

Does Life Have a Purpose?



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evolution, carrying us from God to God towards a climax and crescendo of unimaginable ecstasy and joy.

What does knowing this contribute to our lives?

Rather than greeting each day as if nothing of significance is to be met, we now know that we're participating in an ages-long saga of ever-improving unfoldment.

Rather than remaining in lethargy and hopelessness, we might now see life as a journey of increasing blessedness and hopefulness.

The whole complexion of our lives changes when we know its purpose and direction.

Yesterday life seemed purposeless and oppressive. Today life is purposeful and impressive.

Instead of a world descending into chaos and misery, we look to vistas which, in the words of Franklin Merrell-Wolff, reveal "Mysteries within Mysteries, Deeps beyond Deeps, Grandeurs beyond Grandeurs. ... reaching inward and outward, but ever Beyond! And from that Beyond ever there come new whisperings of other imponderable Glories." (1)

Even life one dimension above us is imponderable. But so much more awaits us, as life unfolds its purpose in the contours of our own lives.

Footnotes

(1) Franklin Merrell-Wolff in *Pathways through to Space. A Personal Record of Transformation in Consciousness*. New York: Julian Press, 1973, 17.

The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment – Ch. 13 – Epilogue



The Golden Sun and the little golden star

“The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment - Ch. 13 - Epilogue,” August 13, 2011, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2011/08/13/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment-ch-13-epilogue/>.

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When time stood still

What inspired this book? What motivates me as its author?

The energy I have for the subject arises from an event that happened on 13 February 1987, a vision. Rather improbably, it happened while I was driving my car. I’ll try to describe it in as much detail as I can for interest’s sake. You may recognize it as a variation on the spiritual parabola or Jacob’s ladder of consciousness.

The previous weekend I had been at a rebirthing workshop and had had a full breath release, an event which left me feeling incredibly clean and clear.

Moreover, I was at the time studying for my doctorate in sociology and had been counselling people on a volunteer basis. This experience as a counsellor contributed directly to what happened next.

At first, like so many counsellors, I used “problem-solving therapy,” but soon became weary of trying to “sell” solutions to people who weren't inclined to buy. They seemed to want to tell their stories no matter what and rebuffed any attempt I made to offer a solution so I started listening.

I found that people presented me with a puzzle and, when I listened and they talked about it long and deeply enough, they suddenly had an “Aha!” The puzzle turned into a picture which caused their upset to disappear. (Of course I'm simplifying a more complicated process.)

In all sincerity that day, I said to the universe in general, “If our early lives are a puzzle which turns into a picture, is it possible that life itself is a puzzle? And, if so, what might the picture be that life is?”

I'd turned the corner in my car and was travelling through a part of the city I knew well. Having asked my question, everything suddenly turned black. I forgot about my car and found myself staring at a wordless tableaux, a spiritual movie, if you will. All of it was relational, a cause-and-effect story in pictures. I was watching God's wordless way of speaking to me.

At the same time as I watched this spiritual tableau — and this is very important - I was filled with bliss. The experience of bliss resulted in greatly-increased comprehension. It somehow made it easier for me to take things in. What I could not wrap my thoughts around in everyday consciousness I now knew and understood quite simply, intuitively, and directly.

I knew intuitively the identity of the actors in the film and the nature of the drama that was unfolding before my eyes. Words just arose in my mind to explain what I saw.

There was before me a large Golden Sun, which I knew intuitively to be “God the Father” (Brahman, the irreducible Essence, the Tao). (1) From it

emerged a small golden star, which I thought of as “God the Child” (the Atman, the Buddha-nature, the Christ, the Pearl of great price).

This small golden star streaked out into the blackness of space and disappeared.

I noticed that I had the capacity to follow the golden star wherever it went. I simply wondered where it had gone and, poof, I was there, looking at that corner of “space.”

In the corner where the golden star had gone, there was a kind of hazy cloud. I knew that cloud to be God the Holy Spirit, which I would now call “God the Mother” (Shakti, the Word, Aum/Amen, the creative universal vibration).

Within the haze, I saw a spiraling tube and recognized the Star-Child, moving through it. It had now lost its brilliance and I could only see its perfectly-circular outline, as it wended its way through what I knew intuitively to be “lifetimes in matter.”

I watched for a time and then, suddenly, the Star-Child flashed back into brilliance and I knew that to be an experience of enlightenment. As soon as its luminescence returned, it left the tube and raced back to the Golden Sun in which it submerged itself. I knew this to be another, more senior experience of enlightenment.

The Star-Child having disappeared, I pondered what I had seen and the words formed in my mind: “Enlightenment is the purpose of life.” God meets God in a moment of our enlightenment. “O thou !” (2) This understanding summarized my experience.

As soon as I had reached this conclusion, the vision disappeared and I was back behind the wheel of a car.

The experience was not enlightenment. It was a teaching *about* enlightenment. I had been given a glimpse of God’s great Plan for life, a representation of the total journey of an individual soul. It went out from God, on a spiritual parabola, all the while spiraling forward through the action of karma, through the universe of matter, and back again to God once it had achieved a supreme level of mergence or enlightenment.

“It all works out in the final reel!”

Knowing that part of the city well, I looked to the right and the left of me to see how far I had moved in the roughly eight seconds I had been somewhere else. I had not moved an inch. I concluded that the whole event had taken place outside of time.

Behind the wheel of the car again, I came to a red light and looked over at the worried expression on the face of the driver in the next car. I wanted to roll down my window and shout: “It all works out in the final reel!”

For the next three days, I remained in bliss. I saw that all of nature praises God and reveals His Plan. Trees raise their leafy branches to the sky as if in adoration. Their leaves drop off, as our bodies do, but the trees don’t die.

The birds flying through the air leave no trace; nor do souls journeying through life. The way the sand and sea mix and yet return to their basic natures reminded me of the relationship between the soul and the body. Everything natural was a metaphor of the Divine or one of Its created processes.

Thereafter my doctoral studies seemed insipid. I tried to enroll my professors in allowing me to study enlightenment for my dissertation but no one at the university, including the Religious Studies Department, would hear of it. Religious Studies said that the university’s constitution forbade them studying such a subject. I was amazed.

Empirical materialism was the dominant paradigm at my university in those days. Only what could be known through the senses was considered real. None of what I’d seen was known through the senses; hence none of what I’d seen, to the university, was real.

I felt confined by the academic paradigm and left university.

I remained entranced by the vision. For the next ten years, I read nothing but the works of enlightened authors. I had to find words to express the vision’s wordless message.

One by one, as I read the classics, statements appeared that explained what I had seen. Jesus saying that he came out from the Father out into the world and now returns to the Father was an exact description.

Jacob's Ladder was a depiction of it. Here it was discussed in Ibn Arabi; there in Krishnamurti.

The next ten years after that were spent actually writing this book, trying to put that eight-second movie into words. And now it's done.

May your efforts to achieve the purpose of life and consummate God's Plan be blessed with success. May you be filled with divine joy and bliss. May all divine children be enlightened, fulfilled and reunited with God.

Namaste,

Steve Beckow

Footnotes

(1) I did not notice the blackness of space. If I had, what would I have known then?

(2) "I went from God to God, until they cried from me in me, 'O thou I!'" (Bayazid of Bistun in Aldous Huxley, *The Perennial Philosophy*. New York, etc.: Harper and Row, 1970; c1944, 12.)

It All Works Out in the Final Reel



Excerpt from “It All Works Out in the Final Reel,” Aug. 3, 2011, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/spirituality/16244-2/it-all-works-out-in-the-final-reel/>

In a reading through Linda Dillon on April 26, 2011, Archangel Michael, the Spirit whom I serve said something that surprised me:

"We do not ask you to veer away from being a writer but we want you to write what you feel moved to and it is also more dabbling into what you have thought of as the sacred truths.

"And people, humans, hybrids [Starseeds], and beyond, are prepared to receive those [writings] as well. In a fuller and perhaps may we say more profound way than previously. ...

"... In the human element their hearts are yearning for more. So you are going to do more writing in that vein." (1)

I expressed surprise because I'm not an enlightened being but Michael predicted that that's what I'd feel drawn to.

And I confess that the desire to turn to spiritual topics is in fact arising in me. There's a desire to write about enlightenment, the design elements of the human being, the natural laws, and the Trinity of God the Father, Mother, and Child.

I used to say to myself that one spiritual experience - a transformational moment, a vision - repaid a decade of labor for it. (And I know that a moment comes when we must not struggle or exert ourselves.) There came a time when I was having one spiritual experience after another and none of it slaked my thirst.

Back in 1987, while I was driving my car, I had an experience which changed my life. But given that it's discussed elsewhere in this book I won't go into it here.

Nevertheless, here I am twenty-four years after the vision, feeling as fresh with the topic as I did then, feeling no diminution of enthusiasm for an eight-second tableau. That's because, when I get in touch with it, when I breathe into it, I'm breathing into a truth. And so I feel joy or bliss.

And so it has been for everyone who was ever contacted or awakened by the Divine in any way. So powerful is the touch of God that it rearranges lives, smashes plans, and totally converts the soul. It divides father from son and mother from daughter. I am, we all are, God's playthings, His puppets, His fools. And rage against it as we might, nothing can change the situation.

But let me not fly off into outer space, lost to everything. There is work to do to serve Him.

Footnotes

(1) Archangel Michael in a personal reading with Steve Beckow through Linda Dillon, April 26, 2011.

(1) The first page of which starts here <https://goldenageofgaia.com/16244-2/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment/ch-1-introduction/>; on this site and here <https://www.angelfire.com/space2/light11/index1.html> on another site.

(2) Available here (<https://goldenageofgaia.com/16244-2/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment/ch-12-epilogue/>) and here (<https://www.angelfire.com/space2/light11/epilog.html>).

(3) At <https://www.angelfire.com/space2/light11/fdl/index100.html>

The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment



“The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment - Ch. 13 - Epilogue,” August 13, 2011, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2011/08/13/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment-ch-13-epilogue/>

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We're here for a purpose

As it turns out, we're not here as robots or automatons. We've much conscious and creative work to do.

We're here for a reason. Sufi sage Al Ghazzali hints at that reason: “Know, O beloved, that man was not created in jest or at random, but marvellously made and for some great end.” (1)

“Although he is not from everlasting, yet [man] lives for ever; and though his body is mean and earthly, yet his spirit is lofty and divine. When in the crucible of abstinence he is purged from carnal passions he attains to the highest, and in place of being a slave to lust and anger becomes endued [sic] with angelic qualities. Attaining that state, he finds his heaven in the contemplation of Eternal Beauty, and no longer in fleshly delights.” (2)

When we as individuals separate ourselves from all that is sensory and temporal (“purge ourselves from carnal passions”), at least in our heart, we're ready to realize the true nature of that body celestial or spiritual. (3) Realization of this Spirit (ultimately God) proves to be the end, the goal for which we were made. We become “endued with angelic qualities.” What results is called, in many spiritual traditions, “enlightenment.”

“Enlightenment” is, as we shall see, not a name that applies to a single event. The name applies to all events in which the individual directly and immediately perceives, in a discontinuity of knowledge, something sacred, beyond this material dimension. It may be the Child of God, God the Mother, or God the Father.

Or it may be beyond all Three.

The Child of God is called by various religions, the Self, the Christ, the Son of God, the Atman, the Buddha Nature, the Inner Fire. It's the Transcendental in the Phenomenal, the Treasure buried in the field; specifically, in the field of the heart.

We may recognize this as Jesus's description of it; he also called it the pearl of great price, the mustard seed, and the leaven in the bread. It may be seen as a brilliant point of Light in which one recognizes his or her true nature. It may be experienced as a stateless state of consciousness. Or it may be known in another form.

Or enlightenment could be of another level of Reality: a glimpse of the Divine Mother, called by religions the Holy Ghost, Shakti, the Divine Energy, the primal or universal creative vibration, and the Phenomenal.

It's called by Jesus the Comforter, the Revealer of truth, and the Amen or true and faithful Witness of creation. It's called by Hindus and Buddhists the Aum (cf. Amen), Prakriti (Procreatrix), and Dharma (Nature or the natural law). It may be seen as a brilliant Light that suffuses all of material creation or it may be known in other forms.

Or it may be a glimpse of the Holy Father, called by religions Jehovah, Allah, the Transcendental, the Way.

Jesus called it the Father, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the Truth revealed. Hindus call it Brahman (God), Paramatman (the Supreme Self), and Satchidananda (Being, Awareness, and Bliss Absolute). It may be seen as the Light beyond creation – or not seen at all, since the aspirant's mind usually (but not always) stops working and leaves no observer.

While I could turn directly to plain statements of the purpose of life, I'd like to examine one more Sufi sage, Rumi, even though he, like Al-Ghazzali, doesn't answer our question directly. I do so because his evocation of our mission is so well-crafted that I wish to draw it to our attention.

The indirectness of his teaching method, his use of an extended metaphor, may be part of his teaching style or it may have been necessary for him to couch the mysteries in metaphors so that knowledge of them did not fall into the wrong hands. Whatever the case, he's still speaking of enlightenment as the purpose of life.

Rumi says:

"There is one thing in this world which must never be forgotten. If you were to forget everything else, but did not forget that, then there would be no cause for worry; whereas if you performed and remembered and did not forget every single thing, but forgot that one thing, then you would have done nothing whatsoever." (4)

Why nothing whatsoever? He doesn't answer. It's simply something we're commanded to do.

