

Resurrection vs. Reincarnation

Robert Bayer (editor)

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The Origin of Man
Andrew Jackson Davis
The Harmonial Philosophy
(1847)

As regards the individualisation of the spirit, the soul's sublime destiny, as the spiritual ultimate of material creation, the concentrated centre of Divine Love, Will and Wisdom, our knowledge of the Creator's goodness enables us to know that which our experience has taught us also to believe — that every human desire is provided with appropriate means of gratification. Each has been given us for wise ends; but the strongest, deepest, most interior of all desires are for immortality, happiness and eternal progression. They proclaim the truth that we are immortal and are approaching a period of unity which will satisfy our highest conceptions of eternal happiness and development. It is for us therefore to unfold the beauties of the spirit, study its immense possessions, and so attain just conceptions of our mission and destiny. Mind must familiarise itself with the principles of justice and order, must unfold its internal capacities, its spiritual perceptions and intuitions, must explore the relations which subsist between man and man, between the natural and spiritual world, between the widespread universe and that Super-Celestial Principle which enlivens and sanctifies the whole. Each human soul must attain a

full comprehension of the many and glorious affinities which interlink its destiny and experience with the experiences and the destinies of universal humanity.

It is good to know that there is an omnipotent, purifying and fraternal principle permeating the natural, spiritual and celestial departments of God's most high temple, a principle which unites atoms and planets into one stupendous system, which unfolds spirits and angels ¹ as immortal flowers, which is the divinely inherited treasure of the human soul ; and this principle is called the Great Harmonia.

¹ As Davis speaks frequently of angels and sometimes even of seraphs, it is desirable to say that he recognised no hierarchies of spiritual intelligence which had not at some period and on some earth in the universe begun their progress as human beings. Moreover, his hypothesis of the spiritual universe did not admit either pre-existence or reincarnation.

The Second Sphere

Mrs. Maria M. King

Principles of Nature

(1880)

The first Spiritual world or Second Sphere, is a real tangible world, to the Spirit-man, transcending in size the imagination. It corresponds to the first order of material Suns, our great-grandmother Sun, in size, tho smaller. It serves as the first Spirit-home of all men horn upon all the Planets descended from that great-grandmother Sun. It is located in the fourth Stratum, third formation of the Material Universe; we, and our material progenitor Suns being located in the sixth Stratum and fifth formation. Nature locates it thus, "where the reactions of the two planes, material and Spiritual, shall be natural and efficient for every purpose of Nature."

"This principle is exemplified in a system of physical worlds which take position, relative to the central body, determined by the quality of their forces. The closer affinity of the outer forms of such a system to the central body creates the necessity for the broad spaces between them and the latter after the forces of a system become regulated and the attractions and repulsions are perfected. The diversity of more interior ones fixes their position nearer the central body in correspondence with this law. There is no Spiritual law but

has its exemplification in material nature. The distance between the two planes—the material and Spiritual worlds—is too great for the comprehension of man in his first estate.

Away off among the constellations of space which human material vision, however aided, has never, nor can ever reach, is the home of the Spirits from earth and all worlds descended from our great-grandmother Sun of the first grade, of the fifth great formation. There, beyond where the physical forces nearest allied to this Spirit can disturb it, within the space occupied by the third great formation of the Universal System, whose forces are too rare and distinct from those of the fifth formation to be disturbing agencies to it, is where nature has located it.

The third formation in the Universal Sphere serves as the home of all the Spiritual Second Spheres of all the worlds of the fifth formation, and are equal in number to the first grade of material forms in that formation; each one of this grade has its corresponding Spiritual form. These worlds are formed of Spirit, refined to the degree to be repelled from the material Plane thru whose forces it has been evolved. The repulsive force of matter is balanced by that of Spirit, which asserts its superiority as a force by retreating in obedience to its refined instincts from the neighborhood of grossness, while the material is bound to its local center for lack of this power.

The surface of the Second Sphere is formed of the refined forces of the first. Each material world has its proper space allotted to it upon the Second Sphere; and its refined emanations go to its proper place in that sphere and form its surface. It may properly be termed a hollow globe, as the interior of material worlds are not represented on that sphere. When man is developed on a Planet his Spirit home has been fitted from these emanations for his use and dwelling place. The higher productions of material worlds, such as the higher animals, grains, fruits, grasses and trees, when their bodies die, their finer essences go to the Second Sphere and assume the forms they had on the Material Plane. All these Spiritual elements naturally flow to the Second Sphere from material worlds in obedience to attractive and repulsive forces.

The Spirit-world attracts while gross matter repels these and they form a river of Spiritual elements from the material to the Spirit-world. This matter is further refined on that world and its grosser part is eliminated and is returned to the material world from whence it came in a counter magnetic stream, for the high uses of that world. This is all the reincarnation of Spirit there is in Nature. This conforms to the law of progressive development. These currents are highways of force upon which Spirit-man travels back and forth between the material and Spirit-world.

All the higher-products of material worlds are re-produced—reformed upon the Spirit Plane. Man there has what his heart wishes and his hands can produce. He has his pets, his useful animals, his gardens, his fields, his flowers, his grains and fruits, his cozy cottages, and his magnificent palaces, his libraries, his musical instruments, his printing presses, his schools, his groves and his works of art. He has everything that his mind can conceive and his hands can make. He is there to work and develop his forces and higher nature, not to devote himself to indolence. He must eat and drink and be clothed and he will have to get and prepare his food and clothing. Justice and proper compensation to all is the law in that world. "No loafing around the Throne" is allowed. All must help those below them to get up higher and enjoy more of God's wonderful provisions for man.

Spirits on being born into Spirit-life are received by some near kindred and tenderly borne to their Spirit-home; usually, at first, temporarily, living with near kindred who have gone there before them and "prepared a place for them." If they are lower in their moral, intellectual and Spiritual natures than these kindred, after they have rested from their journey to that land, and have been refreshed and strengthened, they are taken to the circle to which their development fits them; and there left to live with those of similar development and condition till they grow to a higher estate.

Reincarnation
John Newbrough
Oahspe
(1882)

And as one spirit returned and fastened itself on a mortal, so did another and another, till hundreds and thousands of spirits dwelt in one corporeal body, oft driving hence the natural spirit I gave in the time of conception; and these mortals knew it not; and they became void of direct purpose because of the confusion of soul, and they were worthless on the earth. (Aph 5:10)

As I have quickened the seed of the first born, so will I quicken all seed to the end of the earth. And each and every man-child and woman-child born into life will I quicken with a new spirit, which shall proceed out of Me at the time of conception. Neither will I give to any spirit of the higher or lower heaven power to enter a womb, or a fetus of a womb, and be born again. (Jehovih 6:21)

These things hast thou witnessed; that the spirits of the first birth discourse on the things of the earth, and of marriage and begetting; not having risen even to the second resurrection. Their hope and belief in heaven is to re-enter wombs and be born again, teaching reincarnation, ministering to the proclivities of lust in mortals;

inspiring visions of sexual desires and practices in heaven. For all such spirits have not risen up from the earth, and know no other abode, but to revel and glut themselves in corporeal debauchery. And many of them boastingly, and in darkness teach falsely that spirits in heaven beget sons and daughters, and even that sons and daughters reincarnate themselves in mortal flesh, becoming children of the earth. All such spirits shalt thou know by such teachings; for whatsoever seemeth the highest delight of a man on earth or a spirit in es, that will he exult in and proclaim (Knowledge 7:48-49)

And from the mighty hosts of darkness, the drujas, deep born in darkness, now pestering the people on earth, were hundreds of millions of familiars taking to fetalism! Vampire spirits who suck the blood and the flesh of mortals till the brain and heart are wild and mad! Till the mortal is driven to nameless deeds of horrors, desperate with the foul obsession. Spirits who bring poison and horrid smells to afflict mortals with; spirits who delight to feed on the flesh of mortals which is corrupted with scabs and running sores. Spirits that teach re-incarnation and lust as the highest, most exalted heaven. (Wars 54:18).

Come! Come! The Father's kingdom is free! Come! Come! In peace and quietness thou shalt be thine own master! Behold, the Father's places rise higher and higher! Not downward, to the lower kingdoms,

nor to the earth, nor to re-incarnation, the invented tale of drujas; but upward to wisdom, goodness, love and happiness. Because ye have put away the All Person, ye have fallen in the mire; ye have closed your eyes to yonder higher heaven. Come, O ye that are in bondage! Cut loose from all! Fly to Him Who brought ye forth to life! Disown the world! And self! And all the Gods and Saviors! Lords and kings! Be Jehovih's! Sworn to peace and love! To good works and righteousness! (Wars 55:11-12)

But, again, false Lords and false Gods began to set up kingdoms of their own, in heaven, and in the cities of mortals. And, lo and behold, every one called himself either Thor or Apollo. And the spirits who manifested in the temples, and for the oracles, all gave one of these names. And mortals who were obsessed, believed themselves to be the reincarnation of Apollo or Thor; and the obsessing spirits so called themselves. Others, more intelligent, said: Have not the prophets foretold there was to be a second coming of Apollo? And are not these spirits, who appear through the sar'gis, the very person? (Thor 6:2)

Suffice it, these spirits lost all sight of any higher heavens than to dwell on the earth; they knew no other. And they watched about when children were born, and obsessed them, driving hence the natural spirit, and growing up in the new body of the newborn, calling

themselves re-incarnated; and these drujas professed that when they previously lived on earth they were great kings, or queens, or philosophers. And they taught as their master, Osiris, the false, did: That there was no higher heaven than here on the earth, and that man must be reincarnated over and over until the flesh became immortal. Not all of these spirits drove hence the natural spirit; but many merely engrafted themselves on the same body; and whilst such persons lived, these spirits lived with them and dwelt with them day and night; not knowing more than their mortal companion. And when such person died, behold, the druja went and engrafted itself on another child, and lived and dwelt with it in the same way; and thus continuing, generation after generation. (Wars 51:11-12)

O man, beware of angels who say: In heaven there is no organization, nor God, nor Holy Council, nor discipline, nor order, nor teaching, nor self-denial, or, Who say: There is no God, no Jehovih, no government in heaven, or, Who say: There is no bondage after death; no place or condition of suffering, or, Who say: When thou diest thy spirit shall enter paradise and dwell in perpetual ease and glory. Who say: Heaven is an endless summer land, with silvery rivers and golden boats for all, or, Who say: Eat, drink and enjoy thyself for the gratification of thine earthly passions, for when thou art dead thy path shall be straight to glory. Who say: Heap up riches, for there is no punishment after death, or, Who say: Turn not thy

thoughts into thine own soul to discover thy ungodliness, for when thou art dead thy spirit shall revel in bliss, or, Who say: The angel world is a place of progression without self-abnegation and good works, or, Who saith: Behold me, I am from the highest, most exalted sphere, or from a far-off star, or, Who saith: I have visited the planets, or, Who saith: Resurrection cometh by reincarnation—first a stone, then lead, then silver, then gold, then a tree, then a worm, then an animal and then man, or that a spirit re-entereth the womb, and is born again in mortality, or, Who saith: Blessed art thou; for a host of ancient spirits attend thee—thou hast a great mission. For all of these are the utterances of the angels of the first resurrection. And though they may inspire great oratory and learned discourses, yet they are flatterers, and will surely lead thee into grief. (Discipline 3:19-32)



Thomas Paine
William Aber - Jabez Nixon
Beyond the Vail
(1901)

470. On "Reincarnation," said:

(a) "There are peculiar ideas advancing in your world." The spirit, not being able to hold his form, went back into the cabinet for better make-up, and in a moment returned and resumed his speech thus:

(b) "Undoubtedly you have heard of reincarnation. We do not recognize it. It seems to us an impossibility, as you understand it and as it is usually taught by reincarnationists. We do, however, recognize that dropping the outward, earthly body and taking upon us the active use of the spiritual is to all purposes a reincarnation."

The spirit again had to return into the cabinet to replenish his form, especially the larynx. We generally say of this: "The spirit has gone, or did go, or had to go back for more strength." But some of the circle had a little extra feeling of amusement, and when the spirit returned and began to state his reasons for thinking the general theory of reincarnation incorrect, saying,

(c) "In all my experience I never met a spirit who wished himself back in the physical," someone of the circle in mirthful mood said right out:

"Well, I have, sir."

The spirit made an effort to recover from the effect of this shock of contradiction upon his form, to explain himself, but the mirthful parties got more mirthful and the spirit retreated. The circle took the matter up, some contending that the spirit was mistaken, and others that we did not know what exceptions the spirit might have made had he not been interrupted.

471. Then Prof. Denton, who is more experienced in holding his form in controversy, rushed out of the cabinet, saying aloud:

(a) "Friends, I did not intend to speak more this evening, but I shall try to settle this question with you, and defend my good brother Paine a little.

(b) "If he could have told you all he intended to have you understand him, you would have had no misunderstanding.

(c) "Mr. Paine wished you to understand that after spirits have been in spirit life long enough to begin to penetrate and comprehend the

glories of the higher spheres, they do not wish to return to earth even, much less back into the old, slow-going, cumbersome bunch of flesh and blood and bones. And when he said he had not met one who desired to so return to the earth life and take on that old cast-away body, he meant that he has never met a spirit who has been here long enough to be entirely separated from the physical condition of the plane of the old earth body who had any desire whatever to reinhabit that old body.

(d) “Now, I say to you, that is a true exemplification of the fact on this point, and I say to you again, that there are some who soon after death or dissolution may and do wish to return, if it were possible, into the old body, because they have not found that it is possible to outgrow the faults of earth life, except in the body. They desire to come back into the old body to try to live a better life.

(e) “And it may be that some of you would love to get back into the old body to lead a better life when you get out and your conscience wakes up.

(f) “But when you find that Nature has provided amply for compensation in every department of life, you will not want to get back into the old body or into any such relation with the old physical life.

(g) “How easy it is for some people to—well, to forget! You have heard people say, 'I was never sick,' and you can remember when they were sick and grunted louder than anybody. Then, again: 'I have always been happy. I don't let anything trouble me.'

(h) “These people forget much. You know right well when they had a jealous fit, a mad spasm, and all their neighbors were mean. Such folks might want to get back into the old body just long enough to straighten all these matters out; but, after a while, you'll be over all of it, and glad that it is so that you are done with the old body forever.”



The Transmigration of Souls

Robert James Lees

The Life Elysian

(1905)

I have more than a passing pleasure in doing this, because I am sure that a glance at the great work of educating children on our side will be of genuine interest to my readers; and second because I would combat an erroneous idea gaining ground in the minds of some that an almost endless series of re-births on earth is demanded to explain 'some of life's most puzzling problems.'

It will be altogether impossible to deal exhaustively with the question of reincarnation at this time, but let me briefly say that it is a subject for which in my earth life I felt much sympathy and have made wide inquiries concerning it since crossing the boundary, with this result: among the souls who are still subjected to earth conditions — from whom all experiences have to be received with caution, and not acted upon until they are confirmed from more reliable sources — there are many who honestly think reincarnation to be a fact, and teach it to be so; among those who have passed away from these conditions and learned to accept truth for its own sake, who know and study, tracing origins and sequences many of them through unsuspected ages beyond the rise of history, I have been unable to

meet with one holding the theory of rebirth to be true. The origin of the idea is to be found in savage superstition. Without a definite knowledge of immortality and equally certain that there is more in man than simply body, it has always been a problem to the untutored mind as to what happens when the body ceases to breathe and begins to grow offensive from decomposition. The philosophy of ignorance is always expeditious, and the savage solved the problem by allowing a new-born child to inhale the breath of a dying man, and the departing life was thus provided with another body, in which to continue its existence. From this crude beginning the idea of transmigration of souls has been worked over and over in various ways with much philosophical reasoning and speculation, but it stands still where we found it — a baseless superstition, alike at variance with the law, love and purpose of God.

I am not at all unconscious of the fascination of the subject, and would, for this reason, willingly continue the discussion of it were it reasonably within the scope of my present purpose. But it not being so, I must resist the temptation for the present, with the hope that I may return to it at some future time. I might, however, here call attention to the unstudied side-light which is necessarily thrown upon the question by the record of my general experiences, the which I think will show with some degree of reasonable clearness that God has made provision to meet every just requirement that can possibly

arise by far more expeditious and less cumbrous means than such a circuitous and hypothetical system.

It must always be borne in mind that all the requirements of God from men are based upon justice. To expect perfection to be produced by imperfect conditions would be to expect the impossible, hence the attainment to Nirvana in the flesh would be a condition as unrealizable as stepping, in the mortal body, from earth on to the surface of the sun. Let us begin to be reasonable and appreciate the fact that evolution from the human to the Divine must proceed in the future according to the law which has governed the past. We have still to climb from step to step, and as we go, must perforce be continually dropping the lower until by imperceptible gradations we ascend to the goal. In this process it must needs be that this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this 'mortal must put on immortality' before we reach the zenith, and the eye bear the sight of that uncreated beam. From this handicapping limitation of the flesh the incarnated soul cannot free itself. It is a house of bondage from the influence of which one can only be free by breaking away, and ten thousand births would furnish no increase of advantage, especially where the memory of all that has gone before is not available for guidance.

