

### **There's reincarnation and then there's *true* reincarnation**

Many of my fellow mediums/clairvoyants believe in reincarnation, as do approximately 34% of French people (as revealed in the Values of the French survey 2012). What do we understand as the true meaning behind the word 'reincarnation', which so often misused? In this article I shall attempt to clarify certain aspects of reincarnation and thus make the overall concept clearer to you, the reader. To conclude, I shall state my own views on reincarnation according to what I have seen and experienced in my work as a spirit medium. These views are mine alone.

Let us begin with the Larousse definition of 'reincarnation': 'In certain religions (Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, etc.), it is the migration of the soul, which, upon death, passes into another body.' The first thing to be said is that, with the help of the dictionary still, you can flick to the definition of 'body', which may send you to the definition of 'soul', which effectively only concerns man. Insects, for example, are not explicitly excluded, but the average person will of course be thinking of returning to humankind and not to antkind!

Just as we have different branches of Christianity, the reader will hardly be surprised to find that the same goes for Buddhism, and indeed for other religions too. What do Jainism and Hinduism have in common, the former's believers not worshipping God and envisaging a World that has existed forever, and the latter's believing that the universe was created and cherishing the different forms of one single God, the creator of the universe? Except for belief in reincarnation and karma, not a lot...

In the West, we see reincarnation as the opportunity to enjoy more than one life. In the East the reverse is true. According to the well-known, albeit misrepresented,

principal of good and bad actions, wrongly referred to as 'karma', the ultimate goal is to free oneself of life and not to have the pleasure of returning.

For what reasons should we have to pay to the faults of lives past? Thinking about it, it would hardly make much sense. Let us imagine that I murdered an entire family in my past life. Now, I have no recollection of it but the merciless blade still awaits *me*. Regardless of the good deeds I have done in this life, I must 'pay'. My current self has to pay for the misdemeanours of my past self, even though I have no memory of that self. Why should I be condemned? Why should I be punished when I have done nothing to be punished for (in this life)? Imagine that this phenomenon were to take place: I have a family and children, and a murderer comes to slit their throats before my very eyes. From the perspective of karma, how can I understand this 'lesson', seeing as I do not recall anything? From the strict point of view of 'balancing out', it is understandable; I reap what I sow. My soul is punished. Yet, in this case, my personality is different. I lead an honest life, I have a family, etc. It would be punishment by association: a father has killed, so his daughter must be raped then hanged. But what has the daughter done wrong? This punishment for the sins of a past life is hardly likely, seeing as mediums describe the place beyond the veil as a world of love, peace, and harmony. This idea of punishment resembles rather a mechanical judgment, a strict and rigid 'justice' system that makes no exceptions and does not take into account any extenuating circumstances.

You see now how the concept of 'karma' is far more complicated than the caricature so often put forward in the West, and indeed more complicated than in the Indian caste system, which was abolished in 1945.

This raises the question: what exactly do I mean by the word 'soul', and in turn by the word 'personality'? As is generally stated, the body dies but the soul survives. What can we take from this statement? That life goes on after death? Then the classic questions come: Why can we not recall our past life/lives? Why be reincarnated? The list goes on... In general, the concept of the soul in the West is a product of one of the religions of the Book and is defined as being God's design. In the Far East on the other hand, the soul is not an energy-based entity that depends on a Great Creator, but rather one that **BELONGS to the creative principle**. Like droplets in the ocean, souls are tiny individually, but are all united at once. They both stand alone and are an integral part of the enormous mass of water. Do the fortunate 'chosen ones' who know that reincarnation exists, and who often pray to God, know that in a way they are praying to themselves? That favouring God over people means loving a part of oneself at the expense of others?

This is difficult to understand for us Europeans. Often people treat 'soul', 'spirit', and 'personality' as synonyms and use them interchangeably. If you assume that you will take on a body, you will find yourself trapped in a human organism (I have decided to leave our animal friends out of this article for the most part). You do not remember anything and you must relearn everything, starting with being clean, acquiring language, walking, and then reading and writing in our Western society, etc. (this order of development not necessarily being the case in other countries). According to this principle, people who have had a Near Death Experience (NED) should have some kind of universal insight, seeing as their soul, freed from its straitjacket, should become reconnected. And yet this is not the case, at least not entirely. If we are able once again to see all, if we are transported instantly, why not recall all of one's past before birth? And what if this point were situated after one's

(physical) return? A soul not completely liberated, once again bound in its carnal chains with its prejudices, weaknesses, strengths, and faults? As if our immortal psyche were playing around, making different personalities in order to try out each one and learn something from each. A work in matching psyche and personality; a symbiotic process. The worldly ego would reign on Earth in order to see the other side of the veil more clearly by basing itself in the soul, creating a single entity. This is the Far-Eastern point of view, whereas its Westernised counterpart will put forward the notion of complete immutability through eternity; an indivisible whole, before death and most importantly afterwards.