"It is just as if a king had sent you to the country to carry out a specified task. You go and perform a hundred other tasks; but if you have not performed that particular task on account of which you had gone to the country, it is as if you have performed nothing at all. So man has come into this world for a particular task, and that is his purpose; if he does not perform it, then he will have done nothing." (5)

If we unravel Rumi's meaning, we've the same message again. The King has sent us into the country to achieve enlightenment, the knowledge of our true identity. If we do everything else, but not that one thing, we've not done anything whatsoever. We've not done what the King has sent us into the country to do.

Saints and sages of older times had many reasons for couching the mysteries in parables and extended metaphors. After all, Jesus was crucified because he was accused of saying he was the Son of God and King of the Jews. (6) Catholics were subject to the Inquisition. Heretics of all religions could be put to death.

Dangerous times faced many of the masters, dangerous in ways that we of this generation have never experienced. It's a wonder that they were able to get their message across at all, couched as it was in mysticism.

But, in some parts of the world, we live in a time of relative spiritual freedom. Spiritual masters now are able to speak more freely.

Knowing God is the purpose of life

Sri Ramakrishna speaks quite openly of the purpose of life. His use of parables was not to hide the truth, but to make his images stand out in the minds of his listeners. He plainly explained the meaning of his metaphors and other teachings to all who visited him.

In India when he spoke there was a climate of religious tolerance that has partly survived today. This climate meant that he did not have to worry about religious censors or fundamentalists.

What does Sri Ramakrishna tell us? Will he tell us that there is an altogether-different purpose to life than what we've heard so far?

He doesn't. He says that "the only purpose of life is to realize God." (7)
"Without the realization of God everything is futile. This is the great secret."
(8) Realizing God is enlightenment.

Both Ramakrishna and Rumi picture humanity as if rushing around accomplishing countless futile tasks, but never looking to the one task that is really necessary. All else, they both say, is futile. But try to tell us. We won't listen. Thus, this important knowledge remains a secret.

In fact, all the world's saints and sages will be found to agree that enlightenment is the purpose of life. That we're destined for enlightenment is decreed, laid down by the Divine Plan. Listen to Hindu, Christian, and Muslim mystics on the subject. They may call it by various names – Kaivalya (liberation), freedom from sorrow, the dawn of the morning star, Self-Realization, knowledge of the Truth – but it remains what's meant by the umbrageous term "enlightenment."

Shankara

"I am blessed indeed! I have achieved life's only purpose. The dragon of rebirth can never seize me now. The Infinite is mine. I recognize my true nature in eternal joy." (9)

Sri Aurobindo

"There is no I nor thou, but only one divine Self equal in all embodiments, equal in the individual and the group, and to realize that, to express that, to serve that, to fulfill that is all that matters."
(10)

Patanjali

"The purpose of this world is to provide us with experience and thus to lead us to liberation." (11)

John Ruusbroec

“[For] the rational creature to attain the sublime beauty of God and to possess it in [a] supernatural way ... is [the] reason that God created heaven and earth and all that is in them.” (12)

Hazrat Inayat Khan

“The purpose of life ... is that the only Being makes his oneness intelligible to Himself. He goes through different planes of evolution ... to make clear to Himself His oneness.” (13)

Sri Yukteswar Giri

“[The] unification of Self with God is [called] Kaivalya, which is the Ultimate Object of all created beings.” (14)

“Man’s purpose is complete freedom from unhappiness.

“Once he has banished all pain beyond possibility of return, he has attained the highest goal.” (15)

Beinsa Douno

“To see God means to strive toward that Supreme Eternal Law which rejuvenates, revivifies and brings Light and warmth to man. ... Do you know what it means to see God? This is the meaning of life.” (16)

“All trials through which you pass at present are for the sole purpose of coming to know God: the Primary Cause.” (17)

Sri Ramakrishna defined being enlightened as “to know the real nature of one’s own Self.” (18) I accept that definition. To know who we are. To know our real identity, our true nature. While the accomplishment of this aim is anything but easy, its difficulty doesn't affect its always remaining the end and purpose of our lives.

To be enlightened also means to perfect ourselves, as Beinsa Douno and Omraam Mikhael Aivanhov point out.

Beinsa Douno

“What is man’s task? Continuous self-development and self-perfection. God is the continuous Manifestation of Perfection, and man is the continuous self-improvement on the Path to Perfection. This is the meaning of the verse: Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father who is in Heaven is perfect. Man must continuously correct his imperfections on the Path to Perfection.” (19)

Omraam Mikhael Aivanhov

“Each one of us has come down to earth with a mission. ... That God might select someone from time to time for a special mission is ... possible, but the collective mission of human beings is for each one to develop himself more and more every day until he reaches perfection.” (20)

Though our ascent towards enlightenment is gradual, through lifetime after lifetime, when it comes, enlightenment itself is sudden, as the masters explain:

Hermes the Egyptian

“Straightway, in the twinkling of an eye, all things were opened unto me.” (21)

First Ch’an Patriarch Bodhidharma

“Seeing through the mundane and witnessing the sublime is less than an eye-blink away.” (22)

Anonymous author of The Cloud of Unknowing

“In the twinkling of an eye heaven may be won or lost.” (23)

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“A man should learn to detect and watch that gleam of light which flashes across his mind from within.” (24)

Walt Whitman

“As in a swoon, one instant,
Another sun, ineffable, full-dazzles me,
And all the orbs I knew, and brighter, unknown orbs;
One instant of the future land, Heaven’s land. ...
Hast never come to thee an hour,
A sudden gleam divine, precipitating, bursting all these bubbles,
fashions, wealth?
These eager business aims — books, politics, arts, amours,
To utter nothingness?” (25)

There is thus no real difference between proponents of a gradual and sudden enlightenment. The synthesis is that men and women may work in gradual ways over long stretches of time for an experience which, when it happens, is sudden, happening in an instant.

Enlightenment is the reward of all action

Enlightenment will bring with it everything we could possibly wish for and set us free from suffering in the end. We lose nothing by it, but gain everything, according to Paramahansa Yogananda: “To know God is not the negation of all desires, but instead their complete fulfilment.” (26)

“Once you have tasted the wine of spiritual ecstasy, you will find that no other experience can compare with it,” he wrote. (27)

To Sri Ramakrishna, “the bliss of worship and communion with God is the true wine, the wine of ecstatic love.” (28)

Sri Krishna advises us that “the reward of all action is to found in enlightenment.” (29) St. Paul found that “the sufferings of the present time are not to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us [when]

the creature ... shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." (30)

When the masters are touched by Truth, some appear intoxicated, some abandon words, and some dance without inhibition. Such was Sri Ramakrishna's condition much of the time. He was often "completely intoxicated with divine love" or motionless in Samadhi.

When he reeled or sang the praises of God, unconscious of all around him, "the devotees felt its contagion and danced with the Master in an ecstasy of love." (31)

For St. John of the Cross, enlightenment was a deep delight, like a soft feather drawn through the heart.

"Such is the sweetness of deep delight of these touches of God that one of them is more than recompense for all the sufferings of this life, however great their number. (32)\

O gentle hand! O delicate touch
That tastes of eternal life,
And pays every debt!
In killing, You changed death to life." (33)

Whitman was so grateful for his one glimpse of God that, as an old man, he depicted himself on bended knees before Him, singing his gratitude for an event that happened many years before.

"Thou O God my life has lighted,
With ray of light, steady, ineffable, vouchsafed of Thee,
Light rare untellable, lighting the very light, ...
For that, O God, be it my latest word, here on my knees,
Old, poor, and paralyzed, I thank Thee." (34)

To Plotinus, who repeatedly experienced high enlightenments, no earthly prize could compare.

“It were well to cast kingdoms aside and the domination of the entire earth and sky,” he wrote, “if by this spurning, one might attain this vision.” (35)

What good is long life without it? the Buddha asks.

"Though one should live a hundred years,
Not seeing the Region of the Deathless,
Better were it for one to live a single day,
The Region of the Deathless seeing." (36)

This is the impact of the prize we seek - enlightenment - on the masters.

The Truth will set us free

The masters stress the liberating impact of realizing the truth. Jesus reminds us that “ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (37) The twentieth-century Sufi sage Hazrat Inayat Khan also taught that “the secret of life ... will make the soul free.” (38)

God is the Truth, the secret of life. Having realized God we're set free from suffering and sorrow. We're liberated from the need to reincarnate in matter; as Jesus said, we need “go no more out.” (39)

Paramahansa Yogananda explains what Jesus meant by this phrase. God brings all things “by beautiful evolutional coaxings back to His home of All-Blessedness when they [have] overcome all mortal tests.... [They need] reincarnate in matter no more; i.e., ‘go no more out.’” (40) By realizing God, we’ve fulfilled the purpose of our lives.

Thus, to realize God, to know our true identity, to become enlightened is why we descended and now climb back up Jacob’s Ladder of consciousness, the spiritual parabola. It's the goal that we seek. It's what lies ever before us, lifetime after lifetime, as we tread the spiritual arc away from and back to God. It's our final reward and the cause of our liberation from bondage to sorrow.

That is what enlightenment means to us. But for what purpose of His own did God create this incredible world? Where do we fit into God's larger plan?

Footnotes

- (1) Al-Ghazzali, *The Alchemy of Happiness*. trans. Claud Field. Lahore: ASHRAF, 1971; c1964, 17.
- (2) Loc. Cit.
- (3) I Corinthians 15:40.
- (4) A.J. Arberry, trans., *Discourses of Rumi*. New York; Samuel Weiser, 1977; c1961, 26.
- (5) Loc. cit.
- (6) Matthew 26:63.
- (7) Swami Nikhilananda, trans., *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*. New York: Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center, 1978; c1942, 273. [Hereafter GSR.]
- (8) Ibid., 95.
- (9) Swami Prabhavananda and Christopher Isherwood, *Shankara's Crest-Jewel of Discrimination*. Hollywood: Vedanta Press, 1975; c1947, 114.
- (10) : Sri Aurobindo, *The Synthesis of Yoga*. Pondicherry: Sri Aurobindo Ashram, 1983, 316. (Page numbers will vary from edition to edition.)
- (11) Alistair Shearer, trans. *Effortless Being. The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*. London, etc.: Unwin, 1982, 76.
- (12) James A. Wiseman, John Ruusbroec. *The Spiritual Espousals and Other Works*. New York, etc.: Paulist Press, 1985, 72.

- (13) Hazrat Inayat Khan, *Way of Illumination*. Delhi, etc.: Motilal Banarsidass, 1981, 237.
- (14) Swami Sri Yukteswar Giri, *The Holy Science*. Los Angeles: Self-Realization Fellowship, 1984, 53. Editors, Self-Realization Press, HS, p. 43.
- (15) Ibid., 50.
- (16) “The Meaning of Life” in Beinsa Douno, *The Wellspring of Good*. Downloaded from <http://www.beinsadouno.org/lib/sg.htm>, accessed 21 Feb. 2005, n.p. [Hereafter WOG.]
- (17) “The Love of the One,” WOG, n.p.
- (18) GSR, 387.
- (19) “Be Perfect,” WOG, n.p.
- (20) Omraam Mikhael Aivanhov. *Aquarius. Herald of the Golden Age*. Part 1. Vol. 25 of the Complete Works. Freju: Editions Prosveta, 1981, 20.
- (21) Hargrave Jennings, ed., *The Divine Pymander of Hermes Mercurius Trismegistus*. Trans. Dr. Everard. San Diego: Wizards Bookshelf, 1985, 8.
- (22) Red Pine, trans., *The Zen Teachings of Bodhidharma*. Port Townsend, WA, Empty Bowl, 1987, 56.
- (23) Anon., *The Cloud of Unknowing* trans. Clifton Wolters. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1978; c1961, 56.
- (24) William H. Gilman, ed., *Selected Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson*. New York and Scarborough: New American Library, 1965, 258.
- (25) Maurice Bucke, *Cosmic Consciousness. A Study in the Evolution of the Human Mind*. New York: Dutton, 1969; c1901, 228. [Hereafter CC.]

(26) Paramahansa Yogananda, *The Second Coming of Christ*. Three vols. Dallas: Amrita Foundation, 1979, I, 16. [Hereafter SCC.]

(27) Paramahansa Yogananda, *Man's Eternal Quest and Other Talks*. Los Angeles: Self-Realization Fellowship, 1976, 161.

(28) GSR, 94.

(29) Swami Prabhavananda and Christopher Isherwood, trans., *Bhagavad-Gita. The Song of God*. New York and Scarborough: New American Library, 1972; c1944, 54.

(30) Romans 8:18+21

(31) PR in GSR, 807.

(32) Willis Barnstone, trans., *The Poems of Saint John of the Cross*. New York: New Directions, 1972; c1968, 717-8.

33) CC,149.

(34) Ibid., 233.

(35) Elmer O'Brien, ed., *The Essential Plotinus. Representative Treatises from the Enneads*. Toronto: New American Library, 1964, 41.

(36) Edwin A. Burtt, ed., *The Teachings of the Compassionate Buddha*. New York and Toronto: New American Library, 1955, 46.

