

InPresence 0066: Resonance With A Previous Personality with Jeffrey Mishlove

Video Transcript - *New Thinking Allowed* with Jeffrey Mishlove

www.newthinkingallowed.org



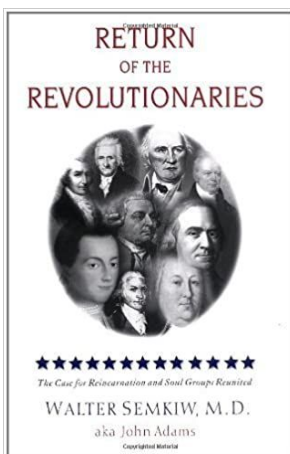
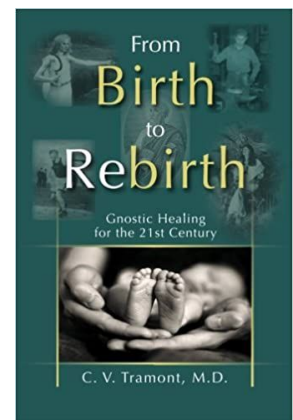
Recorded on April 26, 2018

Published to YouTube on May 6, 2018

Copyright © 2020, New Thinking Allowed Foundation

(00:20) Hello, I'm Jeffrey Mishlove and today I have a whimsical topic I'd like to play around with it. It has to do with the theme of archetypal resonance between two figures separated in time but related otherwise. I've alluded to this in some of my past discussions having to do with the fact that some people have suggested that I was the great American psychologist and philosopher William James in a past life. Now, I can tell you right now I don't accept that for the simple reason that I don't have memories of having been William James.

(01:01) Dr. Chuck Tramont, whom I've interviewed and has written a book about his past life regression therapy work, once regressed me back and asked me, could I be William James in a past lifetime? The most I encountered there of anything unique, an original, was that maybe when he was a child people called him Billiam instead of Bill or Billy or William. But, I have no record of that. I'm not able to confirm it. And in any case, it could be a lucky guess. So, I gave Chuck Tramont and Walter Semkiw permission in their books to discuss their hypothesis about this past life connection, but to make it clear that I don't accept it.

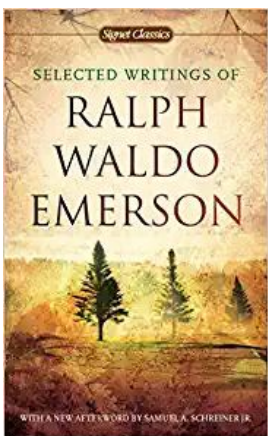
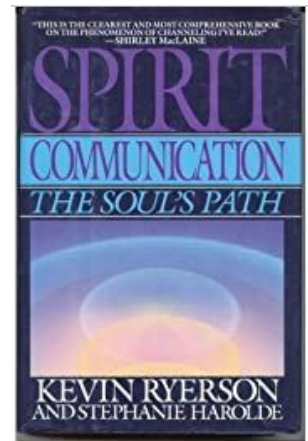


(01:48) Nevertheless, I'm intrigued. Wouldn't you be? What if I were William James in a past life? What wealth of discoveries would there be for me if I could reach deep within my own consciousness and pull that out? Walter Semkiw, a medical doctor who first made that suggestion when he discovered that I owned the URL, williamjames.com. He recommended that I try and find people who are very close and important to me in this lifetime and see if they somehow matchup in terms of their personality characteristics and physical features or inclinations, patterns and habits with people who were close and known to be close in the very well-documented life of William James, who died in 1910.

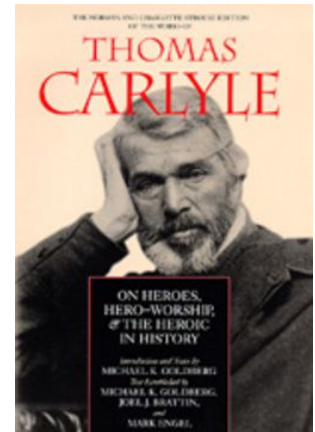
(02:40) To my surprise, I came up with quite a list and Walter Semkiw went to the trance-medium, Kevin Ryerson, also a good friend of mine, who confirmed all the names in the list and it was all corrected. There's been a little bit of a mythology built up around that and you can see some parallels.

After all, I have a unique parapsychology degree and William James was a pioneer in that very field. But so what?

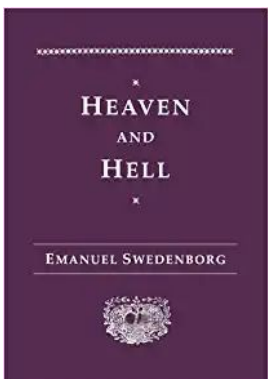
(03:13) Nevertheless, a potential link was with William James' father, Henry James Senior, a very important person, obviously, in his life. Arthur M. Young, the inventor of the Bell helicopter and cosmologist, who has been a strong influence in my life. I've been thinking about Henry James, Sr. lately because I'm developing a course on William James for the Holmes Institute. This is the organization that trains ministers in a religion now known as the Centers for Spiritual Living, formerly the United Church of Religious Science. So, in developing this course about William James, I've been digging in and doing a little more research on Henry James, Sr.



