

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:16,111

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:16,111 --> 00:00:20,629

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily

3

00:00:20,629 --> 00:00:25,387

the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

4

00:00:25,387 --> 00:00:29,266

There are people who claim to remember events that happened in a former lifetime.

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00:00:29,266 --> 00:00:32,385

It is a strange phenomenon called reincarnation.

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00:00:32,385 --> 00:00:40,901

There's the story of Maria, a little girl who lived a long time ago in a coastal village

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00:00:40,901 --> 00:00:41,901

of France.

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00:00:41,901 --> 00:00:45,660

Maria had a special touch with living things.

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00:00:45,660 --> 00:00:50,858

It was said she could cure animals and people of illness.

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00:00:50,858 --> 00:01:03,293

The villagers called her a witch and hunted her down in the night.

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00:01:03,293 --> 00:01:08,491

A girl living now remembers every detail of that horrible night as though it had happened

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00:01:08,491 --> 00:01:09,490

to her.

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00:01:09,490 --> 00:01:19,727

Perhaps it did.

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00:01:19,727 --> 00:01:22,685

People of vision are rare in any time.

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00:01:22,685 --> 00:01:29,923

In the pioneering days of American industrial expansion, Henry Ford was such a man.

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00:01:29,923 --> 00:01:34,681

In his later years, Ford would be acclaimed as the father of the assembly line.

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00:01:34,681 --> 00:01:38,200

Ford's genius embraced another idea.

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00:01:38,200 --> 00:01:41,238

He believed he was immortal.

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00:01:41,238 --> 00:01:48,835

Ford thought that his essential being or soul would be reborn into another body.

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00:01:48,835 --> 00:01:53,594

Humanism is a belief that has been expressed by every civilization known to man.

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00:01:53,594 --> 00:02:04,190

The principles governing the cycles of birth, death and rebirth are called karma.

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00:02:04,190 --> 00:02:09,947

Karma means that a soul progresses from body to body, life to life until it achieves perfect

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00:02:09,947 --> 00:02:12,346

harmony with the universe.

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00:02:12,346 --> 00:02:17,664

Thus one who suffers in this life is assured of at least the possibility of a better break

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00:02:17,664 --> 00:02:18,664

in the next.

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00:02:18,664 --> 00:02:27,021

All right now lie down and make yourself as comfortable as you can.

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00:02:27,021 --> 00:02:34,498

Dr. Helen Womback is a clinical psychologist doing reincarnation research in San Francisco.

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00:02:34,498 --> 00:02:39,136

Using the technique of hypnotic regression, she will be the guide on a remarkable journey

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00:02:39,136 --> 00:02:41,775

through time and space.

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00:02:41,775 --> 00:02:48,293

When all discomfort leaves your body and you're floating on a cloud and your body is very,

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00:02:48,293 --> 00:02:58,809

very heavy now, we're going to float back all around the world, back into past time.

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00:02:58,809 --> 00:03:04,247

When I call out the name of a place, let images come into your mind.

33

00:03:04,247 --> 00:03:21,080

An image for the Far East, an image for Central Asia, an image for Europe, an image for the

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00:03:21,080 --> 00:03:31,076

Near East in Africa, or an image for North, Central or South America.

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00:03:31,076 --> 00:03:34,675

Now choose.

36

00:03:34,675 --> 00:03:35,675

You have chosen.

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00:03:35,675 --> 00:03:38,673

I'd more or less pick Scandinavia.

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00:03:38,673 --> 00:03:42,592

I couldn't get out of the snow.

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00:03:42,592 --> 00:03:49,789

The only real scenery was just rolling snow covered hills, frozen ground, and it seemed

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00:03:49,789 --> 00:04:00,745

like we traveled by foot most of the time from one fishing hole to another, it seemed.

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00:04:00,745 --> 00:04:08,542

My death was an accident in one of the journeys and it seemed to have something to do with

42

00:04:08,542 --> 00:04:20,577

a sled and it sort of got thrown over and I was just left laying in a snow bank.

43

00:04:20,577 --> 00:04:25,855

It seemed to be on the foot of the steps of a pyramid, a temple.

