

ADJACENT PAGE

“...we are imprisoned in the body, like an oyster in his shell”

Socrates of Plato, *Phaedrus*

“To the philosopher, the body is "a disturbing element, hindering the soul from the acquisition of knowledge.....what is purification but...the release of the soul from the chains of the body?”

Socrates of Plato, *Phaedo*

“I lay down my life that I may take it up again.....I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.”

Jesus, quoted from John 10:17-18 (NIV)

“You should not be surprised at my saying, “You must be born again”’

Jesus, quoted from John 3:7(NIV)

“Blessed is he who came into being before he came into being”...

Jesus quoted from Gospel of Thomas verse 19.

“...there are three claims in the ESP field which, in my opinion, deserve serious study... One of these is that young children sometimes report the details of a previous life, which upon checking turn out to be accurateand which they could not have known about in any other way than reincarnation...” the late Carl Sagan

MEMORIES of PAST LIVES

Reincarnation and Past Life Regressions

A Spring 2007 poll of Americans over 50 years old revealed that 23 percent of them believe in reincarnation, (the re-birth of the consciousness in a new physical body), and in the Northeast United States the number rises to 31 percent. Also, the same study found that the baby boomers were even more likely to believe in reincarnation.¹

A earlier Gallup poll taken in October 2001, found that in America for adults 18 and over, 25% said they did believe in reincarnation 20% didn't know, 54% didn't believe in it and 1% had no opinion. Belief was only slightly higher among males than females, while it varied significantly between age groups. Belief among 28-29 year-olds was found to be 25%, among 30-49 year-olds 22%, and people 50 and over had the highest level of belief at 28%.

However, those statistics were all from poles taken in the west.

In the entire world population belief in *only one life* is actually the minority opinion. And although this *one life* ontology is widely held in North America, Europe and the Near East (all the areas influenced by the Christian and Muslim faiths), the great majority of the world's people outside those monotheistic (one-god) belief systems, actually believe in multiple physical lives or reincarnation.

CHRISTIAN REINCARNATION: Further, the truth is that Christ's disciples and early Christian church fathers also actually believed in reincarnation for over 500 years until that belief was outlawed for political reasons by the Roman Emperor Justinian in 553 A.D.² To emphasize this point (which is purposefully ignored by all the western religions) I will repeat it,

"THE EARLY CHRISTIANS BELIEVED IN RE-INCARNATION FOR THE FIRST 550 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY"

That's right, it is verifiable historic a fact that Jesus' disciples believed in reincarnation. This is evident in their writings prior to the take over of the Christian church by the Roman Emperors beginning in 312 AD. Regardless of what your local Pastor or Imam might want to otherwise believe, it was the Roman Emperor Justinian who condemned the belief in more than one life, and not the then sitting Pope Vigilius, who refused to attend Justinian's church council.. No biblical basis was ever given for this rejection of reincarnation.

SCIENCE AND REINCARNATION: At the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, the late Ian Stevenson, M.D. (1918 -2007), former Carlson Professor of Psychiatry, studied this business which Jesus described as "Taking life up again" for over 50 years, from the late 1950's, until well into this first decade of the 21st century.

Stevenson and his colleagues, who are now continuing the work, have cataloged and documented over 3000 individual cases of children who remember their past lives. In his books; Twenty Cases Suggestive of Re-incarnation, and Children Who Remember Previous Lives Stevenson investigates cases in which children between three and five years old, begin relating memories of an earlier life to their parents. These children often have detailed accounts of their wives, husbands, and children from the previous life.

Often the children have graphic memories of how they died and who killed them. They can even recognize former friends and family members (if still living) when they return to the vicinity where the previous life took place. In some cases they even carry a physical birthmark or physical deformity that corresponds with an injury received in the previous life. Stevenson published another book Where Reincarnation and Biology Intersect, which show photographically these corresponding deformities which match the prior incarnation. Yet, by the time the children reach age 8-10 (the age of reason) they usually begin forgetting the prior life.

Unfortunately, in our American culture, when a child says "I remember a past life" their parents, immersed in the culture of belief in "only one life", quickly shut them up. Instead of listening to what they might want to say, we respond with "Nonsense", or "Mommy doesn't want to hear you say that again". But, in other cultures of the world where reincarnation is thought of as normal, the children are more likely to be listened to instead of being told to, "shut up".

***"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:
The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar:
Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home:"***

Ode to Intimations of Immortality
From RECOLLECTIONS OF Early Childhood
By, William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

So, let's consider this..... if there are children, who, from the age of 3-5 remember past lives, then why don't you and I as adults remember our past lives?

Here, I like to reminisce about Wordsworth's lyrics, "Not in entire forgetfulness", when I consider this conundrum. Personally, in the 40 years since my own NDE, I haven't exactly been encouraged to speak about my experience.

On a human level the NDE is simply not easy to talk about. The reality of life on the other side is truly ineffable (can't be put into words). All our words of earthly human language are based on concepts of things here in space and time. But, beyond the veil, there is no space and time, no "things" only concepts. So our words don't do it justice. Added to all this I know that when we come here, in order to re-enter matter we must leave that connection with the "all-knowing" behind and operate with less intelligence than we were connected with "over there".

So, it is small wonder then that children should begin to lose their memories of that former life, by the time they are 8 to 10 years old. Frankly, as adults most of us can't even remember what we were doing in this life when we were three or even seven years old?

