

*The full life of the most beautiful of all flowers is but a few hours' duration—and yet the human soul goes on forever.—Susan Power*

## TO HEAVEN AND BACK

By Esen Kalemi, Albania

I had never met anyone who had experienced life after death until that day at Tirana's Central Hospital. We were visiting people in their rooms, and in one was an older man who didn't seem to be very sick. He invited us in and we gave him the tract "True Love, Forever Love." He said he was Muslim but did not go to any mosque. Nevertheless, he believed in spiritual things. His two sons were very religious about Islam, he explained, but he himself believed in Jesus.

He didn't know anything about Jesus, really. He had never seen a movie about His life or read the Bible, but he had had a personal experience that convinced him that Jesus was who He said He was.

"It was two years ago," he said. "At the age of 58, I had had some health problems. Then one day I had a heart attack. I was brought to the hospital in a coma. As the doctors were working on me, my heart stopped beating for 11 seconds.

"I don't remember anything else, except suddenly seeing a beautiful place I had never seen before. It was amazing! I did not know I was experiencing a clinical death, because everything seemed so real. The place was full of light—more so than any place I've seen here on earth. There were rivers, streams, trees, and a lot of green. I didn't know where I was, but I felt wonderful.

"To my astonishment, I saw Jesus there and I recognized Him from pictures I had seen on earth. But believe me, He was so much more real and alive. I was on my knees, holding on to Him, and I said to Him, 'Even though I'm an old man, I can still serve You. Please take me with You now.'

"I begged Him, but He gently said, 'No, you have to live.'

"I was still begging Him, desperately asking Him to take me, when suddenly I was revived, brought back to life."

As the old man told this story, he was trembling and his eyes filled with tears. He said he had told this experience to his sons and other

members of his family, but they hadn't believed him. "However," he said, "I don't care if they believe me or not. I have met Jesus. I am sure of it!"

We explained to him more about Jesus, His love, and His plan of salvation. "You can not only believe in Jesus," we told him, "but you can have His presence in your heart always. He wants to be a part of your life."

Then the man prayed with us to receive Jesus. We had to leave, but we know that we will meet him again. And when his day comes, Jesus will welcome him back to Heaven and he will stay in Jesus' arms forever.

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For the Christian, death is simply our freedom from this carnal crypt and heavy body, our liberation, our coronation day! It's our graduation to the heavenly world of the hereafter, where a crown of glorious eternal life with Him awaits us!—*David Brandt Berg*

### At the End of the Road

There'll be light in the sky,  
From that palace on high,  
When I come to the end of the road.  
Sweet relief from all care  
Will be awaiting me there,  
When I come to the end of life's road.

When the long day is ended  
And my journey is o'er,  
I shall rest in His blessed abode.  
For the Savior I know will be waiting for me  
When I come to the end of the road.

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