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00:04:26,855 --> 00:04:34,012

The ceremony that I was going to attend was attended by all the members of the village,

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00:04:34,012 --> 00:04:39,810

all the surrounding villages, and it seemed to be a healing.

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00:04:39,810 --> 00:04:44,688

There was some type of a healing going on on what seemed to have been maybe the chief

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00:04:44,688 --> 00:04:51,806

of the village and I remember I had very strong belief that this was going to be helpful

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00:04:51,806 --> 00:04:53,645

and very great interest.

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00:04:54,644 --> 00:05:01,442

Dr. Womback has regressed more than 2,000 persons in her search for scientifically valid data

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00:05:01,442 --> 00:05:04,441

on the reincarnation experience.

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00:05:04,441 --> 00:05:11,358

Well actually I've been searching for five years now for evidence that we may have lived

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00:05:11,358 --> 00:05:12,598

before.

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00:05:12,598 --> 00:05:19,675

What I found is what many researchers have found, that there's a tantalizing mix of fantasy

54

00:05:19,675 --> 00:05:23,633

and checkable reality in past life recall.

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00:05:23,633 --> 00:05:30,431

My belief was that if we have lived past lives, all of us have lived past lives.

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00:05:30,431 --> 00:05:34,709

And therefore I ought to be able to explore this phenomenon in the same normative way

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00:05:34,709 --> 00:05:40,307

that a psychologist would go about exploring any other kinds of phenomenon.

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00:05:40,307 --> 00:05:45,305

So I evolved a technique of taking people to past lives that I found to be both safe

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00:05:45,305 --> 00:05:49,344

and reliable and where I could get repeatable evidence.

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00:05:49,344 --> 00:05:52,942

Well those down...

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00:05:52,942 --> 00:05:58,380

Simply put, Dr. Womback's technique is to plant a post-hypnotic suggestion in the subject's

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00:05:58,380 --> 00:06:04,458

minds which enables them to fill out an elaborate questionnaire after the session is over.

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00:06:04,458 --> 00:06:10,016

The questionnaires are important because Dr. Womback finds that during regression, patients

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00:06:10,016 --> 00:06:14,934

are reluctant to have their journey to a past life disturbed by conversation with the

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00:06:14,934 --> 00:06:15,933

hypnotist.

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00:06:15,933 --> 00:06:22,251

However, Dr. Womback will occasionally use the standard question and answer technique

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00:06:22,251 --> 00:06:24,090

to explore an unusual case.

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00:06:24,090 --> 00:06:31,647

All right now Bob, I want you to go to a time when you are listening to some of the people

69

00:06:31,647 --> 00:06:38,685

around you talk and you will hear the syllables and you will be able to repeat them.

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00:06:38,685 --> 00:06:44,842

Nainu rakakana kum kum ta ta.

71

00:06:44,842 --> 00:06:49,001

Nainu rakakana kum ta ta.

72

00:06:49,001 --> 00:06:51,720

All right that's fine Bob.

73

00:06:51,720 --> 00:06:54,839

Can you tell me what these words mean?

74

00:06:54,839 --> 00:07:01,356

What is being talked about?

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00:07:01,356 --> 00:07:12,312

In regard to the days, labors, the satisfaction with the tasks, the satisfaction with the

76

00:07:12,312 --> 00:07:14,311

job.

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00:07:14,311 --> 00:07:15,631

How do you feel about this?

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00:07:15,631 --> 00:07:18,430

Do you feel dissatisfied?

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00:07:18,430 --> 00:07:31,305

I feel it's all in a day's time and I'll soon be on my way away from it.

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00:07:32,264 --> 00:07:46,819

Now Bob, I want you to move in that lifetime to a time when you are seeing something written.

81

00:07:46,819 --> 00:07:57,655

Do you see anything?

82

00:07:57,655 --> 00:08:03,612

You will be able to open your eyes without coming out of the hypnotic trance.

83

00:08:03,612 --> 00:08:13,369

You will focus intently on the hieroglyphs and you will be able to copy them.

84

00:08:13,369 --> 00:08:20,406

Dr. Womback has had an expert at Stanford University study Bob's strange writing.