And, if we can't even now remember what we were doing in this present life, how much more difficult it must be to remember what we did in a past life. Consequently, it should be small wonder that such past life memories are fairly rare among adults who can't even recall their own childhood.

On top of that, those children who do have such past life memories are not exactly encouraged by their parents to talk about their past life. Not even in cultures where past lives are considered normal are children encouraged to speak out. Parents everywhere want their children to be obedient little people and really have no desire for children to be former sophisticated adults.

But, those memories are still held by us in the subconscious, even if you or I can not remember them consciously. Through the phenomena of accidental past life hypno-regressive therapy that many adult patients have related past lives to their psychiatrist.

Admittedly, a large portion of these reported past life memories from hypnotherapy might merely be dreams and wishes, as some psychologists working in this field might agree. There always seem to be too many people who remember past lives as Napoleon or Cleopatra, and all too few that remember a past life as Joe the plumber, or Clyde the garbage collector. But, as Dr. William James, Professor of psychology at Harvard and a member of the American Society for Psychical Research said:

“To prove the hypothesis that not all crows are black, it only requires the finding of one white crow.” Dr. William James

This is why I enjoy the work of Dr, Brian Weise, an M.D. Psychiatrist who accidentally regressed a patient into a prior life during hypnotism. Upon awakening the patient had no memories of the past life. Dr. Weise who was formerly a skeptic, has since become a believer in reincarnation and past lives. Under hypnotic regression patients even have memories of the time *between* lives as well as the past lives. And, Dr Weise has had lengthy conversations with “Masters” who apparently are conscious beings who act as guides or guardian angles and seem to be tending to the patient’s ongoing spiritual life. These “Masters” have told Dr. Weise, through the medium of the hypnotized patient’s voice, things about the doctor himself that the patient did not know, and could not have known. Indeed, the masters even told Dr. Weise that they did this merely to show him that they were also real and not a construction of the patient.³

When one investigates this field, as Dr Weiss and Dr Stevenson have done, a healthy skepticism about all this is required, since it is another area of the occult where much misinformation is passed off as real, and where charlatans seem to abound. However, every once in a while there are a few **White Ravens**. Especially, with the rigorous scientific research methods which Dr. Ian Stevenson used to document those thousands of cases of children remembering past lives.

THE WORK OF DR. IAN STEVENSON:

Dr. Stevenson has carried out lengthy investigations of over 3000 cases of children remembering past lives, in a study that has taken place over 50 years. Here are a few examples:

BISHEN CHAND CASE:^{4,5 6} Bishen Chand Kapoor was born into the Gulham family in 1921 in Barielly, India. At the age of one and a half, he began asking questions about a town called Pilibhit, which was located about fifty miles away. A place no one in his family knew much about and they did not know anyone who lived there. Bishen asked his parents to take him there, and it was obvious to them that he believed he had lived there in a prior life. By the time Bishen was five years old he could clearly articulate memories of his former life and from that village where he had never visited.

By 1926, he was stating that in the former life had been named Laxmi Narain, was the son of a wealthy landowner, and claimed to remember an uncle named Har Narain. Later, it would be discovered that this “uncle” was actually the father of Bishen’s remembered self with that same name of Laxmi. The young Bishen described the house of Laxmi Narain, including various features of the layout, as well as a neighbor’s house with a green gate, and how he had enjoyed the singing and dancing of the young women who entertained men in bars. He often spoke and read words of Urdu, a language written in Arabic script, even though Hindi was the language spoken in Bishen Chad’s house, and no one had taught him Urdu or how to read it.

Note *These two items are remarkable, a mere five year old child remembering how he enjoyed watching the dancing girls in adult bars during his past life, and also speaking and reading a foreign language which he has not been taught.*

A local attorney, K.K.N. Sahay, heard about Bishen Chand's memories and came to the house to record statements from the boy and other family members. In one of those most surprising memories, the boy recounted killing a suitor of his mistress, **showing surprising awareness for a five year old of the difference between a wife and a mistress**. None of the family, nor the attorney had ever heard of the real Laxmi Narain. It is important to know that the attorney wrote down Bishen Chand's complete narrative at this time *before the attorney or Bishen ever traveled to Pilibhit*.

When the attorney, along with the young Bishen Chand and Chand's father, traveled the fifty miles to Pilibhit, it was immediately confirmed that a man named Laxmi Narain had indeed shot and killed a rival lover of a prostitute who was still in the town. Narain had avoided prosecution because of his wealth, but had died two years later at age 32. Not quite eight years had elapsed since the death of the adult Laxmi Narain.

When taken to Laxmi's old school, the boy ran to the classroom, described the teacher, and from an old photograph, identified and named classmates, one of whom was in the crowd that had gathered. Chand, had a heartwarming reunion with Laxmi's mother, whom he greatly preferred over his own biological mother. The green gate was seen as described, and when given Laxmi's tabla drums, he was reported to have played them with great skill. Before leaving the house he revealed where he had hidden a treasure of gold coins, which were recovered the following day.

This story clearly suggests that the consciousness survives in a very real form. The facts of Bishen's language and musical skills, the adult emotions this toddler displayed, his identification of people by name from a photograph, even though he had never met them in this life, all are irrefutable proof that the consciousness survives. This case has been carefully verified and documented by the researchers at the University of Virginia. So it would appear that we have at least one WHITE RAVEN.

