

from a previous life, or previous lives, as well as from this one. By personality I mean the aspects of individuality that are currently expressed or capable of expression" (p. 182). In this case, the terms and the distinction are traditional in Theosophical use, going back to Henry Steel Olcott's use of them in the early 1880s for his *Buddhist Catechism* (as reported in his autobiographical *Old Diary Leaves* 1:285).

5. Next is a consideration of ways in which the reincarnating individual influences the physical body of its new incarnation. Stevenson identifies three possibilities. "First, the individual may in some sense 'select' its parents, motivated by strong ties of affection [or, Theosophists might add, by karmic links of whatever kind]. Second, the reincarnating individual may be able to screen and select fertilized ova or embryos. Third, and most relevant to the subject of birthmarks and defects, the individual may be able to exercise some direct control over the development of the fetus to reproduce physical attributes of the body of the previous personality. Any such direct influence implies some kind of template that imprints the embryo or fetus with 'memories' of the wounds, marks, or other features of the previous physical body. The template must have a vehicle that carries the memories of the physical body and also the cognitive and behavioral ones. I have suggested the word *psychophore* (which means 'mind-carrying') for this intermediate vehicle.

... The existence between terrestrial lives is therefore, according to this view, a corporeal one, but the psychophore would not be made of the material substances with which we are familiar. ... These and other cases suggest to me that the psychophore has the properties of a field or, more probably, a collection of fields that carry the physical and other memories of the previous life and more or less reproduce them by acting on the embryo or fetus of the new body. ... Morphogenetic fields have been imagined as governing the development of the forms that organs and the whole body of which they are the parts will have. ...

Readers may reasonably ask whether there exists any evidence for a vehicle such as the psychophore apart from the cases of children who remember previous lives and who have birthmarks or birth defects. The answer is not much. Nevertheless certain cases of apparitions furnish some relevant evidence. ... Some additional evidence for a vehicle that I have called