

# The Miracle of Life

Jan de Vries



Mainstream Publishing *eBooks*



## About the Author

JAN DE VRIES was born in 1937 in Holland and grew up during the difficult war years in occupied territory. Although he graduated in pharmacy, he soon turned to alternative medicine. His most influential teacher was Dr Alfred Vogel in Switzerland, and they have worked together closely for 35 years.

In 1970 he and his family moved to Scotland and settled on the west coast in Troon, where he set up a residential clinic called Mokoia. He also has clinics in Newcastle, Edinburgh and London. Since 1990 he has been involved in Klein Vink in Arcen, Holland, doing research into the efficacy of herbal medicine for the European Commission.

He lectures throughout the world and is a regular broadcaster on BBC radio.

## **Books available by the same author**

By Appointment Only series:

*Stress and Nervous Disorders* (3rd impression)  
*Multiple Sclerosis* (4th impression)  
*Traditional Home and Herbal Remedies* (5th impression)  
*Arthritis, Rheumatism and Psoriasis* (5th impression)  
*Neck and Back Problems* (4th impression)  
*Migraine and Epilepsy* (3rd impression)  
*Cancer and Leukemia* (2nd impression)  
*Viruses, Allergies and the Immune System* (4th impression)  
*Realistic Weight Control* (2nd impression)  
*Who's Next?*  
*Heart and Blood Circulatory Problems*  
*Asthma and Bronchitis*  
*Life Without Arthritis—The Maori Way*  
*Skin Diseases*

Nature's Gift series:

*Body Energy* (2nd impression)  
*Water—Healer or Poison?*  
*Food*

Well Woman series:

*Menstrual and Pre-menstrual Tension*

# **THE MIRACLE OF LIFE**

Jan de Vries



**MAINSTREAM  
PUBLISHING**

EDINBURGH AND LONDON

This eBook is copyright material and must not be copied, reproduced, transferred, distributed, leased, licenced or publicly performed or used in any way except as specifically permitted in writing by the publishers, as allowed under the terms and conditions under which it was purchased or as strictly permitted by applicable copyright law. Any unauthorised distribution or use of this text may be a direct infringement of the author's and publisher's rights and those responsible may be liable in law accordingly.

Epub ISBN: 9781780571904

Version 1.0

[www.mainstreampublishing.com](http://www.mainstreampublishing.com)

Copyright © Jan de Vries, 1997  
All rights reserved  
The moral right of the author has been asserted

This edition 1992  
First published Great Britain 1987 by  
MAINSTREAM PUBLISHING COMPANY (EDINBURGH) LTD  
7 Albany Street  
Edinburgh EH1 3UG

Reprinted 1988, 1989, 1999

ISBN 1 85158 469 2

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the publisher, except by a reviewer who wishes to quote brief passages in connection with a review written for insertion in a magazine, newspaper or broadcast

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

## *Contents*

### *INTRODUCTION*

- 1 ARE THERE MIRACLES?*
  - 2 THE HIDDEN VILLAGE - A MIRACLE?*
  - 3 CAN FAITH, PRAYER OR MEDITATION PERFORM MIRACLES?*
  - 4 HEALING—A MIRACLE OR AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENT?*
  - 5 THE MIRACULOUS WATER OF LOURDES*
  - 6 THE MIRACLE OF NATURE*
  - 7 WITCHCRAFT AND DEMONIC POSSESSION*
  - 8 DEVIL-DANCING*
  - 9 MODERN MIRACLES*
  - 10 “MIRACLES” WITH PATIENTS*
- BIBLIOGRAPHY*

*To my four "Miracles"*  
*Fiona Janyn Tertia Mhairi*



For those who believe in God,  
No explanation is necessary;  
For those who do not believe in God  
No explanation is possible.

John La Farge.

## *Introduction*

*“There are more things in heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”*

Hamlet—William Shakespeare

After a quarter of a century in the healing arts I am certain that the more I learn, the less I know and the more there is to be learned. Why do some people survive and others with the same disease perish? Why do some people succumb and others do not when an epidemic rages? Why do some people triumph in adversity and others cave in? Why do some people thrive on stress and others crumble under the weight? Why are some people strong and others weak?

