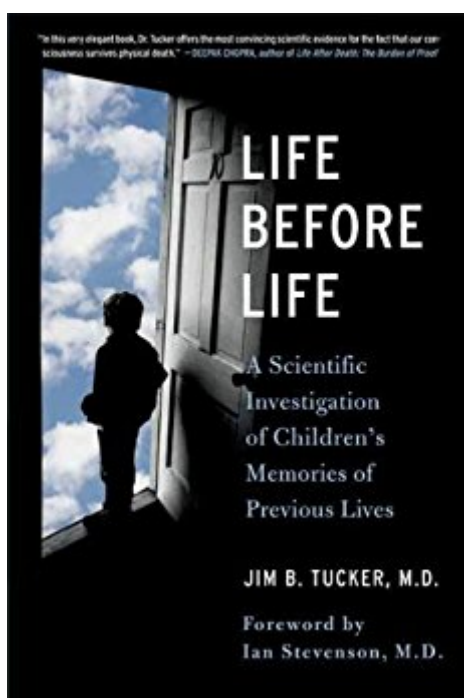


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Life Before Life: A Scientific Investigation Of Children's Memories Of Previous Lives



Synopsis

For the past forty years, doctors at the University of Virginia Medical Center have conducted research into young children's reports of past-life memories. Dr. Ian Stevenson, the founder of this work, has always written for a scientific audience. Now, in this provocative and fascinating book, Dr. Jim B. Tucker, a child psychiatrist who currently directs the research, shares these studies with the general public. *Life Before Life* is a landmark work—one that has the potential to challenge and ultimately change our understandings about life and death. Children who report past-life memories typically begin talking spontaneously about a previous life when they are two to three years old. Some talk about the life of a deceased family member, while others describe the life of a stranger. They may recount details about previous family members, events in the previous life, or the way they died in that life. The children tend to show a strong emotional involvement with the apparent memories and often cry to be taken to the previous family. In many cases, parents have taken their children to the places they named, where they found that an individual had died whose life matched the details given by the child. During the visits, some children have recognized family members or friends from that individual's life. Many children have had birthmarks that matched wounds on the body of the deceased individual. Researchers have studied more than 2500 such cases, and their careful investigations have produced an impressive body of work. *JAMA*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, stated in a review of one of Dr. Stevenson's scientific books that, "in regard to reincarnation he has painstakingly and unemotionally collected a detailed series of cases . . . in which the evidence is difficult to explain on any other grounds." *Life Before Life* explores the various features of this world-wide phenomenon, describing numerous cases along the way. We meet a boy in Michigan who, after being born with three birthmarks that matched wounds on his deceased brother, begins talking about events from the brother's life; a boy in Turkey who gives a number of accurate details, including the name, of a man who lived 500 miles away and died fifty years before the boy was born; and a girl in Sri Lanka who is able to recognize the family members of a deceased stranger as they are presented to her one by one, giving specifics about their lives that she could not have known from their appearance. Dr. Tucker presents this material in a straightforward way, relating extraordinary stories that have been amassed with a scientific approach. He then considers how best to interpret the evidence, and he lets readers reach their own conclusions—which, for many, will be profound.

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Customer Reviews

This book, the first book I read about reincarnation, has really changed my views about life after death and the world as a whole. Because of the scientific approach in stead of just stating the cases/evidence without questioning himself, the author can probably convince every reader who has an open mind about this subject. It is well-written and even though at some point there is some self-repeating, it never gets dull. I think the book should be understandable for everyone, not just the well-educated scientific crowd, which makes it appealing for a wide audience. I really think more people should learn about this!

To someone who has never had any interest or knowledge about reincarnation, this book is a real eye-opener. If even one of the stories could be proven to be real, the cat would be out of the bag. We would all know for sure that SOMETHING happens to us when we die. And some of the evidence Dr Tucker presents is seriously compelling. The book has to be read for this to be understood. And what makes it even more compelling for me, is that the author never concludes that the evidence proves reincarnation. He keeps his personal opinion away, and allows the reader to make his own conclusions. This is much better than a religious book which rams everything down

your throat with a forthright "I must be right" opinion. Topics regarding reincarnation must remain open to all of us as they simply cannot be proved or disproved. This book is a classic on showing you what's going on out there.

Wonderful stories of past lives, interwoven with explanations by the author. It seems that most of the stories are from children in India, but as many in that country believe in reincarnation, it stands to reason that there would be more attention paid to kids who talk of previous lives. It made me think back to stories my children told me; my middle son talked a great deal of riding a horse and being chased by painted men with bows and arrows, and that they killed him "in a parking lot". He was only 3 at the time, and since then I have read of volcanic flats in Nevada that resemble blacktop parking lots and have wondered if that was what he meant. My daughter, at a very early age, refused to wear girl's clothes, insisting she was a boy named John Henry. Again, at the time I thought it was just a vivid imagination. After reading this book, I tend to believe that there are too many instances from cultures around the world that speak of many lives we may have lived before, or may yet live. There is just so much evidence.

Chances are if you're reading these reviews, you have a fairly open mind about things like past lives. This book is a fairly impartial look at children's experiences, extremely well documented, that pretty much confirm the idea of past lives. While most of the case files seem to be from cultures where past lives are taken as granted, a few are from American or other cultures where the majority of folks sneer at the idea, so it ends up representing a good cross-section of cases to think about. It may not change your opinion of whether or not past lives are fact or fiction, but it's a very good read nonetheless. I do recommend it. I would've liked a few more American cases or cases where the cultures are completely against the idea of reincarnation, but overall it's a good read.

I already believe in reincarnation so I found the large sections of research and explanation frustrating. Other than that, I found the case studies very interesting and it just confirmed what I already believe to be true. This life is just a small blip of our spiritual journey!

Makes you really consider life and death and their relationship. There is so much more to the deep questions than we think, and this book may make you confront your personal beliefs. Very interesting read.

good book!

Very interesting book that really makes you think about the meaning of life and what lies in our future. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to expand their horizons.

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