

Reincarnation

The Oriental doctrine of reincarnation holds that the human soul can and will reincarnate from one fleshly body to others in succession over periods of time. Through this process, the soul is believed to progress toward purification as a result of lessening its desire to sin.

It is actually impossible for a soul in the spirit world which is permanently encased in and protected by a spirit body to be reincarnated in the flesh. To do this, it would have to shed its spirit body, which is physical in nature, though made of different substance than the fleshly body and thus invisible to human eyes. The spirit body gives the soul its individuality as a conscious entity. In the spirit world, no spirit body has ever been deprived of or separated from its soul or disappeared from its habitat, except in advancing through the spheres of the Kingdom of the Perfect Man or progressing to the Celestial Heavens and immortality.

When a soul is first incarnated, it has no spirit body. This and a physical body are only acquired through the physical development and the process of individualization. Upon death, the physical body remains behind and the soul enters the spirit world in its spirit body. As a soul cannot be taken from, or in way deprived of, its spirit body, and it cannot enter another human body with its spirit body, reincarnation is impossible.

When a human dies in the flesh, their soul has achieved the purpose of their creation, which is individualization and the formation of receptacles for its continuation in the spirit world. Many souls return to the spirit world full of encrustations acquired or inherited during their earth life, which need to be eliminated. This can be accomplished in the spirit world in one of two ways. Either the soul can become purified through the exercise of its will, moral force and repentance, or it can become pure as a result of Divine Love transformation through prayer to the Father. It is therefore unnecessary for the soul to keep returning to the flesh for purifying itself.

Our loving Heavenly Father has provided a better plan that enables the soul – the real person – to attain purity. God's plan is actually more merciful and effective than an endless succession of reincarnations. Purification during repeated physical existences would take an awfully long time to accomplish its intended result because while seeking to purify their soul, each person would also have to contend with the sinful influences of the flesh and potentially acquire more soul encrustations. As a result, their ultimate purification would be constantly hindered and thus be indefinitely delayed. By contrast, God has shown His Love for His created children by providing an easier way for them to be purged of their sins without the influences of the flesh.

Some among spirits believe in reincarnation, but none have experienced it – though they may still feel that under the right circumstances it is possible. However, all spirits, even those who had been in the hell realms, have simply progressed in the spirit world and some admit that they were mistaken in their belief. Karma, or the law of cause and effect doesn't need a physical body to work itself out, but operates effectively in the spirit world.

References: *Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth*, Vol. 1, Chapter 10 and Vol. 2, Chapter 14 VI

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