# Awareness beyond the body

The author is merely the vessel

Francesco Silvano Schauer

**For those who don't know whether they are spirit or flesh –**

**and for those who quietly remember something.**

**1. Entry: The Central Question of the Self**

* What remains when the body comes to rest?
* Can experience occur beyond the senses and brain?
* What if "I am" is not produced by the body – but the body is produced by Being?

**2. Clarifying Terms**

* **Body =** matter, biology, nerves, sensory perception
* **Consciousness =** directed experience ("I feel", "I think")
* **Awareness =** undirected presence, pure seeing, before thought

**3. Core Thesis**

* „The body is not the source of consciousness – it is its expression.“

**4. Tangible Clues from Practice**

* Silence between thoughts → Who perceives it?
* Lucid dreaming → Something is awake, even though the body sleeps
* Meditation → No doing, no thinking – and yet, "something" is present

**5. The Observer Logic**

* I can observe thoughts → therefore I am not the thought
* I can observe emotions → therefore I am not the emotion
* I can observe the body → therefore I am not merely the body

→ It follows: **Awareness is independent of what is experienced.**

**6. The Field Model**

* Instead of: I AM a body
* Now: I AM a field experiencing through this body
* The body is like a loudspeaker – not the sound itself

**7. The Body as a Temporary Channel of the Field**

* The body is a gateway, not the center
* Chakras, vagus nerve, etc. = interfaces – not origins
* Death is not the end – but a withdrawal of form

**8. Parallel Models in Religion, Science, and Mysticism**

* Christian: The resurrection body = transformed, subtle body
* Buddhist: Clear light body, Nirmanakaya
* Neuroscience: Near-death accounts (e.g. Pam Reynolds)
* Quantum physics (with caution): Non-local consciousness as hypothesis

**9. Making Non-Local Awareness Tangible**

* Awareness is not in the body → but it can shine through it
* Example: "I am being breathed." – Breathing happens without "doing"
* That which sees that you feel was already there before you recognized it

**10. Invitation to Self-Experience -** Knowing without thinking – Feeling without doing

**🔹 What Remains When the Body Is Still?**

When the body is still – meaning:  
no stimulus, no movement, no action –  
then everything we normally identify with falls away:

• No doing  
• No reacting  
• No goal  
• No expression

And yet:  
Something remains aware.  
Something perceives that the body is still.  
Something notices the silence – without commenting on it.

👉 This "something" is not the body, for the body is doing nothing.  
It is also not thought, because thought can be silent.  
It is pure awareness – what remains when all forms come to rest.

In short:  
When the body is still, what remains is that which notices the body at all –  
the space in which stillness is recognized.

It is not nothing –  
but a non-personal state of silent presence.  
Not empty –  
but full of presence without content.

**🔹 Can Experience Occur Without Sense Organs or a Brain?**

At first glance, the answer seems obvious:  
No sense organs – no input.  
No brain – no processing.  
Therefore: no experience.

But that’s only the view of materialist biology.  
What happens if we step outside that frame?

**🧭 Observable Phenomena That Suggest Otherwise:**

• **Near-death experiences:**  
People report vivid awareness during phases of no measurable brain activity.

• **Lucid dreaming:**  
The body is asleep. The senses are inactive.  
And yet, consciousness is awake – often clearer than in waking life.

• **Deep meditative states:**  
No external perception. No thought. No ego.  
And still: a presence – a quiet awareness of being itself.

**💡 The Crucial Distinction:**

• Sense organs and the brain deliver content:  
Colors, sounds, thoughts, emotions.

• But awareness is not tied to content.  
It is what recognizes that something is there – or that nothing is there.

**🔁 So:**

Yes – experience can occur without sense organs or a brain,  
if we no longer define “experience” as data processing,  
but as **being in knowing**.

It is not experience **of something** –  
but experience **as something**:  
as space, as stillness, as clear presence.

**🔹 What If “I Am” Is Not a Product of the Body – But the Body a Product of “I Am”?**

This reversal of perspective turns everything upside down –  
not just biologically, but existentially.

**🧠 The Conventional Framework of Thought:**

• The body is conceived → the brain develops → consciousness emerges.  
• Therefore: “I am,” because my brain processes stimuli.

