

# Coincidences: Chance or Fate?



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The material presented here amounts to what is believed to be the largest collection of coincidences yet gathered in one book. It comes from a wide variety of sources: my own research over a number of years; readers of my previous books on the subject; my daily newspaper column and articles; radio and TV audiences who have phoned or written as result of my appearing on a show; and acquaintances, friends and colleagues. For the help of all these generous people I am most grateful. However, the book is not merely a collection of fascinating anecdotes and the like. It attempts to look at the thorny question of the meaning- if any- of coincidences in the hope, as objective a way as possible. As the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer wrote, the real significance of coincidences exists only in relation to the individual who

experiences them; for other peopleï¼Œ for whom<br>they have no significanceï¼Œ these coincidences pass unnoticed<br>into the background of everyday life. Like most unqualified<br>assertionsï¼Œ thoughï¼Œ this is not totally correct. As we shall seeï¼Œ<br>there are many coincidences involving others that cannot but<br>fail to impress the rest of us.<br>On this pointï¼Œ it is often argued that to dwell on trivial<br>coincidences when discussing the phenomenon is to belittle<br>the possible importance of significant coincidences. In this<br>book there are what many people would c~nsider a goodly<br>number of trivial coincidences rubbing shtl~lders with the<br>significant events. <br><br>

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