

# QUEST

Graham Nicholson

Feeling the identity of a single being  
One consciousness focused within one person  
Looking inwardly and seeing  
The outline of a life, one, continuous, entire,  
But little comprehending the real meaning.

The receptors supply the point of entry  
To a world lived individually, alone  
An inner world guarded by sentry  
Screening off real mind, real person  
Filtering through all input gently.

But what of this consciousness, its essence?  
Something mind based but not brain  
It lays heavily a claim, a presence  
But to the materialist a problem grasping  
Its basics, let alone its quintessence.

And why a consciousness in the now tense  
Out of an infinity forward and back?  
An instant in time, passing suspense  
Capturing the moment all so brief  
Before abandon in obsolescent pretence.

To capture the moment so elusive  
In an internal quest for comprehension  
Appears a task inconclusive  
For the moment is too brief to fence in  
In other than memories abstrusive.

**So is consciousness all that is?  
Everything else just a phantom  
To be absorbed in an instant of fiz  
Before relegation to another sphere  
A mere facade like that of show biz.**

**Or is it merely a culmination  
Of sensory perception ingested?  
A virtual reality simulation  
Of the outer material world  
Requiring no further consideration.**

**And is the internalization confined  
To senses meshing mechanically  
Mere electrical sparks in the mind?  
Casting off the hallowed, the sacred,  
the redemptive, the sublime.**

**Conceivably consciousness is an open door  
To other worlds endlessly stretching  
That draws our attention to the more  
To realities beyond any tense  
A panoptic of olam shore.**

**The task is to gain understanding  
Through the operation of one mind  
The internal and external comprehending  
A connected life and meaning  
Allowing experience to pacify human reasoning.**

**Both experience and logic potentially asserting  
Beyond the conviction of sensory reality  
The case for human affirming  
The enigma of a cloistered capacity,  
Being contingent, the Absolute apprehending.**

**And meaning can readily be given  
To an internalization hidden from view  
The investigation of self clearly driven  
By the quest for guidance spiritual  
In pursuing inner choice so striven.**

**But then, of course, this is just superstition  
Grasping the mind of the feeble  
Dredging explanation from out of obscuration  
Even though humans are patently endowed  
With a demonstrable spiritual disposition.**

*“...When the fire of love is ablaze,  
It burneth to ashes the harvest of reason.”*  
(Baha'u'llah)