But this assumes:  
That being arises only when matter becomes sufficiently complex.  
However...

**🌀 An Alternative View – From the Perspective of Awareness:**

• “I am” exists **prior** to any form.  
• Not a product – but the **origin** of perception.  
• The body does not generate consciousness – it is where consciousness appears.

**📡 Analogy:**

The television does not create the program –  
it merely makes it visible.

Likewise here:  
The body displays consciousness –  
but it is not its source.

**🔁 If That’s True, Then:**

• Death is not the end of “I am” – only the end of form.  
• The “I” in the body is a **concentration**, not a center.  
• The “I am” is original – not dependent.

**In short:**  
The body is not the cause of being.  
It is a temporary expression **of** being.  
And the true “I am” is not what owns the body –  
but what dreams it.

**🔹 Clarifying Terms**

A stable understanding of these three terms is essential –  
confusing them leads to shallow confusion.

**🧍‍♂️ Body**

= Matter, biology, sensory apparatus  
• The visible, tangible vessel  
• Operates through the nervous system, organs, stimulus processing  
• Subject to space, time, gravity, aging  
• → That which can be seen, measured, touched

**🧠 Consciousness**

= Directed experience  
• Has content and directional focus (“I perceive...”)  
• Recognizes colors, thoughts, emotions – judges, reacts, differentiates  
• Often identified with the ego:  
“I am thinking,” “I want something,” “I remember”  
• → Like a spotlight that illuminates something

**🌀 Awareness**

= Undirected, silent presence  
• No doing, no judging, no movement  
• Sees everything – without interference  
• Exists prior to thought, emotion, or ego  
• It does not say: *I think* – it sees: *Thinking is happening*  
• → Like the space in which the spotlight shines

**🧾 Essential Distinction**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Function** | **Identified?** | **Movable?** |
| **Body** | Carrier & receiver | No | Yes |
| **Consciousness** | Analyzes, experiences, directs | Often yes ("I") | Yes |
| **Awareness** | Observes without interference | No | No – still |

**🧠 Memory Hook:**

The body acts,  
consciousness experiences,  
but only awareness **simply is** –  
unmoving, untouched, infinitely present.

**🔹 Tangible Clues from Practice**

Not theory, but **direct experience** makes the invisible palpable.  
The following phenomena clearly show:  
Consciousness is not dependent on body or thought.

**🌫️ Silence Between Thoughts → Who Perceives It?**

• Thoughts come, thoughts go – but you can notice their absence.  
• Who or what perceives that gap when no content is present?  
• It is not thought itself. It is what sees that thinking is not happening.  
🡒 This silent witness is not the mind – it is **awareness**.  
🡒 It requires no body, no activity, in order to be.

**🌙 Lucid Dream → Something Is Awake, Though the Body Sleeps**

• In a lucid dream, the body is offline – zero muscle tone, no sensory input.  
• And yet: you can clearly recognize you are dreaming, even make decisions.  
• In lucid dreaming, **awareness remains** – though the body is asleep.  
🡒 This is not proof, but a quiet, hard-to-ignore **indication**.  
🡒 What perceives there is often clearer than in waking consciousness.

**🧘 Deep Meditation → No Doing, No Thinking – and Yet, “Something Is There”**

• In deep meditation, thought ceases. No ego, no goal, no judgment.  
• And still – a **presence** remains.  
• Not an image – but a quiet, clear beingness.  
🡒 This “something” is not mental, emotional, or physical.  
🡒 It is pure being – not *through* something, but *as* something.

**📍 Conclusion:**

These experiences are not **consciousness *of* something** –  
but what remains when there is nothing left to be conscious *of*.

No thought.  
No feeling.  
No body.

And yet: a silent, wakeful presence.  
This is not a belief – it is **tangible, experiential, repeatable**.

**🔹 The Observer Logic**

One of the most powerful – and at the same time simplest – insights on the path to awareness is what we might call **the observer logic**.  
It is not an esoteric concept, but a logical consequence of direct experience.

**🧠 I Can Observe Thoughts → Therefore I Am Not the Thought**

• If you can notice a thought,  
then you are not identical to it.  
• Because the observer is always something other than the observed.  
• The thought is an object **within** consciousness –  
but not the subject that sees it.