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00:08:20,406 --> 00:08:26,044

She says the expert has been able to identify 80% of the characters as authentic Egyptian

86

00:08:26,044 --> 00:08:27,043

hieroglyphs.

87

00:08:27,043 --> 00:08:30,002

Very good Bob.

88

00:08:30,002 --> 00:08:36,040

Can you tell me now what these hieroglyphs mean?

89

00:08:36,040 --> 00:08:48,115

In reference to a new trade route and treaty of free movement and protection from the highest

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00:08:48,115 --> 00:08:58,551

power for such a venture.

91

00:08:58,551 --> 00:09:00,631

Hi Bob, how was it?

92

00:09:00,631 --> 00:09:01,630

Not bad.

93

00:09:01,630 --> 00:09:04,029

Not bad, huh?

94

00:09:04,029 --> 00:09:06,428

Bob is a retired stockbroker.

95

00:09:06,428 --> 00:09:11,586

How could he write and converse in a language that vanished tens of centuries ago along

96

00:09:11,586 --> 00:09:14,545

with the builders of the pyramids?

97

00:09:14,545 --> 00:09:17,624

At the very least it's a fascinating exercise.

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00:09:17,624 --> 00:09:23,182

This probing of the unconscious mind for scraps of information about past lives.

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00:09:23,182 --> 00:09:27,340

There are more practical aspects to the study of reincarnation.

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00:09:27,340 --> 00:09:32,498

Trauma from a past life sometimes seems to spill over into the present.

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00:09:32,498 --> 00:09:37,816

It is possible that many physical and emotional problems which defy medical science can be

102

00:09:37,816 --> 00:09:42,215

cured through an understanding of this principle.

103

00:09:42,215 --> 00:09:49,332

In this lifetime for instance I've had a series of since early childhood seizure type

104

00:09:49,332 --> 00:09:55,849

of things that occurred that doctors and priests couldn't explain that.

105

00:09:55,849 --> 00:10:01,127

Shirley Crepe eventually described her problem to Dr. Womback.

106

00:10:01,127 --> 00:10:07,325

The sensation of going a million miles an hour and weighing at least a ton and it was

107

00:10:07,325 --> 00:10:13,243

pretty terrorizing to have that occurring because I couldn't make it stop.

108

00:10:13,243 --> 00:10:22,359

During the session where I was regressed to the lifetime as a girl named Maria this particular

109

00:10:22,359 --> 00:10:27,837

seizure started to occur while I was under hypnosis.

110

00:10:27,837 --> 00:10:37,913

And it was then that Dr. Womback took me to that point where it first started to occur.

111

00:10:37,913 --> 00:10:43,991

Under hypnosis Shirley described herself as a healer in a village on the coast of France.

112

00:10:43,991 --> 00:10:48,389

She said her name was Maria and that she had been summoned to the constables to help his

113

00:10:48,389 --> 00:10:50,109

sick child.

114

00:10:50,109 --> 00:10:53,068

The child died.

115

00:10:53,068 --> 00:11:01,744

One evening after the child had died on my walk home through the forest out of the bushes,

116

00:11:01,744 --> 00:11:08,982

out of the trees with torches the whole village seemed to appear and they were going to burn

117

00:11:08,982 --> 00:11:14,859

Maria as a witch because they thought she'd killed the boy and they came towards her,

118

00:11:14,859 --> 00:11:17,738

they get the witch.

119

00:11:17,738 --> 00:11:20,337

I ran as Maria.

120

00:11:20,337 --> 00:11:26,775

I didn't want to get caught and it was then that the sensation started, the sensation

121

00:11:26,775 --> 00:11:33,012

that I had been experiencing in this lifetime of absolute stark, raving terror and they

122

00:11:33,012 --> 00:11:38,290

chased me screaming and yelling, I ran and I ran and rather than be caught by the little

123

00:11:38,290 --> 00:11:47,167

burnt I jumped off a cliff and that was the feeling of weighing a million pounds and

124

00:11:47,167 --> 00:11:58,203

as Maria dropped that body and came out of that body the weight, the speeding sensation

125

00:11:58,203 --> 00:12:02,921

stopped completely and abruptly unlike any of the seizures that I'd had.

