

4. THE QUESTION OF THE TOTALITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS STATES OF THE INDIVIDUAL

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AS HAS been discussed, one of principle definitions for consciousness is given as the totality of the conscious states of the individual - but with the stipulation that "conscious states" refers exclusively to consciousness while awake.

There is no problem with the fact that the individual has conscious states. But there are difficulties with respect to what their totality consists of.

The first aspect of these difficulties is that the totality beyond the waking state remains largely rejected and/or completely unknown.

The second aspect involves certain discrepancies between the definitions of CONSCIOUS and CONSCIOUSNESS that are usually not pointed up all that clearly.

The two terms are used as synonyms. But CONSCIOUS is closely connected to whatever one becomes conscious OF during the waking state.

Although CONSCIOUSNESS can be used in the contexts of the waking state, it is more precisely understood as referring to the collective of consciousness states per se, whether or not one is conscious of them in the waking state.

For example, everyone experiences dreams in the sleep state. The sleep state, of course, is NOT the waking state, and so here is a state of non-awake consciousness activity that is not dependent on the criteria used to determine CONSCIOUS OF during the waking state.

The dream state clearly illustrates that individuals do possess states of consciousness in addition to what is experienced in the waking state. But, for emphasis, this is the same as saying that consciousness states exist which the individual is not conscious of during the waking state.

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