

SAMSĀRA – Life after Life

by

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The Theory of Creation

With regard to the question: "who determines our fate and destiny," we should first find out how did we come to the present existence.

According to **Theological Religions** an

Almighty God created the universe and all living beings. The Book of Genesis describes that God created the earth, the ocean, the sky, Adam and Eve, all kinds of plants and animals, the sun, the moon and the stars in six days. This description is not in accord with the findings of science and scientists do not find any evidence of creation as well as the existence of a creator.

The very basic law of science known as the **Law of Conservation of Mass and Energy** states: "Matter and energy can neither be created nor destroyed." And natural laws explain the orderly system of the stars and the planets.

Also the French chemist **Louis Pasteur** (1822-95), whose research led to "**Pasteurization**", stated that "Life must come from life." The **Theory of Evolution** discovered by **Charles Darwin** (1809-1882) also disproved the Theory of Creation.

The renowned English world historian **H.G.Wells** wrote in his book: "When we study our holy book we are told that God created this world six thousand years ago. When we study geology, we can understand that it has taken billions of years for this earth to cool down and settle before life became possible. Therefore, how can we believe what is written in our holy book?"

The Discovery of Science

Scientists put an ovum from a barren woman in a test tube and add the sperms of her husband. When a sperm penetrates into the ovum, a fertilized egg called zygote is formed. When this fertilized ovum is placed in the womb of a woman, it attaches to the wall of the womb and normal pregnancy takes place. Thus many test-tube babies were born to many barren couples. I read in the newspaper that an Italian woman gave birth to six test-tube babies for six couples in a single birth!

A more wonderful research being carried out by scientists at present is on **cloning** – a new process of producing offsprings asexually from the cells of an ancestor. In England scientists successfully produced 18 lambs from a sheep called **Dolly** - all the lambs are identical with their mother in appearance. It seems that they could soon be able to produce 1000 little **Dr. Mehm Tin Mons** from my cells! So scientists seem to be doing the work of God. If they could do so, there is no reason for human beings to surrender to God.

According to the scientific standpoint, we are the direct products of the sperm and ovum cells of our parents. But science does not explain the development of the mind, which is infinitely more important than the machinery of man's material body. Neither can science explain the differences in mental attitude intelligence level, interest and temperament of identical twins who are developed from the same cell and brought up under the same environment. Scientists, while asserting "**Omni vivum ex vivo**" (All life from life), maintain that mind and life evolve from the lifeless.

Again from the scientific standpoint we are absolutely parent-born. Thus our lives are necessarily preceded by those of our parents and

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so on. In this way life is preceded by life until one goes back to the first protoplasm. As regards the origin of this first protoplasm, that is the origin of life, scientists plead ignorance.

Life after Life

The scientist outlook upon life is materialistic because science is concerned only with matter and energy which are interconvertible according to Albert Einstein. According to the explanation of life by science, all beings will live just for one existence. There are no past or future existences for each person. Also according to Theology there is no past existence for each individual and no immediate future existence after his death. His soul will have to wait in his tomb or some place till **Judgment Day** when he will be judged by God to go either to Heaven or Hell. That Judgment Day will come about at the end of this world which will continue to exist for five more billion years according to the science estimate. So it would be a very long wait!

But there are many concrete evidences for life after life of each individual. We will consider several cases.

(a) **Persons with the knowledge of remembering their past existences**
(*Jāssara – ñāna*)

(1) **Dr. Ian Stevenson** of Virginia University studied about 7000 cases worldwide about persons who could tell their past existences. He published several books and confirmed that these persons could truly remember their past existences.

(2) **Ma Htay** in Tat Kone, Myanmar, was born with two flashy humps like horns on her head. She remembered that in her past existence she was Daw Mya. She hired Ma Thein Tin (13 years old) and her mother to work on her farm.

husband was a professor of law in Queen's College in about 1847. Her story became well known in USA after a research committee confirmed her story.