126

00:12:02,921 --> 00:12:07,679

It could be coincidence that Shirley's symptoms disappeared after she confronted the nightmare

127

00:12:07,679 --> 00:12:12,437

of a prior life or it could be just what it appears.

128

00:12:12,437 --> 00:12:17,395

Having an understanding and karma to calm the restless corner of Shirley's mind that

129

00:12:17,395 --> 00:12:19,795

is still Maria.

130

00:12:19,795 --> 00:12:26,712

Dr. Womback's collection of 2000 apparent reincarnation experiences has yielded some

131

00:12:26,712 --> 00:12:29,311

fascinating data.

132

00:12:29,311 --> 00:12:35,988

Between 70 and 80% of her subjects remember lives as working class people or peasants.

133

00:12:35,988 --> 00:12:41,306

If these prior lives were imaginary wouldn't more people think of themselves as royalty

134

00:12:41,306 --> 00:12:46,864

rather than accurately reflecting across section of society?

135

00:12:46,864 --> 00:12:53,622

In another experiment a group of white Californians was regressed to the 1850s and extraordinary

136

00:12:53,622 --> 00:12:56,900

numbers said they were Asians then.

137

00:12:56,900 --> 00:13:01,818

Could they have been the orientals who were imported to build California's railroads?

138

00:13:01,818 --> 00:13:05,937

Could they still be with us in new bodies?

139

00:13:05,937 --> 00:13:08,736

How many pasts can a person have?

140

00:13:08,736 --> 00:13:16,333

The work of other investigators may suggest an answer.

141

00:13:16,333 --> 00:13:22,171

The old chestnut inn in Kent, Connecticut has a history as rich as its setting.

142

00:13:22,171 --> 00:13:24,930

Ruth McGuire has quite a history of her own.

143

00:13:24,930 --> 00:13:27,889

It appears she may have a number of histories.

144

00:13:27,889 --> 00:13:34,646

I've had very strong feelings about the year 1857 and India.

145

00:13:34,646 --> 00:13:38,085

When I was just a child I picked up a 10 cent piece.

146

00:13:38,085 --> 00:13:40,524

I felt terribly depressed.

147

00:13:40,524 --> 00:13:44,362

The date meant something to me.

148

00:13:44,362 --> 00:13:49,280

Ruth had heard of Professor Hans Holzer, parapsychologist and author.

149

00:13:49,280 --> 00:13:54,918

She invited him to probe her mind for a meaning to the date that bothered her.

150

00:13:54,918 --> 00:14:00,716

Using hypnotic regression, Professor Holzer had enjoyed success with similar cases before.

151

00:14:00,716 --> 00:14:02,715

Your name is Ruth McGuire.

152

00:14:02,715 --> 00:14:04,714

I want you to go back with me.

153

00:14:04,714 --> 00:14:09,713

Ten years, twenty years, thirty years, forty years.

154

00:14:19,709 --> 00:14:21,708

Where do you live?

155

00:14:27,706 --> 00:14:29,705

You are now ten years old.

156

00:14:29,705 --> 00:14:31,704

You are now nine years old.

157

00:14:31,704 --> 00:14:33,703

You are now seven years old.

158

00:14:33,703 --> 00:14:35,703

You are seven years old.

159

00:14:35,703 --> 00:14:37,702

You are seven years old.

160

00:14:37,702 --> 00:14:40,701

You are Ruth McGuire. You are seven years old.

161

00:14:40,701 --> 00:14:42,700

Where do you go to school?

162

00:14:45,699 --> 00:14:47,698

St. Nicholas of Tallentown.

163

00:14:47,698 --> 00:14:49,697

What is your favorite teacher's name?

164

00:14:49,697 --> 00:14:51,697

Sister Bonaventure.

165

00:14:51,697 --> 00:14:53,696

What does she teach you?

166

00:14:53,696 --> 00:14:58,694

Oh, poetry. She declaims poetry.

167

00:14:58,694 --> 00:15:00,693

You are seven years old.

168

00:15:00,693 --> 00:15:02,692

You are six years old.

169

00:15:02,692 --> 00:15:04,692

You are five years old.

170

00:15:04,692 --> 00:15:06,691

You are four years old.