MARTA LORENZ CASE⁷: This is one of my personal favorites because it reads like a dramatic novella. But, it has been carefully researched, by Dr. Ian Stevenson and because the return to the second life was "forecast" during the first life, the parents having been given the prediction before the birth wisely chose to observe the second life (their later daughter) under strict single blind laboratory conditions. The results of this decision are amazing. Here are the details as carefully documented by Dr. Ian Stevenson..

Maria Januaria de Oliviero, neck named Sinha or Sinhazinha, was born about 1890, in the village of Dom Feliciano, about a hundred miles SW of Puerto Alegre in the province of Rio Grande de Sul, the westernmost state of Brazil. After Sinha's father disapproved of one of her suitors, the young man committed suicide. Sinha was distraught and so exposed herself to the elements and to tuberculosis, acquired an infection of the lungs and larynx, and then a few months later she also died.

However, on her death bed she acknowledged to her dear friend **Ida Lorenz** that she wanted to die and had tried to become infected with TB. Then she also promised Ida that she would return again and be born as ida's daughter. Sinha further predicted that:

"When reborn and at an age when I can speak on the mystery of rebirth in the body of the little girl who will be your daughter, I shall relate many things of my present life, and thus you will recognize the truth".

Sinha died in October 1917, the next day following her declaration to later return as Ida's daughter. At that time she had been about 28 years old.

Ten months later, on August 14, 1918, Ida Lorenz gave birth to a daughter, whom she named Marta. Ida and her husband had agreed to carefully never speak of Sinha's prediction to their other children, nor the neighbors, nor anyone who might ever come in contact with any future daughters.

But, when Marta was two and a half she began to speak, exactly as predicted by Sinha of. "When she had been big before". She volunteered to her parents that she had been neck-named Sinha in her prior life, and also that her real name in that prior live had been Maria.

Marta said all this despite the fact that the names Sinha and Maria had never been uttered in their household. Martha made no less than 120 separate declarations over the next few years about details of Sinha's life. All carefully recorded by her parents. Although, her former home from the first life was only 12 miles away, her father, in order to keep the single blind conditions, never took her there until she was 12 years old, although she had asked numerous times to go to her former home. And, it was not until the time of this visit at age 12 that the parents from the prior life heard anything about Marta being the reborn Sinha.

Dr. Ian Stevenson who has interviewed all the participants, except for the original deceased Sinha, has continued contact with Marta for many years, and in the 1974 edition of the book he describes Marta at age 54 after his most recent visit with her in Puerto Alegre in 1972.

"She is very much Marta, but still remembers much detail from her former life as Sinha, especially her bout with tuberculosis, and her death. She sees her prior life and this life as different chapters in a continuum".

When Marta was a child of three or four, and bereaved adults would suffer from grief, Marta would comfort them by saying,

"I died, and I am living again"

And another time, during a rainstorm, when one of her sisters expressed regret that their dead sister Emilia would get wet in the grave, the child Marta said,

"Don't say that, Emilia is not in the cemetery. She is in a safer and better place than we are; her soul never can be wet".

So, although Marta's memories have faded since the vivid days of her childhood. It is apparent from what she said in early childhood, that:

"As a child she also remembered her ten months of life on the other side between the two lives here."

I highly recommend reading this particular case in Dr. Stevenson's original report, in the book end-noted at the start of this section about Marta. The narrative runs 20 pages and is heavily documented and researched. Stevenson has interviewed all the significant participants, and the interesting story reads like a drama..... And, it seems that yet here again we have second White Raven.

REVIVAL OF REINCARNATION AS A CHRISTIAN BELIEF:

Recently, a growing number of Christian theologians want to reconsider this discarded doctrine of reincarnation. Geddes MacGregor, in his 1978 book argues that reincarnation is fully compatible with Christianity and he makes five points.⁸ (*Italics are my inclusions*)

- There is strong scriptural evidence that Jesus taught reincarnation.

- The Christian scholars (Clement & Origen) at Alexandria wrote extensively about it in the second and third centuries, in the earliest written systematic theology in the Christian church's history.
- The church did not move against the belief in reincarnation for over 550 years, and even then did not condemn reincarnation. The second council of Constantinople in 553AD only decided to shun those who believed in it, *and even that was on the politically motivated recommendation of Emperor Justinian and not the Pope, who actually refused to attend the travesty of a council.*
- The doctrine is philosophically compelling because it satisfies our deepest instinct for justice, through Karma carried into future lives.
- Finally, MacGregor states that belief in reincarnation offers the best explanation for a world in which there is much undeserved suffering and misfortune."

A DOCTRINE OF FAIRNESS: Reincarnation takes care of the problem of moral injustice. To the age-old question of Job (Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer?) reincarnation has the simple answer:

"We are seeing in this life only a fragment of a long story.....Death is only the end of a chapter but not the end of the story."

Finally, when empirical science has repeatedly documented the White Raven of reincarnation, and since there is no church prohibition to believing in its reality, but only the politically motivated decision of the church "not to associate" with those who believe in reincarnation,..... and when it is also found to be a doctrine which is present in the "approved" scriptures..... maybe, it is time for authentic Christians to revive this early church belief. Recognizing it to be the normal Christian doctrine that it originally was, as believed by the apostles, and the majority of Christians for several hundred years after Christ died.

But, while we contemplate the Christian-ness of that doctrine, here are a few more White Ravens which are also heavily documented.

