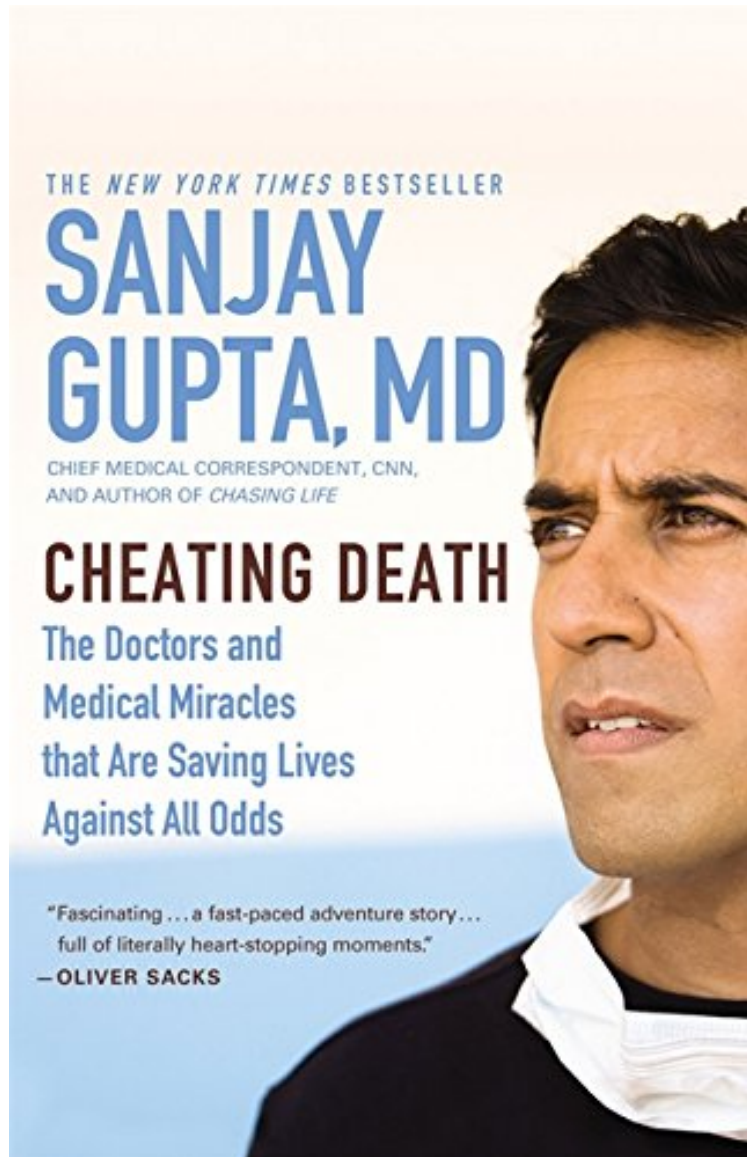


(Free pdf) Cheating Death: The Doctors and Medical Miracles that Are Saving Lives Against All Odds