171

00:15:06,691 --> 00:15:08,690

You are three years old.

172

00:15:08,690 --> 00:15:10,689

You are two years old.

173

00:15:10,689 --> 00:15:11,689

You are one year.

174

00:15:11,689 --> 00:15:13,688

You have just been born.

175

00:15:13,688 --> 00:15:16,687

I want you to go back, back beyond the threshold of birth.

176

00:15:16,687 --> 00:15:21,685

You are minus five, minus ten, minus twenty.

177

00:15:21,685 --> 00:15:23,684

What do you see?

178

00:15:23,684 --> 00:15:26,683

Look around you. Where are you?

179

00:15:26,683 --> 00:15:29,682

It's all sapary.

180

00:15:29,682 --> 00:15:31,681

What do you see?

181

00:15:31,681 --> 00:15:33,680

Thick, thick clouds and papers.

182

00:15:33,680 --> 00:15:35,680

Cold.

183

00:15:40,678 --> 00:15:42,677

Oh, yes.

184

00:15:42,677 --> 00:15:44,676

I know where I am now.

185

00:15:44,676 --> 00:15:46,676

Where are you?

186

00:15:47,675 --> 00:15:49,674

I'm in England.

187

00:15:49,674 --> 00:15:51,674

Where are you? What place?

188

00:15:51,674 --> 00:15:53,673

Sussex.

189

00:15:54,672 --> 00:15:56,672

Where did your father come from?

190

00:15:56,672 --> 00:15:58,671

Horton.

191

00:15:58,671 --> 00:16:01,670

It's in the north riding area.

192

00:16:01,670 --> 00:16:03,669

And your mother?

193

00:16:05,668 --> 00:16:08,667

Durham. That's near Newcastle.

194

00:16:09,667 --> 00:16:11,666

Did you ever get to the New World?

195

00:16:11,666 --> 00:16:15,664

No, I died in Biden at the age of thirteen.

196

00:16:19,663 --> 00:16:21,662

It was like a dam breaking.

197

00:16:21,662 --> 00:16:26,660

The body screaming, shouting, pillaging.

198

00:16:26,660 --> 00:16:28,659

I ran and hid.

199

00:16:28,659 --> 00:16:34,657

Next, Ruth recalls another life and a crisis in a distant land.

200

00:16:34,657 --> 00:16:37,656

I was dreaded being sent away.

201

00:16:37,656 --> 00:16:39,655

Where were you sent?

202

00:16:39,655 --> 00:16:41,655

We went to India.

203

00:16:41,655 --> 00:16:42,654

Where in India?

204

00:16:42,654 --> 00:16:44,653

Calcutta.

205

00:16:44,653 --> 00:16:51,651

And then, another place where there was an uprising.

206

00:16:51,651 --> 00:16:53,650

The natives were very angry.

207

00:16:53,650 --> 00:16:56,649

They didn't want us there.

208

00:16:56,649 --> 00:17:03,646

And they came in and the body screaming, shouting, pillaging.

209

00:17:03,646 --> 00:17:21,639

Professor Holzer feels he can probe even deeper into Ruth's multiple past lives.

210

00:17:21,639 --> 00:17:26,637

Now I want you to go back further, further.

211

00:17:26,637 --> 00:17:30,636

Beyond your life in India, beyond your life in England.

212

00:17:30,636 --> 00:17:35,634

Go back, go back another, another incarnation, another life.

213

00:17:35,634 --> 00:17:38,633

In what town are we in?

214

00:17:39,632 --> 00:17:42,631

Now we are in Holland.

215

00:17:42,631 --> 00:17:46,630

The year is sixteen thirteen.

216

00:17:50,628 --> 00:17:52,627

Smoking the room.

217

00:17:52,627 --> 00:17:54,627

What sort of smoke?

218

00:17:54,627 --> 00:17:56,626

The fire. Smoking the fire.

219

00:17:56,626 --> 00:17:58,625

Where are you to begin with? Where are you now?

220

00:17:58,625 --> 00:18:03,623

Well, I'm in a room in a cottage.

221

00:18:03,623 --> 00:18:08,621

And the fireplace is smoking. It burns my throat.