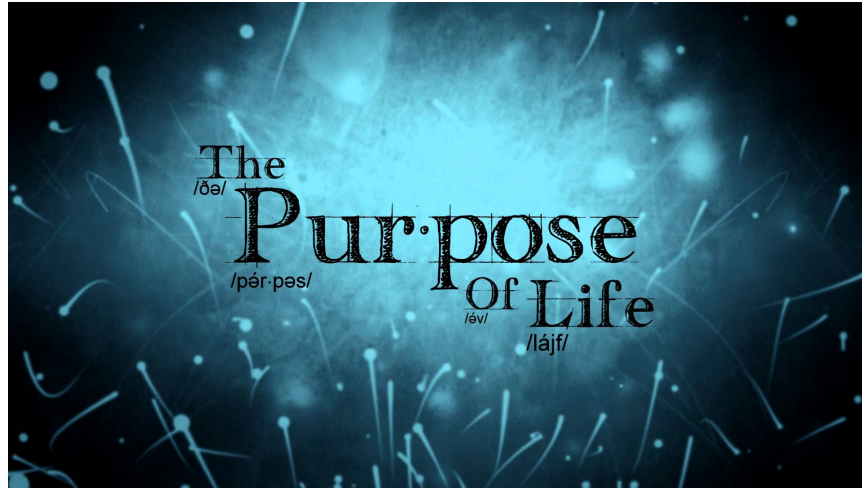
(37) John 8:32.

(38) Hazrat Inayat Khan, *Way of Illumination*. Delhi, etc.: Motilal Banarsidass, 1988, 196.

(39) Jesus in Revelation 3:12.

(40) Paramahansa Yogananda in SCC, 1, 28.

The Why of Existence; the Purpose of Life



Credit: workwithrebbie.wordpress.com

“The Why of Existence; the Purpose of Life,” November 2, 2019, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2019/11/02/the-why-of-existence-the-purpose-of-life/>

"Nothing matters any more," said the man in the next hospital bed, (1) who called himself an "alcoholic." "I'm going to drink and smoke till I die."

And here I am almost bursting, saying to myself, "Life has a purpose. There is a meaning to all this."

Most people, it seems, when a loved one dies, a crop fails, or a similar disaster happens, ask, "Why? Why? Why?"

And supplying a credible and truthful reason seems to bring them peace.

OK, if that's the case, then what *is* the purpose of life? (2) What is the "why? why? why?" of existence?

Well, let's start by looking at God's purpose in creating life. Ibn Arabi tells us, speaking from God's perspective: "I was a hidden treasure and I loved to be known, and I created the creation so that I be known." (3)

Included in being known is for God to know Itself. God, who is All and One without a second, faces a difficult task in knowing Itself and being known. How does the One achieve this end?

It's achieved in and through our enlightenment or Self-Realization. In the moment when you or I realize ourselves as God, God meets God.

I know God in that moment and God knows God. For that meeting was all of this created.

"The only purpose of life is to realize God," declares Paramahansa Ramakrishna, an Incarnation of the Divine Mother. (4)

Sri Aurobindo adds:

"There is no I [or] thou, but only one divine Self equal in all embodiments, equal in the individual and the group, and to realize that, to express that, to serve that, to fulfill that is all that matters." (5)

I had a vision of the purpose of life on Feb. 13, 1987 (6) in which, filled with bliss, I watched a small golden star (7) emerge from a large Golden Sun (8) and travel a sacred arc from God to God, all the time spiraling forward. (9)

I watched two instances of enlightenment, (10) in the second of which the small golden star merged with the large Golden Sun and disappeared. The vision itself disappeared when I muttered to myself, "I see. The purpose of life is enlightenment."

So that is the overarching purpose behind all of life: That God may experience Itself in a moment of our enlightenment. Sri Ramakrishna playfully pictures Siva or pure consciousness at that moment:

"When Siva realizes his own Self [in a moment of our enlightenment], He dances about in joy exclaiming, 'What am I! What am I!'" (11)

For this reason, Hindus call life a divine leela or play, in which eternal sparks journey down into density forgetting their true identity and then climb Jacob's Ladder of consciousness back to the beginning - and end.

Realizing the nature of life as a leela, many masters, upon realizing the Supreme Consciousness, laugh.

That's the purpose of life. That's the "why? why? why?" of existence. Perhaps allow that to be the foundation of all our other spiritual adventures and enquiries: We could build on no firmer foundation.

Footnotes

(1) I was in the hospital awaiting triple-bypass surgery.

(2) If you wish to read numerous discussions of the subject, start with *The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment* at <https://gaog.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Purpose-of-Life-is-Enlightenment.pdf>

Hungry for more?

See "Enlightenment - Enlightenment is the purpose of life" at http://goldengaiadb.com/index.php?title=E#Enlightenment_-_Enlightenment_is_the_purpose_of_life; "Reincarnation and the Purpose of Life" at http://goldengaiadb.com/index.php?title=Reincarnation_and_the_Purpose_of_Life#The_Purpose_of_Life; "The Purpose of Life for God" at http://goldengaiadb.com/index.php?title=The_Nature_of_Life_1#The_Purpose_of_Life_for_God; "The Purpose of Life for Us" at http://goldengaiadb.com/index.php?title=The_Nature_of_Life_1#The_Purpose_of_Life_for_Us; "Purpose of Life" at http://goldengaiadb.com/index.php?title=Philosophy#Purpose_of_Life

(3) Muhyideen Ibn Arabi, *Kernel of the Kernel*. trans. Ismail Hakki Bursevi. Sherborne: Beshara, n.d., 3.

(4) Paramahansa Ramakrishna in Swami Nikhilananda, trans., *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*. New York: Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center, 1978; c1942, 273. [Hereafter GSR.]

(5) Sri Aurobindo, *The Synthesis of Yoga*. Pondicherry: Sri Aurobindo Ashram, 1983, 316.

(6) For a description of it, see "The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment - Ch. 13 - Epilogue," at <http://goldenageofgaia.com/2011/08/13/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment-ch-13-epilogue/>

(7) The Self, soul, Christ, or Atman. God the Child.

(8) God the Father, the One, the Transcendental. For simplicity's sake, I've left the realm of the Divine Mother (*mater*, matter) out of this explanation.

(9) Returning to the same karmic lessons, lifetime after lifetime, until the lessons are learned. This makes the journey a spiral as well as an arc, from God to God.

(10) The first was a fourth-chakra experience of the Self, after which the golden star left the physical cycle and sped back to God, merging in It. There are of course many more levels of enlightenment between the two.

(11) Paramahansa Ramakrishna in GSR, 393. In an earlier article, I gave St. Paul's description of the moment before final mergence:

“And when all things [all worldly desires] shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son [the Self, the Christ, the individuated spark] also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all [i.e., reunited].” (1 Corinthians 15:28.)

What is the Purpose of Life?



“What is the Purpose of Life?” May 18, 2018, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2018/05/18/what-is-the-purpose-of-life/>.

Allow me to celebrate Patrick de Costa's opening of *Voyages of Light* with a discussion of a question that has plagued probably everyone from time to time, down through the centuries.

Is there a purpose to life? As *Time Magazine* put it in 1996:

“Why does life exist at all? Is it simply that, if enough cosmic elements slop together for enough eons, eventually a molecule will form somewhere, or many somewheres, that can replicate itself over and over until it evolves into a creature that can

scratch its head? Or did an all-powerful God set in motion an unfathomable process in order to give warmth and meaning to a universe that would otherwise be cold and meaningless?” (1)

No, it actually turns out that life does have a purpose. And it does, whether considered from God's perspective or from ours.

I can speak to this because of a vision experience I had in 1987 that showed me the purpose of life. (2) What the vision showed me conclusively was that the purpose of our lives - of life itself - is enlightenment - the purpose is to know who we are and who we are turns out to be God.

But we cannot know the answer simply as intellectual knowledge nor simply as experiential knowledge. We have to know it as realized knowledge. Not an easy task - ordinarily, as I'll discuss below.

The purpose of life for God - the reason God created life - was to raise up individual consciousnesses to himself which, in a moment of enlightenment, would realize who they are. At that moment, God realizes God. God tastes God's own Bliss. For that meeting was all of this created.

Goldenlight put the matter well:

“You are Source knowing Source.... You are Me knowing Me. Yes, it is I, your loving Source from which you came and to which you shall eventually return.” (3)

Knowing that, is it any surprise that so many of us go around talking about getting to know ourselves, wondering who we are, "working on ourselves," etc.? We're simply doing unconsciously what life wants us to do consciously - discover our true identity.

From this sacred purpose that life has, everything else flows. All the accoutrements of the material plane are simply fixtures in a school for gods and goddesses in training, so to speak.

We graduate when we answer with loving conviction that extends to every cell of our bodies the one and only question in life: Who am I?

No amount of crimping, no amount of image management, no amount of fakery can get us past the sphinx who guards the inner temple. We either know without doubt who we are or we remain in school.

Or so it went for the last 13,000 years. Fortunately for us, school is about to end and we're about to graduate. A special once in 13 millennia event.
(4)

When we do, all of us will know the answer to that question. And the realization of it will leave us bathed in love and bliss.

All of us, everyone - tall, short, female, male, black, white, Jew, Muslim
- is God incarnate.

Footnotes

(1) *Time*, August 19, 1996, 40.

(2) "Ch. 13 Epilogue," at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/spiritual-essays/16244-2/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment/ch-13-epilogue/>.

For the full story, see *The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment*, at <https://gaog.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Purpose-of-Life-is-Enlightenment.pdf>

(3)) "12-12-12 Message from The Council of Angels and Source via Goldenlight: I Am Always with You, Ever Near, Ever Loving," as channeled by The Golden Light Channel, Dec. 12, 2012, at <https://tinyurl.com/dxpwlgz>

(4) An index of articles on the gradual-and-sudden event known as Ascension can be found here:

"On Ascension to the Fifth" at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/ascension-to-the-fifth/>

Source Knowing Source, Me Knowing Me



“Source Knowing Source, Me Knowing Me,” December 14, 2012, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2012/12/14/source-knowing-source-me-knowing-me/>.

We had two beautiful statements recently of the wider picture into which Ascension fits, one from the channel Goldenlight and another from the Divine Mother.

Goldenlight said: "You are Source knowing Source.... You are Me knowing Me. Yes, it is I, your loving Source from which you came and to which you shall eventually return." (1)

And the Divine Mother said in *An Hour with an Angel* on Dec. 10, 2012.

“I am asking you to bring your focus to this ignition [i.e., Ascension], but then I am asking you, let us focus on what is really at hand – yes, Gaia, yes, universe, this universe in particular. But you, you have begun by saying that I am not simply a god among gods. I am the Mother, and I am asking and inviting you to join with me. Is there really any further conversation to be had?” (2)

And of course there really isn't need for any further conversation. If we're looking for the one statement that lies below every other statement that ever could be made, it is that the purpose of life is that God should meet God. (3)

To join with the Divine Mother, who is no different than the Holy Father, which is why Archangel Michael calls “them” “Mother/Father One,” is the sole reason for all of us to exist.

David Wilcock put the matter well in mid-summer of this year: “The entirety of the physical universe is a magical tapestry wrought by the hand of the Creator, for the purpose of experiencing Itself.” (4)

His statement echoes one made by the Heavenly Hosts six years earlier: “It is all just experience to satisfy the Creator's desire to experience Itself through Its creations.” (5)

SaLuSa also said some years ago that “your existence is not some freak accident, but of a careful design.” (6) When people become aware that life has a purpose and a design that fits that purpose, some become angry. Considering themselves separate from God, they think that they're being manipulated. They don't want to follow the plan laid down by another. They want to be free.

But of course, what we fail to realize is that we *are* God and so the plan to know ourselves as God turns out to be our plan as well, as Saul makes clear:

“To awaken is to know God. It is His Will that you do so, and as you are one with Him it is also your will. Consequently, it is impossible for you not to do so.” (7)

“Your Father's Will is that you awaken into the divine splendor of Reality – your eternal Home – and there is no other will because all life, in all its myriad forms, is one with Him and shares His Will. The only difference is that in your separated state you are unable to see the whole picture, and it seems to you that there is a multitude of conflicting wills out there causing fear and mayhem.” (8)

SaLuSa tells us that many souls are awakening:

“The awakening goes on at full speed ahead, and many souls are beginning to understand the purpose of life. It is the realization that you are more than your body, and that life is infinite and that you have your being in the energy that is God.

“This also leads to the acceptance that you are All One, and you can see all souls are interconnected and make up the whole.” (9)

All of life's creation follows Jacob's ladder of ascending consciousness as Mark Kimmel's Adrial suggests, moving towards the realization of Oneness.

“Everything is a ladder of frequencies ascending from where you are today to the light of the Creator. In time all will embrace His light, and the universe will be in Oneness of the light.” (10)

The “Oneness of the Light.” Ag-Agria tells us that we're a spark of God, what we call our soul and our “true self.” That Light is what is One among us and the One that we all are.

“What is being referred to is your true self, that part of you that will always exist regardless of whatever happens to you.

“You have a God spark that is your Light and link to All That Is. An immutable link that should tell you that you are a Being of Light, experiencing the lower vibrations which have effectively cut you off from your Higher Self. Most people identify with the 3rd. dimension, and do not comprehend that there are other aspects of themselves.” (11)

“You are spiritual beings in biological clothes,” Archangel Metatron puts it. “You are here to discover your Divinity. When you make that discovery, you serve others in the example of that achievement!” (12)

We remain unsatisfied until we know God in the fullest, SaLuSa tells us:

“Your quest for knowledge and the truth can never really be satisfied until you reach the ultimate - The Source of All That Is.” (13)

Even the ascended masters from Earth and other star systems are on the same search as we, SaLuSa tells us.

“We are like you and seek the path that leads back to the Source, and there is a driving force that constantly urges all souls to rise up to ever higher realms. Your understanding of this quest varies according to your beliefs.” (14)

This driving force is an unquenchable thirst, which some masters call a longing for liberation and others an urge to evolve. It won't let up until we've merged again with God in his/her transcendental, formless form.