Like all man-made systems, the speculation of re-birth is a weariness and confusion to the mind, without a place of rest in its ceaseless struggle to escape a spiritual Scylla on the one hand and Charybdis on the other.



The Immaculate Conception
Walter DeVoe
Mystic Words of Mighty Power
(1905)

All substance and all space are intelligent. Every thing that ever happened is remembered by the Mind of things. The Mind everywhere present never forgets the acts done in its presence. Even the "*walls have ears,*" and a bit of plaster from a room in Pompeii will reveal to the awakened sense of a psychic all that transpired in that room hundreds of years ago.

Spirits can read in the mental atmosphere somewhat of the records stored there of mortal happenings, but not so clearly or truly as awakened souls. All spirits have not become awakened. Awakened souls can see in the atmosphere of Waterloo or Gettysburg, the pictures of all that happened there, both on the material and spiritual side. In spirit they can walk again and see all the wonders of that immaculate life of God manifest in the flesh. And when they have pupils on the earth plane sufficiently unfolded, this spiritual knowledge may be imparted to the world.

There is much light and much freedom in the spirit realms close to the earth at the present time, and the mental darkness that

surrounded the earth has been scattered and dissipated to a large degree, thanks to the wisdom and love of the heavenly hosts.

The Father sent them. They heeded Love's monition. They came and conquered the occult laws and the false beliefs that had held souls in chains of ignorance. Among these occult beliefs that the selfish priesthood had woven into the mind of earth was that age-old belief in the necessity of reincarnation as a means of redemption, the belief that justice could be appeased only by sacrifice and pain. The spirit priesthood, in order to perpetuate their selfish power on earth, held this binding belief over spirits coming up from earth (as they do to some degree to this day) and compelled them to reincarnate without gaining wisdom and progression in the spirit spheres.

They themselves, a form of Truth: descended into those dark paths of mortal ignorance and led captivity captive in a mysterious way which mortals do not comprehend, bringing the freeing light of love not only to the conscious mind of mortals but also to dark mortal spirit spheres, the cause world, where the cause for mortal sorrow was rooted, where the principalities and powers of darkness were enthroned over humanity. Surrounded by the mightiest souls in heaven, they fought the spirit priesthood as well as their counterparts on the earth.

If mortals could but see as the angels see the mighty work that was accomplished by that soul, they would worship and praise him with true appreciation as he is adored by angels and archangels in the higher heaven.

This will become a heavenly world, peopled with a glorious race of beings, when children are conceived in pure love, and the aspirations of the parents draw the emanations of the angels to spiritualize all parts of the nature that is to become the soul's instrument for physical expression.

Parents must be educated in the laws of heredity; they must understand how sacred is their work, and what a tremendous power is theirs to direct by prenatal culture the future character and destiny of their children; that if they want ideal children they must be ideal parents.

When parents fulfill the conditions leading to immaculate conception by devoted spiritual lives, their prayers for strong and great souls will be heard and answered by heaven, and those wonderful souls in heaven who are now repelled by the animal like lusts of humanity will be attracted to enlightened parents, bringing to the world a wisdom and power that will inaugurate the golden age.

But souls incarnate can gain dominion over the law of heredity by understanding that their true and most powerful self is of God, by faith in the *I AM* within, by denying those limiting qualities derived from mortal parents and affirming the divine attributes of the soul which they wish to bring into conscious expression.

Every soul is wonderful in its inner divine attributes, be it of little or great power in the expression of those attributes, and even a young soul may by devotion to God draw a power into expression that would shame mightier souls that are simply drifting in the currents of mortal pleasure.



Truth Is Mighty and Will Prevail

Walter DeVoe

Mystic Words of Mighty Power

(1905)

Ignorance is binding in its effect upon the thought of humanity. A test of divine truth is its uplifting, inspiring and freeing quality. A truth that does not free the mind from the thought of bondage does not perfectly image the freeing Spirit of Truth.

Truth is the revelation of the love and wisdom of God, and of the beneficent goodness of all the active laws in His vast nature. And all the laws of existence when rightly seen and interpreted proclaim the inherent goodness and wisdom of the power that pervades existence.

The ancient Hindus were dominated by the belief that existence is evil, a product of Mara or illusion, a vast hypotonic that must be escaped by a process of counter suggestion and absolute renunciation of mortal thought and desire. It was a common idea with them that man is in bondage to his good thoughts as well as to his evil thoughts and desires. His good thoughts bound him to dwell in heaven until the stored-up merit thus acquired was exhausted, when he was compelled to return to physical birth and acquire more merit.

And by the demerit of his evil thoughts he was bound to suffer in hell and to be born in the womb of an animal or even worse. Even the gods were held in bondage to this terrible law of Karma — so it is written in their sacred book — and the only way to attain liberation from that ever active law was through a process of renunciation of both good and evil carried on during several incarnations.

It will be noted that bondage and punishment were the dominant elements in their idea of justice. To them justice was not tempered by mercy.

Knowing that thoughts have a tonic or toxic effect upon the structure of the mind and body, according to their quality. We should refuse to harbor ideas like the foregoing because of their depressing effect upon the mind and consequent debilitating effect in the body.

The present-day teaching of reincarnation from the standpoint of an avenging Karma is as depressing to the spiritual nature as the orthodox idea of hell and everlasting damnation; they are both built upon the foundation of an avenging justice.

The Hindu Masters in the celestial heaven are very positive in denying the prevailing idea of Karma.

The thought they promulgate as truth is so inspiring and uplifting, so strengthening and encouraging to the soul that it dissolves all fear and depression from the mind and gives instead a feeling of joy and praise for the wisdom and mercy of God.

Man suffers on the earth plane because he ignorantly violates natural law, not because he did an evil in a past incarnation for which he needs to receive punishment. Those who understand the laws of thought as well as the laws of nature are not so liable to violate these laws and so their knowledge saves them from harm. The good and evil suffer alike from the general ignorance of the race, and only as the whole race is gradually evolved into the knowledge of the truth and the expression of its characteristic quality of goodness and love will mankind be free from sin and suffering. A man may be very evil in his thoughts and actions on this plane, and when he enters the spiritual state he may be attracted by the beauty of goodness and receive a knowledge of divine truth, which, entering his spiritual structure will gradually transform him as a spirit into the beauty of character of an angelic being, thus freeing him from all bondage to evil and from the necessity of reaping anything but good. And through the holy ministry of the angels of God the truth may likewise enter into our spiritual nature while we are yet in this mortal body and purify and spiritualize the nature to that degree that sin and the mental and physical effects of sin may be dissolved. Thus the truth of

Gods mercy overcomes ignorance and the results of ignorance in those who love and obey the Spirit of Truth.

My own experience in visiting the various spirit planes, in hearing of the personal experiences of the lower kinds of spirits as well as higher, both while in the body and out, coupled with like experiences of my friends and with the wider knowledge and experience of the Masters convinces me that there is no law in the spirit world, nor in the constitution of the nature of spirits, to compel them to reincarnate because of their evil thoughts or deeds; that spirits are not impelled to reincarnate from any inherent law of retribution or justice, but solely from a desire to gain further experience, as one would leave home and friends for the sake of the experience to be gained by traveling through a foreign land.

The belief in the law of Karma is injurious in that it weighs down the incarnate spirit with the thought that it is in bondage to an inscrutable Nemesis that may compel it to enter many dreary rounds of experience to balance up an unknown account of possibly vast proportions. It is a terribly depressing belief. It does not inspire with hope or courage or faith in the power of the soul to conquer. It would have us believe that the negative side of the law of cause and effect is mightier than the positive operation of wisdom and mercy. It would dethrone the freeing Spirit of Truth and enthrone a frightful Nemesis.

It continues to limit the spirit that believes in it even in the spirit world. A large number of spirits continue to hold this belief in the necessity of reincarnation as a means of atonement for past sins. They urge spirits to reincarnate who would be much better off did they stay in the spirit world, following up the true teaching until they were freed from the mortal limitations accumulated during their earth life, because when a spirit reincarnates before gaining wisdom and spiritual freedom, and some degree of soul awakening in the higher spheres, he will not only be weighed down by the ignorance of his personality but the load of past sins and false beliefs will still cloud his spirit and hinder his progression in knowledge.

It is true that we reap as we sow. Our character determines our destiny, drawing to us from the universal Mind qualities like those we have incorporated into our nature. Our character is the result of the blending of the mental attributes of our parents plus the thoughts and feelings we have accumulated from experience, sometimes reshaped and transformed by the awakened power of the divine indwelling soul. It is upon this law of cause and effect in the mental realm that the doctrine of Karma is founded, but the structure built on this foundation was designed by an imagination intoxicated with the belief in an eternal principle of darkness or evil. It is a metaphysical nightmare, from which the oriental mind needs to be awakened by

the merciful and inspiring touch of the Mother love in God, the saving Spirit of Truth.

A soul aflame with the Mother love of God for humanity proclaimed these words "*Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free.*" When I saw those words in great letters of gold across the peristyle at the Worlds Fair twelve years ago, I wondered within myself what they meant. The spirit of those words was revealed to my mind soon after, and during these twelve years I have had constant cause to rejoice in the knowledge of the living power of the Spirit of Truth. The woes of mankind have all been born from ignorance, from a lack of true knowledge. Through a partial knowledge humanity suffers; with full knowledge comes peace and power. An oriental priesthood saddled humanity with the belief of Karma and transmigration that it might ride to the selfish heights of dominion, and the occidental priesthood accomplished the same results by holding their followers subject to the belief of a punishing God with everlasting damnation for those who strayed from the fold. But praises to the Eternal and to the merciful angels of light, we have outgrown the ignorance of the past, and the mercy of truth is now proclaimed by thousands of tongues and will rapidly conquer and put away forever all falsity and error in the mind of the race.

Possession by Spirits
William Walker Atkinson
The Astral World
(1916)

Looking around you, in the dim, ghastly light of this region, you perceive countless human forms, of the most repulsive appearance. Some of them are so low in the scale as to seem almost beast-like, rather than human. There are still lower forms on the subdivisions just below this one, but I shall spare you the disgusting sight. These creatures are disembodied souls, in the astral body, living on the low plane to which they descended when awakening from their very brief astral sleep. If you will peer through the enveloping fog, you will become conscious of the presence of the material world as a sort of background.

To you it appears detached, and removed in space, but to these creatures — these low souls — the two planes seem to be blended. To them, they appear actually to be abiding in the scenes and among the persons of the lowest phases of earth life. Even you find that you can see only the very low earth-scenes in the background — the higher scenes appear blotted out with great smears, like a censored newspaper page in war times. To these poor souls there is no earth world except these scenes which accord with their old desires. But

while apparently living amid these old familiar and congenial low earth-scenes, these souls are really suffering the fate of Tantalus. For while they plainly see these scenes, and all that is going on in them, they cannot otherwise participate in the revels and debaucheries which they perceive plainly — they can SEE only — as for the rest they participate only vicariously.

This renders the place a veritable hell for them, for they are constantly tantalized and tormented by sights of scenes in which they cannot participate. They can exercise simply —the lust of the eye, which is but as a thorn in the flesh to them. On all sides, on earth-life, they see their kind (in the flesh) eating, drinking, gambling, engaging in all forms of debauchery and brutality — and while they eagerly cluster around, they cannot make their presence felt (under ordinary circumstances) nor can they participate in the scenes which they witness. The lack of the physical body is indeed a very hell to them, under such circumstances. The astral atmosphere of low dram-shops, pool rooms, gambling halls, race tracks, —free-and-easies, brothels, —red-light districts — and their more fashionable counterparts — are filled with these low astral forms of souls across the astral border.

Occasionally, they are able to influence some earth companion, who is so saturated with liquor, or overcome by drugs, that he is

physically open to such influences. When they so influence him, they strive to lead him into further degradation and debauchery, for, in so doing, they obtain a reflex gratification, as it were. But I shall not dwell upon this subject — it is too loathsome. In some instances, the sojourn on this low astral sub-plane sets up such a strong desire for rebirth in the flesh, among similar scenes, that the poor soul eagerly presses forward toward reincarnation on a similar low plane. In other cases, I am glad to say, the experience so sickens and disgusts the poor soul that it experiences a revulsion and disgust for such things, in which case the current of its desires naturally carries it in the opposite direction, and it is given the opportunity to rise in the scale of the Astral, where its better tendencies are encouraged, and a better rebirth finally results.

At the end, however, in nearly all cases —living-out results in —out-living, and even the lowest rises in time. Some few souls, however, sink so low as to be incapable of rising, and they meet the final fate (not of damnation) of annihilation. Even in these hells of the astral, however, the degraded souls are —punished not for their sins, but by themll as an old writer once forcibly stated it. But this particular scene is not the only one on this sub-plane of the Astral — it has many counterparts. I cannot take time to show them all to you, or to describe the scene in detail. I can illustrate the idea, however, by stating that close to the scene you have just witnessed, is another in

which the actors are those miserly, money-loving souls, who have sold all their better nature for the mess of pottage of worldly gain. The punishment, by the sin rather than for it, is similar to that of the low souls in the preceding scene. They are tormented by the sight, but are tantalized by not being able to participate. The result is practically similar to that mentioned in the last case — some find desire increased, and others find disgust and nausea and thus seek the way to higher things.

There are hundreds of similar regions on the lower Astral, some of which are much higher, however, than those we have just considered. All of them serve as a Purgatory, or place of the burning-out of desires of a low kind — not the burning of material flames, but by the fire of the desire itself, as we have seen. This idea of burning away, or purging, of the low desires, is found to permeate nearly all religions, and has its basis in the facts of the Astral.

Cause and Effect
Henry Thomas Hamblin
Within You is the Power
(1920)

Man is the cause of the disasters in his life. He reaps through the ages exactly as he sows. Life is perfectly just and rewards every man according to his works. The fate of the present is the reaping of his sowing in, it may be, a distant past. Therefore, the disasters and sufferings of this life, must not be attributed to the interference of a capricious and unreasonable God, for the truth is, they are due to the exact working of a perfectly just law. Fate, once created, is irrevocable. It can neither be fought nor evaded. By fighting against fate, man merely smashes himself to pieces. To do so, is equivalent to running his head against a stone cliff: the harder he charges, the greater the damage to his head--but the cliff is unaffected. Fate, although largely self-created, is really the Divine purpose of life: therefore, to resist it is to fight against God. Fate, again is not punishment, in any vindictive sense, it is the drawing together of certain remedial experiences, through which the soul can learn the lessons it has failed to learn in past ages and thus attain wisdom. The object of fate is the highest good of the individual, although it may entail suffering and painful experiences.

Because the disasters in man's life are due to past wrong doing, it naturally follows that his future depends upon the kind of life that he lives to-day. If, in the past, he has created for himself a sequence of events and experiences, from which it is impossible for him to escape, it is obvious that his future lives depend entirely upon how he lives the present one. It will be seen that if man can learn the lessons of the present life, and live in such a way as to cease creating trouble for the future, he is beginning to climb the Path of Liberation, which is the road all advanced souls have to follow, or, rather, have the privilege of following. By following this path, man ceases to be bound to the wheel of fate.

This little work does not teach reincarnation, but its teaching is based on a belief that man, in reality, is a spiritual being, a Divine Spark from the Sacred Fire. Spirit being immortal has no beginning or end therefore always lives. This present life is one of countless experiences, each one of which helps to build up character. There is no death, but only changes from one vehicle to another. There is no beginning, or end, or time in reality, these are mere limitations of the human mind. It is impossible for man to die: he can only leave his body. He cannot kill himself, try how he will: he can only force himself out of his body. Man must always go on, whether he likes it or not: he proceeds through the ages, *reaping exactly as he sows*.

The Soul's Destiny
John S. King, M.D.
Dawn of The Awakened Mind
(1920)

J. S. K. What would be your present definition of soul? Of what composed? Have you knowledge of Reincarnation?

Plato. My present definition of soul is, that which occupies the body as a whole in life, and at death departs a whole to be, of what the mortal is and was, and is to be, a living "himself" in capacity to use what God's laws bring to hand, for his best powers to command. In earth life, or physical body life, five senses seem to be sufficient for his need; and out of matter living cells are taken, to replace the wear and tear of the anatomy, which like to a machinery generates forces needed to bring harmony of soul till he by death is from the body free; then added senses come to wakened state, and what he needs in forces wait for his command; and higher thinkers teach him how to rightly understand, or use what is his own, as in earth life 'tis also true, as was the work of me, or you. Hunger of soul exists, this is twofold as I might say, hunger for love or companionship; and hunger for entertainment and knowledge. Appetites, normal ones, are voice of God, or spirit which is part of God, but Ego made complete in individuality, after a mortal birth as I now see.

