



Reincarnation and the Law of Karma A Study of the Old-New World-Doctrine of Rebirth, and Spiritual Cause and Effect

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(_- Jared -_) ? Book Nerd ? says

Interesting rundown on reincarnation and Karma from the Hindu perspective. It clarifies the belief very well. The author seems to infer however that all beliefs believe in a form of reincarnation and that all religion at one time or another believed in the same way that Hinduism does. If my take on it is true, I think is a bit ridiculous but maybe I'm reading between the lines too much.

In the book, he mentions the spirit and how most religions believe in it. While it's true that most religions at one time or another believed in the incorporeal spirit, many today do not. This would even include some sects of Hinduism, where they apply the same beliefs to a more naturalist perspective.

I also don't agree with his take on the Romans and early Christianity. He said that the Romans didn't believe in an afterlife nor a spirit. Actually, though their beliefs varied, they did believe in the soul and afterlife and there is plenty of evidence of this. Roman beliefs were influenced by Greek mythology and they believed in the indestructible soul. But they did not believe in resurrection or reincarnation. Their take on the afterlife in the underworld seemed rather bleak and dismal.

He also said that early Christians believed in reincarnation but I don't think this is entirely accurate. There are passages that could be interpreted as reincarnation, especially if your coming from a Hindu perspective but I think maybe he's confusing it with resurrection. These are not exactly the same thing. Then again, some scholars argue that some sects of early Christianity did believe in reincarnation but they didn't make it into the mainstream of the religious belief. Other scholars say that as Catholicism became the mainstream they reinterpreted to resurrection. As far as I've found, this is mostly based in speculation and others personal interpretations but not on any empirical evidence.

Though there were some breakoffs of Judaism that believed in reincarnation and there is mention of it in their mysticism, it is not widely accepted nor believed. Some wrongly equate Judaism with Christianity. I suppose that this may be where his confusion lies.

Despite my criticisms, this is an excellent read to understand Hinduism and their perspectives.

Helen says

Interesting to read the thoughts from different cultures. Still so much to understand about this subject.

Amita says

Too lengthy and bit difficult to understand.. Good one time read ..

David says

No comments yet, will write one when I'm done with the book, so far it has been a great and enjoyable read.

Janine says

A fascinating insight into eastern religions and the western views.

Nothanks says

I really enjoyed this book for the well generalized overview of major religious and theosophical views on reincarnation and karma. It is full of interesting quotes and tidbits regarding the interpretation of the substance of life itself. For instance:

" "A perfected man must have experienced every type of earthly realtion and duty, every phase of desire, affection and passion, every form of temptation and every variety of conflict. No one life can possibly furnish the material for more than a minute section of such experience." (- William Q Judge) Along this same line it is urged that the soul's development must come largely from contact and relationship with other souls, in a variety of phases and forms. It must experience pain and happiness, love, pity, failure, success - it must know the discipline of sympathy, toleration, patience, energy, fortitude, foresight, gratitude, pity, benevolence, and love in all of its phases. This, it is urged, is possible only through repeated incarnations, as the span of one life is too small and its limit too narrow to embrace but a small fraction of the necessary experiences of the soul on its journey toward development and attainment. One must feel the sorrows and joys of all forms of life before "understanding" may come. Narrowness, lack of tolerance, prejudice, and similar forms of undeveloped consciousness must be wiped out by the broad understanding and sympathy that come only from experience." " (- William W Atkinson)

Roxie Prince says

I sincerely enjoyed this book. It certainly broadened my horizons and actually cleared up many questions I've always had about reincarnation.

It is written with the attempt to be unbiased and show both sides of the reincarnation debate and I think it did a relatively good job of that.

Simply, this was an interesting and thought provoking read, to say the least. I was a little saddened that it had to come to an end.

Lornaross says

William Walker Atkinson explains in easy to understand language the meaning of Reincarnation and the Law of Karma. He presents arguments both supporting and against the beliefs. He, also, discusses the various ways that religions/cultures (Egyptian, Druids, Essene, Greek, Hindu, Roman, and Christianity in it's early and present forms)and great thinkers have incorporated or refuted the beliefs. Very well organized and written.

Michelle says

One of the best books on the subject of reincarnation I have ever read. I would have finished this book a long time ago had I realized it ended at 93%. Although there is a great deal to learn from this book, it can be summed up in the last couple of pages. Wonderful read and I highly recommend it for anyone interested in what is referred to in this book (because of the time period it is written in) as occult principles of reincarnation.