MORE CHILDREN'S MEMORIES FROM DR. STEVENSON

THE SHANTI DEVI CASE:⁹ Shanti Devi was born in 1926 in old Delhi. At about the age of three she began to tell her parents stories regarding a former life, in which she was married to a man named Kedar Nath, who lived in the nearby town of Muttra. In that prior life she also had two children, and she had apparently died in child birth bearing a third child in 1925. She described in detail her home in Muttra where she had lived with her husband and children.

When her parents tired of trying to stop her from telling these stories, her grand uncle, Kishen Chand sent a letter to Muttra to see how much, if any, of the little girl's story was true. He mailed it to an address that Shanti herself gave him. That same letter was received by a widower named Kedar Nath. His wife Lugdi had died in childbirth in 1925, the year before Shanti was born. Quite naturally, Kedar Nath suspected this was all a fraud. So he sent Mr Lal, his cousin, who lived in Delhi to visit Shanti at her home in Delhi. The cousin would know if she were an imposter.

Mr. Lal went to Shanti's home without announcing his relationship and pretending to be on business. But, when Shanti answered the door, she screamed and jumped into his arms. Her mother then came to the door, but before Lal could speak the nine year old Shanti said,

"Mother this is a cousin of my Husband! He lived not far from us in Muttra and then moved to Delhi. I am so happy to see him. He must come in, I want to know about my Husband and my sons."

Mr. Lal confirmed for Shanti's parents all the facts she had told them over the years. Soon they reached the consensus that Kedar and his son should come to Delhi to meet Shanti. Later, when Kedar arrived Shanti, although only nine years old, treated him as a normal wife would do. She

kissed him and called him by pet names. Shanti served him biscuits and tea. And then when Kedar's eyes began to fill with tears, she comforted him using personal phrases and pet names known only to Kedar and his former wife Lugdi Nath.

News reporters decided to sponsor Shanti on a trip to Muttra. They thought that she should be able to lead them to her former home. But, as the train arrived in Muttra, Shanti saw her former relatives from her prior life on the platform (relatives who had not been to Dehli, and whom she had not seen in this life). She yelled and waved at them as the train slowed at the platform. Before getting to meet the relatives she told the reporters that they were the mother and brother of her husband. On the platform she began to speak with them and the reporters noted that she had correctly named them. Then, the reporters realized that nine year old Shanti was not speaking Hindustani, the language she spoke at home in Delhi, but was instead speaking coherently in a dialect specific to Muttra.

Note: this use of the dialect was reported in the news accounts, but could not later be verified by any eye-witnesses for Ian Stevenson during his research some decades later.

Shanti had never learned nor been exposed to this strange dialect, but according to the news reporters she already spoke it fluently, and if she actually was the deceased Lugdi's reincarnated consciousness, then she would easily know this local language.

Next, as the reporters had requested Shanti lead them to the Nath house. Although, she had never been in Muttra during her current life she lead them directly to the Nath house. On the way she told them things that only Lugdi could have known . Her former husband Kedar asked her specifically where she had hidden some rings that Lugdi had owned before she died. Shanti told him that they were hidden in a pot which she had buried during her prior life in a location at their prior home where they had lived together before moving to this house. Later, the investigators were able to dig up the rings where she had said they were buried. The records also indicate that everyone who had previously known Lugdi in Muttra now accepted Shanti as being Lugdi's reincarnated Spirit.

Shanti's case has been investigated by numerous researchers over the years. Clearly, cases like this, with remembered foreign language, remembered buried objects, and spontaneously recognized faces from the prior life, are indeed rare. Yet, many of them do exist. And, just one such case, with so many facts revealed which were unknowable to anyone except the departed spirit from the prior life, would seem to be all that is required as compelling prove that reincarnation actually happens. Again we have a third White Raven.

THE BONGKUCH PROMSIN CASE:¹⁰ Bongkuch was born Februray 12, 1962 in the village of Don Kha in the Nakhon Sawan Province of Thailand. As soon as the child began to speak coherently, he started to repeatedly describe his prior life.

He said that he came form the village of Hua Tanon, which was nine kilometers away, and that his name in a prior life there had been Chamrat. He also gave his former parent's names. By the time he was two years old, he told details of his prior family and also that two men had murdered him at a fair in Hua Tanon, stabbing him in several places. He said they had taken his wristwatch and neck chain, and dragged his body into an open field. Bongkuch, also said that after his death as Chamrat, he stayed on a tree near the site of the murder for approximately seven years.

Then, one rainy day, he saw his present father passing by and decided to accompany him home on a bus. Bonkuch's father later recalled that he had attended a meeting in Hua Tanon not long before his wife became pregnant with Bongkuch. He also recalled that it had been raining. Bongkuch's parents had never heard of Chamrat's murder, except from Bongkuch.

Eventually, however, Chamrat's parents and friends heard about what Bongkuch had been saying, and some of them came to visit him in Don Kha, when he was two and a half years old.

Through these contacts his parents eventually verified everything the young boy was saying about his prior life and the murder, which had taken place some ten years before.

Dr. Ian Stevenson later interviewed some of the policemen who investigated the original Murder, and they verified that the suspects in the case, one of whom fled, and the other who was acquitted for lack of evidence, were the same two people that Bongkuch had named as being his murderers.

Reports of Bonkuch's case appeared in the newspapers in Thailand in March 1965, and the director of the Government Hospital in Nakhon Sawan, a Dr. Sophon Nakphairaj sent copies of those reports to Ian Stevenson. Who began studying the case in 1966, and actually met Bongkuch in March 1980.

