



Events leading up to our birth
are not random, accidental processes.

Our birth is triggered
by our very own desires.

Cross Cultural Parallels
Cosmic Cradle, Ch 21 and Ch 24.

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- ◆ Ancient Greece (Plato) - Each soul clothes itself in circumstances which it has chosen.
- ◆ Indonesia (Bataks) – A tree grows in the Upper World upon which each leaf is inscribed with lessons to be learned, life span, and circumstances of death. Prior to birth, each soul picks out his lot-determining leaf.
- ◆ Rome - (Macrobius, 4th - 5th century AD) – Souls reflect on their divine nature in the celestial sphere until they are overtaken by a yearning for a human body.
- ◆ Virgil's *Aeneid* (1st century BC Rome) –“Oh father!” asked Aeneas, “Is it possible that someone can be so in love with earthly life as to wish to leave this tranquil realm in the upper world?” (p. 326)
- ◆ Middle East (Harranites, Gnosticism) – The soul becomes enamored with the material world and develops a burning desire to experience pleasures of the flesh.
- ◆ Swami Chinmayananda (India, 20th century)– “If God is sitting and writing our individual histories – all these sorrows and tragedies – he must be a mental pervert. Right? This idea of God is a poetic point of view; it has no philosophical support. The Creator endows the mental and physical equipment and situations in the creation according to your own instructions, so that you can expend your own desires.”
- ◆ Canadian Dakota – Medicine men and women favored Native American parents because they preferred Indian customs over those of the white culture.
- ◆ British Columbia (Tlingit shaman, 17th century) – Ky’itl’a’c peeked through the cloud door and observed Earth below. This vision kindled a desire to enter another mother’s womb.
- ◆ Judaism (Philo of Alexandria, 1st century) – Souls who dwell in “the air” nearest to Earth desire to live in mortal bodies once again.
- ◆ Zen Buddhism – The intermediate being gazes upon the mirror of its karma, like watching a movie. He feels an attraction to parents of a particular race, nationality, and social status. There is no coercion when we see parents with whom we will best learn our lessons. We are free to accept or reject that birth.
- ◆ Africa (Zulu) – The soul sleeps in the place of rest until it dreams of something to learn on Earth.
- ◆ Paramahansa Yogananda (20th century, India) – Material desires in the subconscious reawaken after the soul has passed the appropriate time in the inter-life region. The soul is drawn to be born by the magnetic attraction of desire.
- ◆ India - The soul continues in a subtle body into the world where souls dwell between lives. The soul bears the same awareness, will, memory, intelligence, desires, and aspirations as when it lived in a human body. The soul enjoys a peaceful, luminous sleep, assimilates past experiences, and makes future plans. Samskaras (engraved memories) magnetically draw the soul to future parents.
- ◆ Buddhism/Hinduism -The last thought at death is significant - just as the last thought before sleep becomes the first upon awakening. Typically final thoughts relate to unfulfilled ambitions: “Oh, I am dying. I must do this, I did not complete this work.” We receive a chance to fulfill these objectives in the next life. As the *Mundaka Upanishad* declares: “He who forms desires in his mind is born again”