

40 Minutes: “Many Happy Returns”

UK TV documentary : 1992 : dir. : BBC : 40 min
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Six-year old Titu pictured with his widow from a former life . Thank your stars they don't have alimony payments in India, sonny.

Source: Radio Times

What's On review:

“Nicola Wheater is a normal 12-year old, except that, ever since she was two, she's talked about her past life as a small boy more than 100 years ago, revelations which have since proved to be uncannily accurate. And then there's Titu, a six-year old from India, who described his past life in so much detail that his parents were able to track down his former family (his wife from his previous life is also pictured). Prepare to be intrigued. ”

“Documentary about two children who claim to have been reincarnated. Can their stories be put down to over-active imaginations, or is there another explanation? ”

No further information currently available. Broadcast BBC2: 10/03/92. Reincarnation is one of the more beguiling of the life-after-death myths, particularly for those who may feel their present life has been a wash-out and would appreciate another bite at the cherry. The practise of "hypnotic regression" has occasionally produced tantalising first-hand commentaries purporting to be memories of a past life, relived moment by moment as clearly as any other memory, sometimes spoken in obscure dialects or using obsolete 18th century slang and technical terms. The phenomenologist approach to all such material is to say – that's interesting, that makes the world a more intriguing place, but I attach neither belief nor disbelief to it. An eminently sensible posture. It's all too easy to heap ridicule on such stories – Shirley MacLane is frequently pilloried as a crank for staking a claim to several prior existences – but not so easy to dismiss descriptions of places never seen which are independently verifiable, or a layman employing obscure naval terminology from the gun deck of a Napoleonic man of war. When the recollections come unbidden from the mouths of young children they're more compelling still, and rationalists have to reach for ever more outlandish explanations to account for it. Incredulousness can be as lazy and glib as its opposite.

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