And I myself am jumping on the bandwagon of those who deem it necessary to carry out experiments in this field. Assuming that our essence is immortal, let it start off as imperfect. After all, the average person will understand the virtual *obligation* to taste pain, betrayal, lies, etc. in order to better sublimate them. However, if it starts out as perfect, why be sullied and damaged on Earth? The following patient analogy will illustrate my point. How can you enjoy a completely healthy life? By falling ill, no less! What works better than a cold in making us fully appreciate the absence of fever or a throat that is not enflamed? The psyche, having undergone a (spiritual) difficulty, can evolve and make the most of happiness. Time is of no intrinsic importance to you, the immortal. Never mind that you suffer ten bouts of lung infection whilst your neighbour recovers almost instantly. In the end, you will understand the feeling of untroubled health no matter when you cross the 'finish line', for you *will* cross it sooner or later. Being the first to cross the finish line is only significant in a competition, which is by no means the case here. Believe in my experience as a spirit medium!

Now, there is time, the beautiful illusion of time. Oh, you are going to tell me that you hardly have the energy that you did when you were twenty. Me neither... I am not talking here about the degradation of the body; I am referring rather to spiritual time, which partially aligns to quantum physics. Before cursing me for jumping into Schrödinger's cat territory, imagine yourself as an actor in a film whose mean screenwriter only gives you your main lines. Your professional conscience (I assume that you have one seeing as you are a good actor) pushes you to act at your very best. You do the same scene as many times as necessary and, once the filming is finished, you recall the best moments to yourself and to your loved ones. Technically speaking, you have already done the scene. But who is stopping you from viewing it afresh? Who is going to stop you from reconsidering the subject that you (your soul) have (has) not understood? Put your cap back on, and you once again enter the role of the fourth musketeer, Charles de Batz-Castelmore. Once again this illusion of time. "Θάνατος μαύρος αδερφός, Θάνατος θα γίνω αθάνατος" (rough translation: "Oh Death, my dark sister, Oh Death, I shall become immortal")...

And yet, the director foresaw that you were falling into the clutches of Milady. Can it be avoided? Normand's response; perhaps, or perhaps not. Chance would not exist, for if I die in a car accident, my soul would have planned this event well before my birth, in accordance with my spiritual guides. It is still nice to think that my future self, existing beyond the veil, will be more competent than my present self, whilst not suffering all the torments of the Earth. However, I would rather opt for a system along the most vital lines, or even the most trivial, from our Super Robot in the sky (a nod to Vega Kyosei Daiho), where there is the option of having one's worldly personality stopped if need be, and of changing direction or even rebelling. And to suffer the consequences, positive or negative...

So, I easily sweep to one side the issue of ‘I do not understand why I should not remember it (my past incarnations)’. It may seem reassuring to imagine that you helped a woman with a baby out of their burning home. But is it the same if I know that, as a soldier in a past life, I passed my sword through the body of an unarmed prisoner because that was the order I had been given? The positive memory is negated, with knowledge sometimes proving to be more of a burden than a source of internal freedom. Bad actions naturally haunt us, whereas as positive ones do not. I am certain that every person has his or her inner demons, that there are deeds that all of us have committed in this life that we are ashamed of. No-one lives a perfect existence in a fairyland castle in the sky. Our mental health would simply not survive such a life.

The appearance of Evil itself turns out to be irrelevant. Men oppose Good, so the two end up simply being two sides of the same coin. Neither exists without the other, like the giraffe and the jackal (in NVC, the Nonviolent Communication process). In spite of all our shortcomings, we need ‘Evil’ to achieve (spiritual) growth (Evil can be seen as the jackal, a beautiful animal living in stable monogamous pairs in Africa, the Middle East and India which remains a necessary scavenger and is by nature necrophagous). A paradox which puts it on an equal level with its philosophical/spiritual/human rival. Evil for many is a mirage that needs to be clarified, as I have here in brief terms.

To summarize just the most apparent points, what kind of reincarnation do we want? Should we be reincarnated with God by our side or without? Do we want to be reincarnated to enjoy life afresh or to be punished for past acts? Are we individuals independent of a creator or by extension are we like droplets forming a vast ocean? Most people who believe in reincarnation in France do not pose themselves this many

questions. However, the intellectual and spiritual exercise is worth the effort, whatever conclusion you arrive at.