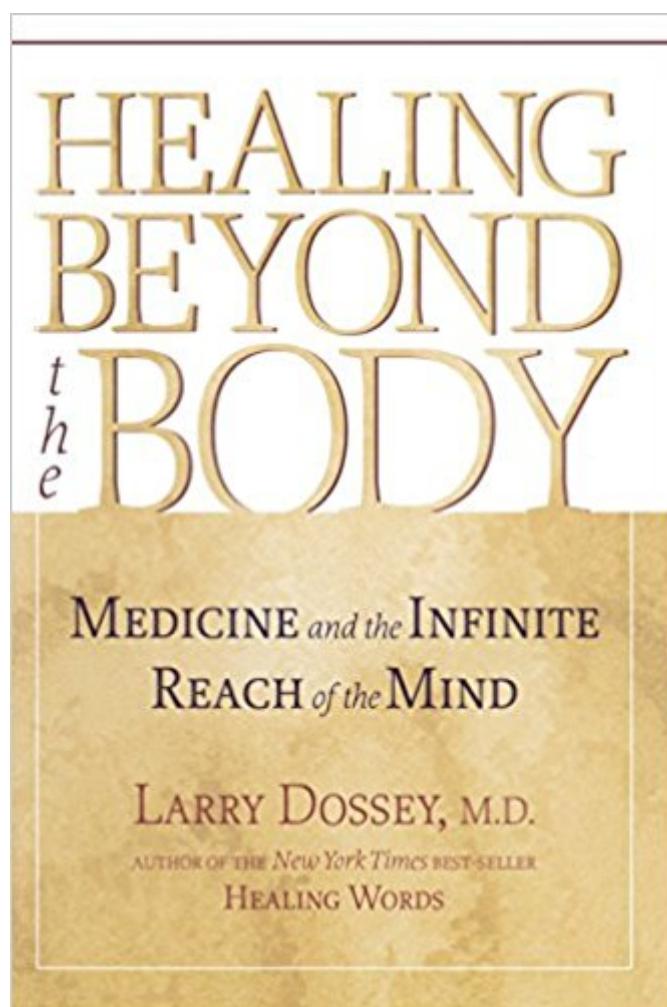


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# Healing Beyond The Body: Medicine And The Infinite Reach Of The Mind



## Synopsis

Does the mind produce consciousness or transmit it? Can machines detect love? Why has job stress become a worldwide epidemic? Why do objects sometimes seem to have minds of their own? Could war be a biological condition? Dr. Larry Dossey, one of the most influential spokespersons for the role of consciousness and spirituality in medicine, tackles all these questions and more with clarity and wit. In this book, he explores the relationship often documented in extensive research between science and "unscientific" topics such as prayer, love, laughter, war, creativity, dreams, and immortality.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Internal medicine physician Larry Dossey has been a proponent of alternative medicine since the 1970s, and in *Healing Beyond the Body: Medicine and the Infinite Reach of the Mind*, he collects writings on health and unique ways of healing. Among the subjects these essays cover are prayer, love, laughter, creativity, dreams and hypnosis all meant to be alternatives to standard medicine. These pieces originally appeared in the peer-reviewed journal *Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine*; now they will reach a much wider audience. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Dossey, a popular author (*Reinventing Medicine*) and lecturer, again explores the potential of the

healing mind in these essays, first published in the peer-reviewed journal Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine. Organized around broad themes, the pieces explore topics such as the individual meaning of illness; the effects of love, humor, prayer, and trout fishing on disease; and, in an interesting essay that nevertheless does not seem to fit, the author's experiences in Vietnam. Dossey continues to challenge physicians, particularly medical educators, to temper their reliance on scientific principles with an appreciation for consciousness and the mind. His numerous anecdotes are based on extensive clinical experience and cited from various sources, spanning the gamut from science to parapsychology (several appear to be urban legends). For alternative health collections where Dossey is popular. Andy Wickens, King Cty. Lib. Syst., Seattle Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

thank you for your great service

I was a bit disappointed in this book; it wasn't that easy to follow. Maybe I need to read it again, but it was just ok.

