



The Old Soul

Joseph Wurtenbaugh

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'The Old Soul', a 6,000 word novella, is an enthralling blend of science fiction and speculative fiction that chronicles the adventures of That-Which-Had-Been, as it traverses the fearsome wilderness of the micro-universe. As tiny and inconspicuous as it may seem, That-Which-Had-Been exhibits an unexpected and varied gift for survival, as it journeys implacably toward its ultimate destination. Along the way, it meets a rich array of ordinary human beings, some of whom assist it along its way, others who impede its progress, none of whom have any idea of its existence.

From whence comes the strange, but universal, experience of deja vu? Why do some people exhibit a wisdom far beyond their age and experience - persons reincarnationists refer to as 'old souls'? Joseph Wurtenbaugh in this short story offers a fascinating and tantalizingly plausible explanation for these phenomena, presented in a natural setting that brims with adventure and exhilarating possibility. Not to be missed by anyone who enjoys science fiction or thinking outside the box.

The Old Soul Details

Date : Published April 5th 2012 by G Realist Ink

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Author : Joseph Wurtenbaugh

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Genre : Short Stories, Fiction, Science Fiction, Science Fiction Fantasy

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From Reader Review The Old Soul for online ebook

Quartknee says

Such a super quick read but with so much to think about. Interesting premise and well presented ideas - this one will give you much to ponder and ruminate over for awhile...

Nicole says

I read this book several months ago and loved it so much I needed to review it. I didn't know what it was about and I won't ruin it for anyone else. There is not a day goes by that I don't think about this story. Beautiful & quick read.

Mimifoote says

Gripping short story that had me questioning the entire read until the end. I almost put it down because I couldn't figure it out but I'm glad I didn't.

Phoebe12 says

I came across this sci-fi short story randomly and thought, "Hey, for 99 cents why not?". What a great surprise! This little story of the Old Soul, of That-Which-Had-Been, is one of the most unique pieces of fiction I've read in a long time. While there are very specific descriptions of micro-organisms battling it out and microanatomy, it doesn't read dryly at all. It's a different kind of fantastic voyage. Biology meets spirituality meets science fiction!

The other perk is that the small snippets of human characters are very well written. He manages to do a lot of character development in just a few sentences. I just really enjoyed it and think it is definitely worth your time and your dollar to give this single a quick read. Based on this single, I am now reading his novel Thursday's Child, written under the name Josephine Wurtenbaugh.

Laurie says

interesting but creepy.

Dr Tom says

The Old Soul by 'Joseph Wurtenbaugh'

‘The Old Soul’ begins with the death of a man. It also begins as ‘something indescribable’ prepares to leave the body.

Then as that ‘something’ prepares to leave the body the adventures begin leading the reader to new and exciting twists in the eternal question of what is a ‘soul’.

Joseph Wurtenbaugh certainly gives a different twist to the ‘soul’ tale. In this fast-paced and obviously very well-researched story, he takes us through the micro-cellular universe in which we as ‘souls’, all have our physical being.

As it is said that our lives flash before your eyes as we die, so the ‘Old Soul’ experiences many instances of previous lives, quickly recalling snatches of memories that spanned firstly, 70 years; then 700; then 70,000 years: and inexplicably there rises a brief but recurring fondness for the taste for strawberries.

How big is a soul? Is it as tiny as a quantum particle? As large as the universe? Is it timeless? Or does it exist in many dimensions of space and time? Is it immortal? Or can it die? Joseph Wurtenbaugh explores all these fascinating possibilities in this mind-boggling story.

Leaving the short lifetime of a dying man the old evolving soul resumes a journey that began in the primordial slime of a new earth and continued until it reached the heights of a human being.

Now the Old Soul must retrace many of the early forms once more as its struggles inexorably towards its next life as a human being.

In a microbiological way Joseph Wurtenbaugh explores how our souls might evolve. On the way he gives us plenty to think about.

‘The Old Soul’ will appeal to anyone who enjoys a mind-enhancing puzzle, anyone who relishes a sci-fi or paranormal story, anyone who likes to explore beyond the narrow boundaries accepted by far too many, even scientists, as the ‘fully explainable’ physical universe. He shows how quantum mechanics and microbiology in particular point the way as to how the human mind body and soul possesses many wonderful and unaccountable depths by exploring these in passing in this fascinating and wonderful book. However this is a work of fiction and the theory explored in the book is a work of fiction. What do we believe? What should we believe? Well, all things are possible, aren’t they?

About this author

‘Joseph Wurtenbaugh’ is one of the two pen names of Frank Dudley Berry, Jr who is married with two daughters.

Mr Berry’s first book was 'Thursday's Child' and because it was a love story he used the female pen name 'Josephine Wurtenbaugh'.

Mr. Berry then used the pen name 'Joseph Wurtenbaugh' for three short stories published as Kindle Singles: 'The Old Soul', 'Warm Moonlight', and 'Newton in the New Age'. He has also written a novel, 'Alone in the Fortress' under that name.

Ali Lepore says

I really enjoyed this.

Suzann says

This Kindle Single has one of the most unique concepts I've seen in a long time. I was mesmerized!

Sal says

Pretty interesting short story. There are some questions about the scientific notions of the story, but I doubt you'll find they interfere with the story itself. Overall, a quite enjoyable short read for 99 cents.

Casyle says

Very interesting, clever read.

Stan Golanka says

Great story that successfully integrates philosophy, adventure, and microscopic biology.

Eric Townsend says

Before happening upon *The Old Soul* I had never heard of Joseph Wurtenbaugh, this piece will make it hard to forget him. When I was in high school science was my favorite subject, or at least tied with history, but regardless it fascinated me, from biology to chemistry and into physics and even anatomy and physiology, there was always some new realm of the world, or even the universe to explore (yes I took astronomy too). *The Old Soul* explores one of these realms, that of microbiology and does so in a way that captivates and teaches you a little while entertaining you all at the same time.

From the inside of a human to jumping from one tiny organism to the next, this entity known only as “That-Which-Had-Been” goes on an epic journey showing how the world of microbiology is so very interconnected. If a being were able to do what this one did it would be remarkable, and while luck plays a huge role in such a journey, the inevitable is just that for one with such drive and purpose. The writing is compelling and even though there is a lot of terminology and names of organisms in the piece it doesn’t make it any less enjoyable or cause it to become stiff whatsoever. I thoroughly enjoyed diving back into my old love of the unseen world in our own, the one that is truly the most vital, and would recommend it to anyone.

Rating: 5/5

Ketty says

Interesting concept of what a soul is and rebirth.

Leilamid Midelfort says

Interesting read. My favorite part was the last sentence.

Karen says

Eh.