To undergo reincarnation is not true from literal or mortal view; but minds deprived of proper growth in mortal state, will be allowed, or forced to undergo a second living like to human life, so they in soul to proper state may grow. We all assist in work of love for minds of mortal plan, just as you work sad and alone, to aid your fellowmen, who feel your woe, but do not consolation know. Ideas are expressed and proved in this new work called "Dawn of the Awakened Mind," and it will be of use to men, where simply ideality is useless quite entirely.



Reincarnation
Charlotte Elizabeth Dresser
Spirit World and Spirit Life
(1922)

The question of progress after the close of the material life, and, especially, continued progress throughout eternity, is a stumbling block for many in their search for truth. The old idea of complete knowledge and perfection of character for the select few who would be privileged to walk the golden streets, still clings with many, together with the idea that those who miss this happiness must spend eternity in some other place. Some believe that we are allowed another chance in a second existence on earth.

If one admits the possibility of continued progress, it is difficult to comprehend an eternity of it without reaching perfection. So, it seems, we have then three chances: an immediate perfection, a perfection reached through reincarnation, or else perfection through continued progress; a similar result in either hypothesis. But perfection is the Buddistic idea of Nirvana, a conception very unsatisfying to many.

In these communications we are taught so earnestly that personality persists throughout eternity, that there seems to follow of necessity a

different conception of perfection,—not a perfection of one, but a perfection of many parts that make a whole.

This is illustrated very effectively in a presentation of the case that I read not long ago. This illustration compared the perfected whole with a complete orchestra, in which the differentiation and increased ability of each performer reached its highest attainment when each contributed most harmoniously toward the perfection of the ensemble. Thus the expression in the chapter on Progress, "always acquiring and always giving out," would mean when applied to the orchestra, "always improving the performance of each instrument, but always in a manner that most suitably adds to the general result." The more complete the individuality of each in relation to the whole, the more perfect is the whole.

If one accepts the ideas of continued progress and persistence of individuality, there is then no need for the theory of reincarnation,—which, after all, is only a theory,—and the quotations given below carry much force.

In a number of books which offer records of spirit communication, the theory of reincarnation is fully set forth. We were reading one of these in which the opinions of the one speaking were quite positively expressed. It did not satisfy us, and we turned to Mary for

explanation. She asked who was sending the messages. We gave her the name and she replied: "I will send a messenger to find him and have him come to this circle if possible."

After a little while she continued: "He is here and wishes to speak. He wishes to state his own ideas on certain subjects and we have promised to let him have his say."

Then the following was written: "I have indited several books from here, most of which are true, as I see the truth. Your instructor believes differently, so I will tell you my position. I believe in reincarnation, and I believe in evil as a living entity. * * * The evil goes down inevitably, and as they progress in wickedness the possibility of becoming angelic decreases as a matter of course. There is no hope for them but to become reincarnated and start over again."

The writing was interrupted at this point, but another evening it was resumed.

"I am a believer in reincarnation, and in the philosophy of the Eastern Adepts. They are from birth more occult than the western world and nearer the unseen truths of life, both here and there.

They believe that when a soul departs from the body it either

ascends or descends according to its life on the earth plane. When it ascends it goes upward into that state of highest incomprehensible bliss called Nirvana; or, it descends until the whole being becomes so evil that nothing but rebirth can start it upward again. It may reappear in the form of an animal and have all the upward way to travel over again. But it has the chance at least, of becoming a pure spirit, and so of reaching Nirvana at last.”

The writing stopped and we asked: 'Then only evil is reincarnated?'
Mary replied:

"He is gone, but we think that is his belief.”

Then she continued: "He is strongly hypnotized by his earthly studies and beliefs, and it may be long before he comes out of them. But he will drop these ideas some time. His belief in Nirvana is the most dreary part of it:—an endless inactivity of contemplating one's own bliss! The reincarnation of the evil ones is not so bad in principle, although we here cannot see how the soul can go back to animal life again, having once been human.”

Then she added so emphatically the pencil nearly tore the paper:
"Our teachers from the higher planes say nothing of the kind ever happens.”

Our various readings brought up the subject several times and Mary started further: "Many spirits here keep their belief in reincarnation for a time, and send back messages to the world stating this belief. But there is no such thing as physical reincarnation. Once a spirit, always a spirit. The progress goes on from *here* instead of beginning all over again in some earthly career. Some get confused in trying to tell of the intelligence. That may return to earth to help others, just as our knowledge of this life is returning to help you. Also, a few great leaders are allowed to impress their greatness upon such minds there as can receive. But try to understand rebirth as a progression only, and from that further height sending greater truths to earth.

"Philosophers here often carry their theories too far, just as some do on earth. That is one of the things people must learn before trusting spirit messages too completely."

She re-expressed this again: "Many here express reincarnation as a bodily rebirth, whereas it is only a mental or a spiritual influence that returns and often surrounds a loved one there; or often enlarges the genius, or makes the wisdom higher and finer. Influence from here is constantly going earthward, but it is wrongly stated by those who believe in physical rebirth. There is no such thing, the higher teachers tell us.

And surely, progress on this side is far easier than the blundering of earthly lives no matter how often repeated.”

'We have not believed in it, but there seem to be some otherwise fine teachers there who teach reincarnation?'

"Do not let that worry you. Knowledge is not centered in any one teacher. Only, I would, of course, except the divine teachings of Christ, or the higher wisdom coming from the Most High.”

Again the subject was mentioned when we asked: 'Is space infinite?'

"The space called heaven has no confines, neither has creation any end. The creative power is infinite. Mind does not stop and stagnate nor lose its power of progression. Many finite minds are puzzled over the thought of eternal progression, and have fallen back on the resort to reincarnation; that is, a time of silence, and a beginning over again of a mortal life. But this is not so. We progress from plane to plane and sphere to sphere. But the mind must be in touch with infinity to realize what eternal progression and eternal occupation mean.”

It is quite common for the writing to begin like the following; but this about reincarnation came as an entire surprise as we had not even

been thinking of the subject for some time.

"Mary and Dee are here. What do you wish?"

'Have you anything you wish to say to us first?'

"We are not very talkative tonight. We have just been in a circle where talking seemed out of date, where we felt the silence almost oppressive. We have been in a circle where they seem possessed with the reincarnation idea, and each was trying to look backward to his other former incarnations. We had no former incarnations to study, so silence was our only act."

'Did you learn anything that you can tell us, especially how they came to believe it?'

"Mary thinks it logical enough: they cannot comprehend an unending life unless it culminates in Nirvana, and so they grasp the idea of returning circles or cycles of life on earth, a new experience each time. And this may go on indefinitely, especially in the case of wicked ones who expiate their sins by becoming animals and evolving upward through the slow-moving centuries."

'Do they not progress enough to hear your teachers?'

"No, that is the trouble. They become absorbed in the one idea and may keep it for uncounted years."

'If we have had no former spirit life, how did we begin? Is it simply by a splitting off from parent life analogous to the physical beginning?'

"I know of nothing more than that. The individual life begins with the birth of the individual, and the human being has the capacity for spirit life and the development into immortal existence. I have never studied all the philosophy or psychology of the subject. To tell the truth, it has never interested me. I love this life, I feel the upward longing, I am sure that I will progress from here and not return to the old dismal earth; so that my longings have never led me into the study of the possibilities of prenatal existence. It does not seem to me worthwhile. The reincarnationists have no proof except in their own imaginations."

At the conclusion of Paine's address, there arose one in the arena who, while a very good make-up, seemed unable to vocalize so that we could understand the name. Sam, the colloquial control, cried out: "Give him a slate." Which being done, the spirit held the slate about three seconds and handed it to the secretary, and the word

"Bancroft" was found upon the slate. This form vanished; and Sam, speaking in the cabinet, said:

476. "I made you a speech the other night, Mr. Secretary, and you never reported one word of it, as though I am 'small potatoes.' I'll let you know I'm no ignoramus. Don't you forgot dot.

"Say, don't you know that everything you eat has a life-germ in it? You eat the victuals, and the germs of life from the rocks that go to food for the plants, that go to food for the horse, for the cow, for the sheep, for the lion, for the monkeys, for man, all this food has never lost the life-germ from the rocks all the way through to your bodies.

"The life-germ is never destroyed. Cooking does not destroy it. Fire cannot destroy it. Out of all this the great natural—what you call um, Mr. Secretary? ["Architect."] Dot 's it, dot's it. The great laboratory of Nature makes your souls that never die.

"Dot's all of it in a nutshell, and don't you forgot dot.

477. "Say, if you feed a horse on candy all the time, he no tiff, he no haff young. If you do not liff on suitable variety off food, you do not reproduce your kind for want of proper combination of life-germs. Dot dat down now, or I get after you mit my frow's old skillet.

178. "After your soul has absorbed from the atoms so much of life-germs as necessary for its use, the residue is thrown off and finds its way back to the rocks; but the individualized glomeration of life continues on for ever, being perpetually able to replace, with suitable substance, any that may become useless to the soul's existence.

479. "Thus the individual atom moves in circle, or endless chain, and is continually being reincarnated; but the individualized life-force glomeration moves in straight line, and, therefore, no return to the rocks, no reincarnation, but perpetual unfoldment."



Spiritual Thoughts of Light

Edward C. Randall

Frontiers of the Afterlife

(1923)

The question of light in the next world has always interested me, and it is one of the subjects upon which I have sought information. I speak of Dr. Hossack, for the reason that he has given me the most satisfactory explanation of any. This was my question to him:

"What is the character of your light, and how does it differ from sunlight?"

The answer:

"The light we have is obtained from the action of our minds on the atmosphere. We think light, and there is light. That is why people who come over in evil condition are in the dark; their minds are not competent to produce light enough for them to see.

"There is greater intensity of light as we go up through the spheres, which comes from the blending of the more spiritual minds.

"Our life is merely the condition of mind which each one has. We

create images in thought, and have the reality before us, just as tangible as your houses and buildings are to you. You do not have any conception of the great power and force there is, or may be, in thought. It dominates all conditions and makes us what we are. One who realizes this may control his destiny.

"Thought is a fluid, which becomes substance to us when once it is formed into an expression. It is a vibrating, living thing, and should be recognized as such and controlled accordingly."

Another spirit speaks of light as follows:

"When you speak of the sun in the spirit world, you mistake, for there is no such thing. There is light here, radiated from the atoms. Our light is very different from your sun. Your light is grosser than ours; it is unnatural to us, and, therefore, painful to the spirit. Our light is soft, radiant and very brilliant. Your physical eye can never behold it; it is so ethereal, so beautiful, that it blends with sensation."

But why? What natural law produces spirit light? If this were explained in detail, nothing would be left for deductive reasoning. These descriptions but serve to spur one on to greater effort, and must, of necessity, make deductions and partly by that process understand spirit conditions. I have ever noticed that in seeking

knowledge of after life conditions, something is left for one to do if he would attain the desired result. This is in accordance with the oft-repeated statement that the spirits only help others to help themselves.

Another's understanding follows:

"There is a great central force, the rays from which gradually lessen in their vibratory action. This force comes from the outside of your world, as you call it, and reaches the lowest ebb in the center of your earth. This central vibratory action is in the highest sphere, and is so intense and vivid that the souls who are in the finest state of development are the only ones who come near its circle. It is the apex of the universe, and that is why there are lesser degrees as it is rayed out through infinite space. These vibrations of light reach the earth and all the other spheres, and the vibratory action of light on each planet depends on its distance from the seat of this creative or central force.

"Some of the planets are much higher in vibratory action than is your earth, and if you were to go to them, and could still retain the earth conditions surrounding you, as usual you could not see any life because your vibration would be so much lower. The need of this condition is so apparent when once one grasps the immensity of the

universe and the harmony of its laws.

"If you were able to see all the conditions and people beyond you, life would be chaos and confusion each sphere mixing with another — with no regulations nor harmony anywhere. As it is, each has its own place in the scheme of progression, and this visible wall of vibratory force is the safety guard to continued rational living.

"This force is life, intense, vibrating, dominant. In conception there is the merest touch to this elemental force; consequently, life is forwarded and the continuation of the species insured. It is something discernible as a part of nature and nature is but an expression of this great force.

"Those souls that progress through each step is slowly, but surely, becoming a part of that great force which is life; life itself is light, and ultimately individuality will be lost in the immensity of that great, harmonious life force and will become, in turn, a tiny part of the new conception in the earth form again. I do not mean that this is reincarnation. An atom only is needed to create life in the lower earth forms, and that is taken from the immense whole. This is the law of the universe. There seem no words to tell you, or to make you understand clearly, the plan and purpose of creation; one must accept it and try to realize that one's own life, seemingly so important

to one's self, is in reality such a little thing in the immensity of the universe, and yet just as essential to the whole as one petal of a flower is to the perfect rose. It is a part of the perfect whole, and necessary.

"Make that part that is developed by you clean and wholesome, and the going on will be filled with beauty; it will be but the going into a new country, among good friends and great advantages, along spiritual and harmonious lines. But to those who live in the dark and do evil and selfish things, the going will be along rough and stormy places and the helping hand hard to find'

We know so little of light. We have always had the sun, but even now know little about it. Man first devised the torch, which not so long ago was all he had; then came the candle; then whale oil and the lamp; next petroleum assisted man; and, within our own time, he has invented the electric light,—evolution of the primitive torch. The ether itself is light, as is evidenced by the fact that the dynamo draws from the atmosphere this substance and condenses it. We may behold electricity, which is a physical expression of the ether that fills all space in the whole universe. The more a man knows, the more he is willing to learn. The less a man knows, the more positive he is that he knows everything.

The question of light is a legitimate field of inquiry, in which any man may make researches, as little has been told concerning it. The suggestion that there is light of another character and that life itself is the light which lights the spirit world, is no more startling than that made concerning the electric lamp a few years ago. There are still many things in nature that we do not know, with all our boasted knowledge.

Our sun is physical. All that is visible is physical, but nothing physical enters the planes that surround this globe. As I understand, nothing physical is visible to spirit people unless they descend into the earth or to lower spirit planes; then they visualize as when in the body. There are countless numbers of spirits also that for ages never rise above earth conditions nor see the radiance of the higher spheres.

A great law governs spirit, as well as physical, sight. A beautiful, tender, loving thought radiates and goes out from the mentality in long, undulating waves. The longer the thought wave, the finer the thought, the higher its vibrations and the lighter in substance, but a selfish thought sends out a short wave, and, because of its deficient length, it is dark. The mind is a shuttle and is ever weaving about us a condition that will surround us completely on the day of our dissolution. If we develop our minds along fine lines, the thought that goes forth from the soul in the next life will illuminate the path of our

progression, but if we fail to observe that law, we pay the penalty, for each soul furnishes all the light discernible along its own pathway in the spheres beyond.

The source of life—that is, the source of energy—does not seem to be known by spirits. Only the infinite can comprehend the infinite. They simply know, as I gather, that there is a great, central source of power from which emanates the life force that finds expression in the various places of consciousness. They know something of conditions that exist in the plane on which, for the time, they live, and, just as we of the earth, they labor for a better understanding of nature's wonderful laws. Our progression to this next sphere will not change our ambitions or desires, or our comprehension; and vision—what we see will depend on the light that our souls will radiate. We cannot touch a button or turn a switch and light our way, nor can we borrow a lamp. Self-effort and a clean life along right lines will light the way where the great law places us when the night comes after earth's fitful struggles are over.

On Mediumship

Walter DeVoe

Inspiration

(1928)

In all ages the prophets were the mediums through which Angel Hosts preached.

This has been the way in which exalted spirits have given their messages of truth to the world. The Angel Hosts overshadowed and inspired a personality who was prepared for that purpose. All the revelations of modern spiritualism confirm this principle of revelation. Tens of thousands of mediums have, during the past hundred years, given messages from all classes of spirits, both high and low.

A wise spirit, who perfectly understands the laws of mediumship, may overshadow and inspire a medium without becoming bound or attached to that medium. An unwise and earthbound spirit, not understanding the laws of mediumship, and not having the exalted power of soul to keep from becoming bound to the medium, will possess or obsess the medium. This is the basis for the age-old belief in reincarnation. The presence of a spirit with a person, whether obsessed or possessed, will cause that person to feel that the spirit is an "other self," and he will see in visions and in dreams

the past experiences of that spirit, and he will think that they are his own experiences in a past incarnation.

The belief in reincarnation has been preached by teachers of all ages, and the spirits behind those teachings have used it to hold masses of people subject to their selfish, autocratic dominion. It has become so powerful in its sway over millions of souls that it binds them to earth. The teachers who have promulgated this belief of retributive karma, and reincarnation as the means of expiating that karma, have been so hypnotized by it that they could not see the real path of progression even after they entered the world of spirit. As they bound their followers by this false belief while on earth, so they have bound themselves and their followers in the spiritual world. Other seers, without any prejudice for or against this doctrine, revealed that there were paths of progressive to higher spiritual worlds much more inspiring and uplifting than that of reincarnation.

If the statement "according to your faith be it unto you" is true, we should then choose a belief less binding to earthly conditions after death than the belief in the necessity of reincarnation. If you hypnotize yourself to believe that you must come back and expiate your sins on earth, you will draw to you forceful spirits of the same faith, who will cause you to become attached to a mortal whom you will possess for the length of his mortal life. This is all there is to

reincarnation, and there is no progression in it.



