

# TRUE HALLUCINATIONS TERENCE MCKENNA

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### **True Hallucinations: A Conversation with Terence McKenna**

#### **What are true hallucinations?**

True hallucinations are vivid, sensory experiences that occur in the absence of any external stimuli. They can involve any sensory modality, including vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. True hallucinations are distinct from illusions, which are distortions of real sensory experiences, and from hallucinations induced by drugs or mental illness.

#### **Are true hallucinations common?**

True hallucinations are relatively rare, but they can occur in a variety of situations. They are most common in people who are sleep-deprived, stressed, or in sensory deprivation environments. True hallucinations can also be a symptom of certain medical conditions, such as schizophrenia.

#### **What causes true hallucinations?**

The exact cause of true hallucinations is unknown, but there are several theories. One theory is that true hallucinations are caused by abnormal activity in the brain's sensory processing areas. Another theory is that true hallucinations are caused by a breakdown in the brain's ability to distinguish between real and imagined experiences.

#### **Can true hallucinations be treated?**

There is no specific treatment for true hallucinations. However, the underlying cause of the hallucinations can be treated, which may reduce the frequency and severity of the hallucinations. For example, if true hallucinations are caused by sleep deprivation, getting more sleep may help to reduce the hallucinations. If true hallucinations are caused by a medical condition, treating the condition may help to reduce the hallucinations.

### **What is the significance of true hallucinations?**

True hallucinations are a fascinating phenomenon that can shed light on the nature of consciousness. They also provide a unique window into the human experience of reality. True hallucinations have been used for centuries in religious and spiritual practices, and they continue to be a source of wonder and inspiration for people today.

## **Computerworld Honors Program: Empowering Technology Leaders**

### **1. What is the Computerworld Honors Program?**

The Computerworld Honors Program is an exclusive annual recognition that celebrates the most accomplished technology executives in the world. Honorees are esteemed leaders who have made significant contributions to their organizations and the broader technology industry.

### **2. What does the program recognize?**

The program honors executives in three categories:

- **Laureate Award:** Recognizes executives for their lifelong achievements and transformative leadership in the technology industry.
- **Leader Award:** Honors executives who have made exceptional contributions to their organizations and the wider technology landscape within the past year.
- **Rising Star Award:** Celebrates emerging leaders who are making impressive strides and are poised for future success in the technology field.

### **3. What are the benefits of being recognized?**

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Honorees receive:

- Global recognition and prestige in the technology community.
- Access to an exclusive network of industry leaders and peers.
- Opportunities for mentorship and professional development.
- Media coverage and inclusion in feature articles and discussions.

#### **4. Who selects the honorees?**

A distinguished panel of experts, including Computerworld editors, industry analysts, and previous honorees, evaluate nominations and select the most qualified individuals. The selection process is highly competitive, ensuring that only the most exceptional leaders are recognized.

#### **5. What is the impact of the program?**

The Computerworld Honors Program not only celebrates individual achievements but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring technology professionals. It showcases the transformative power of leadership and encourages innovation and excellence in the field. By recognizing the best and brightest minds in technology, the program helps to shape the future of the industry and drive progress for the benefit of society.

### **This Will Make You Smarter: New Scientific Concepts to Improve Your Thinking, by John Brockman**

In his book, "This Will Make You Smarter: New Scientific Concepts to Improve Your Thinking," John Brockman explores cutting-edge scientific ideas and their implications for human cognition and behavior. Through interviews with leading scientists and thinkers, Brockman presents a comprehensive overview of the latest advancements in fields such as neuroscience, psychology, economics, and artificial intelligence.

**1. Why are we often biased in our thinking?** Brockman discusses the concept of confirmation bias, which refers to our tendency to seek out and interpret information that confirms our existing beliefs. This bias can lead to distorted thinking and hinder our ability to make rational decisions.

**2. How can we improve our critical thinking skills?** One key to improving our critical thinking is to become aware of our own biases and to actively challenge our assumptions. We should also seek out information that contradicts our beliefs and be willing to consider alternative perspectives.

**3. What is the role of emotions in decision-making?** Emotions play a significant role in our decision-making process. Brockman argues that emotions can be used as a compass to guide our choices, but we need to be mindful of their influence and avoid letting them cloud our judgment.

**4. How can we use neuroscience to understand our own minds?** Neuroscience is providing us with new insights into the workings of the human brain. Brockman describes how brain scans can be used to study cognitive processes, such as memory, attention, and decision-making. This research is helping us to better understand ourselves and improve our mental abilities.

**5. What are the ethical implications of artificial intelligence?** As artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated, we need to consider its ethical implications. Brockman raises concerns about the potential for AI to exacerbate biases, manipulate our behavior, and even threaten our autonomy. These questions challenge us to confront the complex relationships between humanity and technology.

By exploring these new scientific concepts, "This Will Make You Smarter" offers thought-provoking insights into the nature of human cognition and behavior. It provides tools and strategies for improving our thinking, reducing bias, and navigating the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

### **Shot in the Heart: An Interview with Mikal Gilmore**

**Question:** In your book "Shot in the Heart," you recount the story of your brother's execution for murder. How did writing about this experience affect you?

**Answer:** It was cathartic and incredibly painful at the same time. Writing the book forced me to confront the trauma of my brother's death, but it also gave me a chance to process my grief and anger.

**Question:** Did you ever have any sympathy for your brother, Gary?

**Answer:** Yes. I understood that Gary was a troubled and complex individual who had made terrible choices. However, I could not condone his actions and ultimately believed that justice was served.

**Question:** What impact did your brother's death have on your family?

**Answer:** It shattered our lives. We struggled to come to terms with the loss and the shame associated with our brother's crime. It took years for us to begin to heal from that trauma.

**Question:** In the book, you explore the flaws in the death penalty system. What are your thoughts on capital punishment today?

**Answer:** I believe that the death penalty is a cruel and unnecessary punishment. It is not a deterrent to crime, and it disproportionately affects marginalized communities. I advocate for the abolition of capital punishment and for a focus on restorative justice.

**Question:** How has your experience shaped your life?

**Answer:** It has made me both more empathetic and more determined to fight for social justice. I have dedicated my life to writing and speaking out against violence and the death penalty. I hope that my story can help others who have been touched by these issues.

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