

Film Review

The Promise: Prenatal Memories of Children, a film produced, edited, and directed by Norio Ogikubo. Published 2016. 1 hour, 43 minutes for the full film and 43 minutes for a shorter educational version.

For many individuals, the concept of prenatal memories may be grasped as a fantasy created and told by children. As you watch this documentary film, *The Promise: Prenatal Memories of Children*, you could sense the director, Mr. Norio Ogikubo, challenges this obstacle and our mysterious concept of consciousness to capture children's pristine knowledge of non-3-dimensional experiential aspects of the inter-life soul.

The mystery behind the surface of things is surely a texture of unfathomable beauty and perfection, which we can each access if we are but passionately curious and devoted. Children come from an original place of understanding and awareness, but, sadly, conventional life with all its customs and judgments, suppresses their pristine knowledge, and covers it over with an artificial fabric. Perhaps, with the work from people such as Dr. Akira Ikegawa and Professor Ohkado, as well as other fearless and open-minded researchers, we can together expand the shrunken human cone of perception, and renew our species' broken "umbilical cord" to the ultimate mysteries.

Have you ever heard of the Overview Effect that Frank White affectionately describes as a "profound reaction to viewing the earth from outside its atmosphere"? There is a possibility of sharing this amazing phenomenon without going to outer space, glancing back at our astonishing mother Earth.

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As an obstetrician and gynecologist, Doctor Akira Ikegawa started his practice at his Ikegawa Clinic in Yokohama-city in 1989. Quite surprisingly, he became a leading researcher on the field of prenatal memory almost by accident. He was skeptical when he initially read about the existence of prenatal memory. However, he was curious enough to ask

around his clinic staffers to find out their response to this phenomenon. His co-workers' answers startled him. Children were talking about their pre-birth memories (some even dating back to their past life memories) with their family members.

Many amazing stories have touched Dr. Ikegawa's soul, and he gradually started to believe the voices of children. In the footage taken in the classrooms of Tobitani Institute of Children (directed by Yumiko Tobitani) and Hokuto (directed by Chikako Kagami), the surprising innate abilities of children who have shared their prenatal memories have been observed. These classrooms created a safe environment and space where children are allowed to fully express themselves. Through this practice of retrieving memories, children are able to understand their souls' missions. Parents are encouraged to cherish their children's will and guide them to move forward with their destiny that they promised to accomplish prior to their birth.

Dr. Ikegawa and Professor Masayuki Ohkado of Chubu University are both conducting surveys of Prenatal Memory. As of April 2016, they have completed surveys around 900 (United States) and 10,000 cases (Japan) in addition to about 60 personal interviews in Japan.

Noriya (11 years-old) clearly remembers his past-life; holocaust memories, that showed up as multiple phobias, starting when he was two-years-old. It is stunning to learn how Noriya's mother recognized the soul message of her son, and turned these horrifying memories around to move beyond her son's past-life with love and strong family bonds.

Sumire (8 years-old) explains her unusual and mysterious talent of being able to see and engage conversations with babies in their mothers' wombs. Her Prenatal Memory is extraordinary, so beautiful and illuminating.

Dr. Ikegawa's innate humanitarian qualities glitter throughout the film and you can easily imagine how he is supported by many people in Japan and around the world.

Prenatal memory should dovetail into a more enlightened and less reductionist understanding of human physiology. Astronauts realized its beauty for the first time when they left planet Earth. It is nearly impossible for us to experience the overview effect in outer space. However, I believe we could create the cognitive shift to experience this amazing phenomenon.

First, you can observe that your physical body is not made of solid matter and that you are a colony of nearly 70 trillion cohabitating cells and microbiome nicely juxtaposed with countless stars and galaxies in the

universe. Secondly, when you concentrate on the existence of a single soul prior to the time of your birth, you can easily forget in our eventful daily life, in the same way as an astronaut leaving the ordinary life on this planet. Finally, when you contemplate your soul's mission that you decided before you were born, you could go beyond space and time to look back at your life's path as a soul just as an astronaut viewing the astonishing mother earth from outer space showing possibly the path to access your own prenatal memory.

If you can accept prenatal memory in this sense, perhaps you may be able to transcend your physical body and soul to experience your own overview effect. I would like you to ponder this idea when you watch this film.

Reviewed by Yuko Igarashi

Link to preview of film: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/pmoc>