

## 6 ♥ *IS THERE A SOUL AND AFTERLIFE?*



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*You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body.*

**C. S. Lewis**

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*My soul is from elsewhere, I'm sure of that, and I intend to end up there.*

**Rumi**

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## ***LIFE***



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*Life is neither good or evil, but only a place for good and evil.*

**Marcus Aurelius**

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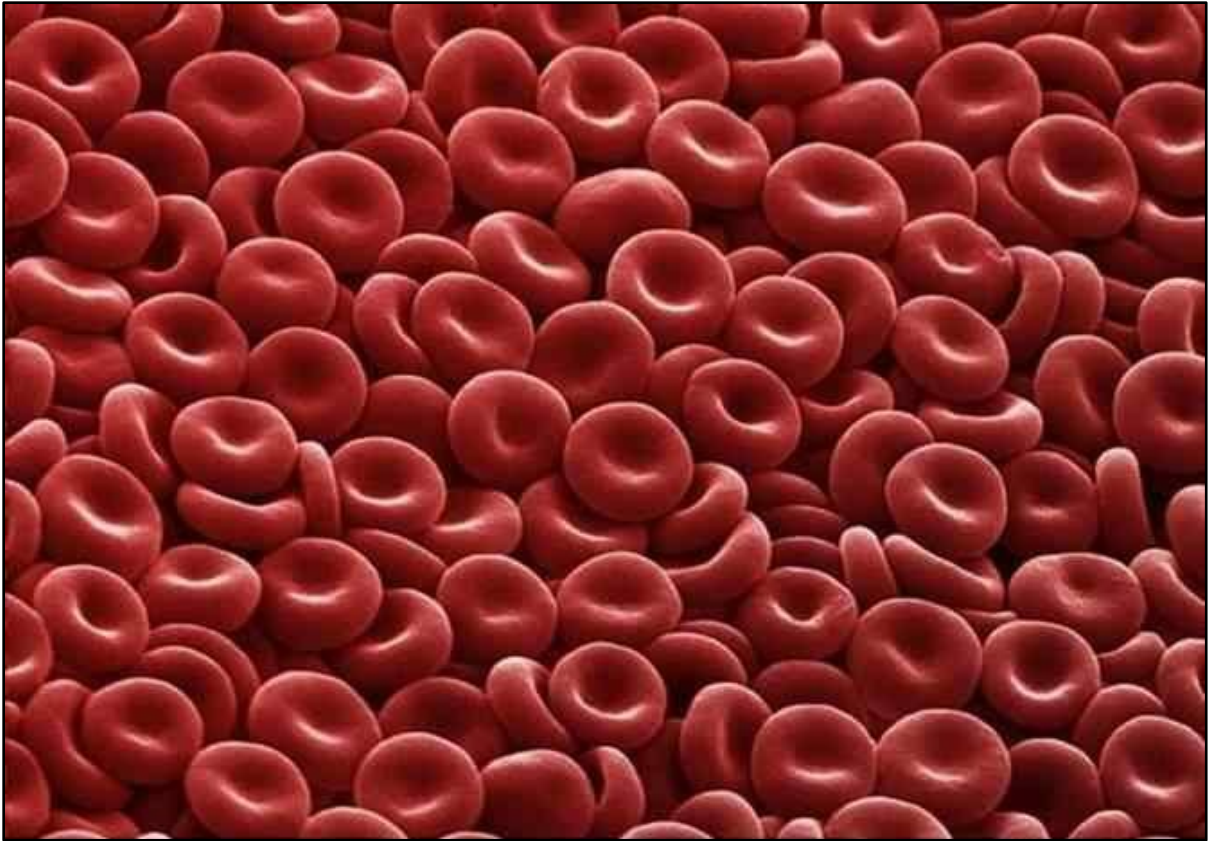


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*Where there is love there is life.*

**Mahatma Gandhi**

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*Ahimsa is the attribute of the soul, and therefore, to be practiced by everybody in all affairs of life. If it cannot be practiced in all departments, it has no practical value.*