# Cheating Death: The Doctors and Medical Miracles that Are Saving Lives Against All Odds

*Sanjay Gupta*

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**Sanjay Gupta : Cheating Death: The Doctors and Medical Miracles that Are Saving Lives Against All Odds** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cheating Death: The Doctors and Medical Miracles that Are Saving Lives Against All Odds:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Don the BaptistBy Don the BaptistA Bible-based review by Don the Baptist of the text Cheating Death by Sanjay Gupta MD. This is a great book. If one has an interest in the behind-the-scenes medical efforts currently underway across the country which are fervently attempting to extend life, then this text should be considered required reading. Far more than a boring review of innovative medical practices which would place almost anyone in snooze-mode a variety of interesting tales are rehearsed of individuals found in the most dire of straits, who through some medical sleight of hand, get a chance at continuing life. Nonetheless, as this is a Bible-based review, herein the focus will be on two significant conflicts between the text and the Bible. In Gupta's defense, however, he openly states, I don't spend a lot of time talking about faith. I was never formally trained in the interplay between the type of healing we think of in hospitals and the type of healing that takes place in private, deep in the recesses of our minds. Yet over time, I have come to deeply appreciate the place of prayer in the healing process. (page 211) Note the following quotes from the text: His heart pumped no blood, his brain sent no signals, he thought no thoughts. Make no mistake this is death. But maybe not the way we tend to think about it. (page xv) she had been clinically dead for three hours (page 8) and later, it is noted that she returned from the dead. (page 15) Mertz was back from the dead. (page 41) He truly was dead, and here he is, fine. (page 56) Quoting Mark Roth, Clinical death might be the loss of a heartbeat I turn off the heartbeat so they are clinically dead. But I can bring them back. So they must not have been dead. (page 92, see also page 123) Brain death versus cardiac death. (page 126) They're talking about brain death. (page 140) but true brain death is something else. It means that not only higher brain areas are wiped out, but also the brain stem, which is the seat of functions like breathing and heartbeat. (page 143) This marks the third step toward death, the metabolic phase. (page 44) Therefore, we have clinical death, brain death, brain stem death, cardiac death, and just plain old dead. None of these delineations, however, adequately address what is occurring in or with the human body, as it lies motionless on the gurney, and the on-site doctors scratch their collective heads wondering on whom they will blame this most recent death. The reason for this is very simple; doctors will typically read medical journals, texts, and pharmaceutical manuals without end, but to find a doctor who has actually read The Owners Manual, the English Bible (KJV), is a rarity indeed. In fact, a typical doctor's unwavering faith in himself as the supreme all-powerful healer is his unfortunate patient's biggest threat. For example, Gupta no doubt, an accomplished physician admits (see quote above) that he has received no formal training in this field of study (Bible, faith, or apparently anything to do with The Book). Therefore, consider this, your recently purchased shiny new Toyota, for example, only seldom starts and never exceeds 20 mph. You take it to the dealer where you purchased it, and not only do they not have a current repair manual covering your specific model, but the rep states that he has no formal training in the repair of Toyotas, while he stands amidst a storage lot with no less than eighty shiny new models waiting to be delivered. He is, however, a specialist in model railroads. He suggests, even insists, that your car should be fine. Do not worry, he implores. Likewise, as doctors stumble about in the dark vainly trying to define death based on the feeble instruments the good doctor has purchased or invented, men, women, and children die needlessly. As a point of fact, quality instruments when functioning correctly measure only those characteristics for which they were designed to measure. Herein the problem is presented in detail, the line between life and death is measured neither by man's instruments nor by his cunning. This is exclusively the realm discussed in the Bible. Yes, the same Book that is seldom if ever read by any doctor of any branch of medical expertise. And when things do go bad, as they so often do, you will hear one of several pat, but frequently rehearsed, remarks: Oh, Mrs. Jones, we did the best we could; Oh, Mr. Smith, if you could only have gotten here a little sooner, or There was just nothing we could do. And never once was The Owners Manual consulted, much less, the Author of said Manual. Note from the English Bible: Genesis 3:19, In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Luke 16:22, And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. Luke 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Of the biblical condition known as death, then, one finds the term biblically defined as the separation of the three disparate parts of man. Man is a tri-partite being (consisting of three parts); he has a body, a spirit, and a soul. At death, the earthly body begins to deteriorate almost immediately regardless of man's measures to slow or halt the process. At death, the spirit returns to God without respect as to whether the individual occupying said body was a good guy or otherwise. At death, the soul is either transported to Heaven to be reunited as a tri-partite being with a new body, or it is immediately present in Hell. Herein the heart of the problem is, again, defined. Man has not the least understanding of when God separates these three distinct parts of man. In fact, many doctors even debate the point as to whether man has a spirit or soul. Thus, he continues to mistakenly identify the dead as living, or the living as dead. Let us then be clear of one fact, no one but no one dies and lives again without the direct intervention of God Himself. The Bible includes the accounts of 8-10 events when someone clearly was dead but was reanimated. (In two of the events it is clear that something unique transpired, but it is not actually stated that a death occurred. Thus, those two events are debated.) Three more are yet future. And to be sure, a thorough explanation of each is beyond the scope of a review. To be even clearer, once God's words define a particular term, no one else's opinion or input is of any consequence. [Note: On page 254 Gupta cites Kastenbaum who references some un-named Islamic source which in