Apart from all considerations of infection, inheritance, disease, environment, strength, weakness, nutrition, wealth or poverty there is the over-riding factor of spirit.

The key to good medicine is the consideration of that holy trinity, Body, Mind and Spirit, the platform on which Complementary Therapy stands so firmly. Any practitioner who denies the intervention of some higher being in his healing work is supremely vain or insensitive. Intuition is not taught in medical schools but is a vital component in the armoury of the true “healer”, even if he is unwilling to acknowledge this divine gift.

Today, alternative medicine is big business, and accounts for millions of consultations each year. With the growth come the growing pains. The unscrupulous waiting to exploit the unwary. The back room bone setter with fancy diplomas. The part time acupuncturist and faithless faith healer. The public must be aware of this mushrooming industry and the dangers it brings.

The miracle of this book is the Miracle of Faith. Reading it you cannot fail to believe and be moved by the stories it unfolds. As a healer I am mystified. As a Dutch Jew,

humbled by the courage of Aunty Cor and Opa—some of my own relations were hidden by a Catholic family during the war—and as a human being I am uplifted by the spiritual light in this book.

Martin Luther King said:

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

I have known Jan de Vries as a colleague and friend for many years, and there can be no question as to where he stands. It is firmly on the side of Holistic Medicine. He is a true “healer”. He has the faith to help his patients help themselves to better health through a true understanding of the intricate balance between Body, Mind and Spirit.

Michael Van Straten  
Cheddington  
Bedfordshire

## *Are There Miracles?*

EVER SINCE I was a child I have been intrigued by the subject of miracles. I have often tried to define for myself what a miracle *is*, as well as trying to find a definition for the actual word “miracle”. Various dictionaries give different explanations of the word and some of those which appeal to me are the following:

- an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs;
- an event or action that apparently contradicts known scientific laws;
- a selection of the following: a marvellous, or extraordinary, or incredible, or supernatural, or unbelievable, or wonderful event.

My mother tongue, which is Dutch, again displays a diversity of meaning for the word “miracle”. According to several dictionaries it can signify:

- an occurrence which is beyond human comprehension;
- an act of God which cannot be explained under the accepted rules and laws of nature;
- a divinely natural occurrence.

It seems that we have an enormously wide choice of words and phrases which are synonymous with the word “miracle”. However, do miracles really exist and what *are* miracles? How many people have witnessed or experienced a miracle?

In order to find an answer to these questions I interviewed a large number of people, mainly my patients. I asked them if they had ever experienced or witnessed a miracle and unfortunately very few of them could give me either an affirmative or a satisfactory answer.

In my lifetime I have witnessed some miraculous events. Could any of these be classed as a miracle or might it be

wiser to view these as events or occurrences for which no logical explanation exists?

When asking other people about miracles the answer I mostly received referred to the miracles which were performed in Biblical times, where the dead were brought back to life, those suffering from incurable diseases were cured, the blind were made to see and the deaf made to hear again. These were the miracles which Jesus Christ, the son of God, performed during His time on earth.

I was born and brought up in a strict Christian family and in my childhood I heard about these wonderful miracles. I often wondered why the dead could no longer be raised again as had happened in Biblical days. This question preyed on my mind a great deal. I was very young when my parents and I visited the home of an uncle who had died suddenly. The seeming finality of death began to bother me and rarely left my mind. My mother has since told me that at this time she was advised to take me away from the kindergarten I attended and have me enrolled in another school.

The educational system in the Netherlands differs quite considerably from that in the United Kingdom, in that public or private education is unusual. Primary as well as secondary education in the Netherlands is divided into state schools or what are called "Schools with the Bible". No religious instruction is given in state schools and the "School with the Bible" may belong to either a specific denomination or be classed merely as a Protestant or a Catholic school.

None of these schools would automatically fall into the fee-paying sector and parents are given a completely free choice. Even if the parents themselves are not religious, their children are still allowed to attend a "School with the Bible".

Because of the religious background of my family, I attended a kindergarten where Bible stories were part of the curriculum. Here it was noticed that the subject of death