**Mahatma Gandhi**

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*Wise are they who have learned these truths: Trouble is temporary. Time is a tonic.*

*Tribulation is a test tube.*

**Unknown**

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## ***HUMANITY***



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*Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.*

**Søren Kierkegaard**

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*To consider the Earth as the only populated world in infinite space is as absurd as to assert that in an entire field sown with millet, only one grain will grow.*

**Metrodorus of Chios**

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*If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than a lot of humans.*

**James Herriot**



*At the bottom we find a power of the soul whose one object is the body to which it is united... the vegetative soul only acts on its own body.*

**Saint Thomas Aquinas**



*Actual entities—also termed Actual Occasions—are the final real things of which the world is made up. There is no going behind actual entities to find anything more real...*

*The final facts are, all alike, actual entities; and these actual entities are drops of experience, complex and interdependent.*

**Alfred North Whitehead**



*We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. But we can understand the Universe. That makes us something very special.*

**Stephen Hawking**



*The greatest weakness of most humans are their hesitancy to tell others how much they love them while they're alive.*

**Optimus Prime**

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## CONSCIOUSNESS



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*Beneath all this technicality is the feeling that it is indeed "obvious" that the conscious mind cannot work like a computer, even though much of what is involved in mental activity might do so.*

**Roger Penrose**

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## ***PHILOSOPHY OF THE MIND***



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*I think, therefore I am.*

**René Descartes**

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*A human being is part of the whole called by us the universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to enhance all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.*

**Albert Einstein**

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## **WHAT IS SOUL?**



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*The one thing in the world, of value, is the active soul.*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

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*Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place.*

**Zora Neale Hurston**



*The soul, by an instinct stronger than reason, ever associates beauty with truth.*

**Henry Theodore Tuckerman**



*Nothing baffles the schemes of evil people so much as the calm composure of great souls.*

**Gabriel Riqueti Mirabeau**



*Four thousand volumes of metaphysics will not teach us what the soul is.*

**Voltaire**



*Is it so bad, then, to be misunderstood? Pythagoras was misunderstood, and Socrates, and Jesus, and Luther, and Copernicus, and Galileo, and Newton, and every pure and wise spirit that ever took flesh. To be great is to be misunderstood.*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**



*What we call life ... is the combination of the Five Aggregates, a combination of physical and mental energies. These are constantly changing; they do not remain the same for two consecutive moments. Every moment they are born and they die. 'When the Aggregates arise, decay and die, O bhikkhu, every moment you are born, decay, and die.' This, even now during this life time, every moment we are born and die, but we continue. If we can understand that in this life we can continue without a permanent, unchanging substance like Self or Soul, why can't we understand that those forces themselves can continue without a Self or a Soul behind them after the non-functioning of the body?*

**Walpola Rahula**



## ***AGAPSYCHISM***



Agapsychism is the belief that the soul is love.

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*You are here to enable the divine purpose of the universe to unfold. That is how important  
you are!*

**Eckhart Tolle**



*True love stories never have endings.*

**Richard Bach**



*Love is not an emotion. It is your very existence.*

**Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**



*The soul is not where it lives, but where it loves.*

**Unknown**



*For love is immortality.*

**Emily Dickinson**



*Is it not by love alone that we succeed in penetrating to the very essence of being?*

**Igor Stravinsky**



*Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college  
degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only  
need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.*

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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## ***THEOPSYCHISM***



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*You are within God. God is within you.*

**Peace Pilgrim**

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Theopsychism is the belief that the soul is divine.





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*To know that you are God is another way of saying that you feel completely one with this universe.*

**Alan W. Watts**

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## ***MONOPSYCHISM***



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*A wonderful fact to reflect upon, that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other.*

**Charles Dickens**

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Monopsychism is the belief that one soul is shared by all.