(4) **Edgar Cayce** the miracle man in USA when hypnotised, could diagnose correctly the conditions of many patients with such and such names in such and such addresses and prescribe certain modes of treatment. Thousands of patients were cured of their chronic diseases during the years from 1901 to 1923. An Edgar Cayce Foundation was built in Virginia Beach where all the records of treatment are kept.

In 1923 Edgar Cayce was asked by a man to give him an **astrological chart**. Cayce mentioned casually from his unconscious state that more important than the urges from the planetary influences were the drives, talents and abilities which came to the man from previous lives on earth...

Then followed "**life readings**" in which Cayce described some details of previous existences on earth, apparently picking out only those that were most influential in the present. He then frequently gave names, dates, and places, as well as characteristic urges of talents, weakness, and abilities, and sometimes physical and psychological problems arising as a result, he explained, of memory carried over at a deep unconscious level from these previous lives.

Life readings on Cayce himself revealed that he had been a high priest in Egypt many centuries ago, who possessed great occult powers but self-will and sensuality proved his undoing. In a later existence in Persia he had been a physician. Once he had been wounded in desert warfare and left to die on the sands. Alone, without food, water, or shelter, he spent three days and nights in such physical agony that he made supreme effort to release his consciousness from his body. He

admitted to Yuhuan University as the youngest student in 1985.

(5) **Ma Hla Gyi** in Myanmar in 1954 could read **Pazi** and understand the meaning at the age of six. She remembered her past life as a learned Elder monk.

So there arise in this world highly developed personalities, and Perfect Ones like the Buddhas. Could they be the products of a single existence? Could they be exceptional with extraordinary brains? Scientists studied the **brain of Albert Einstein** after his death. They did not find any extra-ordinary features. The prodigies could show special abilities due to their past learnings in their past existences.

(c) *Age-degression by Hypnosis*

Those who could not remember their past existences can be hypnotised and asked to tell about their past existences. This technique is much studied and practised in Europe and the United States of America.

(1) **Mrs. N. Baker** in England did not speak French and had never been to France. When hypnotized, she spoke about many events that had occurred in Paris in French fluently.

(2) **Rev. Martin** from Pennsylvania Coptic Church and 22 educated church members hypnotized their devotees and asked them to talk about their past existences. The talks were recorded and played back to them when they were very surprised to hear them talking about their past existences since they did not believe in past existences. Their past existences were investigated and found to be true. A book was published.

(3) **Mrs. Virginia Tigue** in USA was hypnotized six times in 1952-1953. She spoke about her past life as **Bridy Murphy** in Belfast, Ireland, about 150 years ago. She said that her

She paid only half the wage of an adult to Ma Thein Tin though the latter worked as much as her mother. When Daw Mya died, she became a buffalo at Ma Thein Tin's farm, bore three calves and died to be reborn as the daughter of Ma Thein Tin with the name "Ma Htay."

(3) **Shanti Devi** was born in New Delhi in 1926. When she was three years old, she told her parents that she had a husband by the name of Kadanath Chaubi, textile trader, in Mutara. She was his wife Luddi in her past existence and she died ten days after giving birth to a son. Her father wrote to Kadanath Chaubi who came to Delhi to confirm the story.

A committee was formed to study this case. They traveled to Mutara by train. Shanti greeted about 50 former relatives by name at the railway station. She also remembered her former house in detail and a sum of 100 rupees buried under ground below the parlour.

(b) *Infant Prodigies*

(1) **Christian Heineken** could talk within a few hours of his birth, repeat passages from the Bible at the age of one year, answer any question on geography at the age of two, speak French and Latin at the age of three, and become a student of philosophy at the age of four.

(2) **William James Sidis**, a wonder child of the United States, could read and write at the age of two, and speak French, Russian, English, German with some Latin and Greek at the age of eight.

(3) **Macaulay** in England could write a world history at the age of six.