Bongkuch, often spoke Laotian words (Chamrat was Laotian) which his Thai parents did not understand. He also felt himself to be an adult, imprisoned in a child's body. He often made advances toward teenage girls, but would ignore girls his own age. Once, at a very young age, he attempted to fondle a teenage girl who was visiting his parents. Yet, by the time he was 18, he had nearly completely "moved on" from those childhood memories.

REINCARNATION IN NORTH AMERICA:

The Tlingit Indians of South Eastern Alaska believe that dead persons return to this world, but only do so among their relatives. If the pregnant mother has a dream and remembers a dead person, or the child when born has a birthmark similar to a deceased relative, they name the child after the deceased relative. Dr. Stevenson reports several Tlingit cases in his book *Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation*. Here is the story of Corliss Chotkin, Jr.¹¹

CASE OF CORLISS CHOTKIN, JR.: Victor Vincent, a full blooded Tlingit, died in the spring of 1946. For the last years of his life Victor had felt very close to his niece, Mrs. Corliss Chotkin, Sr. the daughter of his sister. Sometime in the Spring of 1945, about a year before his death, while visiting this niece, Victor said to her,

"I'm coming back as your next son. I hope I don't stutter as much as I do now, and your son will have these scars".

He then pulled up his shirt and showed her the scar on his back where he had had surgery. He also pointed to the scar on his nose on the right side at the base.

On December 15, 1947, 18 months after the death of Vincent, Mrs. Corliss Chotkin gave birth to a son. At birth the boy had two scars exactly where predicted, which matched Vincent's scars. When his mother was teaching the child to say his name, he said, "*Don't you know me, I'm Kahkody,*" which had been Vincent's tribal name. When he was two the child was being wheeled along the street in a stroller when he spontaneously recognized a step daughter of Victor and called her correctly by name saying "*There's my Susie*". He was the first to have recognized her. He hugged her and also spoke her Tlingit name. No one had introduced them nor told him her name. Also when he was two he recognized Vincent's son William, He spontaneously spotted William on the street and said "*There's William my son*". At a large public meeting he picked out Vincent's widow in the crowd and announced "*There's my old lady*" identifying her also as Rose, which was her correct name. He also spontaneously recognized four other people former fiends of Vincent, on occasions when the family recorded the fact, all occurring before he turned six years old. Corliss also narrated two stories about the life of Vincent, which his mother believes no one could have told him. He also easily repaired engines with no lessons, Vincent was also a natural mechanic.

There are hundreds of cases similar to these which Ian Stevenson has documented and published accounts of and I encourage you to study them in the available literature.

CHIEF CUMSHEWA: My own personal experience of this unquestioned belief in reincarnation among the Pacific Northwest Indians comes from a voyage I made in 1994 to the ruins of the village Koono (Skedans) in the Queen Charlotte Islands in Western British Columbia. These islands are 60 miles out in the Pacific, west of Prince Rupert, B.C. and don't always appear on BC highway maps. The Haida culture there, like the Tlingit culture on the mainland (especially in the village of Koono (Skedans) which historically was very social with Tlingit villages on the mainland), teaches that the spirits of the deceased return in the following generations.

Chief Cumshewa (Charles Wesley) an elder of the Haida tribe in his 80's, whom I met there at Koono where he was serving as the Haida watchman/guide volunteered a story about a specific reincarnation, although I had never mentioned to him that I had any such interests. This came out while the chief was talking about his departed mentor Jim Jones. Mr. Wesley (Chief Cumshewa) said "My son Patrick is a Haida artist, and I believe that the spirit of Jim Jones lives in Patrick, who was born just after Jim died."¹² I spoke with Mr. Wesley further on this and he told of how Patrick had the same traits as his deceased friend Jim. It was apparent to me from the way Mr. Wesley included these thoughts in everyday conversation, that he found it quite normal to believe in reincarnation.

THE "ONLY ONE LIFE" HYPOTHESIS:

For me, after examining all of the verified evidence in case after case presented by Dr. Ian Stevenson, it simply becomes easier to believe in reincarnation than it is to attempt to deny it.

Obviously, there is much mounting evidence for reincarnation, and yet there is simply no evidence for the "only one life" hypothesis which holds ubiquitous sway in western society.

Admittedly, there is a great deal of tradition, mis-interpreted scripture and cherished beliefs, on the side of the "only-one-life" hypothesis, but there simply is not one shred of verifiable evidence for it. Every religion that believes in it says you must take it on faith.

Consequently, one has to ask why is it that the Christian church of today is so opposed to reincarnation when it is backed up by these verifiable facts:

- The doctrine of reincarnation is clearly in the Bible in several places
- The early Christian fathers clearly believed it for several hundred years after Christ died.
- Today, we have hundreds of verified memories of past lives. And,
- Jesus himself said you have to be "Born Again", which in a most literal translation means "Reincarnated", or spirit re-born into a second body.

WHAT ORGANIZED RELIGION FEARS: What is it that the church fears it will lose by believing in reincarnation?simply put.....Everything.....

FIRSTLY, if you haven't noticed organized churches are all about control, and the control mechanism utilized by both Christianity and Islam is *Eternal Life*. The control is exercised by the church in determining whether you get eternal life in heaven or eternal damnation in hell. This is what the church sells and they have no other product. By manipulating the receipt or non-receipt of eternal life they control the morals of entire societies.

