



## Cosmic Trigger 3: My Life After Death

*Robert Anton Wilson*

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This, the long-awaited third volume of the Cosmic Trigger series, includes Wilson's witty and humorous observations about the widely spread (and, happily, premature) announcement of his demise. And, of course, what Wilson masterpiece would be complete without synchronicities, religious fanatics, UFOs, crop circles, paranoia, pompous scientists, secret societies, high tech, black magic, quantum physics, hoaxes (real and fake), Orson Welles, James Joyce, Carl Sagan, Madonna and The Vagina of Nuit.

## **Cosmic Trigger 3: My Life After Death Details**

Date : Published July 1st 1995 by New Falcon Publications (first published 1995)

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Author : Robert Anton Wilson

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## **From Reader Review Cosmic Trigger 3: My Life After Death for online ebook**

### **Dean says**

Further stories and anecdotes leading on from the previous two CT books. Not as revolutionary as the first CT book, but still contains some interesting brain food for those so inclined to RAW's style.

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### **Stefan Rhyner says**

Just start reading Robert Anton Wilson and you will receive the world around you in a more alert way...

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### **Zulu Adams says**

First off, it's not as good as the first two, only because its autobiographical parts are few and far between. These are what made the first two books so good.

The autobiographical parts in Vol3 that are present here are wonderful, but when I think back on the book, the first thing I recall is that most of seemed to be about Orson Welles and Elmyr. These are both interesting topics, especially through the eyes of RAW, but without actually seeing the work of Welles in particular, it might leave you a bit ambivalent.

There are also a couple chapters that I personally wasn't into, namely RAW's polemic against Carl Sagan. It's partly because I've never watched anything with the man, but also because RAW came across as much more sarcastic and spiteful than usual in my opinion. It didn't fit that agnostic laughing buddha that I normally sense in RAW's writing.

That being said, there are some chapters that are just wonderful and really bring that enlightened perspective to the forefront, particularly the last few chapters where RAW sums up all his thoughts with beautiful eloquence.

Ultimately, this is a book for RAW fans. If you're not familiar with his work, you're never going to pick up something with "Volume III" in the title. Perhaps RAW was aware of that and felt he could be more chaotic in his topic choices than normal. But seeing as it's one of the few books he tried to write completely in E-Prime, those familiar with his work will definitely want to read it to see how well it holds up to his beliefs about this language variant.

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### **Andrewcharles420 says**

I thought this book did a good job highlighting important elements of the first two Triggers and spent more time focusing on interesting ideas (like E-prime!) than telling anecdotal tales from RAW's life.

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### **Terra Bosart says**

As with Cosmic Trigger one and two, the third edition contains many small nuggets of synchronicity that amalgamate into a fun romp through little known aspects of our society. Through philosophical analysis, and using scientific methods and logic, Robert Anton Wilson examines a great deal of both the fringe and public information. The number 23 pops up a few times, but not nearly as much as in Cosmic Trigger 2. Broaching the "Priory of Sion" and so-called "UFO encounters" from the world over, this book does one important thing. That thing is to influence the reader into thinking about the unknown from a non-dogmatic perspective.

An excellent read, and certainly on my gift list for friends and relatives who would appreciate at least "some but not all" of it's content.

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### **David says**

This book dives even deeper into many of Wilson's main topics than the prior two volumes. The title gets its name from a faked news story concerning his death that appeared on the Internet in February 1994. Even after talking to multiple credible sources and verifying his vitality, many people online still believed the announcement. Wilson's account of his reaction to the announcement was entertaining to me, because each side believed that a conspiracy existed that was being projected from the other side. In other words, the people who thought Wilson was dead believed that the others were creating a hoax, and vice versa. He actually passed away in 2007, 13 years after his first "death."

The main topics that Wilson includes in this volume are UFOs, crop circles, secret societies, black magic, quantum physics, hoaxes and many of his literary and film heroes. These include Orson Welles, James Joyce and William Shakespeare.

