

Subject: Who Were You A Thousand Years Ago?

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Subject: Who Were You A Thousand Years Ago?

Feb. 14, 2012.

Here's how some people find out the answer to that question.

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Subject: R-incarnation: Believing in second chances - CBS News

Date: Fri, 27 Jan 2012

"Re-ncarnation: Believing in second chances - CBSNews"

"One in ten Americans remembers living a past life; What evidence is there for rei-carnation, beyond faith that memories are forever?"

Are we living life the second time around - or even the third or fourth, or more? A number of Americans believe they ARE . . . and while r-ligion is a matter of faith, they're getting some support for their belief from surprising sources. Our Sunday Morning Cover Story is reported now by Susan Spencer of "48 Hours". More than a thousand people gathered at a New York City conference center on a recent Sunday coming from around the world, in hopes of an out-of-this-world experience.

At up to \$--- a ticket, they seemed confident that through hypnosis they'd uncover lost memories ... not just of this life, but of past lives as well.

"Be there, back there, before your birth ..."
Call them "Come as you were" events - reinc-rnation conventions, no longer considered completely off-the-wall, and growing in popularity.

"You can remember everything ..."
One woman said she had an experience on the Titanic. Another subject "regressed back to, I want to say, the mid-1800s, in England."

Another woman said, "I recognized that I was about to see Je--s deliver his Sermon on the Mount."

For Dr. Brian W-iss, a firm believer in reinca-nation, such stories are all in a day's work ... hardly what you'd expect from a graduate of Y-le's prestigious m-dical school.

But today he travels the globe, hypnotizing crowds of ordinary people to help them recall extraordinary things.

He says hypnosis induces a relaxed state and enhances concentration, making it easier for people to remember their past lives.

How does she define reincarn-tion? "I define it as when we die physically, a part of us goes on," he told Spencer, "and that we have lessons to learn here. And that if you haven't learned all of these lessons, then that s-ul, that consciousness, that s-irit comes back into a baby's body."

The concept of reincarna-ion goes back some 3,000 years to India and Greece.

Although it's been largely rejected by J-wish and C-ristian traditions, Boston University rel-gion professor Stephen Prothero says it's alive and well in pop culture today - with Americans fascinated by the idea they've lived before.

"The skeptical part of me about the past life thing is that, just statistically, the odds are that in my past life, I was a Chinese peasant, right?" said Prothero. "But hardly anybody ever is a Chinese peasant.

You know, everybody is Cleopatra or Mark Antony or Jes--, you know?

A poll conducted for Sunday Morning shows about one in five Americans believes in reincarnati-n, and roughly one in ten

remembers a past life.

Professor Prothero thinks they're reacting in part to the positive spin the West puts on it: "In the Indian tradition, classically reincarnation was undesirable. It wasn't something you wanted. I mean, the goal was to get out of this life. But in America we see reincarnation as this sort of great second opportunity. We say, 'I'm gonna be, you know, an accountant. In the next life I can be an astronaut!'"

Michael S-ermer, the founder of the S-eptics' Society and publisher of Skeptic Magazine, is - no surprise - skeptical about reincarnation: "I don't think there's any chance that this is true.

"I think it's a complete construction of our brains - projecting ourselves into a future state that doesn't exist. It's a way of dealing with the anxiety of losing loved ones, and losing our own lives, and coming to grips with our own mortality."

But for psychiatrist Brian Weiss, reincarnation is more than a comforting thought. He studied Freud's theory that recovering childhood memories helps resolve present-day problems. Then, 30 years ago, he says he discovered that the same is true of memories even further back, from a past life.

It all started with a patient deathly afraid of water ... "I told her when she was in this deep hypnotic state, go back to the time where your symptoms began, thinking she'd go back to early childhood," Dr. Weiss said. "But she went back nearly 4,000 years into an ancient Near Eastern lifetime - different body, different face, different hair, drowning in a flood or tidal wave, her baby being torn from her arms by the force of the water. And her symptoms started getting better from that moment on."

Since then, he's used what he calls "Past Life Regression Therapy" on some 4,000 people.

"If you have a fear of heights and you were thrown off a castle wall in the 12th century, and your fear disappears in one time or two times, this is a fabulous thing, because your life is changing," he said.

It's not the sort of change psychiatrist Jim Tucker of the University of Virginia can believe in.

"I do not trust hypnosis as a tool for any memories because it's so unreliable," Dr. Tucker said. "Sometimes, it's accurate, sometimes, it's wildly inaccurate. They're not intending to create fantasy, but that's what the mind can do under hypnosis."

But that's not to say that he doesn't believe in past lives. In fact, that's his specialty.

Dr. Tucker focuses on children - young children - who, he says, have volunteered information about past lives, no hypnosis involved. Why focus on kids? "Well, because they're the ones that have the memories," he said.

Take the Colorado toddler who claimed to be his dead grandfather - a man he never knew. Dr. Tucker says the child recalled obscure details of his grandfather's life, even picked him out of class picture, saying, "That's me."

If that's not spooky enough for you, try this:

"Many of the children describe lives that ended violently or ended early," Dr. Tucker said. "Drownings, murders, motor vehicle accidents, suicides, snake bites."

http://www.cbsnews.com/2100-3445_162-20063019.html?pageNum=3D2

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October 30, 2011

I can't remember whether or not I wrote about Glenn Ford here. Glenn Ford was an American actor during the '50s and 60s. The last movie I saw him in was "Superman". He played Christopher Reeve's earth father Mr. Ford made countless movies, mostly westerns, during those years, and was also was a Captain in the U.S. Navy who received medals for heroism for his work with the

French underground. He said that he was regressed through hypnosis to two previous lives. His story is what attracted me to the subject.

October 29, 2011 11:12 PM EDT

I would like to suggest a movie on this subject : "Yesterday's Children " , with Jane Seymour and Hume Croyn . Supposedly about a women whose inc-rnations were so close that she remembered children from her last life.

henryknox

October 29, 2011 3:30 PM EDT

All knowledge is recollection from a previous existance." Plato . by Hildegard_Reincarnated October 28, 2011 4:16 PM EDT

Past lives aren't really past, they're other versions of yourself in their own realities. When you're ready to see the bigger patterns of your personality and d-vine essence, then you're ready to see other lifetimes, until then you're like most people just stumbling around in daily moods. To me, knowing my past lives is like being at a big family reunion picnic. I'm busy having fun and interacting with all of my relatives.

A skeptic is like someone wandering by saying I'm not who I say I am and I don't know these people.

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