Reincarnation, on the other hand carries with it the concept of universal salvation, and the opportunity for second chances. If everyone reincarnates then everyone gets eternal life, and new opportunities to "get it right".

So, if the church were to allow reincarnation to be a fact then they automatically lose control of the flock, simply because reincarnation allows past sins to stop being a "forever" problem. With reincarnation, if you didn't get life right on this time around, then better luck in your next life.

Suddenly, with reincarnation you don't need to do penance in order to pay for falling short (sin), so what motive then is there to tithe money to the church? If God does not hand out any retribution, but instead lets you come back for another shot at life, why leave all your money to the church? And, finally who needs a savior when we are all immortal and we all have multiple lives just like Jesus?

LIVES CUT SHORT: Yet, there is one sobering thought. Even with all the documented evidence for reincarnation, there is one fact which stands out starkly in all of the cases Dr. Stevenson investigated. It seems that the majority of the memories researched and reported involved lives having been cut short. Lives that ended early through accident, violence, or disease, so that in each instance they came back to an additional physical life similar to what the NDE people report about their decision to come back, *"Because they still had unfinished business here"*

This leaves unanswered the question of, *"Do we always reincarnate, or do we only do so when our prior life has been cut short?"* But, these are questions which must be left until more data has been developed.

PAST LIFE REGRESSIONS investigated by Dr. Brian Weiss:

In another field of research into past lives they don't have this problem of most of the memories being from lives that were cut short. This is the field of psychology known as Past Life Regression Therapy. Honestly, this is a fringe area of psychology and there may well be charlatans practicing here. Most of my Psychiatrist friends are wary of anyone practicing in this field, but still there is much truth about the afterlife to be discovered here, and so it is worth weeding through the chaff.

One Psychiatrist who is a nationally recognized expert in Past Life Regression therapy is Dr. Brian Weiss, M.D. a practicing Psychiatrist and formerly Chief of Psychiatry at the hospital affiliated with the University of Miami. Dr. Weiss is convinced that reincarnation is real. He describes the problem this way,

"I have encountered some extremely talented people—psychics, mediums, healers and others—and I have encountered even more who have limited talent or skill and are mostly opportunists. But, I have also been careful not to throw out the baby with the bathwater. One person or one experience might be disappointing, but the next might be truly extraordinary and should not be discounted because of previous events"

DR. WEISS' PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND: Brian Weiss, M.D. was a disciplined, conservative scientist and physician who distrusted anything that could not be proved by the traditional scientific method. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa, magna Cum Laude from Columbia University in 1966, and received his M.D. at Yale University School of Medicine in 1970. Following his internship at New York University-Bellevue Medical Center he returned to complete his residency in psychiatry at Yale. He then taught at the University of Pittsburg and University of Miami where he lead the pharmaceutical division, achieving national recognition in the field of biological psychiatry and substance abuse. Becoming Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the medical school, and Chief of Psychiatry at the university affiliated hospital in Miami, by which time he had already published 37 scientific papers and book chapters in his specialty field.

DR. WEISS' STORY: In 1980, he was a well respected pharma-psychological expert and one of the pillars of the psychiatry establishment. Consequently, he had much to lose and everything to gain by staying away from para-psychological fringe areas like past life regressions.

But, then he met a new patient named Catherine. For 18 months Dr. Weiss used conventional methods of therapy attempting to overcome Catherine's symptoms, but when nothing else worked he tried using hypnosis. It was during a series of trance states that Catherine began to continually

recall her “past-life” memories. Past lives that it was apparent she could not remember at all in her waking state.

In hypnotic trance Catherine also spoke of the time between lives and finally, through Catherine’s trance state Dr. Weiss was contacted by beings who called themselves, “masters”. These were beings on the other side, who were in charge of Catherine’s “curriculum”, and who told Dr. Weiss private things about himself that Catherine could not have known. **One of these Masters said that he had been incarnate in the flesh 86 different times.** Catherine could recall some of what had taken place in her past lives, but she could not recall any of the things the Masters had said to Dr. Weiss through her.

Finally, Dr. Weiss decided after considerable contemplation, that regardless of any consequence that he might face as a professional M.D., such consequences would not prove to be as devastating as the personal consequences of not sharing the knowledge he had gained about immortality and the meaning of life. So, in spite of any damage to his own standing in the medical community he decided to go public with what he had learned.

In his books Many Lives, Many Masters, Messages from the Masters, and Same Soul Many Bodies, he tells his story in great detail and I recommend reading these books.

Basically, Weiss’ books tell the same story as Dr. Ian Stevenson’s books on reincarnation. Using regressive hypnotic therapy merely bypasses our forgetfulness and allows those of us who can’t consciously remember our prior lives to access the information which is dormant in our subconscious. After reading Dr. Weiss’ books it becomes easy to see that having past lives is *normal*.