A large portion of the book focuses on Elmyr, an extremely successful art forger, and the similarities of forging art and how we define authenticity. Orson Welles also shows up quite often, and Wilson analyzes the techniques that Welles used in his films to create a faked reality.

The third volume of the Cosmic Trigger trilogy was an interesting read, and better than the first volume, but not as satisfying as the second. If I was to suggest one of Wilson's books to start with, it probably wouldn't be this one. (The Illuminatus! Trilogy would be my suggestion, although it is a very long and draining book to get through. Very humorous, though!) However, I would definitely recommend this to anyone interested in Robert Anton Wilson or any of the topics that he touches on in his works.

4/5 Stars. 247 pages. Published 1995.

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### **Anthony Faber says**

More of the same.

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### **Kormak says**

What can I say. Wilson, one of my all time heroes. Still miss him a lot.

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### **Brendan says**

The narrative threads in this final volume are not as concise and cohesive, but the content Wilson presents is, as always, thought provoking and insightful.

a worthwhile conclusion to the trilogy.

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### **Jason says**

Real vs. Fake. Genuine vs. Counterfeit. Hoaxes. Experts. Art Forgers. The Federal Reserve. Radical Feminism. Political correctness. Postmodernism. Scientific absolutism. Wilhelm Reich. Philip K. Dick. The Priory of Sion. All forms of the verb "to be".

Bob plays with all these ingredients in this, the final installment of the Cosmic Trigger trilogy. Alas, compared to the first two volumes, this book left me relatively cold. It's not that there weren't lots of brilliant points scattered throughout. It's that there were lots of brilliant points scattered throughout, instead of the whole book comprising one extended, interwoven, brilliant exploration of the crazy world in which we find ourselves. The fact that I can find the brilliant points in this book by citing a particular page is what makes it different from its predecessors, both of which were seamless, integrated. It also felt like this one was written to fulfill a contractual obligation. Sadly Wilson's attacks on "Political Correctness" seemed as shallow as most of the other attacks on that vaguely defined concept, and while I often expect Wilson to be glib, I never expect him to be shallow.

Enough grumbling, here are some of the brilliant points:

"The mathematically normal labels that idea which no actual event exemplifies." (pp. 33-4)

In reference to his use of multiple calendars:

Once you have given up asking 'what day *is* it?' you will soon find it easy to give up asking what anything really *"is."* Then, in Melville's fine phrase, you can *strike through the mask*—pierce the veil of cultural conditioning (emic tunnel-reality) and see and hear with your own eyes and ears. (p. 109)

Personally, I don't *trust* mystical experiences, including my own—although I seek them and enjoy them. I think Altered Consciousness offers new ways of perceiving/conceiving and should *start* philosophical investigation, not *stop* it. (p. 113)

"Kindness remains, to me, the most wonderful miracle in this incomprehensible universe." (p. 123)

On the final Orson Welles film *F for Fake*:

I love this film because it forces viewers to think as I believe we must all learn to think in this post-quantum age: not in Aristotelian either/ors, but in probabilities. (p. 184)

On the book *Higher Superstition* and the notion that science provides a meta-perspective from which to adjudicate the truth claims of all other perspectives:

Gross and Levitt believe the current scientific model (i.e., the most popular one...) stands above all other perspectives, in the way one might claim the architects' view "stands above" the other drawings of the room. I hold to the contrary that *we must at least partially remember, all all times, that the "absolute" or architect's blueprint has its own kind of relativity, its own "perspectivism," or else we risk going totally mad.*

On linguistic precision and neuro-semantic honesty (in the specific case of the abortion debate): "Due to the philosophy I hold at present, I currently [do/do not:] classify the fetus as a human person."

Quoting Korzybski: "Allness is an illness."

