Reincarnation

**Anne Kennard, personnel chief for the New York City Health Department, when asked if she believed in reincarnation, said: “Indeed, yes. I witness a demonstration every day at five o’clock when dead employees come to life in time to go home.” *(Bartlett’s Unfamiliar Quotations)***

**The doctor says to Herman: "Your best bet is reincarnation." *(Jim Unger, in Classic Herman comic strip)***

**I won't go into a big spiel about reincarnation, but the first time I was in the Gucci store in Chicago was the closest I've ever felt to home. *(Kanye West, rap artist)***

**Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting, the soul that rises with us, our life's star, hath had elsewhere its setting, and cometh from afar; not in entire forgetfulness, and not in utter nakedness, but trailing clouds of glory do we come from God, who is our home. *(William Wordsworth)***

**A good book should leave you slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading it. *(William Styron)***

**Pete Gay, rodeo star: "If I'm reincarnated, I want to come back as a bucking bronc. You work eight seconds, then eat and sleep the rest of the time." *(Joe Falls, in Detroit Free Press)***

**Simon Heh was just a precocious five-year-old living with his family in Southern California in late 1992. Then a Tibetan Buddhist monk discovered the boy and became convinced that Heh had a clear past-life connection with Lobsang Phakpa, a lama who disappeared in China 30 years ago and was presumed dead. Since then, the worlds of religion and media have arrived on Simon Heh’s doorstep. It’s not unusual for Tibetan Buddhists to find five- and six-year-old (or even younger) reincarnations of respected holy men – but not in America. Heh has been given a new name – Sangyal Dorje – a new future and a media handle: boy lama. Soon he will leave for two or three decades of study in an Indian monastery. Raised a Buddhist, the boy prays, but knows little of the Buddhist belief that all minds are continually reborn as other minds. He doesn’t comprehend karma. When asked if he knows what a lama does, he replies, “Not really.” *(Carla Hall, in Washington Post)***

**Don’t call me back and do not cry, I am so glad to go, I oft have longed to soar the sky and other worlds to know. Don’t call me back! A little while and I am far from earth, and I am leaving with a smile to face another birth. (Helga Stromberg)**

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**Frank says to Ernest: "Maybe there is something to this 'reincarnation' idea -- I know I come back to life every day at 5 o'clock!" *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**Do you often come to this world, or is this your first time? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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**Compliments seem few and far between these days, sighs a gentlewoman we know. "It's too bad because they provide an element of grace in our contacts with one another." It's true. Compliments do much for the morale; they prop us up in the places where we tend to lean a bit. I recall reading that Mark Twain once said he could go for two months on a good compliment. But the most perfect compliment I've ever heard of was given by Joseph Choate, one-time U.S. ambassador to Great Britain. When asked who he would like to be if he could come back to earth again after he died, he replied without an instant's hesitation: "Mrs. Choate's second husband." *(Doris Ann Krupinski, in Greendale, Wisconsin, Village Life)***

**My dad believes in reincarnation, so in his will he left everything to himself. *(Jackie Graziano, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Say, Lord to me . . . say, did my infancy succeed another age of mine that died before it? Was it that which I spent within my mother’s womb . . . and what before that life again. O God, my joy, was I anywhere or in any body? For this I have none, to tell me, neither father nor mother, nor experience of others, nor mine own memory. *(The Confessions of St. Augustine)***

**I didn’t believe in reincarnation when I was here before either. *(Leary)***

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**I don't believe in reincarnation, and I didn't believe in it when I was a hamster. *(Shane Richie, British actor)***

**At the beauty parlor: “I don’t mind him being born again – but did he have to come back as himself?” *(Quoted by James Dent, in Charleston, W.Va. Gazette))***

**I don't remember having lived any previous lives -- but, even in this life, I don't remember everything. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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**The only survival I can conceive is to start a new earth cycle again.**

***(Thomas Edison)***

**It is the secret of the world that all things subsist and do not die; but only retire a little from sight and afterwards return again. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**A new soul is not created with every physical birth. A physical birth simply means that a soul is taking on another body. Every person has gone through this process of dying and being reincarnated many times. *(Charles Fillmore)***

