

Case #22 — The Apprentice Murderer

Dr. Bruce Goldberg has regressed literally thousands of patients in his 30-year career in hypnotherapy. Most all of his cases are interesting and evidential, but two of them, when combined one with the other, offer both a fascinating story and a unique proof of Survival and reincarnation.

The first case concerns a patient, a retail clerk, who complained of always being dominated and manipulated by co-workers, customers, and even relatives. Several age-regressions were tried, revealing a childhood of being pushed around by most everyone, but no clear initiating incident. Then past-life regressions were attempted and, after four rather unproductive sessions, the man began to speak as a fellow named Thayer, living in Bavaria in the year 1132.

In the opening scene of this regression, Thayer was eating supper *under* the table. He explained this bizarre situation by saying that he was apprenticed to a goldsmith named Gustave who often beat him, sodomized him, and kept him chained to the table whenever the shop was closed. And, when the shop was open for business, Gustave would humiliate Thayer in front of the customers, especially when Clotilde, a nice girl from a wealthy family, came in to purchase something.

Moved forward to a significant moment in his life, Thayer told a dreadful tale of getting into a fight with his master, being stabbed in the stomach with a metal-working tool, and looking down on his own dead body.

Mainly as a result of reliving these ancient events, Dr. Goldberg's patient rapidly gained self-esteem and confidence and went on to pull his life together. [It is an accepted principle of hypnotherapy that getting such past-life incidents into the awareness of the current mind results in eliminating or greatly reducing their debilitating effects. Why this should be true is unclear.]

About 18 months later, Goldberg was working with another patient, an attorney, whose major complaint was that he felt overwhelmed by urges to manipulate and dominate people. It seems his guilty conscious was causing insomnia and eating disorders. As with the above case, normal hypnotic suggestions and age-regressions met with only limited success. As you have probably already surmised, past-life regression revealed that this man had been a master goldsmith named Gustave in early 12th-century Bavaria. He complained about his incompetent apprentice and, when asked for the fellow's name, said it was Thayer. "At this point," Goldberg reports, "my skin began to crawl. However, my obligation was to my current patient, and it was important to continue this regression as if nothing unusual had happened."¹

Without any coaching from Goldberg, Gustave proceeded to say that he enjoyed beating his apprentice, that a certain girl named Clotilde was a distraction to the boy, and many other facts that exactly complemented the story that "Thayer" had told while reclining on the same couch over a year earlier. The culmination, too, was identical in all pertinent particulars: Gustave told of his apprentice resisting attempts to chain him to the table, getting into a fight, and then killing the boy by stabbing him in the stomach.

Discussion

This case was included in *The Survival Files*², the main text of which is formatted as a dialogue between its author and a mentor known only as "the old man." The following is part of their conversation after the case has been read.

“That’s a really impressive story,” I said. “The number of specific details (including unusual names and uncommon activities) given by both subjects certainly rules out any idea of coincidence or lucky guesses. The fact that these details are part of a time and place alien to the patients makes it even more convincing. Altogether, this is one of the most evidential cases I have yet seen. I’m not certain, however, why you referred to it as ‘unique?’”

“As far as I am aware,” he replied, “this is the only case in anyone’s files in which two hypnotic subjects describe the same incidents without either knowing of the other’s existence.”³

“Can we be certain of that? Could it be a hoax?”

“Any suggestion of trickery is fatuous for several reasons: the effort and skill needed to fool a seasoned hypnoterapist twice would be monumental, there was no reason to wait several sessions to begin their fabrications, the time delay between the two appearances is overly long, and the subjects have gained neither notoriety nor money from their efforts. In fact, the sessions would have been rather costly to them.

“I agree with you that the story of Thayer and Gustave is one of the strongest proofs of reincarnation... .”



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¹ Goldberg, Dr. Bruce, *Past Lives, Future Lives*, Newcastle Publishing Co., 1982, pp. 112-125.

² Allen, Miles, *The Survival Files*, Momentpoint Media, 2007.

³ See case #60, *The Strangers Were Lovers* for another apparent case, this time with two separate hypnotists.