

SEEDS OF FAITH:

Reflections on Desire and Cyclic Existence

as trees shed leaves each yea
r so we shed memories
and eventually no
thing is left of us
but a few tiny seeds . . .

as those particles are bl
own across the fields of sp
ace many become fal
low while a few germ in
ate

it takes faith to rise
in fields of un
certainty
yet if you ex a mine
a forest closely
it'll be clear s
eeds of life
spring up
continual
ly

- T Newfields

Beg. : 1991 Shizuoka Fin. : 2016 Xin Táiběi





Lex : (adopting an Indian accent) Unless we extinguish all seeds of desire, rebirth is inescapable.

Lis : (chuckling in amusement) That's the classic Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh doctrine, isn't it?

Lex : I choose to think of it this way: the real issue is patterned conditioning: the compulsive need for something. In a sense, every desire creates its own cycle of rebirth.

Ron : Yet patterned conditioning is part of being human: food, air, sleep, sex, and self-worth are things no healthy person can do without. And without patterned conditioning, many tasks would be impossible.

Linda: (nodding) I agree, and that's why moderation is important. Rather than trying to eliminate desire, isn't healthier to accept it without undue clinging? A preference need not be an obsession.