Diane of Sirius says that “it [is] only a matter of time, before more souls reach a point of true awareness of their higher purpose in life.” (15)

When they do, they see that life is a game, a divine play or *lila*. Atmos says that life “is often referred to as a game.” (16) And Kuthumi informs us that “when you see, and I mean truly see, that life is in fact just a game, then, my precious ones, you are truly free.” (17)

What Ker-On said about the game that descending into the lower dimensions was he could have said about life itself.

“You are playing a game albeit you take it very seriously, which is actually an experiment that you volunteered to take part in. The Creator desired to know how the Light Sparks sent out from the Source would react to the lower energies, when it reached a point that led them to believe that they were separated from it. You travelled down through the higher realms, and assigned yourselves to Earth when it was the Garden of Eden. It was only later that you forgot your true identity as gods, and took on the mantle of darkness.

“However, you were not and never will be left alone to lift up again, and no soul is deserted or damned. In the not too far future you will again come to the realisation of who you really are. When that time comes you will be all the greater for your time in the cycle of duality.” (18)

So here we are, the game of duality about to be called on account of time ... well, actually, no time, zero point, the end of time.

And we're all declared the winner in this game, even those who don't choose to ascend. All have gained experience. All are that much closer to

God, whether they choose to ascend or not. What a game we played, all of us having assumed so many roles, light and dark!

And now there's the bell and everyone drops their roles and leaves the stadium. The game is over. We're all declared the winner as we progress to a wider and wider game.

Footnotes

(1) “12-12-12 Message from The Council of Angels and Source via Goldenlight: I Am Always with You, Ever Near, Ever Loving,” as channeled by The Golden Light Channel, Dec. 12, 2012, at <https://tinyurl.com/dxpwlgz>

(2) “The Divine Mother on 12/12/12 and 21/12/12,” at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2012/12/the-divine-mother-on-121212-and-211212/>.

(3) My wife D'Arcy invented the phrase in the midst of a transcendental moment in which she realized that all of life was God meeting God meeting God meeting God.

(4) David Wilcock, “Wilcock Reading, Dec. 2011, by the Source -- with David Wilcock,” Aug. 28, 2012, at <https://divinecosmos.com/start-here/davids-blog/1078-2012shift>.

(5) Heavenly Hosts, “Let it Be,” 10 Nov. 2006, at <https://www.ashtarcommand.net/profiles/blog/show?id=1985014%3ABlogPost%3A273050&xgs=1>

(6) SaLuSa, Dec. 16, 2009, at https://www.treeofthegoldenlight.com/First_Contact/Channeled_Messages_by_Mike_Quinsey.htm

(7) Saul, Sept. 21, 2011, at <https://johnsmallman.wordpress.com>

(8) Ibid., Jan 2, 2011.

(9) SaLuSa, Dec. 21, 2011.

(10) Adrial, “Densities, Dimensions, and Frequencies,” July 3, 2009, at Mark Kimmel’s Corner, https://www.cosmicparadigm.com/Marks_Corner/.

(11) Ag-agria, Feb. 16, 2009, at https://www.treeofthegoldenlight.com/First_Contact/Channeled_Messages_by_Mike_Quinsey.htm

(12) Archangel Metatron, "The Alchemy of the Solstice," Dec. 21, 2008, through James Tyberron, at https://www.earth-keeper.com/EKnews_12-21-08.htm.

(13) SaLuSa, Feb. 23, 2009.

(14) Ibid., Dec. 6, 2008.

(15) Diane of Sirius, Feb. 2, 2009, at https://www.treeofthegoldenlight.com/First_Contact/Channeled_Messages_by_Mike_Quinsey.htm

(16) Atmos, Nov. 12, 2008.

(17) Kuthumi, "11:11 Turning of the Tide," Nov. 2, 2008, through Michelle Eloff, at <https://spiritlibrary.com/the-lightweaver/1111-turning-of-the-tide>.

(18) Ker-On, March 4, 2009, at https://www.treeofthegoldenlight.com/First_Contact/Channeled_Messages_by_Mike_Quinsey.htm

The Game of Life



Jacob's ladder of evolving consciousness

“The Game of Life,” November 17, 2010, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2010/11/17/the-game-of-life/>

After reading the Group's latest article, "[Dimensional Dooways](#)," Peter comments:

"Is this how our existence here is viewed, as a game? Are others playing a similar game elsewhere? It's good that at long last we're learning the rules, is it not?"

Yes, you could say that all of life is a game, Peter. Hindus call it a "divine drama" or leela. There's no mystery about it. It's just that very few people are interested in the subject.

And of the few who are interested, fewer still take that interest and play the game consciously, achieving the purpose of the game - enlightenment - which is not easy to achieve. (I have not achieved it.)

Briefly put, the game of life was begun so that the Formless could have a means of experiencing Itself. Said Ramakrishna, himself an Incarnation of God: "The Godhead ... has become these two [God and the devotee] in order to enjoy Its own bliss." (1) He made Himself manifest so that He might know Himself and enjoy His own Bliss, His own Fullness, through Self-Knowledge.

Albeit in metaphor, Sri Ramakrishna once delightfully depicted God, or Shiva, meeting Himself in the moment of illumination: "When Siva realizes his own Self, He dances about in joy exclaiming, 'What am I! What am I!'" (2)

Sufi master Bayazid of Bistun also evokes the blissful moment when God meets God (3): "I went from God to God, until they cried from me in me, 'O thou I!'" (4)

The Formless is one without a second. There is none other than God. If there were none other than me, how would I experience myself? Please understand that, when I say there is none other, I mean no other person but also no other thing or item. So there is no mirror, no camera, no pen and paper. There is no way or means by which the Formless can know Itself.

So the Formless created a game. It created what we could think of as finger-puppets - life forms, us - which, when they realize their true nature, experience themselves. When one of us realizes who we are, God meets God. For the purpose of God meeting God was all of life made.

How do I know this? Because God granted me a vision in 1987 (at least I think he did) which is described [here](#). (5) You could say that this is all I know and, in a sense, you'd be quite right. After that vision, I remember saying to myself, "I now know one thing - that the purpose of life is enlightenment."

The entire process of life goes on in the physical or material domain. Matter = *mater* = Mother. The Formless domain has been designated "the Father" by Jesus. In doing so, he was referring to a domain full of bliss, latent energy, wisdom, etc., but devoid of matter, sound, or movement.

The domain characterized by matter, sound, or movement was called the domain of the Mother by Lao Tzu (and by Hindus and others). To him, who I think was a devotee of the mother like Sri Ramakrishna, (7) the Formless was nameless but the Phenomenal had a name.

"Nameless indeed is the source of creation [i.e., the Father],
"But things have a mother and she has a name." (6)

In the *Gospel according to Thomas*, Jesus recognized this relationship when he responded to a request from a disciple to give him a password by which the other disciples could know each other safely and secretly. Jesus agreed and gave him the password: "A movement and a rest." (8) Movement is the Mother; rest is the Father.



The active Mother (Shakti) stands on the inactive Father (Shiva)

The Mother is the phenomenal realm, called the Holy Spirit by Christians and Shakti (energy) by Hindus; Buddha referred to it as Dharma, the Natural Law. Since only the phenomenal, and not the transcendental, is characterized by natural law, it's a good name.

That the Formless is not subject to law is the point of John the Baptist saying " the voice of one crying in the wilderness." (9) The voice, or sound, is the Mother; the wilderness, which is lawless, or rather "beyond the law," is the Father.



The creation of life

The Mother's realm includes all that has form, substance, sound, movement. Only the Formless lies outside it. Everything else - angels, elohim, Melchizedeks, ascended masters, Sirians, Andromedans, Pleadians, planets, stars, black holes - all lie within it.

We created sparks left the Father and went out into the world (10) in order to acquire knowledge of who we truly are and, when we attain it, God meets God. When we finally and fully know who we are, we merge again in God, which is the end of our journey, the return Home. This journey away from and back to God is what is illustrated by Jacob's ladder of consciousness or the Muslim stairway of existence.

Ascension is one step on that journey. But even the Seraphim who stand in the face of God, very, very far down the road from us, still exist within the phenomenal realm, still have form, and still are separate from God, if only by a very thin line. After all, who is it that stands in the face of God? It must be a "separate" being.

So that's a thumbnail sketch of the game of life. No need to be in the dark about it. The question now is: What will you do with that knowledge?

- (1) Swami Chetananda, *They Lived with God. Life Stories of Some Devotees of Sri Ramakrishna*. St. Louis: Vedanta Society of St. Louis, 1989, 126.
- (2) Swami Nikhilananda, trans., *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*. New York: Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center, 1978; c1942, 393.
- (3) My wife, D'Arcy, first used this phrase.
- (4) Aldous Huxley, *The Perennial Philosophy*. New York, etc.: Harper and Row, 1970; c1944, 12.
- (5) At <https://www.angelfire.com/space2/light11/epilog.html>.
- (6) Lao Tzu, *The Way of Life. The Tao Te Ching*. trans. R.B. Blakney. New York, etc.: Avon, 1975, 53. [Hereafter, WOL.]
- (7) "Alone I am and different,
Because I prize and seek
My sustenance from the Mother."
(Lao-Tzu, WOL, 72.)
- (8) Jesus in A. Guillaumont et al. *The Gospel According to Thomas*. New York and Evanston: Harper and Row, 1959, p. 29.
- (9) Matthew 3:3.
- (10) "I came forth from the Father, and am come out into the world: again, I leave the world and go to the Father." (John 16:28.)

The Sacred Purpose of Life



The journey from God to God is an arc that spirals

“The Sacred Purpose of Life,” October 15, 2017 at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2017/10/15/the-sacred-purpose-of-life/>

We're all of us looking for our sacred purpose.

A clue might be to look for some activity that we reaaalllyy loooooove.

I was out having coffee with a friend and I couldn't wait to return home to get back to work on the universal-law book. I worried that I'd seem rude to my friend, as if it was about her when it was not.

That definitely points to work on the book being part of my sacred purpose.

That relates to my sacred purpose. But what if life itself had a sacred purpose? What might the sacred purpose of life be?

In my view, it depends on whose viewpoint we're speaking from - from the viewpoint of the individuated spark of God or from that of God Itself (God is beyond gender). (1)

God's purpose in creating the illusion of individuated selves was that God would meet God in a moment of our Self-Realization.

We'd realize that we are God and, in that moment of recognition or enlightenment, God would have the great pleasure of meeting Itself.

This whole drama of life was made up for that singular purpose. It's a divine play or *leela*.

Here's the plot of the movie: Unknowing sparks of God move from unconsciousness to Self-Consciousness. On rare occasions, a spark "gets itself" and God meets God. In Technicolor and InnerVision.



I'll bet you've already guessed what our sacred purpose is.

Our sacred purpose is to realize our true identity. That true identity is God.

If God is everything, how could the situation be otherwise? If God is everything, and we are "some thing," we must also be God. Even when we realize we are no thing, we remain God.

It does no good, in terms of producing the result - Self-Knowledge - to simply know that as an idea. I am Steve Beckow. I live in Vancouver. I write books for a living. There's no power in any of this.

It does no good to simply experience who we are. I feel the deep peace that I am. I'm feeling uplifted at the moment. Nice, but again very little power to transform. (2)

The only thing sufficient to galvanize us into action and decide a question once and for all - in other words, motivate us and cause real transformation - is realization. We must *realize* our true identity.

And, as you might expect, there are also depths or levels of realization.

I can have a simple "Aha!" which may be enough to settle a question, but not enough to motivate a change in behavior.

Or I could realize my sacred Oneness with God.

When we realize the latter, and realize that everything that exists and does not exist is also One with God, we ascend.

Some time after that, we find ourselves becoming able to satisfy all our needs - without needing money. We imagine what we want and our thoughts create the object. What we call "imagination," higher-dimensional beings call "creative thought."

Life is definitely moving in the direction of increasing workability.

Add to that that we pass every higher-dimensional day experiencing a love so powerful that it sweeps away all misery and anxiety and leaves us with the experience of complete satisfaction with life. What of this does not sound wonderful?

There are many other ways of ascending; not saying otherwise. But attainment of Sahaja Samadhi - the stage beyond realizing we are God, the stage where we see that *God has become everything* - is, as I understand it, the final act in our otherwise-gradual Ascension.



In 1987, I saw in a vision a single spark of God leave the Golden Sun that the Holy Father was and travel through space to the cloudy domain of the Divine Mother.

I watched it travel through a spiral tube that I knew to represent lifetimes in matter. As long as it was in the tube, its brilliance had left it.

However I saw it experience a flash of enlightenment and then it raced home to merge with the Golden Sun again. (3)

While I knew this spiritual movie to represent the sum of all our lifetimes in matter, it can be seen to apply, with appropriate changes, to one leg of the journey - our Ascension.

We descended into the Third Dimension of matter, *mater*, Mother. We've traveled through lifetimes in matter and now stand on the threshold of realizations that will carry us, gradually and ultimately, into a dimension beyond the Third - the Fifth or higher - of human consciousness.

These realizations will be either of who we are or else of our relationship to God (Oneness).

While we won't merge with God and leave individuation behind, we will experience a much-deeper level of Unity with God.

The same journey from a degree of darkness and denseness to one of greater Light and lightness applies in both cases.

What that means is that this Ascension, once accomplished, does not end our journey. Ultimately we return Home.

Later information than I used to rely on suggests that, even after we finish the Twelfth-Dimensional round of human incarnation and return Home, we're sent back out again, renewed, and on a fresh assignment.

