ourselves. I think the basic core vision he shared he caught from William James and Frederic W. H. Myers, and probably from Henry Sidgwick. He thought the core of psychical research held the promise that it might be possible for parapsychology to get a scientific grip on that aspect of human personality that psychology usually bypasses.

I think this core of personality is no longer so neglected by psychology, but in the 1950s and 1960s Gardner Murphy played a central role in pioneering many new ways in psychology proper, trying to bring new aspects of human personality to light. He was a very good explorer, always with a foothold in parapsychology and other “fringe areas”; but at the same time, his base camp was in the mainland of psychology. It was rooted in the safe and sound methods and concepts, and it was with those that he always returned from his excursions. That made him highly respected and unique in American psychology and even in American culture.

What *is* this core vision of parapsychology? Parapsychology is a difficult field, as some of you who have worked in it and then gave up know. When I talk with critics, they say, “There is one really unusual thing about parapsychology. Why is it that the same degree of interest has held up over a

¹This is a much edited version of the annual Gardner Murphy Memorial Address which was given by Emeritus Chester F. Carlson Research Fellow Karlis Osis at Stanhope Hotel, New York City, on June 13th, 1997. It was transcribed from a cassette tape by Rachael Rocamora and prepared for publication by Rhea A. White.

As this is likely the last publication by Karlis Osis, the reference list is complete in itself. That is, citations to the works of others and to his own works are included in the reference list rather than pointing to their location in the Osis bibliography on pp. 233–240 of this issue. Nonetheless, all citations to his work in the reference list of this article are also listed in that bibliography, including this article.—Ed.