**❤️ I Can Observe Emotions → Therefore I Am Not the Emotion**

• Even strong emotions – fear, anger, joy –  
can be noticed, named, and understood.  
• This means: you are not trapped in the emotion.  
Something within you **sees** that it is occurring.  
• This “something” is not emotional – it is quiet, clear, neutral.

**🧍‍♂️ I Can Observe the Body → Therefore I Am Not Just the Body**

• You can sense: “My leg is going numb,”  
“My heart is racing,” “My breath is slowing.”  
• But who is this “I” that feels the body?  
• The perceiver is not the muscle, not the blood, not the skin.  
• It is **awareness**, looking through the body – but not bound to it.

**🧩 It Follows: Awareness Is Independent of Experience**

• Everything you can observe –  
you cannot ultimately be.  
• Thoughts, feelings, body – they are contents.  
But you are the **space** in which they arise.  
🡒 You are not the weather, but the sky on which it appears.  
🡒 Not the movie – but the screen on which all is projected.

**📌 Conclusion:**

What you can observe – you are not.  
That which observes – the silent, non-reactive, unexplainable seeing –  
is what remains when everything else changes.

And that is:  
**Awareness itself.**  
Formless. Timeless.  
Still – yet fully present.

**🔹 The Field Model**

A radical shift in perspective –  
away from *“I am a body”* toward:  
*“I am a field – and the body is my expression, not my origin.”*

**🧍‍♂️ Old View: I AM a Body**

• The classical self-image: I = body + brain  
• Everything I think, feel, or experience is localized in the body  
• Consciousness is seen as a byproduct of neurochemistry  
→ In this model, everything ends with death.

**🌀 New View: I AM a Field Experiencing Through This Body**

• The body is not the center, but a temporary interface  
• The true self is a **field** – not limited, not material  
• This field is not *within* form –  
form is a **wave within the field**  
→ The body dies – but the field remains.  
→ Experience is a vibration in the field of consciousness, not a reaction to stimuli.

**🔊 Metaphor: The Body Is Like a Speaker – Not the Sound Itself**

• The speaker plays sound – but does not generate it  
• If the speaker breaks, the song isn’t “dead” –  
it just needs a new medium  
→ Consciousness is the sound  
→ The body is merely the device through which it becomes audible

**📡 Conclusion:**

You are not confined **within** the body –  
the body is **within** you, within the field of your being.  
And this field does not end when the speaker goes silent.

**🔹 The Body as a Temporary Channel of the Field**

**🚪 The Body is a Gateway – Not the Center**

• The body is not the essence of the self, but a point of access.  
• It is permeable, not sealed off.  
• A place where the field becomes visible – not where it originates.  
→ It is like a window – not the light itself.

**🕸️ Chakras, Vagus Nerve & Co. = Interfaces – Not Origins**

• Chakras are energetic transitions, not "parts."  
• The vagus nerve is a biological conduit – but not the source of inner experience.  
• Both systems link body, emotion, and mind with the field.  
→ They translate vibration into sensation – but do not generate it.

**🕊️ Death is Not the End – But a Withdrawal of Form**

• Death ends the bodily expression – not the field that moves through it.  
• It's like a mirror breaking –  
the reflection vanishes, but not the light that made it appear.  
→ Death is not disappearance – it is transition.  
→ The “I am” remains – without mask, without voice, without form.

**📌 Conclusion:**

The body is not the source of your being –  
but the stage on which the field plays for a time.  
When the curtain falls, the space remains –  
silent, vast, unchanging.

**🔹 Parallel Models in Religion, Science, and Mysticism**

These models from diverse traditions and disciplines support the view that consciousness is not bound to the physical body – and may even outlast it.

**✝️ Christian: The Resurrection Body**

• After the resurrection, Jesus does not appear in his old physical body but in a transfigured, spiritual form.  
• This body is visible, can speak and eat – yet also disappear and pass through walls.  
• Theologically referred to as the *corpus glorificatum* – a body beyond the laws of nature.  
🡒 Corresponds to a subtle but real body of consciousness – not mere spirit.

