

Brief Reports

Three New Cases of the Reincarnation Type in Sri Lanka with Written Records Made before Verification*

Children who say that they remember previous lives often furnish numerous correct details about the previous life they claim to remember. Unfortunately, the child's parents in such a case usually meet the members of the deceased person's family before anyone has made a written record of what the child stated about the previous life. The adults concerned may then unwittingly credit the child with more knowledge about the previous life than he really showed. Among more than 150 cases in Sri Lanka there were only two up to 1985 in which someone had made a written record before the child's statements were verified (Stevenson, 1966/1974, 1977).

During the past 3 years we have reached the cases sooner and have investigated four new ones in which we made a written record of the child's statements before the families concerned had met. After recording the statements we ourselves found a family with a deceased member corresponding to them. We questioned both families concerned and satisfied ourselves that they had not met, or even heard about each other, before we verified the child's statements.

The Case of Thusitha

This child was born in a village on the west coast of Sri Lanka in 1981. When she was about three she described how she lived in a place called Kataragama (220 kilometers from her village) where she had drowned in the river. She mentioned that her father was a vendor of flowers and that a brother was unable to speak. In Kataragama we found a family of flower vendors who had a son who was unable to speak and who had lost a daughter by drowning in the river in 1974. All but five of Thusitha's 30 statements were correct for the family of this girl and specific for her; two were wrong and three unverifiable. Although Thusitha's father had often visited Kataragama (a well-known pilgrimage site), the two families had never met or even heard about each other before the case developed.

The Case of Iranga

This child was born in a village of Sri Lanka near but not on the west coast, in 1981. When she was about 3 years old she spoke about a previous life at a place called Elpitiya. Among other details, Iranga mentioned that her father sold bananas, there had been two wells at her house, one well had been destroyed by rain, her mother came from a place called Matugama, she was a middle sister of her family, and the house where the family lived had red walls and a kitchen with a thatched roof. Her statements led to the identification of a family in Elpitiya, one of whose middle daughters had died, probably of a brain tumor, in 1950. Among 43 statements that Iranga made about the previous life, 38 were

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correct for this family; the other 5 were wrong, unverifiable, or doubtful. Iranga's village was 15 kilometers from Elpitiya. Each family had visited the other's community, but they had had no acquaintance with each other (or knowledge of each other) before the case developed.

The Case of Subashini

This child was born in the western part of central Sri Lanka in 1980. When she was about 3 she began to say that she had been killed in a landslide at a place called Sinhapitiya, Gampola. (This is about 95 kilometers from Subashini's community.) A landslide had occurred there in 1977. It was the only landslide with fatalities within the memory of living informants. Twenty-five of Subashini's 32 statements were correct and specific for a child of one family; the remaining seven were wrong or unverifiable. Although Subashini's mother had relatives in the area of Sinhapitiya and some of them had known about the landslide, they knew nothing about the child to the details of whose life Subashini's statements corresponded.

Comment

Although none of these three children stated the name of the person whose life they remembered, they all located the life geographically. Two described unusual deaths and all three gave details that, taken together, were specific for one particular person and no other. The families concerned had not met or even heard about each other before the cases developed. We believe the three children had information about the deceased persons that could only be obtained par-anormally.

References

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Neuroleptic-Induced Pyrexia. A Benign Variant†

The neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) is a rare cluster of symptoms (Delay and Deniker, 1968) featuring sudden

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