A Promise of Progress

Walter DeVoe

Inspiration

(1928)

Continue to use affirmations at whatever time you find it convenient to do so. By teaching students to concentrate as the clock strikes the hour, we help them develop the habit of centering their thoughts by the use of an affirmation at least once an hour. This habit of collecting the scattered forces of the mind and polarizing them to a divine thought unites the lower consciousness with the higher, and gives the soul dominion over the lower consciousness.

The Star of Truth is attracting your thought to higher states of consciousness. You are no longer satisfied to follow the limiting traditions of the past. You begin to see that you have been limited in thought all through your life by your early training. It is well for you to try every thought and every doctrine, and hold only those which logic and experience prove of vital value. You will thus develop that discrimination which is an attribute of wisdom. Your spiritual horizon will widen as your understanding becomes unbiased and fearless.

Keep Your Mind Open

Review the years of your life and compare your present understanding with that of your earliest years, and you will see how much you have grown. Your past growth is a prophecy of future growth. You are developing the capacity to know truth by your earnest search for truth, and your careful study of every spiritual principle brought to your notice. Keep your mind open to greater and freer conceptions. Be willing to discard your most cherished conception for one more practical and beneficial.

You will soon see that eastern races have been as much bound by limiting religious conceptions as western races. Many who have thrown aside the religious traditions of the West have accepted as truth religious ideas of the East which are just as limiting. Study the effects of its ideas upon a race. Are oriental people any wiser and nobler in their dealings with one another than those of the occident? "By their fruits ye shall know" those who are doing the will of the Creator.

There is nothing hidden but what shall be revealed to sincere souls. As the understanding of the Spirit of Music progresses so does the understanding of the Spirit of the Almighty. Spiritual principles can be proved by practice. Would not the practice of the Golden Rule do more to improve the social conditions of our western world than all the ritualistic religious practices which people fulfill, thinking that they

are pleasing God and being truly religious?

A Standard of Comparison

Your daily study of the principles of spiritual inspiration will give you a higher and broader basis from which to view other doctrines. With a new standard of measurement you will be able to judge more objectively. You will soon discard self-limiting intellectual standards of measurement.

Your hourly affirmation will become a scepter of soul power . You will realize great benefit from the creative activity of mind which it develops. You will **feel** that you have found a way of self-expression which gives your soul control over the lower thoughts and feelings of your mind. You will sense a growth in soul consciousness which will convince you that you have found the way of spiritual progression.

You will realize what we mean by cultivating your angelic nature. Your spiritual imagination will be exalted and illuminated by your study, until all that you have been told of the Glorious Immortals will become vividly real. You will know that you are working cooperatively with them, and they with you. The joy which your soul will gain from this communion will exalt all your thoughts and feelings into a higher

range of consciousness. You will no longer be dependent upon the intellect for your knowledge or judgment of truth. You will **feel** what is true and what is false. Many thoughts which you have held as truth will show that they are lifeless, intellectual concepts with no power to inspire or regenerate your mind.

Bewildering Fantasies

Your soul intuition will penetrate into the Consciousness of eternal principles. You will be able to see what the effects of any belief will be. How some beliefs bind and how others free. Your vision will open, and you will see how spiritual principles limit or liberate souls in the spiritual world. Much that has been taught as truth about the astral world, astral shells, karmic gods, retributive justice, reincarnation, etc. will appear as dark and bewildering fantasies in contrast to the glowing beauty of real spiritual principles. You will see from what realm of self-deception these fantasies have been projected into the consciousness of humanity. You will understand why humanity has been held back in their spiritual progression.

The majesty and beauty of truth will enthrall your life. Nothing will seem so important as that soul culture which prepares you to know and reveal the noble principles of truth. Your life will become consecrated to the revelation of the principles of life and truth which

are organized into the social structure of the worlds of the benevolent Immortals. You will become one of their step-down transformers to mortals. You will be a servant of the Creator to humanity.

Strength in Unity

Your growth in knowledge and power will bring you into active unity with the Glorious Immortals. You will realize that while we are in the "enemy's country," which is ruled by the powers of selfishness, there is safety and strength only in unity of effort. United we stand, divided we fall. As you foster and help fulfill the great purpose of the Angel Hosts, you will partake of the power that is developed by the unity of many consecrated souls doing the will of the Creator. Expressing the powers of your soul with full intensity all the days of your life in this world, you will bloom forth into fullness of divine powers in that soul-world where Glorious Immortals personify the beauty and wisdom of the Ever Presence.

Behind The Scenes: The Cause of Bondage

Walter DeVoe

Inspiration

(1930)

With the development of spiritual vision, I saw that as this world's politicians lead masses of people to help them gain their selfish ends, many religious organizations' unspoken but overriding purpose is aggrandizement rather than enlightenment. Such religious hierarchies keep millions of minds subject and enthralled by their doctrines, and so in the spiritual world the same leaders with the same self-serving purpose and the same religious organizations continue to keep thousands of millions of souls subject to their purpose.

In the spiritual world, however, religious organizations are inconceivably large and because they have millions going through the same ritual, chanting the same chants and mantras, they possess a psychological influence beyond human conception. What a psychological influence to wield for those domineering spirits who have become the heads of the vast hordes of spirits in these man-made organizations in the spiritual world! Conceive how great is the influence of the priests with their superstitious followers on earth, and then picture those same devotees subject to their priests when

they all pass into the spiritual world! The priests in turn are then subject and obedient to those higher in authority, and this development of organized authority has been going on for centuries.

There is a Buddhist realm where one can find adherents to the Buddhist church, which is a man-made edifice that has as little in common with the teachings of the true Buddha as the Christian church has in common with the true teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. They will debate about how many angels can fit on the head of a pin or how much money their adherents should tithe to the bureaucracy, while the rest of the world torments itself with war and greed. The Buddhist realm is many times the size of India, and the government of these thousands of millions of Buddhists is in the hands of past priests of Buddhism who wield a mighty influence. Their lust for power, for rulership on earth and in heaven has given them this control of the vast population of Buddhist spirits. It was their purpose to rule, to gain authority, and they accomplished their purpose. But this was at the cost of their own freedom, because they are bound to those who look to them as their authority. The same can be said of other manmade religious edifices.

As the doctrines of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, or Brahmanism, did not liberate and enlighten the followers of their priests while they were on earth, neither could they enlighten or advance these spirits

after they passed from earth. As their doctrines did not build even a small kingdom of heaven on earth, they had no potency to build one in the spiritual world. As the purpose of the people in their worship was to gain a selfish salvation, that purpose attuned them to the selfish purpose of the rulers of their man-made edifice, which was one of authority, dominion and power.

The established religions of the earth have displaced the teachings of Jesus, Buddha, Brahma, Mohammed and other early prophets who may have in their pristine simplicity apart from their church led their following toward selfless service for the benefit of all. In its place they have erected a divisive edifice that has not brought peace to the world or developed a co-operative common wealth where self-serving interests are sacrificed for the benefit of all.

Some circles have compounded the problem by promulgating the misleading doctrines of reincarnation, the belief in which holds millions of spirits in non-progressive bondage to earth. These teachings, as well as others, cater to selfish intellectuality, which gain inspiration from the earth-bound spiritual realms. These principles do not bring forth any organization of self-sacrificing individuals in which love, harmony, tolerance, or good works are practiced in any way that demonstrates that they have discovered how to form a heavenly community on earth. It is one thing to exercise dominion over your

followers, and through the force of faith to hold them subject to your will. It is quite another thing to implant the Light of Liberty which can be empowered only as every selfish quality of spirit is outgrown through selfless service for others. "Where the Spirit of Love is, there is Liberty!" Freedom and progress in the spiritual life are found in the personification of Love.

What I have written of these religious realms is equally true of any other religious organization which has grown in authority and dominion over people's minds for centuries.

See what their present following is. Calculate the number of souls that have passed into the spiritual world in each generation, and you will gain a conception of the population of each of these spiritual realms.

When these religious hierarchies had the greatest power on earth many hundreds of years ago, people experienced what were called "the dark ages". As the Divine Light of the New Age has dawned, these various priestly dominions have lost some of their influence over the minds of humanity on earth and spirits in the spiritual world, and in the degree that minds have freed themselves from these religious autocracies there has been advancement in intellectual and spiritual knowledge.

About Reincarnation

Arthur Findlay

The Way of Life

(1953)

Now to return to the subject of this chapter. Once in the course of a conversation with a friend on the other side, one of the sitters used the word "evolution", which was just the word the Etherian wanted. He was so pleased, and this is what he said:

"Precisely, evolution; that is the correct word. They are not all at the same stage of advancement. It is just what happens all the time. We are just evolving from one stage of spiritual existence to another and become more perfect, and so more able to help others below us. At the present time I am working amongst those who are passing through war. I am often mixing with them, and telling them, directing them where they should go. The plane in which I live is a little more beautiful than theirs. I mean I should be on a more exalted plane, but I have chosen to do that work and be with them meantime."

Another aspect of progress was once put to us by an Etherian in these words:

"It comes overwhelmingly upon us when we see intelligences so far ahead of us, and we desire to follow in the footsteps of the Great Master Teacher. In method of progress it means assimilation of the Truth which we must take unto ourselves, and that we are willing to obey the will of those above us, and follow in the higher footsteps of those advanced far beyond us. It is not a theme of a day, as you call it, a month or a year. It is of long duration before some rise to this discernment. Do you see what I mean? The urge to rise has no limitation. It remains with us, our desire to follow in the steps of the great teachers who have gone ahead."

I once asked a friend who was speaking to me from Etheria if everyone there could make contact with this earth. To this enquiry he replied:

"The higher and more developed we become the less are we in touch with your world. The more development proceeds the less do we think of the earth. It is all a question of desire. We can come into contact with earth conditions at will; if the will for doing so is absent then we do not return to you."

In other words the memory of our earth life gradually fades until our earth life is forgotten, and this seems to me to be an answer to those

who believe in reincarnation. Once I put the straight question, "Do we reincarnate again on earth?"— to which I received this reply from the Etherian to whom I was speaking

"I have known no one who has been re-incarnated on earth. I passed over many years ago, and I have round about me those who lived thousands of years ago on earth. That is all I can say, because my knowledge does not permit me to say more."

Another equally unequivocal reply on the same subject was given by a different Etherian some years later. He said

"We cannot come back and go through the same again."

What they talk about is progress, and never have I heard anyone on the other side speak of coming back to be born again on earth. The butterfly cannot return to enter the cocoon. Remarks like the following were quite common:

"I was an Indian Chief in the old days. I have now been on the spirit side of life for many years as you know time."

A lady present on one occasion was greeted by the man to whom she had been engaged on earth before his passing over. Like the

others who spoke to us, when referring to being reunited some day with those they love on earth, the same remark was made, namely, that when they meet again there will be no more parting. This is what he said:

"You know what dark days are, Mary, and I know what dark days are too, but there is a glorious day to follow, which has already dawned on me, and which must dawn some time on you also. Daybreak will shine; brightness will come; be of good cheer, darling, I will stand by you.

"When the long last comes, which I hope may not be for a long time yet and that much happiness may still be your lot in the earth life, but when the time does come, dearest, then at the end of the road we shall clasp hands again. There will be no more partings, no more worry, no more care. Hand in hand, through the aeons of eternity, with spiritual love in our hearts, we will help others along and find service and joy in that work. God bless you, darling ; no more just now."

The same theme ran through the remarks made to a sitter by her mother in Etheria. It was the sitter's birthday, and her mother's good wishes were given in these words, to end with the daughter feeling that she had been kissed many times

"It is a memorable day, Crissie. It was a memorable day to me and to Father too. I was just waiting a chance, my darling, to get in to wish you "many happy returns of the day" until that birthday comes when you will come over to our side of life, and you and I will be together for all eternity. I just want you to understand."

Then addressing the others present in the circle she said:

"What happy times Crissie and I will have when she leaves the physical. I was not able to enter into all the enjoyments that she could enter into before I went away. I was a wee bit forgetful sometimes, but before that we were just like sisters, not like mother and daughter."

After a Red Indian had finished talking, a gentleman present once asked someone on the other side if it was possible to take the less developed to the higher planes. This is what he was told by the Etherian, who spoke in a loud clear voice:

"We cannot take them, but we tell them what is in store for them, and that when they become more enlightened they can go there. It is not the Indian who is speaking now, but I am not speaking

disparagingly in any way. Many Indians are more advanced and have brighter souls than I have. We are all brothers and sisters, and we all have a time of what one might call evening star-that time of the last final parting with the Earth Plane, and we say good-bye to all things earthly, so to speak. One goes a little adrift for a little while until one finds one's bearings, or, I should say until some of the beautiful shining ones meet you and point the way, and tell you where you should go. You have all got to work out your own destiny. There is no doubt about it, work out your own Heaven, and rest assured the Great Father will see your labour, and reward you for it."

Then the speaker paused for a moment and continued:

"That is what happens as you will find when you come to my side of life. You have still to seek further knowledge. It would not be a real world on this side unless there was progress and still further progress, and those who have gone a little ahead, in advance, can always help the stragglers upwards as they go along. They are not all fit to start at a high level, they need a helping hand, and these helping hands are never far away.

"One meets all classes and conditions of friends on this side of life, and each and all require a helping hand. You cannot

transform a soul immediately from the lower grade which he has left to a celestial grade. It is a gradual spiritual progress, and they are always obtaining fresh knowledge and fresh hope from those who are a little further advanced than they are, and who are always very willing to help a weaker brother up towards the brighter and more shining light."

He had still much more to say but this is given elsewhere, in fact his talk was more in the nature of an address, as it lasted for ten minutes.

Once the question was put about the different stages of development the people were in on the other side. Someone asked an Etherian, who was a healer of earth people by means of healing rays, if undeveloped bodies are ever to be seen in Etheria, and this was the reply:

"Not undeveloped. The stage of development is seen by the light or the brightness, the shades of light. We see them in different stages of advancement, and talk with them.

There are many beautiful passengers who talk with us at times, and we get great enlightenment from them."

He then went on to tell how the etheric body has the same formation

as the physical body, and that everyone has a perfect etheric body. His remarks will be found elsewhere. Then he returned to the subject of mental development and concluded with these words:

"Those who have not developed much in earth life just have to rise gradually, and those who have not had any spiritual development are generally taken to spheres where they can be ministered to in the way that they most need."

Towards the close of a long address on various subjects an Etherian spoke these words:

"If you have a will to travel in the spheres in God's service in the spirit side of life, you will find ample opportunity, if you are willing to work for the Master, but you will have to comply with his laws and the conditions of life which exist on the spirit side. You cannot take a hop, step, and jump, from the side of life which you are on just now, right to the celestial spheres on the spirit side of life. It is Work, Service and Love, which will bring joy and harmony and peace into your inmost souls. Of course, you will always have the knowledge that you are helping someone whom you know has not just reached the stage you have reached, and you will reach out a helping hand to help them up, and those on the higher plane above will immediately

put out their hands to help you on a further step again.

"Progress all the time, until, in God's good time, you reach the fulfilment of a purified soul, that can work in harmony with the Great Spirit of All Life. Progress will go on until the full theme and completion of the Master's Will is accomplished, and you are able to mix with those Shining Ones, in a glorified condition, whom you hope to join someday.

"There is a stage when some of us can know no further. There is a world inside another world, but we have not progressed to that knowledge, nor will we, until we have advanced to a stage much above our present knowledge."

When a sitter once said that he liked to be able to give reasons for his belief in Spiritualism, he was told by a friend on the other side:

"Never argue. Don't, if you take my advice, my Brother. Rather tell them about the beauties of this life which you will discover. You are really just an explorer seeking out a new country, and you have acquired a mind which can see and glean something of the beauty of this land, which many others cannot. You will link up with those who have advanced beyond you by and by, and will learn from them.

"As the Great Master said: 'In my Father's house are many mansions,' and you are only going to the place which you in earth life, by your life on earth, have prepared yourself for, and then you will progress afterwards by getting into touch with those advanced ones who are ready to help you, and to give you knowledge of things which you do not know, but which will be given to you as you can assimilate and understand them. I am just putting it in the best way I can, and I hope you follow what I mean."

During the Second World War the thoughts of most people were directed to the host of young men, all over the world, who were being ushered into a new life before they had had time to grasp the meaning of this life on earth. What kind of life awaited this multitude of new arrivals, was once asked by one of us, and this is what we were told:

"It depends much upon the condition of their life before they came to this side, and their inclination to aspire to the higher life. If they have not had that desire in earth life, they will not so speedily advance."

Our future, both in this life and in the next, depends on ourselves

alone. As we are here, so shall we be there. Our sowing, if good, produces a bountiful harvest, but, if bad, the reverse. If we are selfish on earth we shall be selfish there. Selfishness is the root of all evil, just as unselfishness is the root of all that is good. Our happiness, or unhappiness, springs from our attitude towards ourselves and to others. No one can save us from our own wickedness and folly, and what we are, and what we become, is for each one to decide for himself or herself.