Footnotes

(1) Humans have - or Mother/Father God has - employed a gender metaphor as a teaching device. Here's an example of Lao Tzu using it:

"Nameless indeed is the source of creation. But things have a mother and she has a name." (Lao Tzu, *The Way of Life. The Tao Te Ching*. trans. R.B. Blakney. New York, etc.: Avon, 1975, 53.)

The distinction has nothing to do with human ideas of gender. It's between love in motion (the Mother) and love at rest (the Father). If movement were to cease in the multiverse, the dream would be over: Everything would dis-integrate into nothingness and return to the Father.

(2) When we make a simple change in behavior as a result of an idea or experience - that is, an event at the intellectual or emotional level - I use the word "change" for that.

When we talk about the shift in inner orientation that happens in the midst or wake of a realization, I use the word "transformation" for that.

Transformation is deeper, more lasting, more profoundly impactful. We seldom forget a realization or the transformation that results from it.

(3) See "The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment - Ch. 13 - Epilogue," at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2011/08/13/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment-ch-13-epilogue/>

This was not an enlightenment experience, but simply a vision. I did not realize anything; I watched a visual tableau, like a movie, unfold before me.

On this occasion, unlike on many future occasions, I felt tremendous bliss and that's what allowed me to "know" what was happening before my eyes.

To Know God is the Purpose of Life



“To Know God is the Purpose of Life,” Dec. 8, 2009, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/spirituality/16244-2/to-know-god-is-the-purpose-of-life/>

Look at a flower and notice the intricacy of its design. Look at a pine cone, a snowflake, a molecule, a star.

Anywhere in nature you look closely, you'll see design.

So it is with living beings. Everywhere we look, if we have the eyes to see, I think we'll see design.

Design implies a designer. God is that designer.

It also implies a formulation of some kind. A geometrical shape has a formulation. Flowers and pine cones have a formulation at their basis,

whether we're able to guess at what that formulation is or not. Life itself has natural laws which can be formulated.

What is the chief formulation of life? What is life's purpose?

As far as I know, and as far as the sages have said, the formulation of life is that life know its Creator, God. The purpose of life is to know God.

Is the reason why so unfathomable? I don't think so.

The All, being all, could not make of itself an object. The All could not know Itself. And so it created illusory fragments of Itself which it sent on a journey through an imaginary life, gradually growing in powers of discernment, until at last it reached a point where it could know its own true identity.

At that moment of knowing itself, God meets God. The All, in that sunburst of knowledge, enjoys the experience of knowing Itself.

That was the reason why God created life. For God's own enjoyment, the ultimate enjoyment being God knowing God.

If enlightenment is the purpose of life, it's an ongoing purpose.

Enlightenment releases me from one dimension of life, but leaves me in another. Then a deeper enlightenment releases me from that dimension and on I go up Jacob's ladder of consciousness on my return journey to my Creator.

To me standing here, I may as well say that enlightenment is endless, so vast is the prospect ahead of me. No matter what level of enlightenment I achieve, more will beckon.

At each level, God meets God until at last I deeply awaken to the fact that I am God and "I" disappears.

All of this follows the design of life. All of it is the same for all of us.

There is no escape from the wheel of birth and rebirth except through the means of Self-realization. It is the same for all of us.

Of course the deeper our enlightenment, the deeper our enjoyment of life. It is not as if following the design or flow of life does not carry irresistible rewards. It does.

There is nothing to lose and everything to gain.

The old Vedic masters called life a "leela" or divine play. We go through make-believe births and make-believe deaths, over and over again, on our journey away from and then back to God. None of it is real. Only God is real.

I am a bud waiting for the Sun to rise and cause me to blossom.

I am bait waiting for a Big Fish to swallow.

I am bread being baked in God's oven for God's table.

My blossoming, my being swallowed or consumed fulfils the purpose for which I was created.

Life, No Matter Where, No Matter When



“Life, No Matter Where, No Matter When,” August 7, 2010, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2010/08/07/life-no-matter-where-no-matter-when/>

Written: March 1, 2009

Tonight I was riding home on the bus, reading SaLuSa. A passage arrested my attention and, surprisingly, left me close to tears:

"For many lifetimes your Guides have travelled with you, and proportionate to your level of development have led you to the truth and real purpose of life. ... Clearly ... there are those who profess little interest in the purpose of life. They will be ill prepared to take the opportunity to ascend, in view of the few years left to this cycle." (1)

I thought to myself: You know what the purpose of life is. Most people in the Ascension 2012 community know it as well. But supposing someone doesn't? Are you willing to risk looking like a fool for writing on the subject?

Yes, I am.

Is there anything that can be said about the purpose of life that would be true for us, for the galactics, for the spiritual hierarchy, and for every other life form, at any place and any time?

Yes and here it is. The purpose of life, in any place and age, is enlightenment. Whatsoever the life form or region of space, the purpose of life is that God should meet God and in that moment of our Self-Realization, experience Its own bliss.

For this moment was all of life created, from the lowliest cell to the most elevated Being.

One thing the Formless cannot do is experience Itself. Since It is One without a second, what object could there possibly be to experience? And who would know Itself as the experiencer? Consciousness exists without an object.



So the Creator created illusory finger-puppets or shadow dancers, bestowed upon them consciousness and the capacity for Self-Realization, allowed them to convince themselves that they existed separately, and assigned them the purpose of realizing themselves.

At the moment of Realization, when form sheds form and, with its created faculties, realizes formlessness, the Formless has an experience of Itself.

This we share with all the galactics, ascended masters, angels and archangels. All of us have come from God and are returning to God again. All of us are experiencing higher and higher levels of enlightenment.

One could say, in light of this, that the Divine Plan is spiritual evolution. We are designed to evolve in spirit from the lowest forms of life to the highest.

It is not that Darwin was mistaken: the physical life form does evolve, but it evolves to suit the needs of the evolving spirit.

The spirit dives in and out of the sea of materiality, evolving as it goes until it returns to the One.

Our “Ascension” is another level of enlightenment accomplished. Since we take our physical bodies with us, I think of it as “enlightenment plus.”

God did not offer us at the end of this cycle a return trip to the Pleiades. God offered us an experience of enlightenment.



There are many levels of enlightenment.

One level occurs when the spiritual energy (the kundalini) reaches the heart chakra. Another when it reaches the brow chakra. Another when it reaches the crown chakra.

We are not liberated until the energy reaches the spiritual heart or *hridayam*, beyond the crown chakra and different from the heart chakra.

At that moment we experience what sage Ramana Maharshi called “sahaja nirvikalpa samadhi.” “Sahaja” means permanent and “nirvikalpa samadhi” means the samadhi state in which there is no movement in the mind.

But enlightenment goes on from there. Even ascended masters are achieving higher levels of enlightenment; witness Lord Kuthumi's statement last year that the masters too will be ascending.

Even buddhas go further.

If time persisted, which I am told it does not, then we are talking about endless aeons passing, all the while with us achieving higher and higher levels of enlightenment.

For all practical purposes, we could say that enlightenment is virtually endless.

Footnotes

(1) SaLuSa, Feb. 27, 2009, at https://www.treeofthegoldenlight.com/First_Contact/mike_quinsey/channeled%20messages/February%202009/salusa_27february2009.htm.

The Purpose of Life Restated



“The Purpose of Life Restated,” April 22, 2014, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/spirituality/16244-2/the-purpose-of-life-restated/>

I've been asked to go over the purpose of life once more. It's actually useful to do so from time to time because there's no learning I can think of that's more fruitful.

It contextualizes everything we do. It's the broadest perspective we can take and puts everything, or almost everything, in focus.

In this restatement, I won't offer the numerous quotes from enlightened masters that back up what I say here. And for the source of my own knowledge of this purpose, I direct you to the vision I had on February 13, 1987 that showed these matters to me. (1)

After that vision, I remained in bliss for three days. But the vision itself was wordless and, for the next ten years, I read nothing but the works of enlightened masters, searching for words to explain what I had seen in eight seconds on that day.

I now see why that vision was given because it served as the starting point for everything I've written since then.

One could discuss the purpose of life from two vantage points: ours and God's, if one could be so bold as to assert that one could possibly know God's purpose in anything.

Let's start with our vantage point.

The purpose of life for us is to know ourselves as God. That could be alternatively stated as knowing our true identity, knowing who we are, realizing our Self, etc.

Notice that knowing is the ultimate condition. It's love that gives rise to that knowledge. In the vision experience, I saw that bliss, the great Comforter, brings all things to remembrance. I had intuitive knowledge of all that the vision was showing me as a result of the bliss I felt. (2)

In the experience of universal love last November, I saw that love brought unitive consciousness. (3) And more recently, I saw that love wiped away the existential conditions that so deeply bother us. (4)

That having been said, these experiences were transitory, as all are until sahaja samadhi or Ascension.

The fact that knowing is what gives rise to realization explains why discrimination is so important. We must discriminate between the Real and the unreal and then realize (not just know intellectually but realize in every cell of our bodies and even deeper) who we truly are.

We realize who we are in a moment of enlightenment. And not just a moment of realization such as spiritual awakening (when the kundalini reaches the fourth or heart chakra) but knowing at a level of realization that is way beyond the chakra system, way beyond even sahaja, which is a permanent heart opening, but far beyond that level and far beyond even the dimensions that define the human experience.

We emanate from God as a spark of life, love, and intelligence. That spark is known to all the world's religions as the Self, the soul, the Christ, the Atman, our buddha nature, etc.

It is known as the firebrand plucked from the burning and the lamp always burning on the altar of the heart.

It is known as the pearl of great price, the prince of peace, and the savior. It has a thousand names.

We mount Jacob's ladder of consciousness, step by step, until we know the Son or Atman, the Mother, Holy Spirit or Shakti, and then the Father or Brahman. And far beyond the Trinity.

Once we merge again with the Transcendental One, beyond all materiality, we're again home. Whereas many sources call Ascension "full consciousness," in fact full consciousness would be this final act of mergence with God.

That then describes the purpose of life for us.

The purpose of having created life forms, viewed from God's perspective, as if that were possible, is, as a friend once described it, God meeting God.

God is everything that is, One without a second. If you or I filled all of space and beyond, if we were all that is and all that is not, how would we possibly realize ourselves? We'd have no mirror, no "other," or any other means of seeing ourselves.

Therefore for God to meet God, he created finger puppets (us) and then assigned them the task of Self-Realization, at which point, for a moment, God meets God. For that purpose was all of this, all of life, created.

All of this that we see and hear and touch is simply an illusion, smoke and mirrors, created to allow ourselves the conditions we need to separate out the Real from the illusion.

In recognition of this, we speak of life as being a *lila* or divine play, *maya* or illusion. Our task is to see the Reality that lies underneath, behind and beyond the play or illusion.

The spark of life that we are is an eternal being so therefore we are always, already immortal and eternal. What Jesus meant by "eternal life" was winning release from the need to be reborn again into material life, a condition that'll be ours upon Ascension.

We may, upon "death," shuck our outer, physical body, but at no point do we lose consciousness. Instead we simply step out of one body (the

physical) and find ourselves in another (the astral), in the same way as we take off our coat when we come indoors.

Consciousness is continual; "death" does not cause a break in it, except for the suicide, who may find himself or herself in a temporary condition of semi-consciousness. (5)

So this then is the purpose of life - that we realize God by realizing our own true identity. This purpose is what makes answering the question "Who am I?" central to life.

And everything we do, everything we learn simply assists us to go one more step on this long, long journey from God to God, this journey of discovery of who we truly are. And who we truly are is, we discover, God.

Footnotes

(1) For a description of that vision, see "Ch. 13 Epilogue" at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/spiritual-essays/16244-2/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment/ch-13-epilogue/>

(2) "Ch. 13 Epilogue," *ibid.*

(3) See "Review of a Spiritual Experience" at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2013/11/09/review-of-a-spiritual-experience/>.
"Love Sweeps Separative Consciousness Away," at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2013/11/10/love-sweeps-separative-consciousness-away/>.

(4) See "The Answer for Me is Love" at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2014/04/18/the-answer-for-me-is-love/>.

(5) See "The Destiny of a Suicide" at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2011/04/28/the-destiny-of-a-suicide/>.

Why are We Always Spiritually Hungry?



The longing for God remains after all else falls away

Excerpt from “Why are We Always Spiritually Hungry?” January 27, 2012, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2012/01/27/why-are-we-always-spiritually-hungry/>

The Master Builder wrote certain design elements into the Plan for human beings. (1) There isn't choice around these matters. I want to talk about one design element that guarantees that we'll be spiritually hungry, forever.

What else do we do forever? Anything we do that I can think of tires, pales or fails to satisfy after a while. Life is so designed that everything material in life eventually fails to satisfy.

Except one thing.

God.

And God alone is not material. Yes, we think of things in higher dimensions as spiritual but actually everything within the phenomenal realm of the Divine Mother, Shakti, Aum/Amen, the Holy Spirit is in fact material. Only the formless, transcendent God is not.

You could say that we are seeking ourselves. You could say that the God that we are cannot abide being separated from the God that we were. You could talk about it in a hundred ways but the fact of the matter is, from my point of view anyways, that God built into us a subsensible, tidal thirst that can only be satisfied by God Himself.

