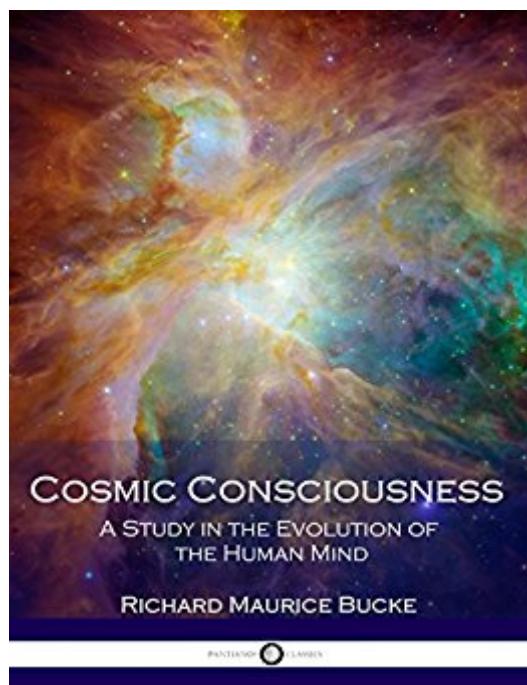


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# Cosmic Consciousness: A Study In The Evolution Of The Human Mind (Illustrated)



## Synopsis

Richard M. Burke's astonishing treatise on the human mind discusses and attempts to explain mystical experiences in the context of evolutionary change in the brain. During his mid-thirties, Burke underwent a feeling of intense revelation and felt distinctly enlightened for a short time. Although the period of enlightenment passed, it had an immense impact upon Burke's outlook, steering his personal and professional life in a directions he had never before envisioned. He found the experience a permanent boon to his well-being, and was able to work and enjoy life more than he formerly had. This book is an attempt to explain the various mystical feelings of enlightenment which humans have experienced over the millennia of recorded history. Burke's opinion is that these phenomena are becoming commoner over time, and represent an evolution of the human mind. He postulates that these experiences will become commoner as centuries go by, and become accepted as an ordinary, then eventually as a necessary or innate part of human life. The term and title of this book, 'Cosmic Consciousness', is shorthand for the state which human beings enter during a mystical experience. A higher mental echelon free of fear or negative emotions, and characterized by greater perception and understanding of the world, Burke stresses that Cosmic Consciousness cannot be adequately explained in spoken language. The experience in itself is indescribably different; those who attempt to couch it in words inevitably fall short, or even appear deceptive to other, skeptical individuals. In an attempt to convince the reader that Cosmic Consciousness exists and is already instrumental to the human condition, Burke examines a series of people he believes also underwent such a state. The figures he discusses include religious figures such as Mohammed and St. John of the Cross, philosophers such as Socrates and Leo Tze, scientists such as Francis Bacon, and authors such as Benedict Spinoza, Walt Whitman and William Blake. This early text of psychology sees Burke speak freely about the mystical and spiritual aspects of the human mind. At the time, the discipline was in its infancy, and philosophical discussions of unusual, spiritual experiences were a welcome addition. Although many of Burke's views have been disproved or refuted by testing and research, Cosmic Consciousness continues to be considered a classic for its incisive, frank discussions of unusual experiences. It is today considered a good companion text to the masterwork of William James; *The Varieties of Religious Experience*

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

I found an old hardcover copy of this book in an antique store on the central coast of California. I didn't buy it then, but after reading only a few sentences of it at the bookstore, I ordered this paperback. The paperback is a nice larger size for reading and easier to read than the older book. It seems to be a forgotten about book, but for me, it is life changing and has propelled me into a new level of consciousness. I had a cosmic consciousness awakening just as described in this book in 2011, and I literally became a different person. This book describes my experience just as it happened, and happens to be a guide and support for me now. It allows me to be a "new species" of human and expand in a direction I didn't know about until I read this book, and I'm only 40 pages into it! I can only read a few pages at a time, because it all needs to be absorbed well before reading more.

good quality reprint, arrived on time

Great book! old but very apropos!

Purchased as a gift.

The writer Dr Richard Maurice Bucke uses many real life individuals to give the reader a good understanding of how the state of cosmic consciousness affects their lives and the lives of people who follow their teachings. Their experiences constitute a definite advance in man's relation with the Infinite.

It helped me gain insight about my spirituality. And inspired me to see a better world . A five star book without a doubt.

from a familiar perspective

A wee bit repetitious, and the olde english can be a challenge - but all in all, a good read. It certainly puts a whole new light on a number of well known historical figures, and their contributions to humankind.

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