

**Note from Thomas:** This is the published introduction I wrote for *Light on the Horizon*. Just one look at this will tell you why the book didn't do so well.

## **Introduction**

I have to start by saying I felt a great amount of stress the entire time I was writing this book. In order for this book to be successful, in order for anyone's second book to be successful, it has to be at least as good as the first. Further, it really has to be better than the first, or the readers will not bother with the third (assuming there is one).

I hope I have succeeded in my goal of making this book better for you and more helpful and profitable to you than *Soon Will Come The Light* was. That book has had some mild success so I have tried to follow much the same formula in this sequel. Here is a brief outline:

Chapter one is a very brief history of how *Soon Will Come The Light* (both the book and the audio) came to be published. It also has information on how to obtain a copy of the original manuscript of any of my three books, as submitted to the publisher, should this be of interest to collectors of such things.

Chapter two is very similar to chapters five and six in *Soon Will Come The Light*, which are the chapters I have been told were most appreciated and most beneficial, due to the comment on the various sub-topics of autism. There is quite a bit of helpful information here.

Chapter three is a look from the inside at what is involved in being an autistic advocate for other people with autism. I am hopeful that you will have a new respect not only for the autistic conference speakers, but for all speakers at autism conferences. What is it like up there at the podium? What is it like being an author of a book on autism? This chapter will tell you. And it will tell you how you can and the presenter can work together to better benefit from any given presentation.

Chapter four is the mandatory required-of-any-autism-related-book sensory integration chapter. Here you will find tips on how to deal with sensory integration dysfunction as it applies to your day-to-day living.

Chapter five is a brief account of my recent dive into the martial arts, how it relates directly to autism and how I have benefited from it.

Finally, chapter six is included against my better judgment and only by popular demand. An expanded look at the Alternate Reality (A/R) mentioned briefly in *Soon Will Come The Light*.

The second half of the book contains several various published and unpublished articles I have written on autism or some aspect of autism from 1991 to 1996. There is a lot to be learned here, too.

In all honesty, this book is better if you have already read *Soon Will Come The Light*. Nevertheless, I tried to make it so the book would be understandable to anyone who had not yet had the chance to read it. If you are purchasing this book at a conference, you will get much more out of it if you also get its predecessor. This book kind of picks up where *Soon Will Come The Light* left off.

I know, after finishing it, that there is more to be said. My life is not over yet, nor is my life where I want it to be. Though I am moving closer to what I would consider "successful," I feel I still have a long way to go. When I do finally reach that point, perhaps I can finish the trilogy with a final look inside the autism puzzle. In the meantime, I have ideas of other things to write about.

I hope you gain as much from this (or more) as you did the previous book. Thank you for your purchase, and, as our beloved publisher would say, "Keep smiling and have a nice day."