

Further

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To Oliver, born disabled

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Introduction

Because of the rapid change in the outside world in developed countries, the realities faced by one generation are very different from the realities faced by the next one.

This wasn't a big problem 75–100 years ago, or before that. It was not hard back then to stick throughout adulthood

with the spiritual system of parents and earlier generations of ancestors—because the physical realities kids faced in adolescence and adulthood were very much like the one faced by their parents. Therefore the spiritual system they were taught also worked and made sense to them.

But nowadays, primarily because of technological innovations, the outer world is changing so fast that the spiritual world children are taught about is viewed with skepticism too, and is often rejected.

The way around this problem is to teach a premise and a spiritual plan that makes sense to both generations, so that when the younger one reaches adolescence the differences between the outer worlds faced by the two generations won't affect their inner spiritual choices.

The Premise and Process Behind Human Life

THE PREMISE

This premise is unproveable, and requires faith. First, some faith is necessary for the premise, then reason can take over during the process—it was set up that way.

The premise is: There is an eternal, unconditionally-loving God who is changeless and everywhere.

THE PROCESS

God created the universe about 14 billion years ago. It consists of both physical and non-physical creations by that

eternal deity. Those “God-parts” are made up of various physical configurations of non-eternal, subatomic particles, and various non-physical, eternal parts, such as souls. The purpose is for some of the parts, such as human beings, to use their physical selves to aid other physical selves to get through this life on earth. In order to achieve this helpfulness, a balanced approach is necessary, wherein one uses good judgment in deciding when to emphasize one’s own survival and when to be kind.

The goal is eventual reunification with the original creator, God.

How the Process Works

A. ON THE COSMIC SCALE

According to scientific observations, there are at least millions of planets that seem habitable by self-aware beings, like us humans, throughout the universe. When each of those planets reach a point in which its self-aware beings can communicate with most of the occupants, and are able to provide aid to most of the inhabitants, this divine process can then be revealed on that planet. When that happens, the message about “what’s going on” throughout the universe begins to be spread around on that planet. This assertion about what’s occurring on other planets can’t be verified, because

other solar systems are so far away (the nearest one is more than 25 trillion miles away); it just makes sense, if one accepts the premise.

Earth, as one of those millions of planets, has now reached that point of sufficient development. This is evidenced by our thorough knowledge about the different peoples and cultures all across our planet; and the recent development of the Internet. On a planet estimated to have been formed about 4,600,000,000 years ago, the divine process first became clear less than 10 years (!) after the level of technological capability was reached which enabled average people to communicate worldwide.

B. ON THE HUMAN SCALE

During earthly life, individuals are free to choose their actions. The more those actions are helpful and positive, the faster people get to the goal, and the more the outer world improves; if people pick harmful, negative acts, their spiritual advance is delayed, and the physical world worsens. The more influence and power one has, the more our planet is affected. Depending on people's choices, Earth will either be a better or a worse place to live in the future.

The Nature of Human Beings

People are made up of two parts: the external, physical element, the body, which evolved over millions of years; and the internal, spiritual element, the soul, which is eternal and did not evolve.

THE PHYSICAL SELF

When we're born, our first task is to begin functioning in the physical world. This begins at birth, when the person helping with delivery swats the baby in order to start the breathing. Most every child spends the first two or three years of life faced with the same challenge—learning how to survive in a material world with his/her nervous system.

There are also qualities that most humans already possess at birth, such as the five senses—taste, touch, smell, sight, and hearing. The body houses the ego-self, which uses that body (including the brain, the senses, and the nervous system) to progress toward its agenda.

Some prominent traits of the physical self are these:

- It was necessary for physical survival that individual egos would develop. Along the evolutionary path the people with weaker egos died out and people alive
-

now are the descendants of the people who had stronger egos.

- Good judgment led to human survival. Early judgments were simple, and at times with life-or-death results: sometimes good judgments resulted in life and bad judgments led to death, without the passing on of genes. The emotion of fear furnished the energy inside people that drove the desire to judge correctly.
- The need for quick simplicity resulted in judgmental procedures that divided things mentally into twos, often opposites. This led to human survival in prehistoric times: people, objects, animals and situations were differentiated, and then judged—friend or foe, safe or dangerous surroundings, threat or comfort. After that, the correct judgment led to appropriate action.

Physical ego-selves look for short-term success and survival. The routes to those short-term goals vary. Each earthly person has an agenda that varies at least a little from someone else's, just as each fingerprint varies at least a little.

THE SOUL

The soul is the spiritual core of each person, the part of each person that did not evolve over time like its “house”—the physical part.

Trying to express this aspect of oneness inside humans with earthly language is difficult, because language developed on a dualistic planet. But if one imagines God as a mighty river, then every individual soul is, and has always been, a drop of “God” carried along by that river. Everything, from ants to zebras, and all atoms, and the spaces between those atoms, are also parts of this river.

The difference between one human soul and another is that they’re located in different places along the path to reunification with God.

So physical selves, their agendas, and the location of each soul along the path to reunification all vary from person to person. However, variations don’t apply to the fourth aspect of humanity: Every soul-*agenda* is the same—eventual reunification with its source, God. The time it takes for each soul to accomplish this differs (depending on the choices made), but the agenda is the same.



There are four primary aspects of human beings that lead to outer survival, but create a friction between our physical natures and our spiritual natures. These are: the ego-self, the power of the senses, instinctive, often unconscious, judgment, and the desire for a formula.

