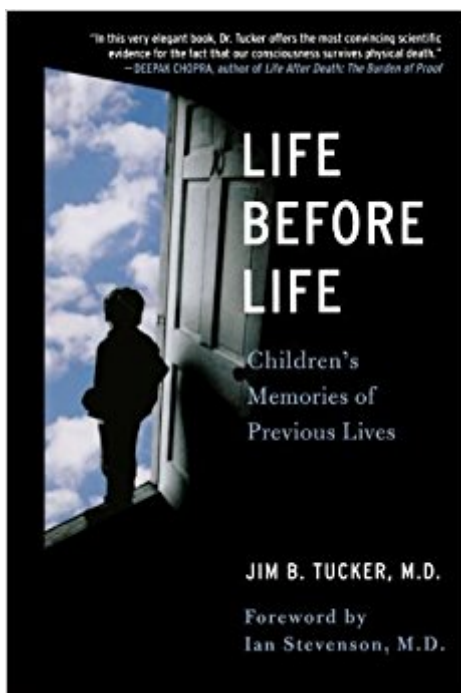


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# Life Before Life: Children's Memories Of Previous Lives



## Synopsis

This popular examination of research into children's reports of past-life memories describes a collection of 2,500 cases at the University of Virginia that investigators have carefully studied since Dr. Ian Stevenson began the work more than forty years ago. The children usually begin talking about a past life at the age of two or three and may talk about a previous family or the way they died in a previous life. Their statements have often been found to be accurate for one particular deceased individual, and some children have recognized members of the previous family. A number have also had birthmarks or defects that matched wounds on the body of the deceased person. *Life Before Life* presents the cases in a straightforward way and explores the possibility that consciousness may continue after the brain dies. It is a provocative and fascinating book that can challenge and ultimately change readers' understandings about life and death.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Is reincarnation possible? Tucker's book full of real-life evidence and an explanation of how quantum physics allows for it makes one think the better question may be Is it impossible? Basing his argument on a study of more than 40 years' duration into the lives, present and past, of more than 2,500 children, psychiatrist Tucker makes a pretty solid case in favor of reincarnation. He opens with the story of William, born five years after his policeman grandfather, John, was killed, with birth defects similar to John's fatal wounds. William was able, at three, to report John's last moments, of which he couldn't possibly have had any knowledge. Then there is the Turkish child who insisted on being called by the name of a man who had lived 50 miles away. Taken to the

man's town, the child proceeded to the man's home and identified the man's parents in a roomful of people. All the stories were checked by scientist-interviewers, and all potential deception was eliminated; hence, Tucker introduces powerful grounds for credulous speculation. Donna Chavez

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"In this very elegant book, Dr. Tucker offers the most convincing scientific evidence for the fact that our consciousness survives physical death. And indeed, takes quantum leaps of creativity in the form of reincarnation. The model that Dr. Tucker presents opens a new vision of who we are, limitless beings that fill up all of space and time.

Deepak Chopra, author of *Life After Death: The Burden of Proof* "[A] solid case for reincarnation". Tucker introduces powerful grounds for credulous speculation.

Booklist "Jim Tucker gives us a clear, concise and eminently rational insight into a 40 year investigation of what is unquestionably the best evidence for the existence of reincarnation. We are lucky to have in him a worthy successor to Ian Stevenson.

TOM SHRODER, author of *Old Souls: Compelling Evidence From Children Who Remember Past Lives* "Anyone with an open mind, on reading Dr. Jim B. Tucker's *Life Before Life*, will realize that our conventional concepts of life and death are ripe for revision. The possibilities raised by this book for human destiny are as hopeful as the current view is grim. *Life Before Life* is extraordinarily important.

Larry Dossey, M.D., author of *The Extraordinary Healing Power of Ordinary Things*, *Reinventing Medicine*, and *Healing Words* "With his training as a pediatric psychiatrist, and the mind of an inquiring scientist, Dr. Jim Tucker takes a fresh look at one of life's most intriguing questions: 'Does consciousness survive death?' Through the hundreds of case studies of his predecessor, Dr. Ian Stevenson, and his own cases, Dr. Tucker adds new insight to this amazing research, and draws us closer to understanding this perennial mystery.

CAROL BOWMAN, author of *Children's Past Lives and Return From Heaven* "Life Before Life adds to the increasingly impressive science of consciousness and the continuity of mind/memory this book is the tip of an important iceberg that will continue to expand our knowledge of the spiritual reality of life.

C. NORMAN SHEALY, M.D., Ph.D., President, Holos University Graduate Seminary; Founding President, American Holistic Medical Association; author of *Youthful Aging* "Secret of the Fountain" "Jim B. Tucker's fine presentation of Ian Stevenson's decades of rigorous scientific research into evidence of children's apparent past-life recollections expresses the true spirit of scientific skepticism, rather than the

knee-jerk materialism that all too often waves that proud banner. **ALAN WALLACE**, President of the Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies

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 instead 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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