**The study of reincarnation is not profitable to the student of higher thought. Not what you have been but what you now are is the issue. *(Charles Fillmore)***

**When man loses his body by death, the law of expression works within him for re-embodiment, or reincarnation, and he takes advantage of the Adam method of generation to regain a body. *(Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity)***

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**Man says to his lawyer on his deathbed: "As a firm believer in reincarnation, I'm leaving everything to me." *(The Wall Street Journal cartoon)***

**I believe that we are here now and will come back again. I adopted the theory of reincarnation when I was 26. The discovery of reincarnation put my mind at ease. *(Henry Ford)***

**Not many of us, anticipating a long life, would care to write our own epitaphs at a young age, but Ben Franklin did when he was 22 years old. He imagined that his aged printer’s body would be like an old, worn-out book but that after dying, the work would appear “in a new and more perfect Edition, corrected and amended by the Author” – a clever way to look at life after death. Years later, Ben wrote an epitaph for a pet squirrel named Skugg: “Here Skugg, Lies snug, As a bug, In a rug.” Ben’s epitaph for himself was not used when he died in 1790. *(Ben Franklin’s Almanac, p. 364)***

**Forget not that I shall come back to you. A little while, a moment of rest upon the wind, and another woman shall bear me. *(Kahlil Gibran)***

**There's a story about a couple who had been married 50 years. The wife was a spiritualist; the husband believed in reincarnation. The husband died, and the wife began amending even more seances in hopes of contacting her beloved. Finally, one night, his voice came through loud and clear. She was overjoyed, but at the same time was unable to keep an I-told-you-so tone out of her voice. "What's it like there?" she purred. "Really," he said, "you wouldn't believe it. The sky is beautiful, the water a clear blue, and the place is full of willing young creatures with the loveliest, big brown eyes." "Well!" she replied, a bit chagrined. "I never thought heaven would be anything like that." "Heaven!" he answered. "Who said anything about heaven? I'm a bull in Montana." *(Duffy Daugherty, in Reader's Digest)***

**An Indian who had greeted the Pilgrims in 1620 was recently reincarnated. Looking out over the unrecognizable land, he said, "How?" *(Orben's Current Comedy)***

**Mission accomplished – but will consider reincarnation. *(Alexandra Liosatos, in O magazine)***

**Mother Goose: "Grimm, do you think we had past lives?" Grimm: "We don't have present lives." *(Mike Peters, in Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip)***

**So as through a glass and darkly, the age-long strife I see where I fought in many guises, many names – but always me. So forever in the future, shall I battle as of yore dying to be born a fighter, but to die again once more. *(General George Patton)***

**Knowledge easily acquired is that which the enduring self had in an earlier life, so that it flows back easily. *(Plato)***

**It is mere idleness to say that I had not lived before – that the soul has no previous existence. *(Edgar Allan Poe)***

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**Communication enables us to feel how others felt even if they lived thousands of miles away and centuries ago. It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish. *(S. I. Hayakawa, in Language in Thought and Action)***

**It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish. (S. I. Hayakawa, American educator and politician, 20th century)**

**A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one. (George R. R. Martin, author)**

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Why should it be thought incredible that the same soul should inhabit in succession an indefinite number of mortal bodies? Even during this one life our bodies are perpetually changing though by a process of decay and restoration which is so gradual that it escapes our notice. Every human being thus dwells successively in many bodies, even during one short life. *(Francis Bowen, in Christian Metempsychosis)***

**The idea of reincarnation contains a most comforting explanation of reality. *(Albert Schweitzer)***

**Reincarnation: A split infinity. (*Leonard Neubauer)***

**I heard something of mine from 1975 on a record the other day, and I said, "That was about seven or eight lives ago." (Bruce Springsteen, in AARP - THE MAGAZINE)**

**Writes a teacher: "Bad day today. If there's anything to reincarnation, I think I'd like to come back as a childhood disease." *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The first time I was in Egypt was four or five thousand years ago. I am speaking of a former state of existence of mine, perhaps my earliest reincarnation; indeed I think it was the earliest. *(Mark Twain)***

**It is not more surprising to be born twice than once, everything in nature is resurrection. *(Voltaire)***

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