

I stood speechless, not only surprised by his sudden use of speech, but also trying to figure out where this bizarre and quite detailed remark came from. But he didn't blink an eye. He was very determined and serious. I asked him if he'd had a scary dream, a question that made him very offended.

“No-ho!” He spoke even louder, trying to get his point across. “When I was little and fell on the road and the truck drove over me, ‘member?!” The fact that I didn’t “member” appeared to upset him the most. He kept staring at me insistently, frustrated as to how I could have forgotten. He mentioned something about pain, and then got distracted by other things.

I remember how my thoughts were racing. *Did he watch something on TV?* But we hardly watched TV and never anything gruesome like this. *Has there been anything on the news or in the papers?* *Is there anyone we know who recently died?* *Are there any stories going around that he may have picked up on?* For a split second, I did consider it could have been a past-life memory. Now I feel more certain that it was just that.

ELS VAN POPPEL
Queensland, Australia