The sages have called this “the longing for Liberation,” “the impulse to be free,” and “the urge to evolve.” Here are statements of it:

Shankara: “[The] longing for liberation is the will to be free from the fetters forged by ignorance – beginning with the ego-sense and so on, down to the physical body itself – through the realization of one’s true nature.” (2)



Pseudo-Dionysius: "All things long for God. ... It is a strong and sure desire for the clear and impassible contemplation of the transcendent. It is a hunger for an unending, conceptual, and true communion with the spotless and sublime light, of clear and splendid beauty. Intemperance then will be an unflinching and unturning power, seen in the pure and unchanging yearning for divine beauty and in the total commitment to the real object of all desire." (3)

Adyashanti: "The impulse to be free is an evolutionary spark within consciousness which originates beyond the ego. It is an impulse toward the divine, unity, and wholeness. It is an impulse originating from the Truth itself." (4)

SaLuSa: "The urge to evolve drives you ever onwards and with it comes the greater understanding of your relationship to God." (5)

Saul: "Buried deep within each human is a knowing that that is the destination toward which they are traveling. For ages, it has appeared to be a state of being that is to all intents unattainable. And yet a desire, a deep longing to return there remains, providing the unquenchable hope that drives the search to find that heavenly state." (6)

The fact that we long for liberation through lifetime after lifetime and that that longing survives all other longings is why I've said on occasion that the game of life (an eternal game of hide and seek) is rigged (7) and that it all works out in the final reel. (8) God rigged the game by making our thirst for him insatiable.

Yes, we fill that gaping, aching void with yachts and trips and food, but none of that ever stops the longing for God for very long. Then back it comes. The game is rigged. We are driven like leaves in the wind in a Godward direction. There is no escaping.



It all works out in the final reel because the longing draws us on, pushes us forward, prods us, annoys us, attracts us Godward and only the

meeting of God and God and their mergence in the final reel satisfies and ends the longing.

So why are we spiritually hungry? And why does that spiritual hunger never leave us? Why does it drive us forward, madden us, make all experiences pale and push us onward like a thirsty man in the desert? Because God planned it that way.

Because He or She built into us that design feature called “the longing for liberation,” a beacon, a magnet, a perennial itch we cannot scratch that will not leave us alone until the prodigal child, his material patrimony wasted, gives up and returns home to Father/Mother God.

So give up. You cannot win against the House in this game. The outcome is pre-arranged, decided. If that outcome did not promise us everything we seek and everything we ever wished for, I'd have sympathy for our complaints.

But once we see that everything good lies at the end of the journey instigated by that built-in longing, we stop complaining and get with the plan. As Krishnamurti said:



Jacob dreamed and saw the ladder of evolving consciousness

“The really important thing is ... the knowledge of God’s plan for men. For God has a plan, and that plan is evolution. When once a

man has seen that and really knows it, he cannot help working for it and making himself one with it, because it is so glorious, so beautiful, so, because he knows, he is on God's side, standing for good and resisting evil, working for evolution and not for selfishness." (9)

I know. I've seen that plan and look at me. I can't stop working for it. Years and years have passed since I saw the vision of a soul journeying from God to God and still I write about it. I never tire of it. You have to ask yourself why? Because it fans my longing and I know the proper object of that longing so I allow God to seek God.

I would sacrifice all to bring myself to the point it's guiding me towards. I kick against the thorns no longer. I get that knowing God is the purpose of life, that God has me locked in His tractor beam and that I'm being drawn back to Him willy nilly or by the direct route - it's up to me.

And equally, it's up to you. A long time or a good time. Cosmic years of rebelliousness and suffering or cosmic days of surrender and bliss. What's happening for us this year is just an instalment. What awaits us, even after this shift, would dazzle the mind capable of conceiving it.

Footnotes

(1) "The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment - Ch 2/12 - Is There a Plan to Life?" at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2011/08/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment-ch-212-is-there-a-plan-to-life/>

(2) Shankara in Swami Prabhavananda and Christopher Isherwood, *Shankara's Crest-Jewel of Discrimination*. Hollywood: Vedanta Press, 1975; c1947, 36

(3) Pseudo-Dionysius in Luibheid, Cohn, trans., *Pseudo-Dionysus, His Complete Works*. New York and Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1989, 54 and 151.

(4) Adyashanti, *The Impact of Awkenening*. Los Gatos: Open Gate Publishing, 2000, 3.

(5) SaLuSa, June 22, at 2009. <https://www.treeofthegoldenlight.com/First Contact/Channeled Messages by Mike Quinsey.htm>

(6) Saul, June 17, 2009, at <https://johnsmallman.wordpress.com>

(7) “The Game is Rigged,” May 8, 2009, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/spiritual-essays/800-2/>

(8) “The Purpose of Life - Chapter 13, Epilogue,” *ibid.*

(9) J. Krishnamurti, *At the Feet of the Master*. Adyar: Theosophical Publishing House, 1974; c1910, 17.

Climbing Jacob's Ladder



“Climbing Jacob’s Ladder,” November 20, 2015, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2015/11/20/climbing-jacobs-ladder/>

Enlightenment is the realization of our true nature.

Ascension is the adjustment of our energies to a higher frequency so that the dimension of existence we’re currently aware of fades from our experience and we find ourselves experiencing on a new and higher plane.

Ascension happens within subplanes of a dimension as well as between dimensions. However, the word "Ascension" is usually reserved for ascension between dimensions. People are always ascending, except under exceptional circumstances.

What exceptional circumstances? Well, we chose this lifetime to *descend*, to come down from higher dimensions to assist our brothers and sisters on Earth to rise to a higher one. We're the leaven in the loaf. The work of starseeds and lightworkers raises the vibration of the whole planet.

Enlightenment is usually the mechanism that causes Ascension. In our case, if we chose to leave the body, we'd return to our native dimensions as a matter of course. The experience of enlightenment wouldn't be needed, apparently, for our return to our original estate as angels.

In the Third Dimension, enlightenment usually consists of the seeing of the Light of the One (or the Form of the One) in more and more refined ways. First it's a discrete and brilliant Light (the Child), then the Light in all creation (the Mother) and then the Light that transcends creation (the Father).

But it doesn't have to be the seeing of a Light. It could also be a vision of a form of God. Or it could be an experience in consciousness, without any kind of vision.

Since these three stages of enlightenment have been the most common throughout the ages, I'd like to look at each stage, if you'd permit me.

The first stage occurs when the kundalini reaches the fourth chakra. A bright, discrete Light is seen. Christians call this the Son of God and the Christ. Hindus call it the Atman and the Self. It is the Light of our true nature. Hindus call the experience spiritual awakening and Buddhists stream entering.

Jan Ruusbroec describes it here:

"In the abyss of this darkness in which the loving spirit has died to itself, God's revelation and eternal life have their origin, for in this darkness an incomprehensible light is born and shines forth; this is the Son of God, in whom a person becomes able to see and to contemplate eternal life." (1)

Why contemplate eternal life? Because meditating on the sight of the Light causes it to expand, as we'll see below. The end of its expansion is "eternal life" in the sense that we need not be reborn. That would be establishment in the Fifth Dimension. We always were alive and always will be but we needn't be reborn from now on.

Ruusbroec continues:

"It is Christ, the light of truth, who says, 'See,' and it is through him that we are able to see, for he is the light of the Father, without which there is no light in heaven or on earth. (2)

When we meditate on this discrete light we've seen, it expands and leads to the next stage of enlightenment.

The next stage occurs when the kundalini reaches the sixth chakra. That same Light expands to fill all of creation. Christians call it the vision of the Holy Spirit; Hindus, of Shakti, the Divine Mother. It's also called cosmic consciousness and savikalpa samadhi (or samadhi while seeing form).

Here's Wordsworth describing the experience of it.

"Such was the Boy -- but for the growing Youth
What soul was his, when, from the naked top
Of some bold headland, he beheld the sun
Rise up, and bathe the world in light!

"He looked --
Ocean and earth, the solid frame of earth
And ocean's liquid mass, in gladness lay
Beneath him:--
Far and wide the clouds were touched,
And in their silent faces could he read
Unutterable love.

"Sound needed none,
Nor any voice of joy; his spirit drank
The spectacle: sensation, soul, and form,
All melted into him; they swallowed up
His animal being; in them did he live,
And by them did he live; they were his life". (3)

Sri Ramakrishna describes the seeing of a divine form rather than a Light. He points out that we remain in the domain of dualism throughout the experience.

“Then comes the sixth plane, corresponding to the centre known as Ajna. This centre is located between the eyebrows and it has a lotus with two petals. When the Kundalini reaches it, the aspirant sees the form of God. But still there remains a slight barrier between the devotee and God. It is like a light inside a lantern. You may think you have touched the light, but in reality you cannot because of the barrier of glass.” (4)

The next stage of enlightenment, when the kundalini reaches the seventh chakra, sees the Light transcend creation. We "see" the formless or the transcendental.

It's the first transcendental vision of what Christians call the Father and what Hindus call Brahman. It sees us leave the domain of dualism and enter the domain of unitive consciousness; what used to be called the "nondual state."

Jan Ruusbroec describes it here:

“There follows a third kind of experience, namely, that we feel ourselves to be one with God, for by means of our transformation in God we feel ourselves to be swallowed up in the groundless abyss of our eternal blessedness, in which we can never discover any difference between ourselves and God. This is the highest of all our experiences and can be experienced in no other way than by our being immersed in love.” (5)

Sri Ramakrishna describes it here:

“Last of all is the seventh plane, which, according to Tantra, is the centre of the thousand-petalled lotus. When the Kundalini arrives there, the aspirant goes into samadhi. In that lotus dwells Satchidananda Siva, the Absolute. There Kundalini, the awakened Power, unites with Siva. This is known as the union of Siva and Sakti.” (6)

It is the first "seeing" of the formless God.

This is not the end of the journey. For most of us, Sahaja Samadhi is, when the kundalini reaches the heart. It involves a permanent heart opening and is liberation from birth and death. That happens, according

to the Divine Mother, sometime after we enter the Fifth Dimension, not right away.

Now we see why the Trinity is so important: because we're set the task in life of realizing while still in the body the Light of the Child, the Mother and the Father, or of the Atman, Shakti and Brahman. The purpose of life is knowing our true nature and that true nature is God. We realize our true nature, in successive stairsteps, by realizing each level of the Trinity.

Interestingly, Jesus through John Smallman once called Ascension a "return once more to your natural state of Oneness with your Source." (7) That's a pretty good definition of Sahaja, in my view because Sahaja means our "natural state of being."

Sri Ramana Maharshi explains:

“[The] Heart is the seat of Jnanam [wisdom] as well as of the granthi (knot of ignorance). It is represented in the physical body by a hole smaller than the smallest pin-point, which is always shut. When the mind drops down in Kevalya Nirvikalpa [samadhi], it opens but shuts again after it. When sahaja [nirvikalpa samadhi] is attained it opens for good.” (7)

“The Sahaja Nirvikalpa is permanent and in it lies liberation from rebirths.” (8)

So this is the stairway to heaven. Why heaven? Because “heaven” is the Christian word for the Fifth Dimension. The Fifth Dimension is one step on Jacob’s Ladder of consciousness and we are the angels who’ve descended it and are mounting it again.

Of levels loftier than Sahaja, we know little.

Footnotes

(1) John Ruusbroec in James A. Wiseman, *John Ruusbroec. The Spiritual Espousals and Other Works*. New York, etc.: Paulist Press, 1985, 147. [Hereafter JR.]

(2) *Ibid.*, 74.

(3) William Wordsworth in Marghanita Laski, *Ecstasy in Secular and Religious Experiences*. Los Angeles: Tarcher, 1961, 399.

(4) Paramahansa Ramakrishna in Swami Nikhilananda, trans., *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*. New York: Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center, 1978; c1942, 499-500. [Hereafter GSR.]

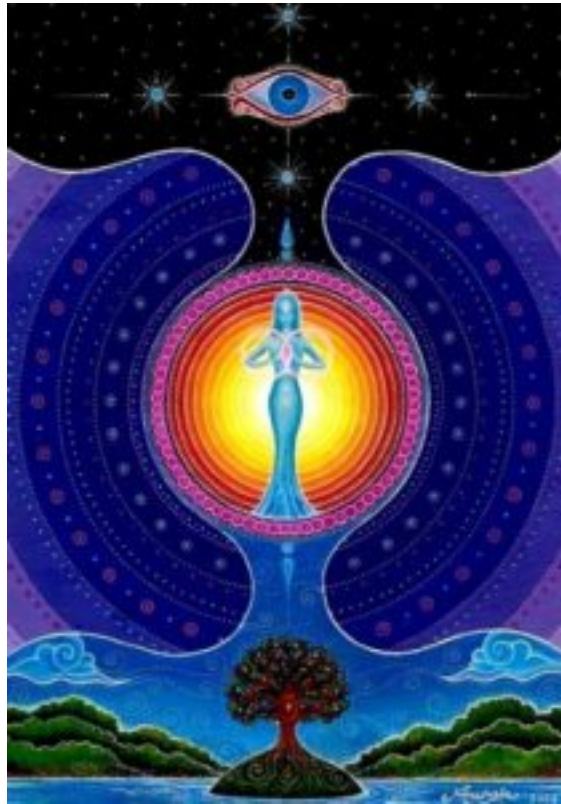
(5) John Ruusbroec in JR, 176.

(6) GSR, 499.

(7) Ramana Maharshi, S.S. Cohen, *Guru Ramana. Memories and Notes*. 6th edition. Tiruvannamalai: Sri Ramanasramam, 1993, 96.

(8) *Ibid.*, 88.

The Return to God



The soul ensconced in the bodies till God meets God

“The Return to God,” October 29, 2019, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2019/10/29/the-return-to-god/>

Everything about "us" is temporary.

