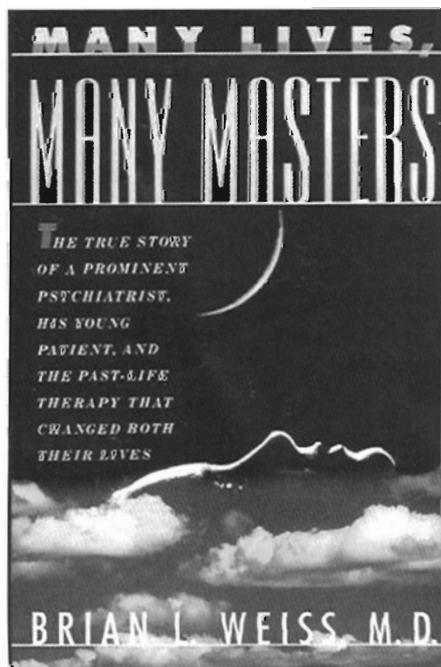
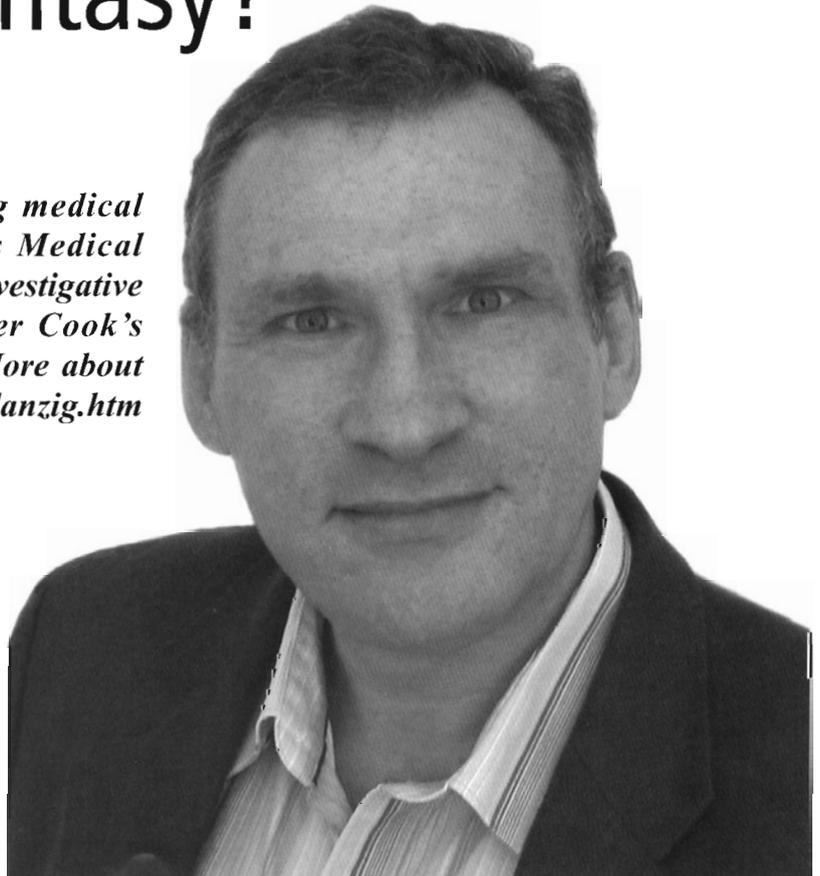


Preface from the Editor

There are many views about the use of past life regression and everyone is entitled to their point of view. To demonstrate our sincere belief in free speech, we are publishing the following article for our members to read and to feed back their reasoned arguments in either support or repudiation of the principles stated by this journalist. From my perspective, I don't believe any of Mr Danzig's assertions invalidates use of the therapy. My focus would be on client gains. What do you think? – Costa Lambrias, declaring my position as a Past Life Therapy trainer.

Hypnotic Regression to Past Lives: Science or Fantasy?

*Jon Danzig is an award winning medical journalist and member of the UK's Medical Journalists Association. He was an investigative journalist and broadcaster on Roger Cook's consumer programme at the BBC. More about Jon Danzig – www.look-hear.com/jondanzig.htm
Email: jondanzig@aol.com*



Dr. Brian Weiss is a psychiatrist and self-proclaimed “scientist” whose best-selling book, “Many Lives, Many Masters”, claims to have “scientifically proved” reincarnation by hypnotising one of his patients to past lives. His book has sold over 1.5 million copies with rave reviewers mostly giving ratings of 4 or 5 stars out of 5.