(04:05) Now, Henry James, Sr. was well-known in intellectual circles in his day. He became good friends of Ralph Waldo Emerson and the whole transcendentalist circle of great thinkers and writers in New England at the time and he traveled widely in Europe and met with many well-known intellectuals then such as Thomas Carlyle. He had a conversion experience. One day he was sitting at the dinner table all by himself and his mind was shattered. He entered into this deep, dark, ugly mood and felt that there was some sort of a putrid entity haunting him and he didn't know what to do. This persisted for a long time. After that experience, it was a spiritual crisis of enormous proportions in his life. What came out of it is that he was guided by a close friend to study the work of the great Swedish Mystic Emanuel Swedenborg.



(05:16) Now, Swedenborg was born in the 17th and lived in the 18th century, and he was the most unusual man. Many of you may know, he founded a religion: the Church of the New Jerusalem, and they're all over the world now, the Swedenborg Church. He wrote dozens of books on his interpretations of



the Bible and on his psychic encounters with angels and beings from other planets. The man literally founded a religion, a very real religion that's active today. But more than that, he was a mystic of course and a scientist throughout his entire life. He was very active as an inventor, as a mining inspector and a person who published hundreds of scientific papers in his day and age on virtually every known field of science.

(06:17) He became involved in astronomy and in botany and mining engineering and in developing instruments of war for the king. He was a nobleman and had the ability to engage in a wide variety of activities, all the while publishing his

theological and mystical works. A most unusual historical figure who had a great influence on people like William Blake and certainly on Emerson and the Transcendentalist and in particular on Henry James, Sr. who became what was known in those days, he was described as a Swedenborgian minister or preacher. He gave lectures, he wrote books and pamphlets about Swedenborg, but he never joined the church. However, he maintained that in his household, the household in which William James grew up, Swedenborg was at the core. Swedenborg was like God to these people, or let us say at least the prophet of God. That's how central Swedenborg was to the thinking of William James.

(07:32) Now, for Henry James, Sr. what that meant in particular was his belief that the main problem facing humanity is that people are too full of themselves. They are attached to themselves, to their ego, and if people could just let go of this notion of self, if they could become more harmonious, they could live in a communal environment in consonance with the will of God. Let go of the ego. That was a dominant theme for William James in his life, his father's religious conversion, the fervency of his devotion to the Swedenborgian ideas. Now, James actually reacted against a lot of that - William James did - but even in reacting against it, he understood the enormous influence that his father had had upon him.

(08:36) Arthur M. Young on the other hand was - and here's where I'm getting speculative - what if Arthur M. Young really had been Henry James in a past life? How would that look? How would that work? What would that process be like? I'm really thinking, truly, more as a poet than as a parapsychologist because, evidentially speaking, there's no evidence whatsoever. I've never even discussed it with Arthur M. Young when he was alive. I didn't even learn of this possibility until after his death. But, I imagine if I had discussed it with him, he would have rejected it out of hand.

(09:14) Nevertheless, think about it. One of the main teachings I derive from Arthur M. Young is this: "You should not sacrifice your ego on the altar of spirituality." He said, "First, you have to develop an ego worthy of being sacrificed." He felt, having graduated from Princeton University in 1926 and with a great desire to do philosophy, he felt he wouldn't be worthy of being a philosopher until he had solved a major technical problem because he saw that science and technology was a huge cultural movement in 1926. And indeed it was - that philosophy had, for the most part, failed to anticipate. So, he went to the patent office in 1926 and discovered that the problem of developing a vehicle that could hover in mid-air, a flying vehicle that could just hover in mid-air, the helicopter, hadn't been invented. There had been 200 unsuccessful attempts at that time and he endeavored to solve that problem.

(10:28) After many, many years, in 1943 he came up with a working model which he sold to the Bell Aircraft Corporation. [It] went into production in 1947, became the Bell Model 47, the very first commercially licensed helicopter. Now, I wonder. Here's what my speculation is, my poetry. It's that, if Henry James, Sr. is digesting the lessons from his life and he realizes Swedenborg was such a big influence, but Swedenborg was an inventor, he was a man of science. That's what made his spirituality and his willingness to sacrifice his own ego and be a humble man, that's what made it so real - he had an ego worth sacrificing. So, wouldn't Henry James wish to be reborn as a person like Arthur Young,

who could really embody the very lessons that Swedenborg was exemplifying? Wouldn't that make sense? I kind of think so, in a funny way.

(11:50) It seems to me there is like a poetic lesson in all of this. Well, I hope you appreciate that I'm being playful about it. I would love to think that I was William James and I will keep speculating about it frankly, because I think this medium of these monologues is a good place for it. But really, let's consider this an example of a poetic insight because I can't really take it any further than that. Let me leave you with this question. Who are the historical figures, the great men and women of the past, spiritual people or people who made a big impact on culture, who have inspired you the most? Who do you resonate with as regards past historical figures? Give that some thought and thank you for being with me. (12:49)

New Thinking Allowed Foundation



**Supporting Conversations on the Leading Edge of Knowledge and Discovery
with Psychologist Jeffrey Mishlove**

Visit our [YouTube Channel](#) for More Videos