

A theory on how birthmarks could correspond to wounds from past lives

The power of the mind can leave physical marks on the body

By Tara MacIsaac
Epoch Times Staff

Dr. Jim Tucker at the University of Virginia had learned through years of studying reincarnation accounts to accept that reincarnation exists—but the strong indications that birthmarks correspond to past-life wounds still puzzled him.

“I didn’t see how a wound on one body could show up as a birthmark on another, even if you accepted the idea of past-life connections,” he wrote in his book “Return to Life: Extraordinary Cases of Children Who Remember Past Lives.”

His mentor and predecessor in reincarnation studies, Dr. Ian Stevenson, had verified many cases. Some children among the approximately 2,000 reincarnation cases he studied recalled their past lives in such detail that they could identify their previous incarnations. Checking autopsy records or talking to the families of the deceased, Stevenson learned that the children often had birthmarks that corresponded with great accuracy to the wounds suffered by their supposed past-life incarnations.

An example of a case Stevenson and Tucker worked on together is that of a boy named Patrick in the American Midwest. Patrick had three birthmarks that seemed to corres-

pond with wounds his dead brother Kevin had on his body. Kevin had died of cancer as a child before Patrick was born.

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Dr. Jim Tucker from the University of Virginia

During his treatment, Kevin had a bruised and blind left eye. Patrick had a white opacity covering his left eye and he was essentially blind in that eye. Kevin had a tumour over his right ear. Patrick was born with a nodule above his right ear. Kevin had a central IV line inserted on the right side of his neck. Patrick had a mark on the right side of his neck. Furthermore, Kevin walked with a limp, and so did Patrick.

Patrick seemed to remember doing things he’d never done, like living in the fam-

ily’s old apartment, which Kevin had done. He also named a deceased relative, “Billy the Pirate,” who was murdered and who Patrick’s mother didn’t even know existed. What he said about Billy turned out to be true. Billy supposedly talked to Patrick in his time between lives.

How could a birthmark travel from one life to another?

As Dr. Tucker said, even if one accepts that reincarnation exists, it seems hard to understand how or why a mark would physically appear on the new body.

In his book “Reincarnation and Biology,” Dr. Stevenson cited the example of a young man who had vividly recalled a traumatic experience from years earlier. His arms had been tied behind him during this experience, and as he recalled it, his arms developed what looked like rope marks.

If a person’s mind can cause physical marks to appear on his or her body, memories of a past life could cause marks to appear on the present body, said Dr. Stevenson. Many birthmarks seem to relate to traumatic experiences in past lives—and to fade as the memories fade. Very young children often seem to recall past lives, but the memories become weaker as they get older.

Neuroscientist Joe Dis-



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Studies by reincarnation researchers suggest that memories of past lives could cause physical changes in the current body, creating birthmarks corresponding to wounds from previous lives.

penza, featured in the documentary “What the Bleep Do We Know!?” has also said a person’s thoughts can have a physical impact on his or her body.

For example, in an experiment, subjects were asked to repeatedly pull a spring-loaded device with one of their fingers for an hour a day for four weeks. The exercised fingers became 30 percent stronger. Another group of subjects was asked to imagine performing this exercise for the same amount of time. Without physically lifting a

finger, their fingers increased 22 percent in strength.

Dr. Tucker wrote: “If the mind continues after death and inhabits a developing fetus, then I could see how the images could affect the fetus. It would not be the wounds on the previous body per se that produced the birthmark or birth defect, but rather the images of the wound in the individual’s mind that did it.”

What is the probability?

The probability of two people having two birthmarks that would correspond to two

wounds on another person is 1 in 25,600, according to Dr. Stevenson’s calculations.

Some had criticized Dr. Stevenson’s calculations, so he and Dr. Tucker asked for the help of two statisticians when working on Patrick’s case.

They expressed interest, but eventually declined. One of them said that calculations would oversimplify the complex situation. He did say, however, that: “Phrases like ‘highly improbable’ and ‘extremely rare’ come to mind as descriptive of the situation.”

Honey’s preservative power

Best-preserved ancient fruit found in 4,000-year-old burial chamber

By Tara MacIsaac
Epoch Times Staff

An Early Bronze Age burial mound in Georgia, known as a kurgan, held in its depths astonishingly well-preserved wild fruits. Sitting underground for thousands of years, left as nourishment for the hungry souls of the dead, these fruits even exuded the aroma of fresh fruit when researchers sliced into them.

They were preserved in honey. Honey was also found on the bones in the burial chamber, suggesting it may have been used for embalming the corpses.

Honey has a low concentration of water and a high concentration of sugar. Much like

salt, it can push the water out of bacteria cells, drying them up before they can get to the food (or corpses) the honey is protecting. Honey is essentially a combination of sugars and hydrogen peroxide. Just as hydrogen peroxide is used to clean bacteria from wounds, it can also kill bacteria that cause food to spoil.

Ancient Assyrians, who lived in a region east of Egypt, also preserved corpses in honey. When Alexander the Great conquered the Persian city of Susa in the 4th century B.C., he found large quantities of 200-year-old purple dye well preserved under a layer of honey.

Skipping ahead to 2011, researchers isolated a bacterial strain in some types of

honey that has very unusual properties. One of its surprising characteristics is its ability to produce a compound, thurincin H, that forms into a helical structure. This structure may allow it to infiltrate the membranes of other bacteria to destroy them.

“Like a wolf in sheep’s clothing, the compound mimics the structure of the molecules that form bacterial membranes ... but it may disrupt those membranes by forming a rigid pore,” explained a Cornell University article.

Other significant finds in the kurgan

Zurab Makharadze, head of the Centre of Archaeology at the Georgian National Museum, explained via email

some other significant finds at the kurgan.

Much like salt, honey can push the water out of bacteria cells, drying them up before they can get to the food (or corpses) the honey is protecting.

The mound was about 100 metres across, and the inner

space of the construction was 9 by 6 metres. It contained two four-wheeled wagons, some of the best surviving examples of such devices from the time.

Archaeologists found evidence of ancient robbery, including tunnels into the chamber and disturbed artifacts and human remains. It is possible some of the robbers had attended the burial ceremony, as some evidence suggests the thieves knew what was placed where, Makharadze told Georgian publication Agenda.

It appears the family contained in the chamber was accompanied in death by servants—human sacrifices.

Riches remained despite the robberies, including ornamented vessels, amber beads, and 23 golden items, among

them highly-artistic jewellery, Makharadze said. A unique wooden armchair was found, along with nuts, red berries, textiles, and arrowheads.

The good condition and unique nature of many of the artifacts make this an important site, Makharadze said: “[It] keeps huge scientific information and its importance is undoubtedly obvious for Caucasian and Near East archaeology.”

Agenda noted that the kurgan sites are as important to understanding ancient Georgian culture as the pyramids are in the study of ancient Egypt. The human remains are being tested at a lab in Germany to determine the relationships between the people buried in this kurgan and how they died.

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