

Spring 5-1-2017

Biblical Lives Reimagined

Matt McNichols
College of DuPage

Follow this and additional works at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr>

Recommended Citation

McNichols, Matt (2017) "Biblical Lives Reimagined," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 39 : No. 2 , Article 51.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol39/iss2/51>

This Selection is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications at DigitalCommons@COD. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Prairie Light Review by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@COD. For more information, please contact koteles@cod.edu.

Biblical Lives Reimagined

Born within the swirling, high-flying thoughts and super-charged ideas

Of my first severe bipolar manic psychosis circa 2000
Once foreign and unrecognized conceptual frameworks
Took hold and became a prominent fixture
Throughout my chaotic, windswept mindscape

The philosophic notion that everything and everyone is universally connected

The Buddhist traditions of reincarnation and past lives
Mysteriously, without provocation, found themselves
Firmly entrenched within my mind and its lofty thoughts

Gradually developing strident suspicions
That “I” once lived and perhaps was a featured figure
During the era of the New Testament
This Biblical reincarnation contemplation
At first alluring, magical, and spiritually uplifting
Yet inevitably gravitating towards pain and profound confusion

Imploring Jesus for help and guidance in one moment
Believing I am, in fact, the Second Coming of Christ the next
Overcome with blasphemous guilt and shame
I swiftly ventured into other, perhaps more palatable and plausible
Past lives my soul may once have inhabited
Saint John, Saint Matthew, Saint Joseph, Lazarus
All came under my mind’s inquisitive scrutiny

An obsession now cemented
To uncover and solve
This mysterious case of spiritual identity

Matt McNichols