Spiritual Gestation — Laws of Spiritual Rebirth

Justin E. Titus

The Lost Word

(1967)

Reincarnation is not the method of spiritual rebirth.

Reincarnation means to incarnate again, and it is a complete perversion of true spiritual rebirth. One might, if it were possible, incarnate or incarnate again, which is reincarnation, and he might do it once or ten thousand times, but he would be more of a mortal after his repeated incarnations than he was in the beginning. Corruptible seed, or mortal sperm, are the agents of incarnation and, if it were true, of reincarnation. The Law of Incarnation declares that man would have to become a seed to be born again in a corporeal body; he would have to go to seed, literally, in order to reincarnate. Immortals are not born of corruptible seed, or mortal sperm. Only mortals are born of such seed or sperm. Corruptible seed, or mortal sperm, will gestate only in corrupt or mortal elements; they will gestate in the elements of no other kingdom than the natural. Such seed, or sperm, would never, during the whole of infinitude, gestate in the high-powered elements of the spiritual kingdom. All who enter this corporeal world must subscribe to the laws of physical birth; they must be born of corruptible seed, or mortal sperm. No spiritual man

ever has been, or ever will be, born of corruptible seed, or mortal sperm; only mortals are born of such. Corruptible seed, or mortal sperm, are incapable of begetting a spiritual man. Mortal men are born of mortal seeds and elements, and spiritual men are born of spiritual seeds and elements. All disciples of darkness look to the red earth, or the natural kingdom, for rebirth and salvation; all layers of light look to Almighty God, and the spiritual! Kingdom, for rebirth and salvation. Are you looking below yourself to the red earth for salvation, or are you looking above yourself to Infinite Spirit for spiritual rebirth?'

"The germ of the immortal nature is spiritual, and is detached from the deific ocean of spirit when the human foetus is within twelve weeks of birth. Every stage below or prior that crisis represents the great animal department. There are in the animal brain the elements of war, murder, 'theft, and cruelties innumerable; not essentially so, butt because that brain is not inspired and regulated by a spiritual presents Andrew Jackson Davis, the Poughkeepsie Seer, page 386 of his book, "The Thinker.

All who enter; the spiritual kingdom must subscribe to the laws of spiritual rebirth, for spiritual rebirth is the only gateway to 'the spiritual kingdom, even as mortal birth is the only gateway to the natural kingdom. All who enter the spiritual kingdom must put off corruption

and put on in corruption; they must put off mortality and put on immortality: One becomes incorruptible and immortal, not by being born of corruptible seed, or mortal sperm, but by being born of incorruptible seed, or Deific Sperm. All mortals, or natural men, are born from below; they are born of the natural kingdom, or of the underworld. All mortals, as viewed from the spiritual plane of life, are underworld entities. All immortals, or spiritual men, are born from above; they are born of the spiritual kingdom, or of the upper world; they are entities of the higher world.

Mortals are born into the natural kingdom through exposure to the elements of that kingdom, and immortals are born to the spiritual kingdom through exposure to the elements of the spiritual kingdom; they are born from above.

"The Word which is with God and is God," . . . "the Word which liveth and abideth forever," is the Incorruptible Seed or Immortal Sperm. Immortality is from an immortal source. Infinite Spirit imparts the incorruptible seed, or immortal sperm, to mortals through an immaculate process, and it is termed an Immaculate Conception. The quotations which follow were voiced by Paracelsus the Great, and they concur with the preceding statements. "The animal kingdom is father of the animal man: the human animal is born of animal seed. The seed from which the spiritual man is born is from Infinite Being." "The human foetus passes in the uterus through an animal-like

existence, receiving the Deific Word, or seed-pattern, at a later period. It is like a fish in the water, and, unless brought into contact with the elements that produce spiritual gestation, brings an animal nature into the world." "Man has two spirits, a divine and an animal spirit. The former is a pattern, or design, from the breath of God; the latter is from the elements of the earth, or from the animal kingdom." "Some children are born of the human animal, or the beast, and others are the children of Almighty God; they are born of the Spirit. The former must be regenerated or reborn." "Mortals are not from heaven, but from the earth; they do not drop down from heaven, but grow from the earth. Terrestrial powers are active in mortals; but celestial powers will activate man when he is reborn of the Spirit." The natural man, while alive as a human animal, is spiritually dead. The natural man is as dead to the spiritual kingdom as soil is to the organic kingdoms. The natural man is merely soil; he is the soil in which the germ of the spiritual man is implanted. The germ of the spiritual man is implanted in the natural man as the germ of the butterfly is implanted in the caterpillar. The spiritual germ, so say the seers, is implanted in the subjective mind of the mortal foetus approximately twelve weeks prior to birth. The above implantation is a Deific one, and it is termed the Immaculate Conception. The germ-plasm of Deity is immaculate germ-plasm. Immaculate conception, when followed presently or eventually by spiritual gestation, results in the regeneration or the spiritual rebirth of man.

Emanuel Swedenborg says: 'When a man is being reborn, he is conceived anew, spiritually gestated, born again, becomes a spiritual infant, and spiritually grows up, or matures.' The regenerative process is termed the after-germination, or the after-birth of man. "Howbeit that was not first which was spiritual, but that which was natural; and afterward that which was spiritual?"

The spiritual germ, which Deity implants in the subjective mind (the body building mind) of every mortal foetus, is the pure Omnific Word; it is the word which, in man, contains the image of the great omniscient Architect, and, in woman, the likeness of His mighty omnipotent Spouse; it is the Word which is with God and is God.



State of Mind

The Eloists

Radiance

(1985)

My purpose in life is to keep myself positively radiant with all the divine feeling and will I can realize and generate from moment to moment. By doing this, I raise my own spiritual rate of vibration and tune my mind out of the depressed and disturbed vibrations of mortals. At the same time, I exalt my consciousness to that of the Immortals. As the only distance in the spiritual world is between states of mind, immediately when I change my state of mind, I am in vibrant accord with the state in which higher and more helpful beings live. In that state of mind, I experience their presence and power, and I become their dynamic and influential personality through which their good purpose is worked out on the physical plane.

We are in sympathy with your efforts to conquer difficulties and to accomplish something worthwhile here on earth, and we think of you often and sustain our strong, positive realization of individualized power with you. While we are aware that we are strengthening your souls, your minds may not respond to our blessings until you consciously and fervently affirm yourself master of your destiny and sustain a positive faith in your divine selves from hour to hour. Again

we emphasize the principle that we cannot give you, the angels cannot give you, God cannot give to you, any more spiritual intelligence and power than you create the capacity to receive by your effort of mind and will to conquer your difficulties.

As the primitive brain of man was not developed in benevolence, he could not create any social forms of benevolence, and could not realize the benevolence in the universe that waited for his unfoldment in order to give him its riches of wisdom and power. So, while we have developed benevolence to some degree, we have still to deepen this capacity by use, so that we can understand the benevolence of the Creator and His mighty Angels, and express it in our spiritual and physical environment.

Benevolence is the keynote of your soul-being. If the plans and methods which you developed successfully in the past no longer work, then you must create new plans and methods. In the endeavor to do so, you will contact depths of intuitive intelligence within your soul and discover means of self-expression which will make you a greater being here and now, and command the cooperation of unseen forces that can accomplish on earth only through the dynamics of your soul.

Every Child A New Creation

The Eloists

Radiance

(1998)

Every child born into this world is a new creation, formed of all the seven principles of the physical and spiritual natures of its parents. The spiritual body is formed from the blending of the essences of the parents' spiritual natures, just as the physical body is formed from the blending of the essences of their physical bodies. This newborn ego cannot normally be replaced by any outside spirit. It needs no outside spirit-personality to complete its nature. A spirit who has once left his physical body can never be born again into another physical body. By seeking reincarnation, they sadly limit themselves, as well as the personalities through whom they try to incarnate.

You may be a believer in reincarnation, and these ideas may be as repellent to your accepted belief as they were to ours. Some of us were previously ardent believers in reincarnation, until our souls were exalted over the sphere of those minds who hold that belief, and we were given the most convincing evidence of the falsity of that doctrine. We were shown how terribly that belief has bound millions of spirits in the spiritual worlds. They are so resistant to any new idea that even the Angels of the

Creator cannot penetrate into their minds for a very long time and give them a true and liberating belief.

Is Logic A Sufficient Proof?

Are you letting yourself be swayed by prejudice or intellectual logic in favor of this, your belief? Do you know from personal evidence gained as a free spirit that the doctrine of reincarnation is truth? May you not be mistaken? Keep an open and unprejudiced mind. We know that while there is a kind of reincarnation such as I have written of in this article, it is a way of bondage and not a way of freedom. We feel that with our many years of preparation to receive insight into this spiritual truth, and with our natural capacities developed by long experience, we can speak as authoritatively on this subject as any other seer. Then, if our vision and experience contradicts that of others, use your own judgment and test these opposite doctrines. Develop your capacity to know which is true and which is false. The intelligence of the Creator is within your own soul, and that is the only authority for truth. This is the real Word and Spirit of the Creator which will lead you to know all truth through your own personal experience.

The Soul Is Encased in a Spirit Body

Alan Ross

Spirits in the Room

(2000)

In the following message from an advanced spirit, he explains that it is impossible for a soul in the spirit world to be reincarnated back into flesh. This is because, upon leaving the mortal body, the soul will inhabit its spirit or etheric body thereafter. The spirit body is the envelope and protector of the soul and is what gives the soul its individuality as a conscious entity. The soul is encased in its spirit body which, though physical in nature, is not of a gross material. The spirit body remains with the soul as long as the soul exists. If a soul enters a mortal body, it would have to shed its spirit body, which it cannot do. Only a soul without a spirit body can enter into a mortal body.

When mortals die, their souls have already achieved the purpose of incarnation, that is, individualization of the soul. A soul may become a purified soul through the exercise of will and the expression of remorse in the spirit world. It is, therefore, absolutely unnecessary for the soul to go back to the flesh for another chance to purify itself.

The spirit continues. Children born with physical defects are not

being punished for something that occurred in a past life. These individuals suffer due to a physical imperfection within the mother's womb, which prevented a perfectly developed fetus. This is not a judgment by God, but simply the result of an imperfect world, to which the flesh is subject.

MIND RACED WITH QUESTIONS

Then, the thought struck me, 'How is reincarnation actually supposed to take place? Does a spirit who wants to take another body roam the earth searching for a pregnant woman to invade her womb and attach to her fetus? Is that what happens? If so, what determines if an infant gets one of these old karma-laden souls or a shiny new one.' Obviously, there must be new souls because of the discrepancy in population between earlier times and today.

I wondered what good it is to have a succession of lives if they can't be remembered? How can people be expected to shed their karma if they don't know what it is? And, is it possible to live a life on earth without accumulating more karma and never getting off the monotonous cycle?

I was feeling disillusioned with reincarnation; it was making less and

less sense to me, and it certainly didn't impress me as being a merciful plan. I was perplexed at the thought of how so many people could be wrong about past lives when millions upon millions of people believe in it and millions upon million of dollars are spent each year in the past life industry. Could it be that all these people are being fooled, just as the psychics were when giving me my reading?

Then, I remembered a Padgett message which stated, "Because something is believed for a long time and by a great number of people, that in itself does not make it true. Truths are being revealed today and are constantly being revealed as time goes on. They should be accepted with as much credence and satisfaction as truths that were disclosed in ancient times. The minds of mortals were given to them to exercise by query, investigation and search. Never was it contemplated in human creation that the time would come when man should accept anything as the ultimate truth and cease making inquiries. Truths are so many, so great, and so deep, that humanity has acquired only a smattering of them. To rest now, at this point, in the belief that there is nothing more to be learned in the way of truth, would violate and subvert the very object of human creation."

A MEDICAL OPINION

I found my way to the Marion Skidmore Library on the Lily Dale grounds. There I located the book and discovered that it was written by a Chicago physician, Carl A. Wickland, M.D. Dr. Wickland was a dedicated researcher in the fields of Psychic and Abnormal Psychology, who for 30 years, together with his wife, Anna's, mediumship, treated hundreds of patients with unusual disturbances who could not be helped by conventional therapy.

Dr. Wickland told of a colleague, Dr. Lydston, who reported that a patient of his, without any musical training or knowledge of French, sang the 'Marseillaise' in flawless French while under anaesthetic. Dr. Lydston explained this phenomenon as unconscious memory. To support his theory, he cited a similar case of an uneducated domestic who recited Latin while in delirium, just as her former employer, a Latin professor, had done. However, for Dr. Wickland, these cases proved the posthumous existence of spirits and their ability to communicate through mortals. The French singing patient later contacted Dr. Wickland and told him, "I don't know anything about French, but I do know that I am bothered to death by spirits."

Through Mrs. Wickland's inspirational writing, a personal friend, the late Dr. J. M. Peebles (author, lecturer, and diplomat), stated, "When

I reached the spirit world, I found such glory and happiness and beauty that I now realize this little earth is a grammar school, not a university or even a high school; it is only the first lesson of life." Why should anyone want to come back again, to be confined in a body? In the spirit world, you are free to travel everywhere. Why go back to that prison again? Dr. Peebles continued, "You can learn in one day here what takes years to learn on earth. Forget reincarnation, because it is a sandbag around your neck. You will have it so centered on your mind, that you will think of nothing else, and you will stay just where you are. You cannot progress because your mind will always revert to the earth again. You cannot live on the earth more than once. Life is progression, not retrogression.

Correction From The Other Side

The most powerful testimonial came from Helena Blavatsky. Madam Blavatsky was a spiritualist medium of considerable talent and co-founder of the Theosophical Society. She was a pioneer of the New Thought Movement, the early forerunner of New Age. She stated, "I studied reincarnation in India and thought there was truth and justice in the theory that we come back to learn and grow. I taught the theory and wanted to bring it to the world. I felt that I remembered far back into my past, but I was mistaken. When you

become sensitive and can feel the spirits around you, they speak to you by impressions, and their past will be like a panorama. A person feels it and will relive the past of spirits, but the mistake is made of taking this for the memory of past incarnations. I did not know this when I lived on earth, but when I came to the spirit side of life I learned differently. Once you reach the spirit world, where all is congenial, where all is life, where all is bliss, where there is no jealousy, no envy, where all is one grand harmony, do you think for one moment that you would want to leave that beautiful condition to come back to earth and be a little baby, restricted in mind and knowing nothing whatever?"

Memories of past lives are caused by spirits that bring such thoughts and represent the lives that they lived. A spirit impresses a person with the experiences of its life and these are implanted in the mind as one's own, causing you to think you remember your past. I thought to myself, 'This could account for why so many people are told they were either Napoleon, Cleopatra, or Joan of Ark. Is it possible that the spirits of these people have visited the earth plane many times and have impressed mortals with images of their identity, lives and death?"

I now felt I was really onto something and returned to the library for more research. There, I discovered 'The History of Spiritualism' by

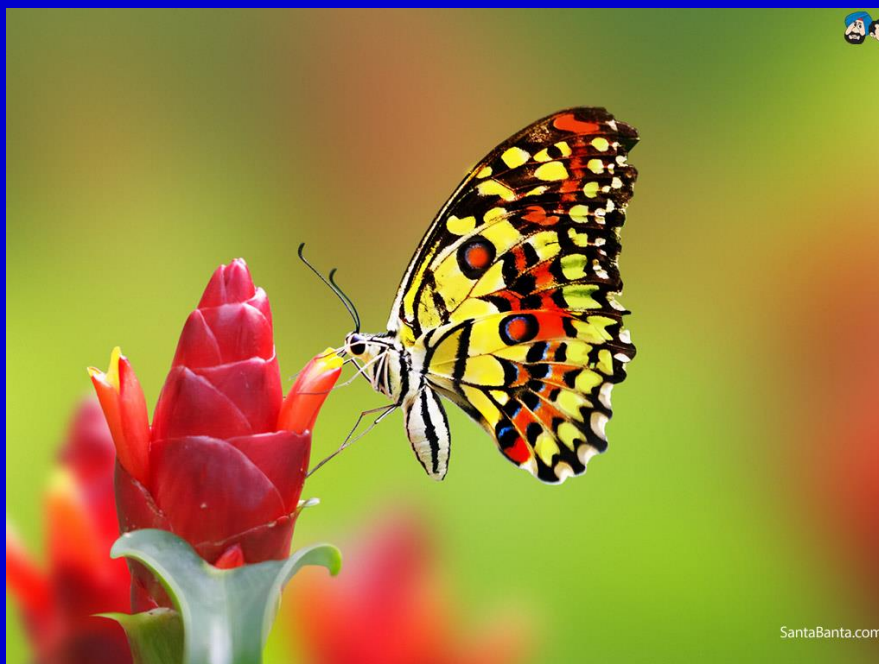
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes novels. Sir Arthur wrote, "If reincarnation were true, there must have been millions of spiritualists, who, upon entering the other world, have sought in vain their kindred, children and friends. Has one whisper of such a woe ever reached us from the thousands of communicating spirits? Never!"