I give the book zero stars. I believe it's a sham, pretending to be a work of scientific discovery when it's nothing of the sort. The book gives hypnotherapy, doctors and science, a bad name. The fact that so many readers, and even some hypnotherapists, believe that this book provides “evidence” for reincarnation shows that our education system has in many ways failed to

explain the principles and discipline of science.

In his book, Dr. Weiss related the stories under hypnosis of one of his patients, "Catherine", as she apparently described her different lives from past times.

My criticism of the book is that it purports to be a work of scientific discovery, when clearly it is not. As a work of fiction, it's quite entertaining; but it is disingenuous to describe the book as "scientific", and Dr. Weiss was censured by the medical profession when his book was first published.

Nevertheless, Dr. Weiss wrote, "I felt the need to apply the scientific method, which I had rigorously used over the past fifteen years in my research, to evaluate this most unusual material emerging from Catherine's lips." And yet, despite Dr. Weiss's eminent training as a "scientist", nowhere in the book did he apply any scientific methods or protocols to evaluate his claims properly.

I've now prepared a 3,500 word dissection of this book; the link for my forensic review appears at the bottom of this article.

During my investigation, I found multiple examples when Dr. Weiss had the opportunity to apply strict, impartial questioning of his patient, Catherine, but for reasons unknown, he chose not to.

For example, in one hypnosis session, his patient described herself as a 35-year-old German pilot in the Second World War shot down in France. As in all other claims by his patient, no specific detail was garnered by the questioning of Dr. Weiss that could have proved beyond doubt whether such a person in a past life really existed; such as what was the pilot's full name and rank and squadron?

In another hypnosis session, Dr. Weiss wrote of Catherine, "She had

never heard of the Tibetan Book of the Dead. Yet she was relating similar experiences to those described in these writings. This was a proof of sorts." This was surely not a proof of anything. How could Dr. Weiss ascertain that Catherine had never heard of the Tibetan Book of the Dead? His scientific training should have taught him that it is impossible to prove a negative. To put forward this as proof of any sort, again makes a mockery of true scientific discovery.

In his book, Dr. Weiss explained to the readers that his patient, Catherine, could only reveal the date of her past life during hypnosis if she could "see or hear it." During one hypnosis session, Dr. Weiss claimed that Catherine could "vividly" see that, "The year is 1863 BC." Yet this date could not have existed at that time, so how could Catherine possibly have seen it? It makes a complete nonsense of history to be able to "see" a date that didn't exist contemporaneously.

During another hypnosis session, the patient Catherine is "regressed" to an unknown date in history to a town she thinks is called "Brennington". Dr. Weiss states, "Here she (Catherine) said some words I could not identify. Whether they were Gaelic or not, I have no idea." It's most peculiar that Dr. Weiss had no idea what language (if any) that his patient was speaking. He stated that he had recorded the hypnosis sessions, so surely it would have been easy for him to identify whether the words spoken by Catherine were Gaelic or not. The lack of precision, detail, or questioning in Dr. Weiss's writings undermines his title of Doctor.

Dr. Weiss wrote in his book, "During this entire process with Catherine, I had been reluctant to discuss her revelations with other professionals . . . I had not shared this remarkable information with others at all." A true scientist would insist on sharing his data with other professionals to

discuss and verify. By not allowing the data to be independently scrutinised, we only have Dr. Weiss's word for what happened in private between him and "Catherine" and we only have his interpretations of the results. This is simply not good enough. No drug testing, no murder trial, not even a newspaper story, should ever rely upon one unverified source as evidence.

How are we to know that this book wasn't simply a work of fiction? It could have all been made up; only first names have been used. Dr. Weiss made no attempts to verify the astounding claims made by his patient, Catherine, who as far as I can ascertain, has never come forward to validate Dr. Weiss's account. Why not release the recordings of the sessions with the patient? Or at least, prove that the patient really existed?

Of course, reincarnation is a comforting idea for many people, and no doubt that is why Dr. Weiss's book is so popular. But is it ethical to use the stories told to him by his patient as a platform to promote the concept of past life regression, and to do so using the pretence that it represents scientific evidence?

"Faith" is the belief in something that cannot be proved, and I respect those of "faith". However, Dr. Weiss's book claims to provide proof, but if he had really managed to do that, then we would not need faith.

To read my full analytical review of the book, "Many Lives, Many Masters" please go to:
<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/418986461>

***If you have any comments
you would like to share
about this book or article
please contact us on Tel:
01257 262124 or email:
b.h.a@btconnect.com***