

Paranormal "U"

Reincarnation

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Reincarnation (per Merriam-Webster's dictionary) is the idea or belief that people are born again with a different body after death. Most people either believe wholeheartedly in this notion, or completely disagree. There does seem to be some gray area in this matter, which tends to bring up more questions than answers. Many religions believe in and teach about reincarnation. The different denominations of the Asian religions seem to believe the most in reincarnation. Not that you need to have a religious belief system or be a spiritual person to believe in reincarnation. Some individuals who are not necessarily spiritual believe in it. Other religions do not believe in the notion at all. There are many books, movies and stories that report individuals having actual memories of who they used to be in past lives. Is this truly the case? For me, this also makes me question, "What happens to your soul when you die?" Could the thoughts and experiences you remember as part of the reincarnation experience be caused by medical issues? Do they have some sort of medical issues going on that would make them recall experiences that never actually happened to them?

I was raised catholic. I was taught that once you die, you either go to heaven or hell. Sure, I might spend a little time in purgatory, but ultimately I will end up in my eternal resting place surrounded by my loved ones who have gone before me. There was not a lot of room for debate on topics such as reincarnation. I never even thought about the possibility of having a personal experience that would challenge that belief system. I have heard several stories and watched numerous shows about people who claim be reincarnated. What if that happened to me? My religious upbringing makes me question whether or not this could be true. I believe most of these people truly believe that they had these experiences, but how could that be if what my religion taught me is true? I believe most people take what they need from their religion. I don't know many who believe whole heartedly in everything their religion teaches. I'm skeptical as to whether or not these stories are true, but I'm open to the possibility that they could be true.

The religious information I found on reincarnation was very interesting. The idea of reincarnation seems to have been entertained by most religions either partially or completely at some point in time. It seems the older or more ancient the religion, the more prevalent the idea is within the religion. A few of these are Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. The main difference has been explained as thinking in a circular pattern as opposed to a linear pattern. If you believe in reincarnation, your soul can re-enter life either in another human body or that of an animal. This was explained as a circular pattern of beliefs (birth, life, death, re-birth). If you don't believe in reincarnation, your belief system follows a more linear pattern (birth, life and death). It is one thing to believe in reincarnation, but to actually have memories of a past life... what must that be like?

One reincarnation story in particular really fascinated me. John Schneider, who played Bo Duke on "The Dukes of Hazzard" was on an episode of "Celebrity Ghost Story". He described to his mother, in detail, a memory he had of climbing out a window and falling out of the window. His mother informed him that he could not have remembered that because that particular incident had happened to his older brother who was now deceased. How was he able to recall a memory that was not his own? Had he heard the story from a family member? What are the chances that he had the exact same experience as his brother? He also reports that he has more memories that are older than the year he was born.

Bumps in the Night!!!!

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John stated that his mother would always say that he was her little Johnny Michael (which was his brother's name).

All the reincarnation stories I read about or listened to were very interesting. One day I hope we might be able to prove what happens to our souls once they pass from our earthly bodies. I'm not sure if that will ever happen or if we are really supposed to know what happens, but until then we can continue to research and try to find answers. I hope this challenges you to take a look at your belief system and helps you to consider things from another perspective. So, what do you believe?

Resources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZS5ZnoddctI>

<http://reincarnationafterdeath.com/what-religions-believe-in-reincarnation/>

<http://www.world-religions-professor.com/reincarnation-karma.html>

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