

Introductory Comments to “Luminous Phenomena at Death: The Case of the Monk Family”

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I would like to add a few introductory comments to the following publication of Carlos S. Alvarado and me. Carlos and I submitted this manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal in late 2020. One of the reviewers requested substantial major revisions. However, Carlos is not among us anymore. He cannot respond to these requests or participate in rewriting our manuscript. Hence, because it is our foremost wish to preserve Carlos’ original voice in one of his last publications as much as possible, his partner Nancy Zingrone and I decided that we best withdraw this publication from being published in the mentioned journal and publish it in the *Journal of Anomalistics* instead – without peer review. We are thankful to Gerhard Mayer for the possibility to publish the manuscript in this manner.

For me, this publication is of particular significance for two reasons. First, it forms a closed circle of my collaborations with Carlos. When I reviewed neglected near-death phenomena in 2008 and 2009, being largely inspired by one of Carlos’ works on these topics (Alvarado, 2006), I collected cases of, e.g., what I called terminal lucidity (Nahm, 2009; Nahm & Greyson, 2009), unusual music heard at deathbeds and also luminous phenomena in near-death states (Nahm, 2011, 2012a). When I noted in 2009 that Carlos was still interested in luminous emanations from the bodies of the dying and that he even intended to publish an article about them (Alvarado, 2009), I contacted him for the first time and informed him that I was also collecting such cases. Being still a newcomer to the field at that time, Carlos welcomed my contact, realized that we shared several interests, and he supported and motivated me in many ways during the years to come. Our occasional but cordial collaborations resulted, e.g., in joint publications (Alvarado & Nahm, 2011; Alvarado, Nahm & Sommer, 2012), his suggestion to write a paper on Carl von Reichenbach and the “Od” for the historical section of *Journal of Scientific Exploration* he managed at that time (Nahm, 2012b), an invitation to present some of my studies in Nancy’s and his ParaMOOC courses, and an interview for his Blog (Nahm & Alvarado, 2017). We even worked intermittently on a joint paper on physical medium Eusapia Palladino that remains unfinished now. When Carlos wrote a manuscript about luminous deathbed phenomena in

2020 and asked me if I would like to contribute to it, I happily agreed. Now, in a peculiar and sad turn of events, my collaborations with Carlos end precisely with the paper the plans for which he mentioned already in 2009, and the topics of which triggered our first contact: Luminous emanations leaving the body of the dying.

Second, it was Carlos' initiative to write this publication that ultimately led to my discovery of Alejandro Parra's massive plagiarism and even data fabrication (Nahm, 2021; see also Braude, 2021; Cardeña, 2021; Mayer, 2021). I noticed first oddities in one of Parra's books when searching for more recent case reports of "terminal emanations" for our manuscript. Ultimately, I found that Parra simply copied and/or translated extensively from unacknowledged existing literature, including Carlos', in order to pretend to be a knowledgeable parapsychologist and to earn undeserved respect. Carlos, who had done much to support the earlier career of Parra, was quite disappointed to learn of this individual's egomaniacal misuse of the trust and support provided by benevolent colleagues.

Carlos lived just the opposite in every respect: He was extremely knowledgeable and productive, and he was always kind, honest, willing to help, to support, and to share. He was outstanding as a person and parapsychologist. Collaborating with him has always been a pleasure and an honour for me. Although we never met in person, I will miss him and his contributions to parapsychology.

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