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*In love the paradox occurs that two beings become one and yet remain two.*

**Erich Fromm**

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## **MONOTHEOPSYCHISM**



Monotheopsychism is the belief that one divine soul is shared by all.

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*I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but my God eluded me. I  
sought my brother and I found all three.*

**Unknown**

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*The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that its center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.*

**Black Elk**

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*The soul exists partly in eternity and partly in time.*

**Marsilio Ficino**



*All of man's engagements are guided by a single, intrinsic premise, and the internality dresses within all people. It is what they referred to as "Nature," whose numeric count is the same as Elokim (God). And this is the truth that the Creator concealed from the philosophers.*

**Rabbi Moshe Chaim Lutzato**



*When there enters into it a glow from the Divine, the soul gathers strength, spreads true wings, and, however distracted by its proximate environment, speeds its buoyant way to something greater;... its very nature bears it upwards, lifted by the Giver of that love... Surely we need not wonder that It possesses the power to draw the soul to Itself, calling it back from every wandering to rest before It. From It came everything; nothing is mightier.*

**Plotinus**



*If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you. If you do not bring forth what is within you, what you do not bring forth will destroy you.*

**Gospel According to Thomas**



*There are as many paths to God as there are souls on Earth.*

**Muhammad**



*Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing there is a field. I'll meet you there. When the soul lies down in that grass the world is too full to talk about.*

**Rumi**

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## ***METAGAPSYCHISM***



Metagapsychism is the belief that the soul is love, shared by all, and divine.

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*The purpose of life is soul growth. We are here to become transcendent and to become one with God. There is no more to life than this. In other words, we are here to love.*

**Sara Wiseman**

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*Within us is the soul of the whole, the wise silence, the universal beauty, to which every part and particle is equally related; the eternal One. When it breaks through our intellect, it is genius; when it breaks through our will, it is virtue; when it flows through our affections, it is love.*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

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*The soul gives unity to what it looks at with love.*

**Thomas Carlyle**



*The Spirit who is in the body does not grow old and does not die, and no one can ever kill the Spirit who is everlasting. This is the real castle of Brahman wherein dwells all the love of the universe. . .*

**Chandogya Upanishad**



*The soul is made of love and must ever strive to return to love. Therefore, it can never find rest nor happiness in other things. It must lose itself in love. By its very nature it must seek God, who is love.*

**Mechthild of Magdenburg**



*What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God.*

**Eleanor Powell**

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## ***AFTERLIFE***



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*True love makes the thought of death frequent, easy, without terrors; it merely becomes the standard of comparison, the price one would pay for many things.*

**Henri B. Stendhal**

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I used to be terrified of death. My grandfather was terminal in the hospital across from my high school, yet I never visited him. That fact still haunts me to this day. Years later, my arms were around my grandmother as she struggled with her last breaths. I told her we were with her and everything was going to be okay. She died as I held her tightly and I felt her body lose life. It was the most peaceful moment I ever experienced, and I felt joy for her. It was an emotional, intellectual, and spiritual moment for me. I wasn't afraid anymore. After that experience there has always been a part inside me that personally anticipates that beautiful, peaceful love.

One day years later I received the phone call every parent dreads. My daughter was in a serious automobile accident. As I raced to her I prepared myself for the news she had died. Once again, I felt an unexpected and profound emotion. She lived, but in the face of that horrifying time there was a strange overall calm. I realized, no matter what, everything was going to be okay. I remembered I wasn't afraid anymore.