Here are some of the specific things about reincarnation that these “Masters” told Dr. Weiss, (*italics are my inclusions*):

1. We chose when we will come into our physical state. (*This agrees with the Near Death experience of choosing to come back*).
2. We choose when we will leave, because we know when we have accomplished what we came here to do (*This agrees with the Near-Death experience, with the clarification that in the NDE such decisions are made on the other side of the veil*).
3. Everyone’s path is the same. We must all learn Charity, Hope and Faith, and learn them well. The religious orders of all faiths have come closer to this than the others, because they have given up so much without being asked. The rest of us are always looking for rewards and justifications for our good behavior, but the reward is in the doing and not the getting. (*To understand a Christian mystic’s view of this fact see the prayer of Saint Francis*)
4. Patience is a virtue, everything comes with timing. Your life cannot be rushed, we must accept what comes to us at any given time, and not ask for more. We were never really born, we just pass through different phases and there is no end. There are many dimensions but time is not as we see it. Progress is measured in lessons that are learned.
5. To be in the physical state is actually an *abnormal* condition. When you are in the spiritual state that is *normal* to you. The spiritual state (on the other side) is a state of renewal (R & R) it is a dimension like other dimensions.
6. You can waste much energy in fear. You must stop wasting energy in fear by instead releasing all fear and moving forward in love.
7. **If people knew that life is endless, that we will never die, and that we were never really born, then all fears would end.**
8. Apparently, we cannot learn as spirits because all learning requires feelings, and feelings are inherent in the flesh, where as spirits we do not “feel”.
9. When we arrive on the other side we are usually burned out. We must go through a period of renewal, a period of contemplation and a period of decision to return to the flesh again. Our physical bodies are just a vehicle for us while we are in the flesh.

10. There are seven planes of existence each one consisting of many levels and we must pass through all seven before we return to the flesh. *This precisely agrees with Thoth-Hermes*
11. Karma: We have debts that must be paid.....If we have not paid out these debts, then we must take them into another life.....in order that they can be worked through. You progress by paying your debts (forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors).
12. When we are in the flesh we will each have a dominant trait, lust, greed, etc. and you must learn to overcome that trait, if not when you return again you will still carry that trait. With each life you go through when you do not fulfill these debts, the next life will be harder and more complicated, yet if you fulfill them you will find your next life to be easier. You choose it you are responsible for the life you have, it is your karma.
13. Wisdom is achieved very slowly. This is because intellectual knowledge is so easily acquired, but is not enough in itself. It must be transformed into 'emotional' or subconscious knowledge. Once it is so transformed then the imprint is permanent. Theoretical knowledge without practical application is simply not enough.
14. Understand that no one is greater than any other.

THE TRUTH OF ALL THIS:

It is important to remember that the above are merely the impressions that Dr. Weiss personally received from the Masters on the other side through his patient who was in trance. But, unlike Near-Death experiences where thousands of experiencers are reporting similar findings verifying or replicating the experience of others, the jury is still out on much of the above ontology stated by Dr. Weiss. Consequently, many of his impressions do correlate closely with the experience of the NDE, or with the research on past lives of other scientists. However, as yet, while it is not possible to corroborate Dr. Weiss' *entire* spiritual philosophy through replication. At the same time I do believe it contains much truth and may be closer to the actual reality than we yet realize. In any case, Dr. Weiss' experiences are great reading, he is eloquent and compelling. An honest guy with all the right secular credentials as an M.D. who blatantly says, "**The afterlife is very real**".

Here is what Brian Weiss believes excerpted from his book Messages from the Masters ©2000:

"I believe we do reincarnate, until we learn our lessons and graduate", and I have repeatedly pointed out that there is much historical and clinical evidence that reincarnation is a reality."

Brian Weiss, M.D.

"I have become aware that an entire spiritual philosophy has been gently unfolded and handed to me.....Our consciousness has finally evolved into accepting this filtered wisdom of the ages.....We are swimming in a sea of New Age, holistic, and spiritual awareness that seems to have flooded over the dams on old beliefs and constricted consciousness.....the evidence is everywhere that New Thought is becoming mainstream." Brian Weiss, M.D

I was personally privileged to hear Brian Weiss speak in San Francisco in February 2002, and he related several additional cases which have come to him recently as follows:

JENNY COCKELL / MARY SUTTON:¹³ This is a great read and Jenny's book is available from Amazon.com. Jenny, is an English housewife with two children, who like Dr. Ian Stevenson's subjects spontaneously remembered, beginning in early childhood, that she had lived a prior life in Ireland, where she had eight children, but she had died before those children were fully grown. From childhood on Jenny drew pictures of her house and a map of the shoreline and her church which had an unusual façade. She researched Irish maps looking for a town *Malaheit*. After she

found it she traveled there and felt that it was the place where she had lived before. She found the church and her former home. The home had become a ruin and had been empty since the 1950's. But, she believed she had lived there in the 1920's or 30's, and that she had been named Marry Sutton. She also believed that she had died from the complications of child birth leaving behind her children. So, she kept inquiring.

Today, she has managed to reunite with the five of Mary Sutton's eight children who are still living, and she has also found the room in a Dublin hospital where Mary (her former self) died. Four of the children (all older than Jenny), believe that she is their deceased mother Mary, because of all the things she can remember about their lives together. The fifth child prefers to believe that Mary speaks to Jenny from another dimension, telling details to Jenny. But, Jenny emphatically tells that child, "No, I am actually Mary".

CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST:

Weiss also speaks of a Swedish psychologist who has worked with over 200 young people who remember "the camps". The psychologist has gone back to Poland and other locations of the concentration camps and has validated the accuracy of over two dozen of these children's memories. Some of these people who are now 30 years old read their concentration camp numbers as if they were tattooed on their arms. Later, when the prior identity associated with that ID number is found in the camp records, it is found that these 30 year olds remember the proper details of the lives of those concentration camp victims who had that same I.D. number, but who are now dead.

