Book Reviews

BIOLOGY & BELIEF

The Biology of Belief:

Unleashing the Power of Consciousness, Matter, and Miracles

by Bruce Lipton ISBN 0-9759914-7-7 \$25.00 Hardcover, 224 pp. Mountain of Love/Elite Books, 2005

Review by Jon Norris

This is the long-awaited compilation of ideas and research by Bruce Lipton, cell biologist and lecturer in the field of mind/body interaction. Has it been worth the wait? I think so. The book is a wonderful condensation of cutting-edge biology research delivered in simple, readable form. Once I picked it up, I could not put it down until I finished it. After finishing it, I wanted even more. Lipton is engaging and interesting, and it is no wonder his lectures are so well liked.

The book begins with a short overview of how Lipton became interested in science and biology in particular. We glimpse his voyage through academia and the changes he experienced in his career. We are treated to a very clear discussion of DNA and cell biology that reveals the high quality of Lipton's teaching ability.

Lipton details how he came to the realizations that spawned the book. He reveals his current thinking about how cells operate, and how the mind interacts with cells. His vision is based on research and he includes citations and references. His revelations are also influenced by his incorporation of quantum mechanics into cell biology.

He arrives at the conclusion that DNA is not the primary factor in life processes, and is indeed only a set of fairly passive blueprints called into action by other forces. What other forces? The communications from the membrane of the cell which are the cell's method of understanding and interacting with its environment. They include not only the biochemical palette of allopathic medicine, but also electromagnetic energy from a variety of sources. He paints an interesting picture of the cell and extrapolates that picture to encompass the human organism as a whole. His discussion of the membrane's function is not only enlightening, it is engaging. (And no, I am not a biology geek.) The book is worth reading for his description of cellular functioning alone.

He discusses problems with allopathic medicine, the pharmaceutical industrial complex (love that term), and science in general. His experiences trying to approach mainstream scientists with his revelations mirror the experiences of those in the new energy field.

Regardless of the evidence, many people simply will not accept the death of a paradigm which has outlived its usefulness.

Lipton also touches briefly on the perils of genetic engineering and its emergent problems foreshadowing possible disaster. He discusses the Human Genome Project which has foundered in the wake of conceptual failure and the success of the emerging field of epigenetics. The lesson is that cling-

ing to an outmoded worldview is self-defeating and possibly even fatal. "Grow or die" seems to be a fact of life, and is a "natural law" of greater strength than any postulated by ivory tower scholars.

Fortunately, as Lipton points out, our cells have incredible capacity for life, and hence, so do we. We can "reprogram" life patterns and unleash the immense capabilities in us all. In doing so we are cooperating with the flow of life and evolution, not fighting or trying to dominate it.

Lipton provides us with a concise set of scientific data explaining how therapies such as accupuncture and even placebos might work. While the information cries out for more detail on how to use this knowledge on a daily basis, that is beyond the scope of this book. There is some small concession to this in the Addendum on PSCH-Y, a form of integrative therapy, but that is all. The other quibble I have is minor. I find the analogy on page 198 of cancer to homeless and jobless people to be ill-conceived. I think the analogy would be more accurate if one compared cancer to corporations and damaged cells to homeless and jobless people.

I would like to see Lipton explore other medical "anomalies," such as the medical characteristics of people with Multiple Personality Disorder. I think they hold even more signposts to the true nature of healing than do placebo studies (which by themselves rock the paradigm boat considerably). I would also like to see him include some of the more radical work in physics, such as Sach's unified field work, Evans' work with O(3) electrodynamics, and Leyton's higher dimensional geometry. Tom Bearden has compiled some impressive research in this area, and the inclusion of these advanced areas of physics into biology would produce truly staggering results.

One thing is certain, the old reductionist paradigm in biology has failed as clearly as has that same paradigm in physics. This book is another foundation piece bridging biology, physics, and healing. It should be of interest to those growing beyond outdated paradigms, or seeking to understand energy-based health practices and the role the mind plays in physical life.

We are on the verge of incredible changes in our most basic views of reality, and this book is a welcome addition to the library of new science. [Jon Norris: jonn@eoni.com]