First, just as a movie needs a director, a person needs an ego-self (the “I”) to function in the physical world and to fulfill the physical agenda, which includes the survival of the organism. That physical survival is a practical necessity which also assists in accomplishing the soul agenda, because only beings physically alive and willing to help can be kind and compassionate toward other people in this world. An example would be Mother Teresa—most people would say that she was a spiritual person, but even she had to pay close attention to her physical surroundings, because you can’t help poor people on the streets of Calcutta if you are dead, and you’ll be very wary of choosing to help anyone if you have been robbed or hurt in some way. But a balance is needed. Concentration on only making choices that satisfy the visible needs of one’s own ego-self helps one achieve

physical goals, but impedes soul-alignment with God, the alignment which leads to an eventual reunification.

Second, the messages of the human senses—taste, touch, sight, hearing, smell—are so intense and all-pervasive that it is difficult to see beyond them to an alignment with God. Sense-input is definite, constant, and concrete, while the soul-input is not.

Third, instinctive, often unconscious, judgment. Judgment is how people evolved in this world of opposites—pain/pleasure, yes/no, up/down. Human babies make thousands of judgments about “what works” in the world they find themselves in, by repeating actions that cause pleasure, and not repeating the ones that cause pain. To illustrate, when a baby in a crib kicks and hits its foot on the crib, the baby starts making judgments not to kick in that direction, because it hurts. These judgments become instinctive—first, as babies, they learn how to function in basic ways; and then, when toddlers, they learn things like how to walk, how to stay upright, and how to pivot to head in a different direction. Infants gather data through their senses, draw conclusions (“ouch! ... that hurts”), and later people make these judgments about external life in a quick, unnoticed, and

unconscious way. Judgments like those become part of the autonomic nervous system. These taken-for-granted reactions to the world around us enable earthly functioning, but are unnecessary in an immaterial, spiritual world.

Fourth, the desire for a formula. One of the early formulas was when human ancestors were traipsing through the forest and heard a noise. It turned out that the noise was made by a dangerous animal. Future survival depended on a “formula”—every person, then and in future generations, learned something such as: “When you hear a noise like that, be alert, and ready to face a dangerous situation.” There are thousands of formulas that produce survival in the modern world. In the U.S., for instance, the formula for safety while driving a car is to drive on the right side of the road; the formula in England is driving on the left side.

For each person in the physical world, formulas increase certainty, and enhance survival, safety, and comfort. People seek a formula in the spiritual area too, thinking it’s as valuable there as in the physical realm. But the spiritual part of humans doesn’t actually need certainty, because survival in that eternal world is guaranteed.

The friction which results from the contrasting nature of human spiritual and physical parts creates judgment situations. In those situations each soul-part is motivated to emphasize the altruistic desire to help others, while each physical-part is motivated toward doing what's best for one's own self. By making these judgments each soul can advance toward the goal of reunification with God, but a wise choice is needed ... there needs to be a physical self for the soul to exist inside the next time a choice comes up.

The presence of free will lets people do what they wish, which is why freedom is important in fulfilling our part in the process.

AFTER A PERSON DIES ...

Since the premise states that God is eternal, and doesn't state that any other being is eternal, it figures that everything physical was originally, in some way, part of that deity. There has to be some method, a tool, by which an eternal deity shuttles "God-parts" back and forth from an eternal reality to the non-eternal reality on Earth.

The tool which would accomplish this is reincarnation.

Initially, there would be a spiritual afterlife, a “rest in peace” period. It’s sensible that a loving God would provide some peace in a non-dualistic world (of differing lengths of time, depending on the choices made during earthly life) before most God-parts returned to an up-and-down existence on a physical planet.

Delay of soul-advancement, or conversely, a rapid soul-advancement, results from the choices people make during physical life. Those choices also result in automatic justice (Hinduism and Buddhism refer to this as “karma”), both positive and negative.

Here’s one way of describing what’s been happening: It’s as though the human race has primarily been headed in one direction—let’s say, north. The major impulse of going in that direction is an evolutionary emphasis on the physical survival of each individual. Throughout history, a few individuals have emphasized the inner spiritual component, and have urged people to head in exactly the opposite direction—south. But, for the great majority of people, it didn’t happen ... because the instinctive drive to look out for one’s own survival and prosperity is just too powerful. What *is*

possible is a combination of these two for humans—an “east-west” direction—in which one’s own well-being and kindness toward others are pursued equally, instead of the more common emphasis on the former which developed during previous human history as a result of the difficulty of physical survival.

A Closer Look at the Premise

An eternal God: In many dictionaries, one of the definitions of the word “eternal” is “outside of time.” This definition highlights a major difference between God and humans—that we are subject to the passage of time, while

God is not. We live in a world that has a past, present, and future ... while the deity lives in some kind of eternal present.

Most every person who believes that an eternal God exists concludes that God can foresee what *we* call the future. The word “foresee” assumes that God is inside time, just as we are, but, being all-powerful, can see into the future. However, to an eternal God, there is no “future”—there is just a constant, ongoing present.

Another way of looking at this: Aristotle once said, “This only is denied even to God: the power to undo the past.” But why can’t this God, who is supposedly all-powerful, change the past? A rational conclusion which eliminates contradiction is that, while humans are subject to the passage of time, God knows *of* time, but isn’t subject to its passage.

The premise states that God is changeless.

It also describes God as having unconditional love. One thing these two attributes do is eliminate divine judgment (this does not mean that there are no consequences for evil or negative actions—there are, in the form of automatic justice).