222

00:18:08,621 --> 00:18:12,620

My aunt and my mother are both there.

223

00:18:12,620 --> 00:18:16,618

And we have to wait and wait and wait.

224

00:18:16,618 --> 00:18:20,617

And there's something about the new world and passage.

225

00:18:29,613 --> 00:18:35,611

There was this large man and he pinned me against the wall.

226

00:18:35,611 --> 00:18:39,609

I was miserable and I fell overboard.

227

00:18:39,609 --> 00:18:46,607

For a moment I struggled and then a strange feeling of happiness came over me.

228

00:18:49,606 --> 00:18:51,605

I must have been on shipboard.

229

00:18:51,605 --> 00:18:56,603

I saw the coffin and the people passing by.

230

00:18:56,603 --> 00:19:00,601

And I wanted to tell them, I hear what you're seeing.

231

00:19:00,601 --> 00:19:04,600

I hear and I tried to move my arm.

232

00:19:04,600 --> 00:19:08,598

I tried and it was like lead.

233

00:19:08,598 --> 00:19:14,596

I couldn't move, I couldn't wiggle, I couldn't even move my nose.

234

00:19:14,596 --> 00:19:19,594

I couldn't indicate that I was there and I was listening.

235

00:19:20,594 --> 00:19:25,592

I seemed to be moving on a ribbon towards the sea.

236

00:19:26,592 --> 00:19:29,590

It was a great light.

237

00:19:35,588 --> 00:19:39,587

What was the next sensation that followed?

238

00:19:39,587 --> 00:19:47,584

There were people. I saw shadows and presences and people.

239

00:19:47,584 --> 00:19:49,583

People I didn't know.

240

00:19:49,583 --> 00:19:54,581

But my mother, yes, I saw my mother

241

00:19:54,581 --> 00:19:59,579

and there was a comforting feeling that I had found her at last.

242

00:20:01,578 --> 00:20:04,577

For Ruth McGuire, the session was a revelation.

243

00:20:04,577 --> 00:20:08,575

The controversial concept of karma made sense to her

244

00:20:08,575 --> 00:20:11,574

and seemed to explain so many things.

245

00:20:11,574 --> 00:20:14,573

Whatever she might have suffered in past lives

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00:20:14,573 --> 00:20:19,571

only seemed now to increase her chance of serenity in this one.

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00:20:20,571 --> 00:20:24,569

Dr. William Yany is a psychiatrist who has devoted years

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00:20:24,569 --> 00:20:28,568

to the study of reincarnation and the laws of karma.

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00:20:28,568 --> 00:20:33,566

Where I sit, I really see life as really a school room.

250

00:20:33,566 --> 00:20:37,564

We're living in a very, very narrow, narrow spectrum,

251

00:20:37,564 --> 00:20:42,563

a very narrow dimension as our parapsychologists are beginning to describe to us, tell us.

252

00:20:42,563 --> 00:20:47,561

I really see what we've got here as a soul

253

00:20:47,561 --> 00:20:51,559

utilizing an expendable body, so to speak, in a lifetime,

254

00:20:51,559 --> 00:20:55,558

a given span of time and space to learn something.

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00:20:58,556 --> 00:21:03,555

Dr. Yany believes the vast and complex cycle of birth, death and rebirth

256

00:21:03,555 --> 00:21:07,553

must be controlled by a higher order of intelligence.

257

00:21:07,553 --> 00:21:10,552

Someone must be minding the store, so to speak.

258

00:21:10,552 --> 00:21:16,550

Who or what that force is remains one of the great puzzles confronting mankind.

259

00:21:18,549 --> 00:21:20,548

oz

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00:21:23,547 --> 00:21:26,546

Coming up next in search of

261

00:21:26,546 --> 00:21:30,544

Takes a Look at the Facts and Fiction about Afterlife Experiences

262

00:21:30,544 --> 00:21:33,543

Then agents hunt down a bank robbery gang on FBI.

263

00:21:34,543 --> 00:21:36,542

The Untold Stories

264

00:21:36,542 --> 00:21:40,540

And later tonight on In the T evolutionary allotment.

265

00:21:40,540 --> 00:21:45,059

other oddities at 8 here on the History Channel where the past comes alive.