We've been given temporary bodies to promote the idea that we're separate from God, so that we can then find our way back.

To what end?

To the end, from God's point of view, that God may meet God in a moment of our Self-Realization. What do we realize? Clearly that - if everything is God and there is no second to God - we must also be God. (1)

St. Paul describes the last moment of our separate existence:

“And when all things [all worldly desires] shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son [the Self, the Christ, the individuated spark] also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all [i.e., reunited].” (2)

We're like an all-day lollipop composed of layer after layer of different-flavored candy (bodies). The Divine enjoys each layer (through ascending enlightenment experiences) until there is ... nothing.

As we originally descended further and further down the dimensional ladder, we obtained unique bodies, known by different names to the religious traditions and suited to experiencing life at the different levels.

If I were to leave this body, I'd find myself first in an etheric body for a brief time; then the astral; then the mental, causal, buddhic, etc., each more subtle and powerful than the last.

As we go back up Jacob's Ladder of consciousness, we'll reach a point where we no longer need to incarnate. This is the point Jesus was referring to when he said we'd need "go no more out." (3)

At some point we'll leave off living in a formed body and become formless. But we'd still be individuated.

As long as we're ignorant of being anything else but this particular body we're in, we fear its death.

But the minute we have an out-of-body experience - as I did in 1977 - and see that we're over here and the body is over there - "Oh. I'm not my body!" - boom! The fear of death instantly disappears.

All around me in my room in the hospital have been a group of people who've just had open-heart surgery and my time cometh.

If I feared death, I might be in a state right now considering the major operation that my poor body is about to go through.

While I don't like the thought of pain - and all of them are going through lots of it - as far as being down about the prospect of surgery, I've been playing John Travolta in *Saturday Night Live*, riding my guerny to the next test, finger in the air, telling nurses and doctors the party's down here; follow me. We've all had a good laugh.

Such however is the benefit of really, deeply knowing, from experience, that death is not the end. (4)

Whenever my operation comes, at that point I really won't be able to write again for probably at least a week. It'll have taken open-heart surgery to stop me writing.

That makes sense to me. I'm sure Picasso would have painted with his toes if he couldn't have used his hands.

This is what it's like to follow your bliss: I'll probably write on the last page with my dying breath: "This is it. The End."

Footnotes

(1) See *The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment* at <https://gaog.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Purpose-of-Life-is-Enlightenment.pdf>

(2) 1 Corinthians 15:28.

(3) "Him that overcomes [realizes their true identity] will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out." (Rev. 3:12.) Jesus may have been referring to Ascension from the Third/Fourth Dimension or a higher state of consciousness.

(4) On this, see *New Maps of Heaven* at http://goldengaiadb.com/index.php?title=New_Maps_of_Heaven

Job One



“Job One,” July 8, 2013, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2013/07/08/job-one/>

I had a major realization two days ago which I’ve just been quietly being with. I could call it a revelation. But it might be better to call it a remembrance because it was knowledge I’d had but had forgotten. I’d like to say a few words about that here.

There's only one thing I know for certain and that's the purpose of life. I know the purpose of life because I was shown it in a vision on Feb. 13, 1987. (1)

The purpose of life is enlightenment. But let me say that a different way. The purpose of life is that each of us know ourself, that each of us know who we are in essence.

The first part of my revelation was a reassertion of the central importance of Self-Knowledge, of knowing who we are.

It arose like a starburst and then reverberated through my being. It swept away any other priorities I had and re-established itself as the only thing in life that must be done. Perhaps I can be permitted to look at the matter of who we are a little.

I can tell you the answer to the puzzle of who we are but the answer alone won't make the slightest bit of difference to you. If you were to ask me who you are, I'd reply: God.

That was simple.

Everything is God so why would you not be God? If you weren't God, you'd be the only thing in existence or outside of it that wasn't God. So of course you must be God. And so am I. And so is everything we see around us.

But simply knowing that does nothing. We have to experience it in every cell of our bodies and in every unit of our spirit - if something indivisible can have units and whatever those units might be.

We have to realize the truth - not simply know it conceptually.

And realizing it is the one job that's asked of us. Everything else is negotiable.

It's the one request made of us, the one demand. It's our assignment lifetime after lifetime.

Rumi talks about it here:

“There is one thing in this world which must never be forgotten. If you were to forget everything else, but did not forget that, then there would be no cause for worry; whereas if you performed and remembered and did not forget every single thing, but forgot that one thing, then you would have done nothing whatsoever.

“It is just as if a king had sent you to the country to carry out a specified task. You go and perform a hundred other tasks; but if you have not performed that particular task on account of which you had gone to the country, it is as if you have performed nothing at all. So man has come into this world for a particular task, and that is his purpose; if he does not perform it, then he will have done nothing.” (2)

I think that all other ways of talking about what's important for us are important because they tie in to Job One.

For instance, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind and heart and soul. Why? Because doing that will lead you to God and leading you to God will result in you knowing who you are.

Well, maybe. I admit that loving God is good in itself, but it's also instrumental in revealing who we are.

I think we have difficulty thinking about knowing ourselves because we associate it with narcissism. And admittedly it's a tightrope act to walk the line between narcissism and spiritual enquiry, which Ramana Maharshi called Atma Vichara or Self-Enquiry.

But it turns out that the more we know ourselves, the better life becomes. I suppose that's because the more we reveal our true nature, the more we act godlike because God *is* our true nature.

So our fears of becoming narcissistic are revealed as groundless once we know ourselves beyond the simple constructed self and ego.

But I saw a second thing as well in my revelation. I also saw that I fall asleep on Job One again and again. I remember that I'm here to know myself and then I forget. And then I remember and then I forget.

I distract myself with anything at all. It's amazing how easy it is to distract myself from the most important thing in life.

The third really significant thing about the spiritual experience I had was that the desire to know myself burst through the bonds of my forgetfulness. It reasserted itself in a blazing confirmation of the longing for liberation.

I had fallen asleep on Job One for perhaps months, maybe even years. And then my spirit finally put its foot down.

So that's the third part of the revelation - that I could fall off the path for so long and my spirit would rebel.

I've spent the last two days walking the streets of Vancouver in a very different experience of loneliness. I wasn't lonely for another. I was

lonely for myself. I'm lonely and longing to know myself in the deepest, most profound way.

This was for me a very noteworthy event - the blazing forth of the desire to do the work of life - to know myself. I'm again changed by the experience. I *have* to meditate now. Many things have lost their flavor for me and the things of the spirit are asserting themselves in a much stronger way than before.

Footnotes

(1) "Ch. 13 Epilogue," *The Purpose of Life is Enlightenment*, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/spiritual-essays/16244-2/the-purpose-of-life-is-enlightenment/ch-13-epilogue/>

(2) Rumi in A.J. Arberry, A.J., trans., *Discourses of Rumi*. New York; Samuel Weiser, 1977; c1961, 26.

Evidence of the Divine Plan is All Around Us



Stairway to Heaven

"Evidence of the Divine Plan is All Around Us," April 13, 2012, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2012/04/13/evidence-of-the-divine-plan-is-all-around-us/>

All of us seek happiness, want love, crave bliss, and search for fulfillment but few of us question why we universally do. We simply accept it.

It forms part of what Werner Erhard called the "background of obviousness." We take for granted some of the most profound circumstances of our lives.

In a similar vein, from time to time, we ask for proof that there's a Divine Plan for life, but when we look upon the evidence all around us in our everyday lives, we seldom consider it to be evidence.

But in seeking happiness, love, bliss and fulfilment, are we not seeking the Divine qualities? If we tirelessly seek the qualities of the Divine, does that not suggest that the Plan for life may also have something to do with seeking the Divine?

What is the Divine Plan? All life seeks God. That would seem to be its essence. There seems little difference between saying that all life seeks God or saying that all life seeks love, bliss, fulfilment and happiness because these qualities appear to be the same as God.



The Great Chain of Being

Has the Divine Plan been described by those who've known it? Let's look first at Earth's sages and then the galactic masters and see. Krishnamurti knew it and exclaimed:

"The really important thing is ... the knowledge of God's plan for men. For God has a plan, and that plan is evolution. When once a man has seen that and really knows it, he cannot help working for it and making himself one with it, because it is so glorious, so beautiful." (1)

Have any other sages had a vision of the Divine Plan, the stairway of consciousness or Great Chain of Being, and described it in detail? The closest we can get are the visions of Edward Carpenter and Dante.

Edward Carpenter's Vision: "[In the] inner illumination ... we can ultimately see things as they are, beholding all creation -- the animals, the angels, the plants, the figures of our friends, and all the ranks and races of human kind -- in their true being and order." (2)

Dante's Vision: "When Dante awoke into the Cosmic Sense, into the new Cosmos, the first thing to strike him ... was the vision of the 'Eternal Wheels' -- the 'Chain of Causation' -- the universal order -- a vision infinitely beyond expression by human words. His new self ... had its eyes fixed on this, the Cosmic unfolding. Gazing thereupon the Cosmic vision and the Cosmic rapture transhumanized him into a god." (3)



The Divine Plan is like a circular spiral

What is being described is a word picture of God's Plan for humans: Jacob's Ladder, the stairway of consciousness, depicting the spiritual evolution of God's children from a point of unconscious awareness of their identity as God to conscious awareness. The dawning of conscious awareness we call "enlightenment."

Does God Himself (Herself, Itself) discuss the purpose behind the Plan?

Speaking as God, the Sufi sage Ibn Arabi says: "I was a hidden treasure and I loved to be known, and I created the creation so that I be known." (4) The White Brotherhood master Beinsa Douno says something somewhat similar: "Why did God desire to create the world? So that He might be made manifest." (5)

The Upanishads say that God created the world "to enjoy his own exuberance and play, to know himself in manifestation." (6) When one of us realizes God, it is really God that realizes Himself, as many sages attest.

Franklin Merrell-Woolf: "This space I produce that My Glory shall be revealed; yet I alone Realize that Revelation." (7)

Ibn Arabi: "Only God sees God." (8)

Bayazid of Bistun: "I went from God to God, until they cried from me in me, 'O thou I!'" (9)

Paramahansa Ramakrishna: "Only grandeur appreciates grandeur: and God realizes God." (10)

Swami Brahmananda: "Only God can know himself. Be a god, that you may know the infinite God." (11)

The avatar Sri Ramakrishna playfully describes God's reaction when, in the moment of enlightenment, God knows God: "When Siva realizes his own Self, He dances about in joy exclaiming, 'What am I! What am I!'" (12)

So the Divine Plan is for God to realize God by making Himself manifest in the world as us, His Children, who rise by gradual steps from a place of unconscious awareness of our identity as Him to conscious awareness through enlightenment.

Do the galactics say something different? Can it be that this view of the Divine Plan is in fact something only terrestrials hold, or do the galactics say the same thing?

SaLuSa says: "All are on the same journey back to the Source from whence all life originated." (13) That is the divine circle, the stairway of consciousness, is it not? He explains that "the purpose of living many lives is to follow an overall plan that leads to your spiritual evolution." (14)

And again: "Life is a continuous round of experiences that you have all set in place to further your spiritual evolution." (15) There's no difference between SaLuSa's statement and Krishnamurti's, is there?



All nature reflects the Divine circle of consciousness

Ela of Arcturus evokes the same stairway of consciousness: "All proceeds upwards in the cyclic nature of evolution." (16) SaLuSa agrees: "Life everywhere in the Universe is continually evolving, and it is a natural condition that forever impels you forward." (17) Forward, upward, progressing, evolving from God to God.

Do the galactics themselves mount the same evolutionary staircase of consciousness? SaLuSa answers that question:

"You might ask where do we stand as far as evolution is concerned, and we would reply that we as member civilizations of the Galactic Federation have already ascended. We continue to evolve, and will do so until we find ourselves at One with the Source of All That Is." (18)

"No matter where you choose to go in this Universe, the object of your experiences will be to increase your levels of consciousness. So when you meet with Beings from another civilization, know

that they too are carrying out a life plan to move further ahead in their evolution." (19)

Thus we can see the Divine Plan at work in our own everyday lives. We hear terrestrial and extraterrestrial sages refer to it and describe it. Do the galactics and celestials gathered around our planet at this time also serve it? SaLuSa says they do:

"There is a clearly-defined plan for your future. ... There is a core plan which shall manifest and take you through to Ascension as intended. ... The path to Ascension is to be cleared of any attempts to prevent it from manifesting, and be sure, Dear Ones, that when a divine edict is given it is the Law of the Creator." (20)

This "grand plan for Man," SaLuSa says, "is perfect in its concept." (21) Our "glorious future is absolutely certain, and it is written into the plan decreed by the Creator," he assures us. (22)

Saul reminds us as well that nothing else is possible than what the Divine Plan lays out:

"The divine plan continues to unfold precisely as intended, and as it must; nothing else is possible. Your awareness of it will increase and intensify as your energy frequency rises in preparation for leaving your illusory reality of fear, suffering, pain, and death." (23)

And what is the Plan for our Ascension? SaLuSa tells us that "the Divine Plan [is] to release you from the lower vibrations and end the cycle whilst giving every soul the opportunity to rise up." (24) "Ascension," he tells us, "is in accordance with the Divine Plan." (25)

So if we look at our own lives carefully enough, we can see the Divine Plan in action. If we study the words of the terrestrial and extraterrestrial sages, we can hear the Plan described and explained.

Various visions that sages have had give us the flavor of it. And the galactics and masters who've gathered round the planet at this time of Ascension also tell us that they follow it. This very Plan holds within it the decree and provision that this planet will ascend and we will ascend with it.

