

The Elephant Man

08 May 2014

10 Comments



Joseph Carey Merrick (born in Leicester 1862, died 1890 London) was an Englishman with severe deformities, exhibited as a curiosity nicknamed the Elephant Man. Abnormal development began in childhood, his skin becoming thick and lumpy. At 10 his mother died. Rejected by his remarried father and stepmother, he entered the Leicester Union Workhouse at 17 then the London Hospital at 21, where he died from asphyxia at 27.

Q: Mr. Merrick, an honor to have you. As I believe you know, we've had many a well known guest come forward, many for their celebrity and accomplishment. I must say to have you accept and appear is a personal compliment. Hasn't humanity always preferred "beauty"?

JM: You've understood my purpose; we can close the interview!

Q: I plan to ask more, if you don't mind.

JM: Not at all, I was kidding, of course.

Q: Did you have any mental incapacity related to your physical condition?

JM: No.

Q: What purpose was served?

JM: There were several, all accomplished. My mother's role was to launch me, as you might say and that was done by ten, her departure planned for that stage. I must say, my appreciation for her grew enormously between her death and mine, and multiplied manifold after my own passing and return home. The re-encounter was...I have no words. I ask all of you reading to feel.

My father's case was to learn rejection and effect; to discard his relationship with me then revisit the effects, mostly on himself. His second wife was also a key component, and she volunteered the role much for the same reason.

My purpose was twofold; to feel rejection of society in general and to supply the opportunity my father and second wife required to learn about human relationships.

Q: The information from which I gleaned your brief biography suggested asphyxia caused your passing. You had to sleep upright, and attempted to do it lying flat. Is that true?

JM: Yes, that's how it happened; I went as peacefully as could be imagined. I fell fast asleep then slowly passed from less and less air.

Q: Why didn't you have an apnea type event, where you'd wake up, catch your breath and recover?

JM: In my case, the weight of my skull prevented that. I was already asleep and oxygen consumption was low, the way it always is with any sleeping person. I just didn't regain consciousness. This was planned.

Q: There have been cases of growth abnormalities in many humans and I must ask, are they usually planned? Are there cures or remedies, maybe preventions?

JM: Yes, no and no. Next question!

Q: Such unusual physical conditions are always planned?

JM: When they manifest in an extreme and highly unusual way, yes. Anytime a great circumstance surrounds a person or persons, there is a purpose. Leprosy is a related situation.

Q: Please describe your sensations and emotions as you began to develop the abnormalities; what happened around you? How did you feel, emotionally?

JM: In the beginning I hoped I would not die, that the sickness would not kill me. Soon I understood it was not something fatal and was permanent and was getting worse. Once my mates knew I wasn't going to die, they broke into two camps, the ones who supported and engaged me and the others, the majority who rejected me. The lessons I learned from that rejection is of such a huge value, I cannot say.

Q: Would you return to Earth and follow such a life again?

JM: Oh, yes in a minute but how selfish so no, I never would.

Q: Why selfish?

JM: After the lessons learned so valuable, after gaining an experience of such magnitude, how greedy and ignominious of me to deny any opportunity to another; that would be a self centredness offensive to even the rudest among us.

Q: What happened after your mother died?

JM: I realised full well what life awaited me.

Q: Did your participation in exhibitions bother you?

JM: Not as you might expect; I was already accustomed to public reaction and revulsion at my appearance. It was something I expected in any person seeing me for the first time. It wasn't universal, some people knew in advance what they'd see and were curious and even polite and engaging, but it was rare enough, that became a surprise.

I knew I'd be paid and needed that, so really it was for me a bit like school without the study or assignments and being paid for it. The reactions of students and the public were similar.

Q: Did your father's remarriage and rejection of you bother you?

JM: At the time I was glad to be rid of him, but regret that reaction now, although it made all the sense my place in the world could hold. I stood to learn a lot more from his hanging around and

continuing his behaviour, but I only came to realise that much later on, after passing.