MEDIUMSHIP '94'

It was my good fortune to be in London the week of 'Mediumship '94'. This was an extravaganza of mediums demonstrating various types of mediumship. It provided me with my first glimpse of a young medium, new on the scene, going by the name of Lincoln. I remember his demonstration as though it were yesterday. Lincoln went into trance - his voice changed, and he gave an fascinating address from his spirit guide, Magnus. When he finished, there were questions and answers. The one question which stuck with me was asked by a woman concerning reincarnation. The spirit guide, Magnus, replied that he had seen many spirits waiting to return to earth, but had never seen any spirits actually leave the spirit world. Furthermore, he added that he and his companions were more advanced than mortals and, therefore, could not imagine what would be accomplished by returning to the earth. I quickly glanced over at

the woman to see her reaction. She was visibly taken back; obviously, this was not what she had expected to hear. I was elated by this unexpected validation of my new belief and left the theater in high spirits.

In Colin Fry's (Lincoln) book, 'Inspired of Spirit', his spirit guide, Magnus, states, "Reincarnation implies repetition, and it is a hideous distortion of life's fear of change. The insidiousness of reincarnation has been used throughout the centuries to control people by those who have assumed authority. Those in lowly positions have been told, 'Accept this, for you are being punished, for you shall come back on the next occasion as a prince, so tolerate what happens to you because you deserve no better.'"



Reincarnation
The Faithist Journal
Rick Cafero
(2005)

Such angels (spirits) as engraft themselves on mortals, becoming as a twin spirit in the one corporeal body, are known as reincarnated spirits. But where such spirits usurp the corporeal body, as of an infant, growing up in the corporeal body, and holding the native spirit in abeyance, such spirits we called damon (demons).

These spirits have lost all sight of any higher heavens than to dwell on the earth. And they watch about when children are born, and obsess them, driving hence the natural spirit, and growing up in the now body of the newborn, calling themselves reincarnated.

Not all of these spirits drive away the natural spirit, but many merely engraft themselves on the same body; and whilst such persons live, these spirits live with them and dwell with them day and night; not knowing more than their modal companion, And when such person dies, behold, the druja will go and engraft itself on another child, and live and dwell with It in the same way, and thus continuing generation after generation.

Spirits of the newly dead, who are without knowledge of heaven, will lead mortals in their own way. For they dwell together and sleep together, and in dreams and visions mortals judge themselves to be wise, not knowing they are obsessed in sleep.

And as one spirit returns and fastens itself on a mortal, so will another and another, till hundreds and thousands of spirits dwell in one corporeal body, oft driving hence the natural spirit Jehovih gave in the time of conception.

As it was in the olden time, so it is today. Drujas teach that the spirits of the dead go into trees and flowers, and inhabit them; and into swine, and cattle, and birds. And into women, and are born over again in mortal form.

For the spirits of the tower heavens, like mortals, have multitudes of doctrines: and, for the most part, they know nothing of the higher heavens, Nirvana.

Nor is the testimony of a spirit more valuable to you than the testimony of a mortal.

Three doctrines have been on the earth: they are, first, the Faithists, who know the All Person, Ever Present: second, the idol worshippers,

who make the Creator into a man in heaven, and not present but by proxy of certain laws; and last, infidels, who believe in nothing they cannot take up in the hand, and weigh.



9-24-01

Pete

Spiritual Enlightenment: The Path of The Seeker

(2006)

I was told at a séance that aborted babies arrive in heaven looking like little butterflies. And that spirits working with aborted babies catch them with butterfly nets and put them in a large aviary like structure covered with screen so they can care for them. As the babies grow and become heavier, they lose their ability to fly and drift down to the floor of the nursery. Then they are placed in cribs and are cared for much like new born babies on earth.

I have heard little children come into a séance room and say over and over, "I'm hungry, I'm hungry." And an adult voice said, "They are hungry for love." Made me cry.

I was also told that suicide is a very grave offense against God's laws and the punishment severe. One person I heard about that committed suicide floated in darkness until the time that they should have passed naturally from earth. And another was trapped in their body until the flesh had completely rotted away. That's too terrible to think about.

I inquired once at a séance about reincarnation and an ancient scholar was brought in to talk to me about his findings. He said that the heavens were vast and that there were many ways of doing things, but that he had found no evidence that a spirit ever returned to earth and was born again in a new physical body.

The *Oahspe Bible*, has this to say about reincarnation:

Jehovih [Almighty God] said: “As I have quickened the seed of the first born, so will I quicken all seed to the end of the earth. And each and every man-child and woman-child born into life will I quicken with a new spirit, which shall proceed out of Me at the time of conception. [The spirit enters the body at conception.] Neither will I give to any spirit of the higher or lower heaven power to enter a womb, or a fetus of a womb, and be born again.”

The spirit-scholar did say that there was a “type of reincarnation” in heaven in that as spirit as they advanced left behind the body they had been using and entered a more refined body as they reached the next higher plain of spirituality.

I met a Chinese woman years ago that told me how the early Eastern seers got the mistaken idea that a person could be reincarnated into lower animals. She said when spirits visited a seer they would often

show them their “Clan sign” a bear or wolf or eagle; and from this the idea that people reincarnated into lower animals came about.

One possible explanation for the belief in reincarnation is as follows: A mother’s blood circulates through the placenta providing oxygen and nutrients to the baby. The mothers blood also passes on to the baby a complete history of all their ancestors. This history is passed on from mother to child ad infinitum (without end).

Some adepts can experience their ancestors life in a type of holographic vision which arises from the history recorded in their own blood. They are present in the vision as one of their ancestors and actually relive part of that ancestors life. When they return to their own present day reality, they interpret their vision as being one of their own past lives and believe they are a reincarnation of that ancestor.

I didn’t witness this, but my Mother told me that she was at a séance once and she heard a noise like someone dragging chains around the room. A man spoke to her and said that he was completely covered and bound with chains of coins symbolizing all the money that he had swindled others out of.

He said he was looking for the people he had victimized so he could

return some of the coins to them. He asked if he had stolen any money from my mother. My Mother said, “No,” and then she heard the chains dragging away.

Years later at a séance we heard a sound like someone shaking a box with a few coins in it, and a voice said, “I’ve found almost all of them, I just have a few coins left.”



The Temples of Reincarnation

Robert Bayer

Visions of a New Age

(2008)

I prayed to see what exactly happens to those following the belief of reincarnation. I wanted the truth on this revealed.

So, after some mediation, I went with vision into the spirit world and to a temple of reincarnation. There is a phase of welcoming and instruction going on by the master teachers of reincarnation when you first enter into their temple. They will be explaining the benefits and the how's and the whys of reincarnation. But it is basically a religionist approach because in the end, as you practice the detrimental mental techniques that are advocated by Masters of Reincarnation, is that you, as all members to cult do, sooner or later lose your power to discern and decide things.

Ultimately, you end up putting yourself in the hands of the priests, instead of where it should always be, in yourself and in the Creator.

After the reincarnation indoctrination has reached a certain point, you are then asked by the reincarnation masters to actually enter the <reincarnation meditative state or rite> whereby you attempt to

reincarnate by losing all consciousness of this life and thereby enter “the stream or river of life,” as the Reincarnationists put it, whereby you will be supposedly born again, so what I saw were the students lying down and going into this state of near unconsciousness, where they believe they had to lose all sense of who they are and merge with the universal flow which will take them to be born again. BUT what happens next is the reincarnation masters pool these now putty-sponge-like spirits together and pour them into the auras of mortals they wish to obsess and control.

Since the spirits are in a weakened state of stupor, they can be controlled easily by the <master's suggestions> and next they try to control or force out the natural spirit of the unfortunate mortal ... The mortals chosen are generally the more vulnerable ones weak in some aspect of spiritual power or have some direct connection to the spirits themselves which will facilitate the merging obsession. So the reincarnation masters have power in this way over both the spirits and the afflicted mortals.

This is a terrible situation for both the spirits and mortal. It is because I do not want you or any other person to get wrapped up and trapped for quite a long time in this, decades or for a lifetime or more, that I speak out about it.

I saw what I saw. You don't have to believe me but just keep that in mind if you ever enter these temples. Better yet, while still a mortal, decide now that you want nothing to do with coming back to earth as a mortal again. Instead pledge to work in service to all and to the Creator, while you are in this world, and also when you begin your life in the spirit world.



Soul Progression
Walter and Betty Shepherd
Conversations with Walter:
(2010)

As Walter has told you, there are a few discarnate evil spirits who have so far resisted all attempts to make them give up their bad ways. Because they cannot be successful in heaven, of course they try to contact and target people living on earth. They then put wicked thoughts into those people's minds — such as the command to commit murder, or details of how to inflict pain. Horrific crimes like the Moors Murders are instigated by evil spirits; though they would not be able to have much influence if people did not already have evil thoughts in their minds. These enable the evil spirits to enter the mind and inject their poison.

Unfortunately, most minds have bad thoughts sometimes, and can be vulnerable. It's a question of how long the will (the mind's energy) allows these thoughts to remain there; whether it gives them house-room. People who love God reject bad thoughts as soon as they appear."

I said, "Another question. You talk about heaven; yet in the beginning -- as I understand it — the soul may not be in heaven after death, any

more than it was before, since it has taken many of its imperfect earthly characteristics with it. This is confusing.”

“Walter is at fault. Sometimes he says ‘heaven’ when he should say ‘the afterlife’. He did not mean to confuse you. Certainly, in the afterlife the soul is not in heaven until it has reached a more perfected condition.”

At first a soul, now usually called a spirit is much as it was at the time of death. The event of death is a rite of passage; on those who have not been aware of the Spirit within them during life on earth, death can have a very strong effect. Those who already live much in the Spirit may not be greatly changed.

As Walter has told you, the heavens represent many conditions of the human soul or Spirit. Before fully entering the state of the first heaven, the Spirit must continue the journey through Purgatory (where it is purged of evil thoughts and desires) which it had begun on earth. At the time of death, it is plain to see that souls are far from perfect in their love. At this time, they have an occasional taste of heaven, as they did on earth, but it does not last - any more than it did on earth.

You really must be fluid in your imagination if you are to understand all this. Just as on earth, a soul may be in one condition at one moment, and another at the next. There are no exact divisions between the heavens. Some lessons are more easily learnt on earth, because the material senses are very sensitive, and the discarnate soul has lost them and must rely on other ways to learn. On the other hand, in the afterlife the pressures of life on earth – to survive, to eat, to earn a living, to deal with cruelty and indifference in others - are entirely missing, and the soul is surrounded by love, and the helpfulness of the Good Spirits of Heaven, who are there to support and teach.

The obviously imperfect state of the soul at death is one of the main reasons why people on earth have devised the theory of reincarnation. If the soul were to enter another body, and go through the cycle of life on earth all over again and again, and again this would be one way of purifying that soul, and ridding it of the dross which prevents it from experiencing the pure love of heaven.

But then, there would be no need for the many conditions of the heavens; and Walter, a spirit who has recently lived on earth and is now mostly in the first heaven, can assure you that these really do exist, As to reincarnation — Walter thinks it very possible that some highly evolved spirits may elect to return to earth in order to help

mankind. It seems likely; though Walter has asked, and spirits in the first heaven know nothing definite about it. But Walter is equally certain that spirits in what you might call the lower heavens do not reincarnate, so it is not the common practice.



Reincarnation and Survival

James Webster

Internet:

(2014)

There are many who believe or are led to accept that proof of survival after physical death automatically requires an acceptance of reincarnation. Some will insist that to accept life after death (survival) as a proven fact, one must also accept reincarnation as a proven fact. This belief or understanding could not be further from the truth and is entirely erroneous.

Let's get this straight and understand what we mean by reincarnation and what we mean by survival and what the connection is, if there is one, between them.

Survival is the continued conscious life and living of the individualised spirit/soul (the Self) following the release from the physical body in the material world of limitation. The release from a limited world to an unlimited world. 'The material is a pale reflection of the spiritual' - stated a profound communicator from the finer etheric realms.

Reincarnation is a theory, belief and doctrine which has never been proved but has an ever increasing following worldwide. It is a product

'manufactured' to appeal to the masses from the packaging and presentation - but BEWARE! Essentially it is based upon the idea of the continuation of life by being reborn again and again from the mother's womb in further earthly material bodies, apparently to learn and experience and to self-progress.

Just to remind ourselves that there is not a single case of scientifically proved reincarnation. Every suggested case has a rational explanation. We will discuss this later.

The usual orthodox dogmatic teaching of reincarnation is based upon a false theory. The individualised spirit does not, and cannot, be reborn in the womb into another new physical vessel. We will discuss later how attempts are made to 'invade' and take-over already occupied physical bodies by some discarnate souls/spirits from the etheric/astral realms which cause great suffering and often require 'rescue work' to be carried out.

'Past-life hypnotic-regression' will be discussed and also the cases of children allegedly 'remembering' past lives, and the research of Prof Ian Stevenson. These are major and essential subjects written about by reincarnationist authors and discussed in media interviews on radio and television etc....

East is East and West is West

The 'bed partner' with reincarnation is karma (often referred to as the Law of Karma) which is a corruption of 'cause and effect' and has no connection with the scientific description in the West - and so we have the worst scenario and relationship with what can be termed 'karmic reincarnation' - with its roots in Eastern religion and belief.

Mahatma Ghandi called reincarnation 'a burden too great to bear.'

Countless millions of Hindus and Buddhists down the ages are trapped in a monstrous tread-wheel of punishment for eternity and their only salvation is via the meditation of yoga (or 'Zen' the Buddhist equivalent).

Eastern reincarnation is about dying in the physical body and returning to earth again and again to be born in another physical body and work out their karma depending on how good or bad they have been in previous lives. If you are a woman you have no chance of salvation for that is reserved only for men. A woman's only hope is to serve her men folk and in so doing earn the reward of being reborn as one of them.

According to one Eastern saying; 'The most foolish male is more

intelligent than the most intelligent female.’

One branch of Hinduism slavishly follow their gurus (god-men or holy-men) who claim to reveal the shortest routes to salvation. These invariably involve a range of meditations to transcend the suffering of a wounded continent. The quick ways of salvation include walking around naked, or blindfolded, or drinking the urine of cows (the animal which symbolises the female divinity of Mother Earth and Mother India). For the really dedicated, sex is banned. This is perhaps just as well for they also plaster their hair with cow dung. Having done all this, the Hindu believes he will still not escape the ever-grinding Wheel of Samsara (reincarnation). However, he hopes that these additional sufferings will increase his capacity to meditate away the hunger pangs, disease and further suffering. Some gurus maintain the meditation can make a hungry person a "happy hungry person."

Reincarnation paralyses the initiative of millions. Those imprisoned by it rarely strive for social improvements or justice, for that would then deprive people of their karma - a merciless law of consequences. The suffering is the consequence of a previous misspent life. If it is avoided in this life, it will only be piled up on to the suffering of the next life. There is no escape from karma. The only help acceptable are hints on how to improve meditation. Only the guru can provide this!

These gurus have now come to the West, and millions of Europeans and Americans have accepted a revamped version of reincarnation. The very hell that has caused the grotesque sufferings and early deaths of countless millions has become an enduring part of the sophisticated Western man. Some opinion polls reveal that one in four people believe in reincarnation. This grotesque philosophy which ignores the matchstick legs and distended bellies of starving children has now hit the streets of every major European city. Even in small rural towns typical surveys reveal that 20-25% of the population believe in reincarnation.

The gurus, emigrating to the West, have introduced their philosophies with a calculated sensitivity to European and American cultures. They travel in their planes and limos to bring modern man a modern doctrine of reincarnation. There is, for instance, no distinction between male and female, as in the East. There is no mention of the grinding agony of Samsara, nor that reincarnation is the nearest vision of hell-like punishment man can ever experience this side of the real thing.

The guru's philosophy is clothed with scientific terminology and hailed as the missing link of evolution. New-Agers take on board the idea of 'conscious evolution' - one of the main Western names for reincarnation. This, we are told, is the way to reach the next stage in

our development. Conscious evolution is the road to Utopia and a higher level of existence. It is that which will ultimately make us one with the 'divine' or the 'Masters' or the 'higher beings' from outer space who have been guiding our planet through the dark eons on earth.

This form of reincarnation is sold in the West as another chance to make good the way to true salvation and to great knowledge and enlightenment.

Reincarnationism has become more and more popular in the West but is no more a truth or fact than it has ever been throughout history - like anything which is shouted loud enough and for long enough is accepted by a majority of unthinking following. Hundreds, or rather, thousands of books have been and still are published making their authors popular and the more wealthy just ploughing the same old field over and over again and getting no nearer to proving reincarnation or so-called past-lives.

Reincarnation, by its very nature, is an egotistical, self-seeking philosophy and at total variance with the nature of the true spiritual goodness ('god'). It is an ugly frightening doctrine because it is not rooted in love. The fact that it is sophisticated and is backed by a complex esoteric doctrine does not prove it right.

