

## Karmic Conundrums

Pages 1–3

What is karma? (pp. 1–2)

- ▲ Talents and good things
- ▲ Limitations and challenges
- ▲ What goes around comes around
- ▲ Accountability and payback



Why is reincarnation another word for opportunity? (p. 2)

- ▲ Pay debts and reap blessings

What seemingly paradoxical questions about life can karma and reincarnation help answer? (pp. 2–3)

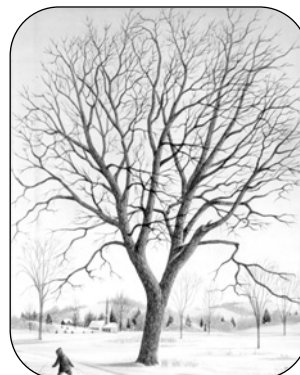
- ▲ Why me? Why not me?
- ▲ Other “whys”?
- ▲ Stimulus to dig deeper: questions about your own life?

## Taking a Cue from Nature

Pages 3–6

How are the cycles of karma and reincarnation patterned after the cycles of nature? (pp. 3–4)

- ▲ Cycles of the seasons and new life at springtime
- ▲ Cycles of the soul: birth, maturation, death, rebirth



© 2006 Jupiter Images Corporation



© 2006 Jupiter Images Corporation



- ▲ Part of a moving stream of consciousness
- ▲ Life experiences and evolving souls
- ▲ Phoenix analogy

*In spiritual terms,  
the rebirth of the phoenix out of the  
fiery flames portends both the testing and the  
reincarnation of the soul. Through the sometimes  
fiery trials and traumas of life, the soul is  
purified and refined, ascending to higher and higher  
levels of consciousness.*



## Part 1: Karmic Truths (1st half)

Pages 7–32

### 1. The Universal Law of Love


How does karma pick up where the golden rule leaves off? (p. 9)

- ▲ Someday it will be done unto you
- ▲ Returns to us the good we have done and our mistakes

Why is the law of karma actually the law of love? (pp. 10–11)

- ▲ Opportunity to understand and grow
- ▲ Teaches love and gives hope
- ▲ Avianca flight 052: chance to pay debts and time to develop soul potential

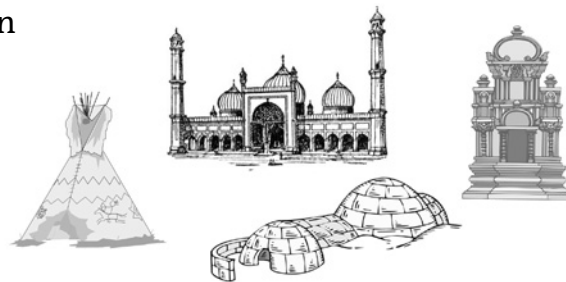
### 2. A Belief without Boundaries



*The most striking fact at first sight about the doctrine of the repeated incarnations of the soul... is the constant reappearance of the faith in all parts of the world... No other doctrine has exerted so extensive, controlling, and permanent an influence upon mankind.*

—REV. WILLIAM R. ALGER

Ancient and modern, Eastern and Western... (pp. 12–14)



### 3. Karma in the Bible

How do these Old Testament stories illustrate karmic law? (pp. 15–17)

- ▲ David and Bathsheba
- ▲ Stories about Moses

How did Jesus and Paul affirm the same law of cause and effect? (pp. 17–18)

#### 4. Did Jesus Teach Reincarnation?

What evidence supports the idea that Jesus taught reincarnation? (pp. 19–23)

- ▲ Man born blind
- ▲ John the Baptist as Elijah come again

#### 5. Reincarnation in Early Christianity

Which early Christians embraced reincarnation? What did they believe/teach? (pp. 24–27)

- ▲ Gnostics
- ▲ Clement of Alexandria
- ▲ Origen of Alexandria

Why did the belief in reincarnation go underground several centuries later? (pp. 27–29)

- ▲ Emperor Justinian/Church Council
- ▲ Inquisition



What secret traditions kept the belief alive through the nineteenth century? (pp. 28–29)

#### 6. West Meets East

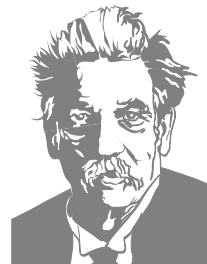
Who were a few prominent Western thinkers who have seriously considered reincarnation? (pp. 29–32)



GOETHE



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



ALBERT SCHWEITZER



RUDYARD KIPLING

Why is belief in reincarnation on the rise? (p. 32)

- ▲ Accounts of near-death experiences
- ▲ Past-life recollection