

Does the Brain Create Consciousness—or Is Science Missing Something Big?

written by Bhaskarananda | February 9, 2026

Modern science often treats consciousness as a biochemical byproduct—as if the brain *manufactures* awareness the way the stomach produces acid.

But once we ask a few honest questions, the explanation starts to wobble.

The **Bhagavad Gītā** challenged this idea long before neuroscience:

“For the soul there is neither birth nor death at any time.”
— **Gītā 2.20**

If consciousness is not born, how could neurons create it?

The Question Science Can’t Answer

How many neurons produce consciousness?

An ant has **50,000–250,000 neurons**.

A human brain has **86 billion**.

So where does awareness suddenly appear?

At a million? A billion? Exactly 86 billion?

Science has no clear answer.

The Gītā suggests the problem isn’t quantity at all:

“That which pervades the entire body is indestructible.”
— **Gītā 2.17**

When the Brain Is Missing—but the Person Remains

A French civil servant was found to have **nearly 90% of his brain missing**, yet lived a normal life and held a job.

Some children are born with **little to no cerebral cortex**, yet recognize people, respond emotionally, and learn.

A **24-year-old woman with no cerebellum**—the region containing half the brain's neurons—lived independently and completed school.

Children who undergo **hemispherectomy** (removal of an entire brain hemisphere) often grow up with normal intelligence and personality.

A man with extreme **hydrocephalus**, possessing only a thin rim of brain tissue, was fully conscious and socially normal.

If consciousness were produced by brain mass alone, none of this should be possible.

The Gītā is unambiguous:

“The soul is never cut, burned, or destroyed.”

– **Gītā 2.23**

The body changes.

The brain changes.

The observer remains.

Consciousness Without a Working Brain

Neuroscientist **Adrian Owen's fMRI studies** showed that some patients diagnosed as being in deep comas could understand language and perform mental tasks—despite severe brain injury.

Awareness was present where it shouldn't have been.

Not in neurons alone.
Not confined to tissue.

Near-Death Experiences Raise the Stakes

Near-death experiences across cultures report clarity, peace, life review, and out-of-body perception—sometimes during periods of minimal or absent brain activity.

In some cases, people report accurate observations made when normal perception should have been impossible.

“As a person discards old garments and puts on new ones, the soul similarly accepts new bodies.”

– *Gītā 2.22*

The Uncomfortable Conclusion

Taken together, these cases suggest a possibility modern science struggles with:

- The brain may not *create* consciousness.
- It may **filter, transmit, or interface** with it.

If consciousness were purely material, we should be able to rebuild or restart it.

Yet humanity has never revived a single dead person.

Not even the most important ones.

The Gītā said it simply:

“The soul can never be destroyed.”

– *Gītā 2.20*

Maybe the greatest mystery isn't the universe out there—

—but the awareness reading these words right now.