turn confuses body, spirit, and soul. This is an error that could have been avoided by reading The English Bible.]The point is, then, that Christ's Church supports any and all efforts at extending life, but we should be clear of the subject being discussed. Life is being extended; life is not to be restarted. Death excepting the biblical cases cited is a one-time event. It should also be noted that the manipulation of genes with the goal of creating an entity from whom spare parts may be harvested is exclusively prohibited. Hebrews 9:27-28, And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. POINT NUMBER ONE, THEN, IS MODERN SCIENCE FAILS TO ADEQUATELY DEFINE DEATH WHILE FERVENTLY STRUGGLING TO REVERSE THE PROCESS. POINT NUMBER TWO IS THE POWER OF PRAYER AS IT PERTAINS TO THE MEDICAL REALM. Gupta remarks, As a scientist, I am bound to try and explain these rare phenomena, as opposed to simply accepting them as divine intervention or something totally inexplicable. (page 215) Herbert Benson a Harvard cardiologist may be credited with the most ill-conceived scientific study ever designed. Over 1,800 cardiac patients spread out over six hospitals were the subject of a study to determine if prayer was a beneficial factor or not in cardiac care. In short, the control group received no prayer theoretically, while the test group received prayer specifically aimed at a quick problem-free recovery. Those who prayed were defined as three Christian groups. (page 212) Then, to quote Gomer Pyle, Surprise, surprise, surprise, there was no significant difference between the two groups. In fact, those who might have benefited from prayer were arguably in worse condition than their unprayed counterpart. Now then, here is where reading The Owners Manual comes in handy. James 5:16, Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. First, it is impossible in the extreme to have a control group as is a requirement in any type of serious experimentation. Assuming that the groups were roughly equally divided (the text does not state as much), it is not possible to ensure that no one prayed for the no prayer group. To find 900 individuals chosen at random among whom not one is a Christian, not one has a Christian mother, grandmother, dad, grandfather, or child who is daily seeking the Lord's intervention is not even plausible. Moreover, what of non-relatives? Maybe the little old granny down the street, who is homebound, with no company but her six cats, heard about this no prayer non-sense and dedicated herself to prayer just to benefit those for whom there would be no prayer. For example, the more that I hear that a particular person is beyond hope, the more likely that person will get prayed for in earnest several times a day. Or closer to home let's see, the US Supreme Court outlawed prayer in public schools. Did kids stop praying? Of course not. As long as there are exams in schools there will be prayer in schools. Therefore, trying to measure and define death without a Bible is just as haphazard an undertaking as the ill-conceived experiment set forth by Benson. Nonetheless, this is still a good book that addresses a variety of related interesting fields of study. For example, Gupta's work on Near Death Experiences (NDEs) far and away exceeds the efforts of Dr. Raymond Moody (which I have also read), whose work is quoted within the text. (Chapter Four) Also, the being of light is discussed (He is not your friend.). (page 99) Suspended animation is briefly touched upon. (page 69) And even cryonics gets a fair treatment within the text. (pages 36 and 250) The best quote of the text is found on page 53, When 97 percent of the patients died, how could they do worse? I agree completely. As noted above, the only biblical conflicts are in areas where Gupta admits having not studied the relevant material. Come on guys! The Bible is One Book. Surely you can find time to read One Book! Read the Bible! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Should be required reading for all the medical profession, EMTs and 911 Operators By RADM R.L. Thompson USN (Ret.) My brother was saved by almost immediate start of hypothermia treatment by EMTs and Hospital in Florida this past February. He had a heart attack during a bike ride, was observed falling to ground by a vacationing couple who performed CPR and called 911. EMTs arrived within a very few minutes detected no heartbeat and started CODICE (cold saline injection) treatment on unconscious male enroute to hospital. Hospital packed him in ice and induced a coma. Installed a stent and after 2 days he was brought out of the coma. Two days later he was released from hospital with no mental impairment. CHEATING DEATH tells the story of other medical emergency incidents that by classical treatment protocols would most likely not have been successful. The book shows new beneficial treatments to save the brain as medicine progresses in this century. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating stories of unexpected survival By Elaine Valovic Well written and has fascinating stories of unexpected survival. Held my interest and had a hard time putting it down. In many ways it is the opposite of another very popular medical narrative called Being Mortal by Atul Gawande. In my opinion both excellent.

