

Lucilium Enduring,

I've got some bad news for you: there is no proof. You think that you can prove all of those things, but that's only because you have chosen to believe in simple cause and effect. And we use that most of the time, I'm not upset with you for doing that, I do it myself! But I can't prove that if I jump up into the air that I won't fly. All I know is that I never have before. That's not proof! That's inference at best.

Spiritual auras exist. Sure they do. And when I drink gin I get drunk, but that doesn't make it a religious truth. The use of a drug refined from a sap that makes you sleepy and gives you weird dreams seems more like proof of the infinite capacity of the human mind for addiction and pattern-seeking behaviour. People eat hallucinogenic mushrooms and contact spirits from beyond the veil, but I don't base my life around them. Why should you base your life around what can be done with liao?

Human souls reincarnate and past lives can be seen. That's weak. I've read Echoes of the Labyrinth. Sometimes people have hallucinations of events that happened in the past, and when you go looking for them you find that they really happened! Does that mean that the only possible explanation is reincarnation? Of course it doesn't. You could just be having visions from the perspective of a dead person. Or you could just be hallucinating. Some true liao visions can be overlaid onto historical events very clearly, others are completely unprovable. And do I recall something about a major religious schism within the last decade where someone lied about a vision that they saw and a bunch of people believed them? Scepticism is a healthy ally.

As for speeding up the time to reincarnation, unless you can measure the afterlife, you can't prove a damn thing. If, and it's a big if, reincarnation is real, some people come back slower and some faster. You don't know why. You just go looking for patterns because you assume they must be there. It could be random, and you're just jumping to conclusions.

You despise lies and desire truth. The truth is, you could be dreaming right now and just not know it. This could be a hallucination caused by the Night realm. A malicious eternal could be manipulating your senses, and nothing you can say proves otherwise. But nonetheless we choose to believe that the world exists, that our lives and actions have meaning. I know that I've been harsh, but I don't want to tear you down. Just accept that in some things, we need to make a leap of faith. We choose belief and a life of meaning instead of a life of fear and uncertainty. You don't have to have faith in your people's religion, but you have to have faith in something. Just choose with your eyes open.

Good luck!

Professor Angela Fehrenbach