

Scientific Basis Of Brain, Consciousness And Rebirth

We have heard much about rebirth in books, journals and speeches. Some small children talk about their past lives spontaneously and adults talk about their past lives when they are in a hypnotic trance. Some others recall their past lives when they are in deep meditation. Verifiable details of what people revealed about their past lives have been verified by reputed scientists and found to be true and rebirth has been proved as a scientifically true phenomenon.

A person who dies and is reborn normally carries with him/her his/her knowledge, skills, emotions, enmity, friendship, fears and even sexual tendencies to the reincarnate. Memories relating to these get lodged in the subconscious mind of the reincarnate. They remain hidden and pop up into the conscious mind when stimulated.

This writer visited a very poor family living in a hut in Gampaha and was surprised to find a violin in that hut. It belonged to the 14 year old boy who lived there. He played it for us and was very talented in playing it. He said that it was presented to him by the music teacher in school. He had to be very talented to get it as a present from the music teacher and such a talent cannot develop while living in such poor conditions. Therefore his talent must have come from his past life. Under hypnotic trance he revealed that he was well to do in his past life. His past life parents were both teachers. His past life father had bought him a violin and taught him how to play it. His past life home was only five miles away from his present hut and he had died at the age of 25 years of a motor accident. He was immediately driven to his past life home and we could recover his past life violin. His past life parents agreed to pay for his education.

A 14 year old sinhalese buddhist girl from a suburb of Colombo met this writer because she was getting frequent fainting attacks. Under hypnotic trance she revealed that she was a trained LTTE cadre in her past life. The LTTE had trained her in fighting methods including karate and Bharatha dancing. Under hypnotic trance she performed both karate and Bharatha dancing. Although she had never learned tamil language and lived in a sinhala environment she could understand a tamil conversation.

Memories of injuries sustained at the time of death get deeply ingrained in the astral body and after it links itself with the brain of a foetus, it influences the development of the body of the foetus. Bullet wounds and stab injuries sustained at the time of death usually

appear as birth marks. Professor Ian Stevenson of the USA has studied a large number of such cases and written a book on the subject titled "The Biology of Reincarnation". He had even found tyre marks on the chest of a person who had got run over by a car and died in his past life.

This writer met a young man in Colombo one leg of whom is shorter than the other. Under hypnotic trance he revealed that he got run over by a train in his past life near the Wilwatte railway station and one of his legs got severed in that accident. That leg is now shorter than the other in this life and he feels handicapped by that because he is now a cricketer.

A 14 year old boy had four birth marks, two in his belly and two behind. He revealed that in his past life he lived in China and died when he was shot by a terrorist. He had received two gun shots and the birth marks are where the bullet had entered and exited his body.

A young girl in the USA who had become very obese could not lose weight because the normal weight losing techniques were not working for her. Later it was found that the cause of her obesity had come from her past life. In her past life she had been a pretty girl who got abducted and raped. After that she had thought that the reason for the abduction and rape was her beauty and made a vow not to be beautiful. As a result of the vow she had become very fat to lose her beauty. After her death her astral body had carried the vow to her current life and lodged it in her present life subconscious mind and that made her very obese and resistant to weight losing techniques. After erasing the memories of the past life vow from her subconscious mind she could lose weight.

A lady working in Matara Hospital came to meet this writer with her twelve year old son and complained that her son was her sole companion in life, but he treated her as an enemy. He always used to beat her with whatever that came to his hand and beat and kick her even while walking on the road or travelling in a bus. No treatment had helped to ease the situation and she was desperate. Under hypnotic trance it was revealed that in their past lives they had lived in India, the mother was a rich lady and the son was her servant girl. The lady had been cruel to the servant girl and when she contracted malaria at the age of 16 years she was not looked after and as a result she died. The servant girl's astral body had carried the memories of the cruelty she had suffered under the lady and became the son of the lady's reincarnate at Matara to take revenge. Under hypnotic

trance most of the memories of cruelty in the boy's subconscious mind could be erased.

Change of sex during rebirth result in gender confusion. If a man dies and is reborn as a girl, his male sexual tendencies and desires are carried in his astral body and get lodged in the subconscious mind of the reincarnate girl. But her body possesses female tendencies and desires. Having opposite tendencies and desires in the subconscious mind and the body result in gender confusion preventing her from performing a female role in sex. Such a girl will not have boy friends and avoid getting married. If she gets married under compulsion the unlucky partner, most likely, will separate after getting frustrated. If she had been a very active male personality in her past life the male tendencies and desires may dominate and make her a lesbian. In the same way a boy who had been a female in his past life will resist girl friends and marriage and may become a gay personality.

Near death experiences (NDE) and out of body experiences (OBE) are two rebirth related phenomena. Here a person who is unconscious or in deep sleep can see things around him/her, some times things happening far away or even in spiritual worlds. If it happens when a person is unconscious, very often when a person is anaesthetised, it is referred to as a NDE and if it happens in deep sleep it is an OBE. When it happens while a person is unconscious most people can, now, recognise it as a NDE, but when it happens during deep sleep most people believe that it was a dream. Now, a lot of literature is available on this subject.

A lady who was anaesthetised in a London hospital experienced a NDE and saw not only what was happening around her unconscious body but also somethings on the roof of the tall hospital building. After regaining consciousness she told the doctors that she had seen everything the doctors and nurses were doing and heard everything they spoke. When she realized that the doctors were going to ignore what she said about her experience, she told them that she saw not only what was happening around her, but went over the roof of the hospital building and saw an old shoe blocking the gutter on the roof edge. The doctors sent people to the roof of the building to check it and found that what she had said was true. This was the incident that made the western scientists and psychologists to accept NDE and OBE seriously as real phenomena.

A totally blind woman in The USA became unconscious due to a cardiac

arrest. Doctors gave her prompt attention and managed to revive her. During the period she was unconscious she could see everything that happened round her unconscious body, but was blind again after she regained consciousness.

Investigations have shown that consciousness disembodies during NDE and OBE and the disembodied consciousness can remain floating for quite some time before it re-embodies. A disembodied consciousness is referred to as an astral body (manokaya). An astral body can see, hear, smell and recognise and remember objects and events, and relate and describe them after re-embodiment and regaining consciousness. An astral body carries with it the entire memory bank, the karmic records and the identity of the person. Until the astral body re-embodies, the person is all but dead and doctors, often, pronounce such a person as dead.

When a person dies his/her consciousness disembodies and the resulting astral body remains afloat until it finds another body, normally a foetus, enters and settles down there. Then we say that the person is conceived in a new mother's womb and the person is reborn when the new mother gives birth.

When a person's consciousness is disembodied in a NDE situation, it is possible for the astral body of a deceased one to enter the unconscious body. This causes confusion because when the person who went unconscious regains consciousness he/she will have a new identity, the identity brought by the astral body that came in, i.e. the identity of the deceased one. Here the new person that is created has the same body and a different consciousness. In rebirth the new person created has the same consciousness and a different body. The description, "Na ca so na ca anno" (not the same person, not a totally different person either) applies to both these cases.

To be continued....



Dr. Granville Dharmawardena
Ph.D.(Cambridge)