Footnotes

- (1) J. Krishnamurti, *At the Feet of the Master*. Adyar: Theosophical Publishing House, 1974; c1910. , 17.
- (2) Edward Carpenter in Maurice Bucke, *Cosmic Consciousness. A Study in the Evolution of the Human Mind*. New York: Dutton, 1969; c1901, 85. [Hereafter CC.]
- (3) Maurice Bucke, CC, 137.
- (4) Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi, *Kernel of the Kernel*. trans. Ismail Hakki Bursevi. Sherborne: Beshara, n.d., 3. [Hereafter KK.]
- (5) Beinsa Douno, "Life is the Musical Manifestation of God," *The Wellspring of Good*. Downloaded from <https://www.beinsadouno.org/lib/sg.htm>, accessed 2 Feb. 2005., n.p.
- (6) Alan Jacobs, trans. *The Principal Upanishads: A Poetic Transcreation*. Winchester, UK and New York: O Books, 2003, 70.
- (7) Franklin Merrell-Wolff, *Pathways Through to Space. A Personal Record of Transformation in Consciousness*. New York: Julian Press, 1973 18.
- (8) Ibn Arabi, KK, 48.
- (9) Bayazid of Bistun in Aldous Huxley, *The Perennial Philosophy*. New York, etc.: Harper and Row, 1970; c1944, 12.
- (10) Paramahansa Ramakrishna in Anon., *Life of Sri Ramakrishna*. Calcutta: Advaita Ashrama, 1977; c1924, 47.
- (11) Swami Brahmananda in Swami Prabhavananda, *The Eternal Companion*. Brahmananda. Hollywood: Vedanta Press, 1970; c1944 , 205.
- (12) Paramahansa Ramakrishna in Swami Nikhilananda, trans., *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*. New York: Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center, 1978; c1942., 393.
- (13) SaLuSa, April 2, 2012, at https://www.treeofthegoldenlight.com/First_Contact/Channeled_Messages_by_Mike_Quinsey.htm
- (14) Ibid., Oct. 4, 2010.

(15) Ibid., Feb. 1, 2010.

(16) Ela of Arcturus, Mar. 9, 2009, at https://www.treeofthegoldenlight.com/First_Contact/Channeled_Messages_by_Mike_Quinsey.htm

(17) SaLuSa, May 4, 2009.

(18) Ibid., July 14, 2010.

(19) Ibid., Jan. 13, 2010.

(20) Ibid., March 15, 2010.

(21) Ibid., Oct. 21, 2009.

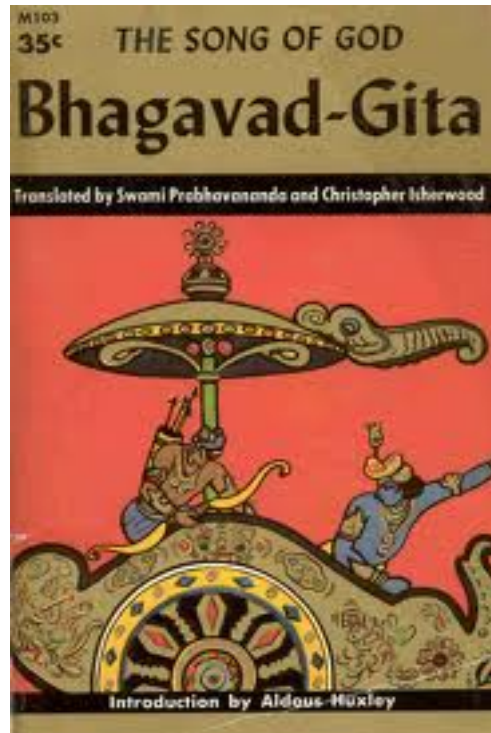
(22) Ibid., Feb. 15, 2010.

(23) Saul, Sept. 6, 2009, at <https://johnsmallman.wordpress.com>

(24) SaLuSa, Feb. 20, 2009.

(25) Ibid., Feb. 8, 2012.

Developing Discrimination is the Reason for Physical Life



*I can't think of a better statement of the perennial philosophy
than the Bhagavad Gita or Song of God*

“Developing Discrimination is the Reason for Physical Life,”
December 8, 2009, at [https://goldenageofgaia.com/2009/12/08/
developing-discrimination-is-the-reason-for-physical-life/](https://goldenageofgaia.com/2009/12/08/developing-discrimination-is-the-reason-for-physical-life/)

In the *Bhagavad-Gita*, Lord Krishna says:

Thinking about sense-objects
Will attach you to sense-objects;
Grow attached, and you become addicted;
Thwart your addiction, it turns to anger;
Be angry, and you confuse the mind;

Confuse your mind, you forget the lesson of experience;
Forget experience, you lose discrimination;
Lose discrimination, and you miss life's only purpose. (1)

Why is “discrimination” life's only purpose?

If we look at the thrust of Sri Krishna's argument, he's telling us that our spiritual evolution involves a turning away from the mere enjoyment of sense-objects towards God through the development of discrimination.

But he says that that movement cannot come about by thwarting our addiction to sense-objects, which only leads to anger. It can only come by development of a true discrimination born of our thorough digestion and assimilation of experience and then our turning away from it through having seen that it ultimately leads to non-satisfaction of our perpetual, built-in longing. (2)

Through the ongoing observation of the process of yearning for things, only to see that possession and enjoyment of them is not lasting, we learn to discriminate between them and the only true and satisfying object of our longing - God.

In the design of life - and I'm convinced that life was designed - sense-objects were always intended to be only temporary, what the Buddha called “anitya” (Sanskrit) or “anicca” (Pali) - that is, "impermanent."

They're not the Real or True. They're not God, in the sense of God's formless essence. They're a shadow show that God created to teach us discrimination.

Discrimination for what?

Discrimination to allow us to discern between the unreal and the Real.

God placed us sparks of His Fire in this world of shadows, gave us an unquenchable longing for Him (3), and set us in a garden of sensual delights, none of which could satisfy us for long.

This longing outlasts the desire for any material object or experience. It keeps us moving as if by a subsensible thirst or yearning for the only thing that can satisfy it and that thing is no thing, but God Himself.

We are like animals perpetually following a scent. All our experiences help us develop an ever-expanding sense of discrimination between what will satisfy us and what won't.

One by one, we eliminate things, honing in more and more on the One that can and will satisfy us.

God designed a shadow play in which the immortal Self, or Child of God, endlessly accumulates, enjoys, and discards things and experiences.

By the Law of Attraction, we draw to ourselves the objects and experiences we desire.

According to our karma, we are allowed to enjoy these or are deprived of them, but we go through lifetime after lifetime in matter, hankering after them, enjoying them, and then letting them go when they no longer satisfy us. Endlessly we wander in a perpetual cycle of desire.

Yet, all the time, our discrimination between the Real and the unreal is developing.

Over aeons of time, through this process of spiritual evolution, we hone our discrimination, until, in some moment of tremendous openness and innocence, we suddenly distinguish the Real from the unreal that surrounds It, and know It as it It is.

In fact, we have many such more minor moments in our many lives. The unfolding depth of enlightenment is boundless. Each deeper experience of enlightenment refines and extends our discrimination, until finally, in one lifetime, beyond the realms of angels, we know God in Its fulness and merge with Him, forever extinguishing individuality. Now the play is truly ended.

This final recognition of God in Its Essence is the purpose of all life. Through it God meets God, the Formless has an experience of Itself that is unavailable to it in any other way.

For our parts, discrimination between the Real and the unreal, a process whose driving engine is the unquenchable longing for God, has allowed us to liberate ourselves from illusion and reclaim our rightful station in life as God Itself.

We are fragments of God, children of God, "separated" from God by an act of creation, of illusion, a mere Magician's trick. Now we've seen through illusion using our discrimination. We've completed our role in the drama and merge back into the God from whence we came.

Thus it can be said that developing discrimination is the only purpose of physical life and the primary tool we are given to complete the actual purpose of life in any form - that is, the actual knowing of God.

Footnotes

(1) Sri Krishna in Swami Prabhavananda and Christopher Isherwood, trans., *Bhagavad-Gita. The Song of God*. New York and Scarborough: New American Library, 1972; c1944, 42.

(2) For more on the eternal longing for God as a built-in feature of all life, see "The Longing for Liberation," at <https://www.angelfire.com/space2/light11/longing.html>.

(3) He is not a "he." God has no gender. The use of male and female analogies is used to distinguish between God as Transcendental Formlessness and God as Phenomenal Form. The first is called God the Father by Christians; Brahman by Hindus. The second is called the Holy Spirit by Christians; the Divine Mother Shakti by Hindus.

A second way of speaking about the distinction between the two would be that God as metaphorical male is all stillness, silence, and formlessness and God as metaphorical female is all movement, sound, and form.

Understanding the Purpose of Life



“Understanding the Purpose of Life,” April 6, 2011, at <https://goldenageofgaia.com/2011/04/06/beginning-understand-purpose-life/>

As he often does, SaLuSa has given us much food for thought today and I'd like to develop a couple of the points he makes.

I'd like first of all to expand on one thing he says:

"We foresee a change in many people's attitudes once they understand the true purpose of life, as hitherto you have been going around with your eyes closed. It has not necessarily been your fault, but you have succumbed to the idea that you are separated from each other and God.

"Now you are beginning to see how dependent you are on each other, and that your actions affect everyone else. It explains how you are collectively responsible for your reality, and makes you realize that you can also change it."

What is "the true purpose of life"? As I understand it, the true purpose of life is for every created being to realize its fundamental identity as God. Imagine that we are all at an Eighteenth-Century masked ball, all of us wearing the most delightful costumes with a marvellous feather mask on. The clock strikes midnight and it comes time for us to doff our masks and, when we do - all of us have the same face.

That is our situation. Our original face is the same original face. And this discovery is the goal to which we all move.

At first we know not that life has a purpose. Then we begin to sense some common elements or patterns to life. Then we begin to wonder about what seems like a random process - could it have meaning, order, purpose? Then we begin to hear that it does.



Next we begin to investigate some of its laws, structures and processes. Finally we accept that life has purpose and begin to work with it in a way that promises the eventual realization of that purpose. And so life continues as we move further and further along the road to realizing the goal and intention of life.

Now we stand at a collective crossroad where all of us who share the same intent are about to leave behind a state of mind in which we all seem separate from each other to enter into a state of mind in which we see ourselves as one.

That "Ascension" to a higher level of consciousness will be followed by dozens, even hundreds, more until at last all apparent distinction

between us and That which we are disappears and we are no longer separate in any way from God.

Journeying in this fashion can be seen as an arc which moves out from God and then slowly loops back on itself and returns to God. The arc follows a spiral course as we return again and again to the same lessons until we finally learn them. Out we go from God and back we come again, spiralling all the time.

In my view, this is what SaLuSa means when he says "once [we] understand the purpose of life." Once we do understand, we see that, even though it remains only a thought rather than a lived experience with us, at least in some ways the way ahead becomes clearer.

SaLuSa then continues:

"Lightworkers lead the way and use their energies to bring more Light to the Earth. Through their ability to keep calm and focus them wherever they are required, they have cleared so much of the lower energies that were clogging the arteries of Mother Earth. The more success they have, the more easily it will become to totally break the hold the dark Ones have had upon you."

Even as we move towards Ascension, it's necessary to awaken a collective consciousness and it's lightworkers who are doing that work. Like the penetrating insight and the steady hand, we're leading the rest of the body on its return voyage. In this case we're organizing it and focusing it on the work of dropping separative, dualistic thinking, with the survival mentality that goes along with it.

We are the source of the perseverance and drive that is causing a collective intention to emerge on the planet among billions of individuals with free will. That collective intention is to ascend. He concludes by telling us what awaits us as the outcome of our work:

The most wonderful gifts are about to be bestowed upon you, and come with the rising up of your consciousness.

(1) With such an expansion comes a better realization and understanding of the power of love, and how it can be used for the good of all. To be at peace with yourself and one with the world is something wonderful to aim for and quite achievable.

(2) In time we'll become more psychic and our knowledge will know no bounds.

(3) We'll travel wherever we desire and become a part of the great family of Space Beings. As members of the Galactic Federation we can explore the Universe, and serve other people who like us at present are seeking their way home to the higher dimensions.

(4) The past and future will have become one, and time will cease to exist as we now understand it.

(5) Little will remain that relates to our third-dimensional experiences, and life will be so different and enjoyable without the chores that we now endure.

(6) Perhaps the most attractive aspect to us at present would be the thought of having a light-body, one that doesn't age and suffers no ills or diseases. One that we can also change through pure creative thought that allows us to present ourselves as we wish.

SaLuSa reminds us what we've contracted to do in this lifetime: to lead this world to a state higher than the one we now occupy which will see us that much closer to our overall-goal of ultimate Self-realization and much more peaceful and loving, happy and satisfied than before.

And he will do the same tomorrow and tomorrow, until our role in events becomes crystal clear to us and our ability to take sure and confident steps arises.

We're embarked on an eternal process of moving from darkness to Light, from ignorance to Knowledge, from competition to cooperation, and from self-love to universal love. We are rousing ourselves from a state of unconscious awareness to conscious awareness. We are awakening from a sleep of ages, standing up and striding towards our goal.

And we are, apparently, only a short time away from a rise in consciousness that will transform our lives and our efforts from halting and slow to sure and quick. We're beginning to understand the purpose of life and our thoughts and actions are beginning to show the transformed power that even a modicum of knowledge of life's meaning provides.