This collection of essays examines how thoughts and emotions affect our bodies and the bodies of others at a distance. It is an insightful look at the relationship between science and "unscientific" topics like prayer, love, laughter, work, creativity, dreams and more, an examination of consciousness and spirituality in medicine. Everybody knows that something vital is missing in modern allopathic medicine - the role of the human mind. The author points out the deep level of ignorance within science about the origin, function and destiny of human consciousness. But at last we are moving toward a vision of consciousness that liberates the mind from its identification with the physical brain and body. Of course, the implications for medicine are vast. He refers to the ideas of Jung, Ken Wilber, Erwin Schrödinger, David Bohm and Rupert Sheldrake and makes a valid case for the fact that our power to heal and be healed extends beyond our physical bodies. The essays fall into the three categories Meaning, Mind and Nonlocality, and the book concludes with a bibliography, a section on sources and an index. This is a classic and I recommend it to all who are interested in holistic or spiritual healing and those who want to take responsibility for their own health.

Healing Beyond the Body: Medicine and the infinite reach of the mind, by Larry Dossey, Time Warner 2001; Piatkus, London, 2009, 416 ff. In recent decades Larry Dossey has made it his specialism to study the relationship between mind and healing. He has looked at the effects of

prayer, both religious and secular through spiritual and distant healing, and shown that these effects are real and capable of rational, even scientific, interpretation [Recovering the Soul, 1989]. He has shown that, as medicine has increasingly acknowledged the influence of mind on physical health, this has increasingly penetrated into medical practice - and as a physician himself, Dr Dossey should know [Healing Words, 1993]. Still, the training of physicians in medical schools is essentially based on the materialist model - that all that ails the body is physical and all that can cure it is physical intervention. This sets the tone of this later book, which is presented in three parts. The first part deals with Meaning: to what extent does our mental image of being sick or well influence the physical course of illness? What effect does stress in the workplace have on physical symptoms? Is there a spiritual dimension to the food we eat? Part two of the book is on Mind. Dossey begins here with a discussion of the 'hard problem' - how does a physical brain produce a non-material mind and consciousness. The idea of animism - that all matter, especially living plants and animals, is endowed with a certain degree of sensibility - is very ancient and is being revived by both scientists and spiritual healing practitioners. We need, says Dossey, to 're-enchant the world', to feel this spirituality within nature. He also recommends laughter, assertiveness and fishing (!) as great tonics to negative feelings of self. In the third and final part of the book, Non-locality, Dr Dossey gets to his favourite topic of the non-local mind. There are anecdotes of patients 'seeing' what ails them, like tumours, or sensing that loved ones or public figures were in peril; and he gives a list of eminent scientists, with a summary of their views, who have written about the primacy of consciousness in our material world as a medium for such psychic messages. There is an interesting if brief discussion about the morality of one person being influenced by the mind of another through empathic telepathy. Then we return once more to prayer and the need for loving care throughout medical treatment, and finally to the significance of the non-local mind in creativity and immortality. This is again an excellent book on a familiar theme from Dr Dossey. There is some repetition of stories or ideas we have read elsewhere, but the text is full of novel information. There are also 60 pages of reference Sources, Bibliography of additional reading and a detailed Index. Timeless Healing by Herbert Benson Howard Jones is the author of The World as Spirit

Larry Dossey is a prolific writer and researcher on holistic healing, and in this book he assembles a number of articles and essays in support of a cohesive concept. Dossey invites the reader to explore the power of consciousness for healing transformation. The different sections in the book sometimes refer to scientific theories and research, some of which would usually be considered in the realm of parapsychology, such as remote influencing, healing with prayer, non-local telepathic

communication, etc. However, the focus is more on how these concepts can be applied in our lives to bring about healing. Dossey helps us peer beyond the veil of illusion we call "reality" to help us connect with the source of our being and the power of mind/consciousness to transform. Having practiced mind-body/energy medicine approaches such as hypnosis, reiki, and neuromodulation technique, I have experienced the power of the non-local consciousness to create healing shifts in a manner that would appear magical or unbelievable to those convinced of the solid, objective nature of perceived reality. It is much easier to "bend spoons" when one lets go of the illusion that there is any objective spoon in the first place! Enjoy this book and begin to put into practice the ideas and methods that unlock the power of consciousness.

Larry Dossey discusses the mystery of life and how consciousness is related to all of the physical things in the world. He does a superb job in explaining the wonders of the soul. Although his work is always inspiring, this book is especially so. It tells us that everything including consciousness is connected in a convincing way. For another astonishing book with a slightly different take on the subject, I'd highly recommend "The Ever-Transcending Spirit" by Toru Sato. It is also a tremendously insightful book!

I am very disappointed with the book. It is like cramming together of different ideas from the books/articles the author read. And a lot of them are the same old saying. If you really want to have a serious understanding on healing. You can pass this one.

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