

Key Takeaways From “Sum: Forty Tales From the Afterlives” by David Eagleman

- In the afterlife, you relive all your experiences, but this time with the events reshuffled into a new order
- In the afterlife, you discover that God understands the complexities of life
- After all, everyone had something good inside; it was part of the design specifications
- So God sits in the edge of Her bed and weeps at night because the only thing everyone can agree upon is that they're all in Hell
- The missing crowds make you lonely. You begin to complain about all the people you could be meeting. But no one listens or sympathizes with you because this is precisely what you chose when you were alive
- You cannot appreciate the destination without knowing the starting point; you cannot reveal in the simplicity unless you remember the alternatives
- You Earthlings are among the least tranquil and content
- Since we live in the heads of those who remember us, we lose control of our lives and become who they want us to be
- Why are we here? What is the purpose of our existence?
- Everything that creates itself upon the backs of smaller scales will by those same scales be consumed
- Am I among the bravest? Do I possess what is required?
- It is not the brave who can handle the big face, it is the brave who can handle its absence
- Your fantasies have cursed your realities
- Since you always lived inside your own head, you were much better at seeing the truth about others than you ever were at seeing yourself
- Not just the finitude of life but also the surprise timing of death is critical to motivation
- Everything interesting happens at the borders between domains of power
- As you interact with a lover, you can see her numbers as well, and her interactions with yours. She endearingly sticks out her bottom lip for attention and your numbers cascade acrobatics
- You are judged against what you could have been
- The more you fall short of your potential, the more of these annoying selves you are forced to deal with

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Taken directly out of the book