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Healing Beyond the Body: Medicine and the Infinite Reach of the Mind

By Larry Dossey



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Does the mind produce consciousness—or transmit it? Can machines detect love? Why has job stress become a worldwide epidemic? Why do objects sometimes seem to have minds of their own? Could war be a biological condition? Dr. Larry Dossey, one of the most influential spokespersons for the role of consciousness and spirituality in medicine, tackles all these questions and more with clarity and wit. In this book, he explores the relationship—often documented in extensive research—between science and "unscientific" topics such as prayer, love, laughter, war, creativity, dreams, and immortality.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Internal medicine physician Larry Dossey has been a proponent of alternative medicine since the 1970s, and in *Healing Beyond the Body: Medicine and the Infinite Reach of the Mind*, he collects writings on health and unique ways of healing. Among the subjects these essays cover are prayer, love, laughter, creativity, dreams and hypnosis all meant to be alternatives to standard medicine. These pieces originally appeared in the peer-reviewed journal *Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine*; now they will reach a much wider audience.

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From Library Journal

Dossey, a popular author (*Reinventing Medicine*) and lecturer, again explores the potential of the healing mind in these essays, first published in the peer-reviewed journal *Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine*. Organized around broad themes, the pieces explore topics such as the individual meaning of illness; the effects of love, humor, prayer, and trout fishing on disease; and, in an interesting essay that nevertheless does not seem to fit, the author's experiences in Vietnam. Dossey continues to challenge physicians, particularly medical educators, to temper their reliance on scientific principles with an appreciation for consciousness and the mind. His numerous anecdotes are based on extensive clinical experience and cited from various sources, spanning the gamut from science to parapsychology (several appear to be urban legends). For alternative health collections where Dossey is popular. Andy Wickens, King Cty. Lib. Syst., Seattle

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From [Booklist](#)

These 14 essays originally appeared in the journal *Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine*, which nonspecialist readers aren't likely to see. Their reappearance here promises them the wider audience that Dossey's fame as the doctor who believes in the efficacy of prayer has attracted. Dossey sees meaning as vitally important in the practice of both orthodox and alternative medicine. If a physician doesn't understand the meaning a patient is trying to convey, nor a patient what a physician's words and actions mean, the effectiveness of their relationship will be minimal; indeed, that relationship may become misleading. Healing often lies beyond the body, Dossey holds, and he illustrates the manifold aspects of that concept for caregivers and patients. He discusses relations among body, brain, and mind, and shows the many roles that consciousness plays. His concept DNA (Distant Nonlocal Awareness) helps explain the possibility that thinking and emotions can be transferred over long distances to communicate and to heal. Thought-provoking cogitations from a much-discussed practitioner. *William Beatty*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Brian Faber:

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