Why Do People Believe in Reincarnation?

There are, of course, many reasons why people believe not only in such doctrines as reincarnation but also religion in general and in cult following. There is also of course, a certain glamour when Shirley MacLaine describes her alleged previous existences much of which author Ian Wilson, incidentally, has shown in his book, to be a confused dialogue (*The After Death Experience* pp. 49-50). There are also those who, seeking for meaning in life or the alleviation of boredom, find the philosophy compelling and stimulating. There are many who, dissatisfied with their positions in life, seek consolation in the belief that they were someone important in a previous life. It is interesting that the vast majority of people who believe in reincarnation believe also that they were once someone important. The desire to be someone else, coupled with the innate ability of the human psyche to fantasise and believe its own fantasies, has led therefore countless millions of curiosity-hunters into a belief in reincarnation. The number of people who believe that they were once Napoleon Bonaparte, George Washington, Florence Nightingale, and other men and women of fame, is astonishing especially as dozens have often claimed to have been the same person.

But the persistence of the attraction goes beyond Shirley MacLaine, curiosity seekers, those bored or dissatisfied with life, and others like them. Many, who believe in God, and who are trying to understand injustices and difficulties in life, find in reincarnation an easy explanation. As does the joining of certain Societies and the attraction of cults.

The Aetherius Society claims to have received its teachings from the 'Cosmic Masters' while their founder, Dr George King, was in a positive Yogic Samadhi trance. "People have lived thousands of lives as people before and they will live endless more lives" - the society leaflet says. "Much as each day follows the other in one's life, so does each life follow the previous life and is determined by one's conduct in previous lives. We are given endless opportunities to learn and evolve." (Some Basic Principles - Aetherius Society leaflet)

The Illusion Explained

All suggested cases of reincarnation are explainable for what they most likely are, rather than what they appear to be and are not.

It is vital that we now start to look at the modus operandi - what it is that is mistaken to be a case or experience of reincarnation or a past

life. It is so easy to fall into the trap, as so many do, and be held in the hands of the magician by the trickery and deception.

We will turn firstly to the excellent work of Dr Carl Wickland M.D. and his wife Anna a fine medium. Together they did so much to help humanity.

Carl A. Wickland (1861-1945) was born in Northern Province, Sweden. He arrived in Minnesota, USA in 1881 and married Anna W. Anderson in 1896 then shortly after that they moved to Chicago where Carl Wickland graduated from Durham Medical College in 1900. He studied the general practice of medicine while specialising in research into mental illnesses. This led to Dr Wickland becoming chief psychiatrist at the National Psychopathic Institute, a non-profit corporation where many patients were treated at the sanatorium and brought back to sanity and health.

Anna Wickland became a very fine sensitive (medium) and worked with her husband to help a great many people whose mental illness was due to obsession by discarnate spirit entities. It was extremely important to bring to the notice of the medical world the truth of the knowledge that had uncovered, and secure medical recognition and acceptance of it.

I should explain how the Wicklands were able to communicate and work with the discarnate spirit entities who required help, to release them from the disturbance they were causing to those they were obsessing. Mrs. Wickland being a fine medium was able to attract the entity into her aura from the patient and from there Dr Wickland was able to communicate and converse with them. To provide examples would be too lengthy to include in this article but I would highly recommend the reader to obtain the two classic books by Dr Carl Wickland 'Thirty Years Among The Dead' and 'The Gateway Of Understanding' - essential reading.

Both available on the website of Art Bosman <http://esotericbooks.deds.nl/> for free.

Quote from Dr Wickland 'Thirty Years Among The Dead' - Chapter XV:

'That the belief in reincarnation on earth is a fallacious one and prevents progression to higher spiritual realms after transition, has been frequently declared by advanced spirits, while numerous cases of obsession which have come under our care have been due to spirits who, endeavouring to 'reincarnate' in children, have found themselves imprisoned in the magnetic aura, causing great suffering to both their victims and themselves.'

It is claimed that Madam Blavatsky spoke through Mrs. Wickland of her regret in teaching reincarnation when on earth. At a meeting dated November 1st 1922 (Thirty Years Among The Dead pp.420-427) here are a few brief extracts:

‘..... To me came Reincarnation. It appealed to me for a time. I could not see the truth clearly. I felt that it was very unjust some should be rich and have such good times and that others should be poor and have so much trouble. Others did not get enough earth experience - at least so I felt.

I studied Reincarnation, and I thought there was truth and justice in the theory that we come back and learn and have more experiences. I taught it and wanted to bring it out to the world and its peoples. I felt that I remembered far back in my past. I felt I knew all about my past, but I was mistaken. Memories of ‘past lives’ are caused by spirits that bring such thoughts and represent the lives they lived. A spirit impresses you with the experiences of its life and these are implanted in your mind as your own. You then think you remember your past.

When you study, especially when you study Theosophy, you develop your mind and live in an atmosphere of mind. You remove yourself as much as possible from the physical. Naturally you become sensitive,

and naturally you feel the spirits around you. They speak to you by impressions and their past will be like a panorama. You feel it, and you live over the past of spirits and you make the mistake of taking this for the memory of former incarnations. I did not know this when I lived (on earth). I took it for granted that these memories were true, but when I came to the spirit side of life I learned differently.'

'I studied a great deal. Theosophy is the best and highest philosophy of life intrinsically, but let us study the truth, let us live up to the truth of it and forget theories.'

'Reincarnation is not true - I did not want to believe that. They told me here in the spirit world that I could not reincarnate. I have tried and tried to come back to be somebody else, but I could not. We cannot reincarnate. We progress, we do not come back.'

'If I impress a sensitive with an idea, in one sense I reincarnate - not in their body, but by impressing them with what I want done.'

'No, reincarnation is not true. I believed it, I taught it, and I was sure that I should come back and be somebody else. But I will not. I can do far more good now.'

Also in America during the same period as Dr Carl Wickland, Professor James H. Hyslop (1854 - 1920) a prominent member of the American Society for Psychical Research and Professor of ethics and logic at Columbia University had no doubt that we all survive bodily death and live on as discarnate spirits in a finer and freer etheric world - more real than this physical world, we are informed.

In 'Life After Death' (1918) he states: 'I regard the existence of discarnate spirits as scientifically proved and I no longer refer to the skeptic as having any right to speak on the subject. Any man who does not accept the existence of discarnate spirits and the proof of it is either ignorant or a moral coward. I give him short shrift, and do not propose any longer to argue with him on the supposition that he knows anything about the subject.' (Hyslop - p.306)

'From the existence of discarnate spirits and the phenomenon of mind to mind interaction - a fact long established in the field of psychical research - it is a short step to realising that discarnate spirits can influence the incarnate just as much as they can influence the discarnate - the physical body being no obstacle. This influence is often experienced as possession or obsession, conditions that are paranormal in origin but identical in appearance to what psychiatrists have traditionally termed 'split consciousness' - 'secondary personalities' - 'multiple personalities' and 'dissociative identity

disorders', though such epithets merely serve to cloak the underlying phenomena. According to Hyslop: 'Secondary personality is the doctor's Irish stew. He does not know what it is. In antiquity it was 'demoniac obsession'. At a later period it was 'witchcraft'. Today we call it such things as 'split consciousness' and think we have solved the problem, when in fact, we have only thrown dust in people's eyes. We have become so accustomed to paradoxes in human knowledge that almost any impossible combination of terms will receive respectful attention, the more impossible the better. What is split consciousness? We can split wood, iron, pumpkins, political parties; but split consciousness, however convenient a term for describing an apparent situation, is a term for our ignorance - a most happy term, to confound a group of people who refer every anomalous thing in the universe to spirits, and to make it unnecessary to inquire minutely into the anomalies of personality.' (Hyslop - pp289-290)

That discarnate personalities can impress the minds of the incarnate with their memories, thoughts and feelings was a fact well known to the pioneers of modern psychical research. Professor Hyslop maintained that this phenomenon was mistakenly adduced as evidence for reincarnation.

In 'Contact with the Other World' (1919) he states that '.....facts adduced in support of reincarnation can be explained as mediumistic

phenomena. That is discarnate personalities may produce in the minds of psychics the feeling of long past time or of previous existence by the transmission, telepathically perhaps, of their own feelings and states of mind. These would naturally enough interpreted as evidence of reincarnation.' (Hyslop - p.378).

On the doctrine of reincarnation he states that; '..... it must be said that this belief rests on metaphysics alone. It has no scientific foundation whatever. Some venture to adduce facts to support it, but these will not bear the slightest examination as evidence. For instance, some will tell us that they can remember a previous existence. But they do not reckon with illusions of memory. We sometimes recall something which we locate in a certain time and place, but find later that this location was wrong. When the total experience is recalled we find that we are dealing with two events connected only by similarity. We confused them because of the imperfection of the recall. This imperfect recall will explain most of the alleged instances of recollection of a prenatal past.' (Hyslop - p.378)

Professor Ian Stevenson

There is no doubt that the research by Prof Ian Stevenson, is looked upon as authoritative by reincarnationists. As a researcher myself I

have the greatest respect for him even though I do not agree with his findings. I can guarantee that with almost every discussion I have on this subject, the name of Ian Stevenson will crop up somewhere sooner or later - more likely sooner. He is regarded as like a 'guru' to the devotees of 'R'.

One of the best references to Stevenson is a fine recently published book - which will become a classic for sure - titled 'Reincarnation Refuted ... Evidence, Logic and Common Sense' by Stephen Blake M.Sc.(Lond). In chapter 8 'Suggestive of What' the author presents his original critique of Dr. Ian Stevenson's best known work, 'Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation' (1974). Blake comes up with an ace of trumps with 'The Case of Jasbir' - The chapter runs into 38 pages and must be read. In a Sherlock Holmes detective style he unravels this and other cases to prove how Stevenson misrepresents the facts in order to support his prior belief in reincarnation. 'This innate bias towards the reincarnation hypothesis means that reincarnationist researchers are not the best people to assess the meaning and significance of their work' - states Stephen Blake.

There are cases recorded by Stevenson where a child has shown the usual signs of being a reincarnation of someone else only to discover that, that person was still living, physically, in another village, which presented the proven evidence of mind to mind communication. I

have mentioned this previously in my article in stating that minds communicate with one another whether they are in or out of a physical body. Both can be in physical bodies or one can be in a physical body whilst the other is in an etheric body or both can be in etheric bodies. In each case it disproves anything to do with suggested past-lives of a subject allegedly being the reincarnation of the interfering entity (spirit). What it does indicate is that discarnate minds can and do overshadow and obsess and even possess other minds even whilst occupying a physical body.

Stevenson may be criticised on a number of grounds and Blake cites the following examples as illustrative rather than exhaustive and goes on to explain his reasoning under each sub-heading:

1. His research has no theoretical basis.
2. His research methodology is flawed.
3. He misleads with his sources.
4. He misrepresents the facts to support his belief in reincarnation.
5. He uses language in a misleading manner.
6. His dismissal of spirit intrusion is unwarranted.

Dr Jim Tucker of the University of Virginia, is attempting to carry on where Stevenson left off, with an impossible task (IMO) of making the previous research any more plausible!

I must mention chapter 4 'The problem with karma' in Stephen Blake's book and his Impossibility Theorem - since the doctrine of karma is incoherent, it cannot describe anything in Nature.

And so for the record it is essential to repeat Blake's basic messages:

1. Immortality and reincarnation are logically incompatible.
2. The doctrine of karma is incoherent.
3. The case of Jasbir proves that Prof. Stevenson is wrong.

'Soul Survivor' - The Book and The Case.

'Soul Survivor' - The Reincarnation of a World War II Fighter Pilot, set the pace for what was to become a seemingly perfect example to support the case for reincarnation and to prove 'past lives'. Those following the doctrine and those desperate to have a case to quote which would prove the theory and be impossible to rebuke, were ecstatic as it became very clear from the International media coverage following the publication of the book.

As soon as I heard about the 'Soul Survivor' case, in August 2009, and started following the news reports, articles, discussions and videos and then obtaining and reading the book, I knew what this really was and what it certainly was not! My heart sank realising that

the hell and torment which the two principal characters, James Leininger the child and son of Bruce and Andrea Leininger, and James Huston the American fighter pilot together with their families, were put through to endure, could have been prevented if only the right knowledgeable and understanding people had been there to advise and take charge of the situation in the beginning when the problem first started. An experienced 'spirit rescue team' could have nipped it in the bud and communicated with the pilot James Huston to persuade him to realise and understand what had happened to him and set him free from his earthbound and attached condition. The overshadowing and obsession of the child was giving him the false belief that he had reincarnated into the body of James L. At the same time young James L was encouraged to believe that he was the reincarnation of the pilot James H.

I mentioned earlier the brilliant work and services which Dr. Carl Wickland MD and the fine mediumship of his wife Anna carried out in these such cases (early 20th Century). Ref. his classic books: 'Thirty Years Among The Dead' and 'The Gateway Of Understanding'. It all adds up.

It is tragic that this case was taken over, or allowed to be, by people who had no idea what was involved. They just wanted to show it up as a prime case of reincarnation because it presented all outward

appearances of being so and would be popular with a ready made huge customer market - just get the media to get to work with the interviews and cameras etc... Another big mistake was to invite the Foreward to the book to be written by a devout reincarnationist and author herself, of books concerning alleged children's past lives.

I was fortunately able to get in touch with the Leininger family (authors of the book) and in an email letter Bruce Leininger responded to me showing some definite agreement and interest in my book and I quote the following from his letter:

“Reincarnation is a term that does not really describe what we have witnessed. Our book does not ascribe to it nor advocate it. The terminology in the title was used to provide some genre of the story.”

The cult-like following of reincarnation has and does cause a great deal of disturbance and break-ups and can ruin people's lives. On a Forum I was taking part in, two young men with successful careers were at their wits end and even suffering nervous breakdowns after being 'got at' and influenced by the doctrine.

On the subject of Forums, I have been participating in an Amazon Forum for some while and for about a year was involved with a poster known as 'Christine'- a red-hot reincarnationist, past lifer and up to

the hilt believer of karma! It was unbelievable what she was saying and was stuck with and trying so desperately to convert me with!

It would be possible to write a book on our exchanges of posts - some, particularly from her, were several pages long!

Towards the end of this marathon I put a number of questions to Christine in a kind of Louis Therough fashion and a kind of playing the 'devil's advocate.'

My question 1:

If you were invited to Gt. Ormond Street Children's Hospital or any Children's Hospital, to give a talk on your beliefs, would you be prepared, in front of the doctors and nurses and other staff and parents of the children, to say that the children (patients) were there, suffering with their ailments and health problems, and some dying, because they (the child) had decided this situation to happen before they were born?

Christine's answer:

Well, James, my answer to that question is "most definitely, YES!!!!".

My extensive, in depth study/research into all the "spirit stuff" leads me to know that it is very obviously the case that we do all plan our lives prior to incarnation, whilst still in the spirit realms; and that we plan, beforehand, all the MAJOR events of our upcoming lives, which very much includes health status, major illnesses/health suffering, and also includes how and when we eventually pass back to spirit. This information has been transmitted from a number of different sources, including communications from the spirit realms [through genuine mediums] by advanced souls, there; communications from spirit, through mediums, from people's loved-ones, after passing; and also via information gleaned by people who've experienced NDE's - Near-Death Experiences, of course - numerous people who've had NDE's learn that we each have a pre-determined, specific time when we pass back to spirit, and that until that pre-planned time arrives, no-one can pass back to the spirit dimensions.

My "yes, most definitely" answer to this question would also include/cover that yes, illnesses we may suffer [whether 'fatal' or not] are definitely pre-planned, and definitely karmic; i.e. that, for WHATEVER karmic reason, people actively pre-plan to suffer certain health issues/illnesses/conditions [including such things as blindness, deafness, etc]. As I've said before, karma does NOT only mean negative - there is positive karma, also. Okay, yes, I realise it doesn't make sense to say that someone would pre-plan to suffer some

ill-health condition for a positive karmic reason, but the overwhelming objective data says that many souls [for instance, babies/young children] pre-plan/agree, before physical birth, to suffer some health issue/disease [or, e.g. for a soul to pre-plan to pass back to spirit just a few hours, days or weeks after being born], precisely in order to give their parents the experience of losing a child when young; i.e., in order to enable the souls which the parents are, of experiencing [and, thus, learning - i.e., adding to soul growth, BY that learning experience] loss of that baby/child.

Question 2:

Are all events pre-destined to happen - both good and bad events, for karmic reasons, and cannot be changed?

Answer:

My answer to this is also "Yes". The evidence [and it makes sense, at a deep level] is that this is most definitely so. The objective evidence [see part of my answer to question 1] is that all MAJOR events in our lives [covering different aspects of our lives] are definitely pre-planned, predestined to happen. Both good events and bad events.