We live, existentially and phenomenologically, in a universe of infinite aspects. Whether the model-universe of science, in its extensions in space-time, extends to infinity, or has infinite boundaries, or fits the Einstein model of an unbounded but finite Reimanian geometry, the sensory universe of our *experience* remains stubbornly infinite, in the sense that we can never exhaust the number of things we may "see" in it or the number of ways we can organize our individual perceptions into models or reality-tunnels. (p. 242)

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## Nelson says

Robert Anton Wilson is a hero of mine. He always makes me laugh whilst gently unraveling knots in my mind and occasionally blowing it wide open. This is why I have been looking for a copy of this book for years, it appears to be out of print and I very much enjoyed the first two volumes (particularly the first). When a copy finally crossed my path I devoured the thing over a couple of days, finding it difficult to put it down.

The book, although written in the mid-90s, seems bizarrely relevant to the late 2010s. Many chapters are written using Radical Feminists (of the "all men are pigs", "all sex is rape" Feminazi persuasion, popularized in the 90s and sadly gaining prominence again 25 years later) and Politically Correct Fundamentalists as subjects of Wilson's critical wit. Although he also analyses many other groups and people who speak with dogmatic certainty about well ... anything.

In this sense he is building upon his *ouvré*. He gives many lessons (and made me look at myself and my own opinions which verge of certainty) about using maybe-logic rather than Aristotelian either-or logic, in which much of his work has centered over the years. This book in particular explores the age old philosophical question of "What is real? ... and what is fake?" after rumours of his own death circulated the early internet of the 90s. To grapple with these questions he uses various bits of fascinating triva, explores modern art, surrealism, post-modernism and outlines some new and interesting mysteries to puzzle over. The book builds towards a kind of grand finish (or perhaps punchline?) in which the final chapters are the funniest, most mind-bending and generally interesting whilst building on the themes he has sprinkled throughout the book.

Read the first two volumes first.

Oh wow, I just realised that I finished reading this book on the 23rd!

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### **Amai says**

I love RAW's vivid style more than anything and this trilogy is my favourite of his, the third book ranking highest on my list! It was a blast to read this. One of those books I only allowed myself to read little at a time just so I could make it last as long as possible. What an amazing man he really was.

I really can't say more. I just loved it, and reading it was mind-altering; it shook me by my roots and struck me like a lightning.

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### **5 Track says**

I can not at this moment recall if I have read COSMIC TRIGGER I. I do not believe I have read volume 2. I remain certain that I have read a number of other books by Robert Anton Wilson, of which I would first point you to the ILLUMINATUS! trilogy, a brain-changing map disguised as a novel.

If you haven't at least read one or two of Mr Wilson's other works, COSMIC TRIGGER III will probably make very little sense to you, which describes fairly accurately how my wife feels about the bits I insist on reading out loud to her.

If you HAVE read a bunch of other RAW, you will likely find much to enjoy in this one.

Certain references in this book, since I have not read volumes 1 & 2, admittedly passed me by, but I have enough of a background (coupled with fairly high tolerance for groundlessness) that this did not bother me. If that sort of thing bothers you, maybe start with volume 1.

And for the record, my favorite chapter in Cosmic Trigger III discusses 'television' and bears the title "Lucy

In The Sky With Diamonds".

\*I have attempted to write this review in E-Prime, ie English without any forms of "is" or "be", which seemed appropriate at the time to the subject matter at hand. :)

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### **Nathan says**

This one wasn't as thought provoking as the previous two in the series. There were some good bits, but a lot of the material didn't age quite well, especially his defense of post-modernism and the fear of political correctness ruining free-thought (maybe the PC brigade was much more fearful in the early 90s, my Mom sure thought so then!)

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### **Brandon Wicke says**

Doesn't sparkle like the first in the trilogy, but provides the R.A.W initiate with lots more titles to read and people to research. A few problematic ideas when viewed from 2018, but always issues of sensitivity rather than morality, at the least.

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