An unborn baby with a fatal heart defect . . . a skier submerged for an hour in a frozen Norwegian lake . . . a comatose brain surgery patient whom doctors have declared a "vegetable." Twenty years ago all of them would have been given up for dead, with no realistic hope for survival. But today, thanks to incredible new medical advances, each of these individuals is alive and well . . . Cheating Death. In this riveting book, Dr. Sanjay Gupta--neurosurgeon, chief medical correspondent for CNN, and bestselling author--chronicles the almost unbelievable science that has made these seemingly miraculous recoveries possible. A bold new breed of doctors has achieved amazing rescues by refusing to accept that any life is irretrievably lost. Extended cardiac arrest, "brain death," not breathing for over an hour--all these conditions used to be considered inevitably fatal, but they no longer are. Today, revolutionary advances are blurring

the traditional line between life and death in fascinating ways. Drawing on real-life stories and using his unprecedented access to the latest medical research, Dr. Gupta dramatically presents exciting accounts of how pioneering physicians and researchers are altering our understanding of how the human body functions when it comes to survival--and why more and more patients who once would have died are now alive. From experiments with therapeutic hypothermia to save comatose stroke or heart attack victims to lifesaving operations in utero to the study of animal hibernation to help wounded soldiers on far-off battlefields, these remarkable case histories transform and enrich all our assumptions about the true nature of death and life.

From Publishers Weekly High-profile physician-journalist Gupta a medical reporter for CNN and columnist for Time who declined President Obama's nomination to be surgeon general knows a great story when he hears one, and in this collection he rolls out extraordinarily harrowing and inspiring tales from the annals of they-ought-to-be-dead. When there is an injury, a heart attack or any loss of oxygen to the brain, time is the essential factor in determining whether a patient will live. For instance, therapeutic hypothermia, by reducing the brain's need for oxygen immediately after a trauma, allows more time for treatments to work. Gupta also notes that lives can be saved through incremental changes to current medical techniques rather than revolutionary breakthroughs. Eliminating the breathing component from CPR and concentrating only on chest compressions has been shown to raise heart attack survival rates to an unheard-of 20%. The achievements are stunning, though Gupta notes none of the exciting medical changes that we've come across will eliminate the sense of awe and mystery that stalks our notions of death. Yet it's beyond comforting to know there are doctors who simply refuse to quit a brave but ultimately losing battle to wrestle control over death. (Oct. 12) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "You will be on the edge of your seat as you read the superbly crafted stories of people who have beaten the odds, something I like to think I know quite a bit about. My friend Dr. Sanjay Gupta, America's doctor, has written a page-turner. It's an exciting medical thriller with the compassion, hope, excitement and aspiration that define Sanjay." --Lance Armstrong "Dr. Gupta's new book is not only fascinating, it reads like a fast-paced adventure story, and it is. Full of literally heart-stopping moments, CHEATING DEATH is an account of modern-day scientific miracles, most of which would have been unthinkable a decade or two ago, and which expand the very boundaries of life itself." --Oliver Sacks "I owe my recovery and my health to medical advances and the remarkable pioneers behind them. In his new book, the World's Doctor, Sanjay Gupta, delivers a breathtaking preview of a coming revolution in medicine that challenges virtually everything we think we know about living and dying. A truly provocative and fascinating reading experience." --President Bill Clinton "Sanjay Gupta melds dramatic stories of people on the cusp of death rescued by life-saving advances. This book deeply touches the heart and enlightens the mind." --Jerome Groopman, M.D., Recanati Professor, Harvard Medical School, Author of How Doctors Think "In Cheating Death, Dr. Sanjay Gupta chronicles a series of scientific advances that are saving patients' lives in striking and almost unfathomable ways. This is a wonderful book....All who read it will walk away feeling a sense of joy in the changes that Dr. Gupta so carefully and warmly details." --Henry S. Friedman, MD, James B. Powell, Jr. Professor of Neuro-Oncology; Deputy Director, The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center "Dr. Gupta has masterfully woven compelling human stories and medical drama that intersect that narrow line separating life from death. The brave doctors who courageously defy conventional wisdom and embrace bold science and the human condition will have you cheering and shaking your head in amazement." --Nancy L. Snyderman, M.D., NBC News Chief Medical Editor; Associate Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, University of Pennsylvania About the Author Sanjay Gupta, MD, is a practicing neurosurgeon at Emory University Hospital and associate chief of service at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. He is a columnist for TIME magazine and a Chief Medical Correspondent at CNN and the host of House Call with Dr. Sanjay Gupta. Dr. Gupta also is a contributor to 60 Minutes and appears regularly on the CBS Nightly News with Katie Couric.