JEWISH BELIEFS ABOUT REINCARNATION: Rabbi Yonassan Gershom, a Hasidic storyteller, teacher, and writer, has published several essays on Jewish spirituality that have appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies. He has published three books on the subject:

- *Jewish Tales of Reincarnation*¹⁴, a collection of 70 traditional and modern stories about Jewish reincarnation.
- *Beyond the Ashes*¹⁵, is his account of personal encounters with hundreds of people from all walks of life, who have shared their memories of visions, dreams, and flashbacks that seem to be coming from another life during the Nazi Holocaust. He also presents Jewish teachings about karmic cycles, the levels of the soul, views of the afterlife and reincarnation in Judaism, as seen in the light of traditional Jewish texts and modern discoveries. and
- *From Ashes to Healing*.¹⁶ completes the saga begun in the first book by presenting fifteen testimonies of people who have past-life memories, visions, and dreams about the Holocaust.

ARAMAIC TWINS: Another anecdote Dr. Weiss describes is that a set of 3 year old twins, who spoke their own language to each other. The twins were taken to Columbia University Linguistics department and their conversations in this unknown language were recorded. When the recordings were analyzed they were found to be speaking Aramaic. This is a language from biblical times that has been a "dead" language since the second century. Yet, these twin three year olds were born knowing Aramaic and spoke it fluently to each other.

OTHER LIVES OTHER SELVES: Another educated scientist who is speaking out is an Oxford trained Jungian psychologist, Roger J. Woolger, PhD, currently living in Burlington, Vermont, who believes fully in reincarnation through his own experiences with past life regression therapy. His seminal book *Other Lives, Other Selves*¹⁷, published in 1988 has a marvelous first chapter chronicling his own conversion from skeptic to believer. His book goes on to differentiate between individual past lives and a more Jungian view of karmic collective consciousness or "**shared**" **past lives**, which casts past life memories in a very different light, and could explain how multiple people alive today could remember the same past life.....Maybe all seven of you were previously Napoleon....or maybe Napoleon had a split personality and each of you is just one of

those..... the endless possibilities boggle the mind....it becomes obvious that we know something but not all.

As Saint Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13, v 12, ***“For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. For now I know in part but then shall I know, even as also I am known”***

JEFFERY J. KEENE / JOHN B. GORDON:¹⁸ Another case which is also a great read is Jeffery Keene, who sells his book online (just google him). Mr. Keene, had a strange experience when he was drawn to a civil war battlefield. On that battle field he had visions and heard things including a particular phrase, “Not yet”, the significance of which, at the time, he did not understand. He chronicles his investigations and discoveries, including the fact that he looks nearly exactly like, and also has scars on his face arms and legs similar to the wounds received by a specific Civil War soldier, John B. Gordon. That soldier survived the battle and was later a statesman in Virginia and there are several surviving photo graphs of Gordon. Jeffery Keene compares those photos with his own photos and his resemblance to Gordon is uncanny. They really look like the very same guy.

PERSONAL EXERCISE No. 4 – REMOTE VIEWING: ADD AN EXERCISE FOR THE READER TO TRY OUT USING REMOTE VIEWING

CHAPTER 5 - END NOTES

- ¹ Life After Death by Bill Newcott p.66 © Sep/Oct 2007, AARP Magazine
- ² P. 241-253 The First even Ecumenical Councils (325-787) by Leo Donald Davis.(c)1990 The Liturgical Press
- ³ Many Lives, Many Masters, ©1988 by Brian L. Weiss, M.D.
- ⁴ Page 5, Death and Personal Survival, by Robert Almeder, ©1992 Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- ⁵ Reincarnation: Verified Cases of Rebirth After Death, by K.K.N. Sahay ©1927 N.L. Gupta.
- ⁶ P.183 Immortal Remains: The Evidence for Life After Death, by Stephen E Braude © 2003
- ⁷ P. 183 Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation, by Ian Stevenson, M.D ©1974 University of Virginia.
- ⁸ Reincarnation in Christianity: A New Vision of the Role of Rebirth in Christian Thought. ©1978 Geddes MacGregor
- ⁹ Page 19, Death and Personal Survival, by Robert Almeder, ©1992 Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc, Almeder also lists numerous other publications which discuss this case uncritically.
- ¹⁰ Page 68, Children Who Remember Previous Lives, by Ian Stevenson, M.D., ©2001 McFarland & Company, Inc.
- ¹¹ P. 259 Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation, by Ian Stevenson, M.D ©1974 University of Virginia.
- ¹² KOONA: Through the eyes of a Haida Chief , by Alan Hugenot © 2002 48 Degrees North Magazine - Seattle
- ¹³ Across Time and Death, ©1993 Jenny Cockell, Fireside Books, London.
- ¹⁴ Jewish Tales of Reincarnation by Yonassan Gershom ©1999
- ¹⁵ Beyond The Ashes: Cases of Reincarnation from the Holocaust, by Yonassan Gershom ©1992
- ¹⁶ From Ashes to Healing: Mystical Encounters with the Holocaust, by Yonassan Gershom ©1996
- ¹⁷ Other Lives, Other Selves, by Roger J. Woolger, PhD© 1988
- ¹⁸ Someone Else's Yesterday. ©2003 Jeffrey J. Keene, Blue Dolphin Publishing.