**🪷 Buddhist: Clear Light Body / Nirmanakaya**

• In deepest meditation, consciousness can transform into a pure light body.  
• The *Nirmanakaya* is a manifestation of enlightened mind – perceptible, yet not material.  
• The body becomes a vessel of compassion, not a boundary of the self.  
🡒 Realization: Consciousness can act – even beyond material form.

**🧠 Neuroscientific: Near-Death Accounts (e.g., Pam Reynolds)**

• People in clinically dead states (no pulse, flat EEG) report vivid and coherent experiences.  
• In the case of Pam Reynolds: detailed perceptions during surgery with no measurable brain activity.  
• Common motifs: light, tunnels, and the sense of observing from outside the body.  
🡒 These experiences challenge the neurocentric model – without necessarily disproving it.

**⚛️ Quantum Physics (with caution): Non-Local Consciousness**

• Hypotheses like Penrose/Hameroff’s Orch-OR model propose that:  
Consciousness is not merely neuronal activity, but contains quantum-informational aspects.  
• Non-locality in quantum physics shows: something can be connected – without spatial proximity.  
🡒 Some infer: Consciousness, too, might be non-local – not stored in the brain, but “tuned in.”

**📌 Conclusion:**

Whether in religion, mysticism, frontier science, or physics –  
the same insight emerges again and again:  
Consciousness is more than biology.  
It did not arise – it appears.  
Sometimes with a body, sometimes without.

**🔹 Making Non-Local Awareness Tangible**

**🌀 Awareness is Not in the Body – But It Can Operate Through It**

• Awareness is not localized – it's not in your head, not "behind your eyes."  
• And yet, it can become tangible through the body:  
as stillness, presence, spaciousness, intuitive knowing.  
• The body is not the center, but a prism through which awareness becomes visible.  
🡒 Like light through a window – the light is not in the window, but it shines through it.

**🌬️ Example: “I Am Being Breathed”**

• If you pay close attention: you are not breathing actively – you are being breathed.  
• Breathing happens – without doing, without will.  
• Who realizes that? Who notices that breathing is happening without an “I”?  
🡒 That is the field: it breathes through you – you are not the doer, but the expression.

**👁️ That Which Sees That You Feel Was Already There Before You Knew It**

• Emotions arise – anger, joy, fear.  
• And something in you sees it: “Ah, I’m angry.”  
• But this “something” was there before the feeling came – and it remains after it’s gone.  
🡒 This “something” is not the I, not the emotion, not the body –  
🡒 It is awareness itself – unchanged, shining through everything.

**📌 Conclusion:**

You are not the body that feels or thinks –  
you are that which notices that there is a body feeling or thinking.  
And this awareness **is the field itself** –  
boundless, impersonal, eternally present.

**🔹 Invitation to Self-Experience – Knowing Without Thinking, Sensing Without Doing**

**❌ Not to Prove – But to Be Touched**

• These reflections cannot be proven logically – they elude the framework of thought.  
• They do not aim to convince, but to remind.  
• It’s not about agreement – but about experience.  
🡒 Truth, in this field, is not something you think –  
🡒 but something that touches you when you become still.

**❓ Ask the Question: Who Is Seeing This Outline Right Now?**

• Not: What do I think about this?  
• But: Who is noticing that a text is being read?  
• Who is present, while all of this is observed – without analyzing it?  
🡒 This question is not a riddle –  
🡒 It is a key into non-doing, into awareness.

**🧘‍♂️ Short Practice: Close Your Eyes – and Feel What Remains When Nothing Is Being “Done”**

1. Close your eyes.
2. Stop thinking, judging, changing.
3. Let all thoughts pass – like clouds.
4. Sense:  
   • No doing  
   • No goal  
   • No “I”

And yet:  
Something is there.  
Awake.  
Silent.  
Clear.

🡒 It is not a thought. Not a feeling. Not the body.  
🡒 It is: You – without form.

**📌 Final Impulse:**

What you find there has always been.  
Without body. Without name. Without beginning.  
When there is nothing left to do –  
and nothing left to explain –  
then what has always been reveals itself:  
Not as thought.  
Not as feeling.  
Not as body.  
But as you.  
Formless.

You don’t have to believe what is written here.  
You don’t have to reject it either.  
Become still –  
and see for yourself.