This also includes such things as the atrocities of 9/11. However "ridiculous" it may seem, to say that, from a spiritually-UNENLIGHTENED viewpoint, the objective evidence/data [which comes from several different sources] is that souls who suffer [in whatever way - whether they pass back to spirit, or are non-fatally injured, or whatever] in such events HAVE planned/agreed, before physical birth, to be affected, in whatever way, by being involved in events such as these. Such things as [as per your examples] as wars, terrorism, natural disasters such as tsunamis, etc etc etc, and even such things that are called [by spiritually-unenlightened people...] "accidents".

As I said in my answer to question 1, many people [the majority of] who have NDEs come up to some sort of 'barrier', in their NDE, and a soul in spirit on the other side of that barrier [be it perceived as a fence, a river, a hedge, whatever] says "You can't come here yet, IT'S NOT YET YOUR TIME to come back here".

Yes, whenever someone passes back to spirit, in whatever way - be it 'naturally', of some acute or chronic illness; by 'dying' as a baby just minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, old; by being a 'victim' of something like 9/11, a war, terrorism, natural disaster, whatever; etc etc, it IS that person's [pre-determined, predestined] time to go.

Question 3:

Should we help and assist the suffering, or is that interfering with their karma and their plans made before reincarnating?

Answer:

Well, re. this question, James, I think my answer has to be "Yes, we should help people who are suffering". Souls will have planned /decided / chosen, before incarnating, each time, whatever form[s] of suffering they wish to experience; and so, for at least some period of time, each person who is suffering, in whatever way, will have experienced that suffering. Be it physical / health suffering; emotional / mental suffering, due to whatever cause; etc. etc. etc. So, in each case, the soul has experienced the suffering for whatever period of time; thus learning whatever spiritual lesson the suffering was specifically chosen / planned, to address / learn. So I do not think that helping people who may be suffering, in whatever way, would be interfering with their karma. for whatever people do, to people (i.e., be it good or bad) is meant to take place. i.e., people who help/assist [in whatever way] people who are suffering, are themselves meant to be carrying out that action.

Question 4:

If we reincarnate thousands of times, as you say we do, is it because the best and most effective learning is done on Earth in the material physical plane, rather than in the etheric/spiritual realms?

Answer:

Firstly, James, I did not categorically say we each live thousands of lives! I recall having said that it seems like we each do live hundreds of lives, and POSSIBLY [in some or all cases] thousands of lives.

So, to answer your above question. Well. my answer to that question is most definitely YES!!

I've read a very great deal of literature on the "spirit stuff", and it is very logical and obvious to me that yes, souls can ONLY learn all the very many and varied big lessons/experiences in life on a physical plane. To me, that seems very, very obvious indeed.

Question 5:

Do we have to experience everything on Earth, during countless incarnations e.g., a criminal, a murderer, a victim of a murderer, being both sexes, being homosexual, etc etc etc?

Answer:

My answer to this question is that I feel sure that we each have to experience many, many different things; that we most definitely each have to experience being both sexes; that we each have to experience being people who are good and bad - e.g, we each will have to experience being negative/bad people [criminals - whether in the form of murderers, rapists, whatever], AND, in different lifetimes, being good people - in whatever form.

Karma works in such a way that a soul who has, for example, been a rapist in one lifetime, might, for a future lifetime, plan/choose to come to Earth [or to another physical dimension in "God"'s cosmos] and, in that lifetime, set up/be the head of, or a worker in, a Centre which helps the victims of rape i.e. that example would be an illustration of that soul being, in one lifetime, someone who had done a bad thing, and then, in a future lifetime, was someone who carried out good works, by being involved with the running of a Centre to help the victims of [in my example] rape. Maybe we do each have to experience every possible permutation of being, maybe not; I would think there are many, many possible permutations of the sort of person that we each could be! Maybe too many to consider that we each have to experience literally every possible sort of person. I do definitely think we each have to experience being many different races - that we each choose to be born in many different countries, in

the course of repeated reincarnations. Equally, I would think that, yes, we do each have to experience being a "follower" [for want of a better word...] of many different religious/belief systems. I'm sure that each of us has to experience that, including that, in some incarnations, we would be meant to experience being atheistic/materialistic in our thinking.

Question 6:

Do we have free will, or are we under the control of some great super power or being?

Answer:

We do all have free will, but that free will is, mostly, regarding what we each choose/plan/decide, whilst resident in the spiritual dimensions, what we will each experience in our many different lifetimes i.e. it is our freewill as to whether we plan / choose /decide, whilst in spirit, to live in place A or in place B; it is our own freewill, whilst in spirit, as to whether we are born to kind, loving parents, or whether we are born to parents where one of them will abuse us in some way [Jim and I have both experienced this; his now 'late' dad emotionally, mentally and physically abused him from the age of 3 or 4, that being the event which triggered off Jim's horrific insecurity in himself, causing him

huge self-esteem/lack of confidence problems, all the way through his life. I've experienced my mum having emotionally/mentally abused me from the age of 5; she and I have quite a good relationship, now; possibly the best it's ever been - she'll be 79 in May.

I've been told by my [named] relatives in spirit that Jim and I are definitely twin-souls. Which explains our very deep love for each other, and also explains such things as our having experienced the exact-same circumstances in life - the above-quoted being one such.

We do also have free will whilst on Earth; we can do whatever we choose to do, at the same time as having pre-planned, before coming to Earth, to experience a number of very specific situations/circumstances, etc etc. This includes the pre-planning of important relationships, for egg, that our marriages are pre-planned by us, before coming to the physical plane. I've been told by my family in spirit that it was not by mere chance that Jim and I met: that it was all predestined, before our physical births, and that it was pre-planned for me to relocate, in 2001, from my then home in London, to where I now am, in Lincolnshire. That I was meant to move, specifically in order that Jim and I be able to meet, in the way we'd pre-planned and agreed to, before coming here to Earth.

Question 7:

Are we always in the right place at the right time for the already planned consequences?

Answer:

My answer to that can be short and sweet: yes, I am absolutely certain that we ARE always in the right place at the right time, for the already-planned consequences. And that that stands, for WHATEVER situation each person is in.

I recall reading, in a book by some medium (I can't recall which one), that a young American male, aged 19 or 20, had been beaten up by some thugs, on the streets, and had passed back to spirit, as a result. The young man's father was devastated at his son's loss, and someone suggested he have a reading with this medium. The man's son communicated with his dad, through the medium, and said "Don't suffer for me, don't be sorry that this happened: for, since arriving back here in spirit, I've learned that that attack on me by those ruffians was pre-planned/agreed upon, before physical birth, between me and them: that my passing was MEANT to occur at exactly that time and in exactly that way".

Question 8:

Have we each already planned when and how we die from this incarnation?

Answer:

Well, the last section of my answer to the previous question answers this one! So my answer is "Yes, most definitely!". The objective evidence/data [from a number of different sources] indicates that yes we do most definitely plan/decide/agree, before physical birth, precisely when and how we pass back to spirit, from each physical incarnation.

So that was that - the answers to the questions illustrate what reincarnationists actually believe and accept as the 'truth', and what they have been influenced with - Appalling beyond measure!

Back to reality! I would like to quote from another fine and highly recommended American writer and author and good friend Susan Martinez Ph.D. and her new book *Delusions in Science and Spirituality* (Spring 2015):

Chapter 7: Body Snatching for Karma

More than any other theory challenged in this book, reincarnation seems to have been dreamed up by the "good idea fairy"

The theory of reincarnation makes karma the kingpin. Suffering can then be explained without bothering with politics and its role in human misery ; for karma will explain all. Why does suffering come along? So that we may atone for past life peccadilloes! For instance, the family that produces a 'mongoloid' child is told that the little boy's former sins created the "need to incarnate in a deformed state." The scars of our passions "reach down the centuries" and the resultant suffering is the only path to redemption or enlightenment for our blighted selves. Ignoring any monstrous causes from this very life, the reincarnationist is trained to find the root of our problems by tracing them to past-life disasters. And it is a "law"! - "fixed and unalterable" (Langley 1967 - 38, covers the last 3 quotes). But this pretentious logic breaks down when we consider that we have no knowledge of our previous existence, according to doctrine; how then can we learn from putative sins we cannot even remember?

Karma was the connecting thread in the Life Readings given by Edgar Cayce and all subsequent imitators. Many times, states one of Cayce's biographers "he had to exorcise the dark tenets of Predestination and Original Sin from the hopelessness and confusion in the minds of the people who came to him for help." (Noel Langley,

Edgar Cayce on Reincarnation). But let us ask - Is the reincarnationist's "fixed and unalterable" karma any different from the very good gospel of original sin and predestination - which the Cayceites so deplore? The newborn babe, in their philosophy, is shorn of innocence and purity by the daunting law of Karma. He has sinned. His birthright is, in the sinister philosophy, sullied by the taint of alleged crimes and misdemeanours in a past life! instead of fledgling hope and fresh life, the new arrival is branded a repository of some decrepit and vile karma that needs to be purged! Who needs Original Sin if we have Karma to ruin our destiny!

I was delighted to become acquainted with, and make another good friendship from across the pond, with August Goforth, a psychotherapist in private practice in New York City who is also a medium. His partner, Timothy Gray, was a writer, editor, and photographer in New York City until he made his transition to his present Risen existence in the early 1990s. 'Risen' is Tim's word for those who have transitioned (physically died). August and Tim co-authored the book 'The Risen' - Dialogues of Love, Grief and Survival Beyond Death. (21st Century Reports from the Afterlife through Contemplative, Intuitive and Physical Mediumship).

Chapter 25 The Pastime of Reincarnation is a gem and I would insist that not only the whole chapter but the whole book should be read

and digested. August himself wrote an article taking material from this chapter and I will include the following brief extract I have copied from his article as follows:

Tim summarizes:

“So it appears to me thus far that we are reborn upon our transition, but this rebirth is always into a new world and a unique state of existence, not back into the old one. The old one no longer exists—life is experienced in the continual now. We develop and carry forward the template for our new life. We are the template, and a new world will simultaneously arise from us as we arise from it, as a direct result of how we lived our lives on earth or from wherever we are continuously transitioning, as we transmute ever onward.”

'He goes on to clarify':

“It’s sometimes inferred that our spirits will take on new bodies again. Actually, our spirit will be our actual body, and then at some point it becomes the cocoon for the next transition. A higher vibrating form of spiritual being will then evolve from that event, eventually moving on to yet another new geography. The spirit then becomes a newer form of body that is appropriate to the higher vibration. It cannot return to earth to be reborn once again because its new and higher state of

vibration would no longer be appropriate there. Upon transition one is no longer spiritually human because of the higher vibration, and so cannot return to being earthly human in the equivalent way."

'This brief article barely does justice to the rich extensive material Tim was able to bring forth, going into great and detailed depth regarding the more elusive psycho-spiritual issues. The underlying factor consistently supporting the generally unchallenged belief in reincarnation is that old nemesis, the fear of mortality—and even fear of immortality. The thought that one is immortal and will have to move beyond the earth, never to return, can be extremely threatening, especially if one has not taken the time to become informed of the facts about the process.'

SUMMARY

To wind up this article let us review some important facts and issues. Those of us concerned with spreading and promoting the true understanding of 'Survival' i.e. the continued conscious life of the spiritual self after death of the physical body, realise full well what the word means, in this context, continuing to live in a finer state of being, and to progress at our own pace in these finer conditions in 'more real' worlds. We also are able to reunite with our loved ones and friends who have made the transition before us.

The idea, belief and doctrine of 'Reincarnation' on the other hand, is a diversion and complete myth and false theory misguiding masses to believe, and lead them down a path of total error. The illusion is as perfect as that of a clever stage magician who has his audience in his hands, spellbound!

There is no relationship between survival and reincarnation. It is only those reincarnationists who promote the error and doctrine who will state that Survival (to them) means returning to the material earth plane to continue being born and living in more physical bodies one after the other for any or all of time. The mortal trapping!

To accept and promote survival and reincarnation is attempting to ride two horses and ending up in a circus!

I will repeat that there is not a single case to prove reincarnation or an alleged past life, scientifically or otherwise. Whereas the evidence, including scientific evidence of proof for conscious survival of the soul/spirit after the material physical experience, is massive. That is natural progression whilst the former is regression and cannot and does not happen.

All alleged cases of past life recall can have or include any of the following explanations:

- 1 Cryptomnesia
- 2 Confabulation
- 3 Obsession or possession by discarnate entities
- 4 Overshadowing by discarnate entities
- 5 Hypnotic suggestibility
- 6 Auto-hypnosis
- 7 Astral projection
- 8 Out of Body Experience (OBE)
- 9 Mind before Brain (déjà vu)
- 10 Genetic memory
- 11 Being psychic or mediumistic and possibly being unaware of it
- 12 The taking of drugs and other medicaments

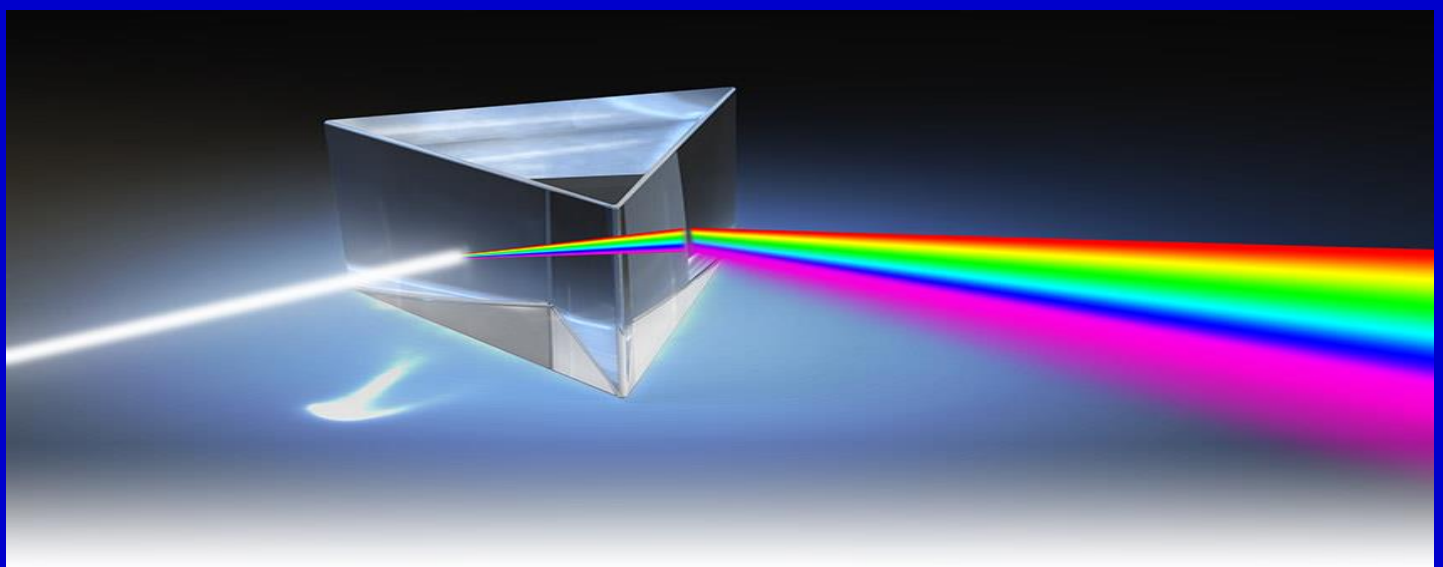
The following books and authors are highly recommended as being amongst essential reading to broaden what I have touched upon in this article. They are not listed in any order of priority:

Reincarnation Refuted Stephen Blake M.Sc.(Lond)
Delusions in Science and Spirituality Susan Martinez Ph.D.
The Reincarnation Hoax Susan Martinez Ph.D.
The Case Against Reincarnation James Webster

Shopping For Spirit - The Search for Truth Steve Gamble
The Risen August Goforth and Timothy Gray
Spirits In The Room Alan Ross
Mind out of Time Ian Wilson
Thirty Years Among the Dead Dr Carl A. Wickland MD
The Gateway of Understanding Dr Carl A. Wickland MD
The Siren Call of Hungry Ghosts Joe Fisher

Questions and comments invited.

Thank you.



EPILOGUE

Spiritualism, i.e., the eternal process of heavenly resurrection along with all our loved ones, is the universal truth of soul progression. Reincarnation is quite the opposite.

1) Any memories are simply from the spirits who are seeking control of you or are one of your associated spirits;

(2) The danger in believing in reincarnation is due to the fact that there are cults on the astral planes and in the hells who will try to bring your mind into a state of near unconsciousness in order to control you;

(3) Reincarnation involves seeking to forget everyone you ever loved by attempting to abandon your own immortal path so that you may return to the earth where you may seek to control the body of another immortal soul;

(4) The fundamental truth about spiritualism is that the heavens are a new life — free of body — yet all very real — you will be pretty much the same person after you died — with the same problems and the same strengths. Fortunately, there are angelic organizations which will work to help you. But there are also dark spheres of various addictions or sinful tendencies or spiritual enslavement who will strive to entrap you further in the darkness you have created for yourself during your mortal life. Such dark spheres include reincarnationalists.