(4) **Jen Jen** in China understood Chinese and English when he was 18 months old, spoke these languages at the age of two, read English and Chinese at the age of three, learned high school mathematics at the age of four and was

was successful in his attempt. This was in part the basis for his faculty in the present for releasing his mind from the limitations of his body.

A young woman telegraph operator in New York City became curious about the strange telegrams that she was asked on several occasions to send to Virginia Beach. She made inquiries about Cayce's identity; her curiosity heightened, and she decided to have a life reading. She was told in the reading that she was wasting her time as a telegraph operator, and that she should study commercial art, as she had been a competent artist for several past life times and could be one again.

The notion of entering commercial or any other kind of art had never entered her head; but on the strength of a daring sense that she might as well try anything once, she put herself through art school. To her surprise she found that she had genuine talent; she soon became a highly successful commercial artist, and incidentally transformed, her personality in the process. (Ref: "Many Mansions: The Edgar Cayce Story on Reincarnation" by Gina Cerminara, a Signet book.)

(d) *Contact with the dead through a medium with psychic power*

There are three means of contact with those who have died:

- (i) Automatic writing,
 - (ii) Oija Boards to spell words,
 - (iii) Through mediums with psychic power.
- (1) **Estelle Roberts** in England, during 1925-1970, with the help of a celestial being named Red Cloud, helped many people to contact with their dead relatives.

A **maiden** requested Estelle Roberts to help her to contact with her lover who died in an accident. She was told that he was by her side

trying to contact with the pass words "not bloody likely" – the words they had agreed upon before he died. The English video film "The Ghost" illustrated such incidents.

Estelle Roberts and **Red Cloud**, her guiding spirit, invited the people several times to come to King's Hall or Queen's Hall on such and such a date and time to contact with their dead. Thousands of people and hundreds of spirits would come, and Estelle Roberts would call out the names of the relatives of each spirit and told them what the spirit wanted to say.

Later Estelle Roberts and Red Cloud conducted "**Direct Voice Contact**" by using a trumpet. **Lady Segrave** talked to her husband, **Sir Henry Segrave**, who died in a boat race, several times and gave an interview to reporters.

(2) **Dr. Kubler Ross** in USA worked in a social group which helped lonely aged persons. Many aged persons, after their death, became celestial beings and came to thank her and even wrote letters of thanks and signed the letters. Dr. Kubler Ross contacted with them through her psychic power and also gave interviews to reporters

During the time of the Buddha many celestial beings came to thank the Buddha or his disciples after their death from human existences, e.g. Candāli, Frog Deva, Marthakundali, Anāthapindika, etc.

(e) *Pubbenivāsānussati - nāṇa – the supernormal power of remembering past existences*

The Buddha, with this power, knew all his former existences and also the former existences of all persons together with their past kammas, talents, natural bent and stages of perfections.

Many Anabants also saw their past existences and narrated some for the benefit of their companions, e.g. Dhamma Dimma, Ambapāli.

(f) **Dibba – cakkhu and Yathākammapāgañāna Divine eye** that could see all the 31 planes of existence with the kammas that give rise to such existences. People with this power could also see beings who are dying and beings who are being born according to their kammas.

(g) **Self – verification in Insight Meditation.** In Buddhist meditation, after developing the right concentration, the mediator characterizes all the ultimate realities (*cittas, cetasikas, rūpas*) in his mind and body as well as in other's mind and bodies to get rid of the wrong view of 'personality belief'.

Then the mediator finds out the causal relations between ultimate realities as described in the Discourse of Dependent Arising (*Paticcasamuppāda*). In doing so, he or she will observe his former existences together with the causes which give rise to those existences.

Many interesting experiences were observed at this stage of meditation in International Pa-ank Forest Buddha Sāsana Centres in Myanmar. With these many concrete evidences one should have no doubt about the life after life of each individual.

Since one can attain the highest, noblest state enjoying the eternal bliss of Nibbāna in this very life by strenuously undertaking the Noble Threefold Training, one can surely determine one's fate and destiny as one likes.