Q: It's been offered by more than one guest, that trials and tribulations are challenges requested, often things a soul selects. How did you view your life as the selection was made?

JM: With intense, optimistic curiosity. I knew something significant would come from it, for nothing else than its rarity. I didn't know what, but all of life on Earth is that way. The not knowing is the worst and best, simultaneously.

Q: Did you ever look upon non-deformed people with envy?

JM: Every day. I wouldn't say envy is a good word, a longing to have just a few days in a body like mine, but developed without deformity.

Q: Were you at peace with your place and condition in life?

JM: Yes, curiously enough. This was mostly after going to the hospital, where the staff didn't care much for me one way or the other.

Q: Had you been given a three day pass to occupy a body without the physical conditions you developed, what would you have done?

JM: Run naked through the streets, past Buckingham Palace if I could have arranged it, then enjoy my time in jail. That would have been a real treat.

Q: What work would you have done, had you been able to find employment?

JM: It wasn't well developed then but I would have tried psychiatry; I wanted to study how the mind worked in people where the body was normal, not deformed and understand why deformities occurred out of sight. I was intensely curious about it, because I assumed everybody thought like myself inside and that external differences were most of the variances between humans. Obviously, not the case.

Q: Would you have been a good doctor?

JM: An excellent one and my work in Heaven has been along such lines, using my experience on Earth to both make suggestions to souls departing for the great journey on Earth, and for returnees.

Q: What message do you have for humanity?

JM: It is simple; never take for granted. The downside of anything can be quickly compared to the worse problem someone else has and it will frame your opportunity. Unless you have died, you can always strike out in a new direction, even if it seems futile. There is no such thing; futility means there are even better opportunities. Humanity should look upon anything that seems this way, as a message. Cultural habit teaches us to persevere until the end; not so much I say. Better it is to persevere in some direction and be willing to change course. Yes, certain destinations can be reached, but often there are others more worth it, after some travel in the direction of the original.

Q: Mr. Merrick, my thanks and gratitude for your visit.

JM: It was a nice one, wasn't it? Back to my herd of pachyderms...

COMMENTS

Allen 08/05/2014 7:11pm

That was very interesting, Patrick. Thank you.

What was the inspiration for seeking out the soul that lived that particular life? I really appreciated reading about the lessons and experiences sought, as well as the advice and messages for humanity.

Patrick 08/05/2014 7:42pm

Mr. Merrick was suggested by a reader. I barely remember the nickname and knew nothing about him.

Allen 08/05/2014 7:52pm

Then a thank you goes to the reader. The message might benefit many. :0)

Renie 08/05/2014 9:27pm

Thank you, Patrick, for this awesome interview . And much appreciation to you, Mr. Merrick for your humor and for your messages. I am absolutely amazed! Such synchronicity!

Ajh 08/05/2014 10:22pm

I read (guess where) that Jesus himself came back as a sickly child who died young in hospital. A similar lesson for the immediate community. Says John Merrick 'no futility, only possibilities'. I liked that.

Susan 08/05/2014 11:37pm

That was awesome. What a beautiful soul. My brother was severely handicapped in this life. He died at aged 36 and he incarnated here to teach about compassion and empathy etc.

Renie 09/05/2014 8:11pm

Thank you also, Mr. Merrick, for the advice on being willing to change course. The many experiences and opportunities that life has to offer should not be sacrificed by our cultural belief that we must persevere until the end. How foolishly we squander our freedom and justify our suffering.

steve 10/05/2014 2:20am

Nice stuff Patrick, hey you seem to be on a roll atm, by the way with the banner photo, a nice adult pair of *Macopus Fuliginosus Melanops* would not look out of place also.!!!

Steve.

Patrick 10/05/2014 9:04am

Macopus Fuliginosus Melanops??
I have no idea: but it sounds too good NOT to try.

Mike 10/05/2014 2:28am

A very enlightened man indeed. Just goes to show people like him and I dare say we will one day hear a similar story about Prof. Stephen Hawking. Totally incapacitated in one way or another and to have a fabulous mind.