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### *Mommaw Brown's Eulogy*

*Some leave massive fortunes, worldwide fame, amazing talents, but Mommaw was a perfect example of a loving person—and there's no greater success in life than that. When it comes to love she had lots of practice: fifty-eight babies, seven children, seventeen grandchildren, thirty-one great grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren, and a devoted wife, sister, aunt, cousin, and daughter. Mommaw was caring. Mommaw was giving. Mommaw was loving, and it wasn't just with her family. At a time in her life when many people slow down, she didn't. She loved to help at the senior center, delivered meals to the sick and elderly, she even became the center's bus driver. She had many friends. Mommaw loved people, and she loved the simple pleasures of life: shopping the farmer's market, picking blackberries, camping, and fishing. Fortune and fame could have been Mommaw's too, if the world had learned of her talent: biscuits. She made the very best biscuits in the world. She was the sweetest, most loving mother and grandmother, but she was also strong, living through the Great Depression, caring for their large family. She beat cancer twice. How appropriate for Mommaw to pass here at Easter. Easter, proof that love is more powerful than death. Mommaw was ready. She told me she was. She wasn't afraid because of her faith, and because of her love. Close your eyes. Everyone here close your eyes. Mommaw gave the best hugs in the world. Close your eyes—she's hugging you now. We all deeply miss her. We feel sorrow, but don't feel sorrow for her. She's feeling wonderful! She's with Jesus! She's with Papa, her children, her parents, her brothers and sisters, and she's with you. And she still loves you very, very much.*

**John K. Brown**

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*We are going to die, and that makes us the lucky ones. Most people are never going to die because they are never going to be born. The potential people who could have been here in my place but who will in fact never see the light of day outnumber the sand grains of Arabia. Certainly those unborn ghosts include greater poets than Keats, scientists greater than Newton. We know this because the set of possible people allowed by our DNA so massively exceeds the set of actual people. In the teeth of these stupefying odds it is you and I, in our ordinariness, that are here.*

**Richard Dawkins**



*Uncle Gary's Eulogy*

*The very essence of Gary (and all of us) is our love. Gary's love, his soul, the very link to all good, to god, never dies. As long as you love, Gary will live in your heart. As long as you love, you will live forever, too.*

**John K. Brown**



*Like the twilight in the road up ahead They don't see just where we're goin' All the secrets in the universe whisper in our ears All the years come and go, take us up, always up We may never pass this way again.*

**Seals and Crofts**

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## ***POSSIBILITIES AFTER DEATH***



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*In sorrow we must go, but not in despair. Behold! we are not bound for ever to the circles of the world, and beyond them is more than memory.*

**J. R. R. Tolkien**

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*Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes round in another form.*

**Rumi**

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*Surely God would not have created such a being as man, with an ability to grasp the infinite, to exist only for a day! No, no, man was made for immortality.*

**Abraham Lincoln**

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*We are all atheists about most of the gods that humanity has ever believed in. Some of us  
just go one god further.*

**Richard Dawkins**



*I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes  
time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your  
life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'*

**Mother Teresa**



*Do not wait for the last judgment. It comes every day.*

**Albert Camus**



*I died as a mineral and became a plant,  
I died as a plant and rose to animal,  
I died as an animal and I was Man.  
Why should I fear? When was I less by dying?"*

**Rumi**



*But it's believed the soul can stay on earth for three to forty days after death. It eventually  
receives temporary judgment that sends it on from this world to heaven or hell-although  
no one will truly experience either until the actual Judgment Day, when the soul and body  
are reunited to live out eternity as one.*

**Richelle Mead**

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*Whether you believe in God or not does not matter so much, whether you believe in Buddha or not does not matter so much; as a Buddhist, whether you believe in reincarnation or not does not matter so much. You must lead a good life. And a good life does not mean just good food, good clothes, good shelter. These are not sufficient. A good motivation is what is needed: compassion, without dogmatism, without complicated philosophy; just understanding that others are human brothers and sisters and respecting their rights and human dignity.*

**Dalai Lama**

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## ***RECONCILIATION OF BELIEFS***



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*Love is love's reward.*

**John Dryden**

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*Some belief systems, such as those in the Abrahamic tradition, hold that the dead go to a specific plane of existence after death, as determined by a god, gods, or other divine judgment, based on their actions or beliefs during life. In contrast, in systems of reincarnation, such as those in the Dharmic tradition, the nature of the continued existence is determined directly by the actions of the individual in the ended life, rather than through the decision of another being.*

**Wikipedia**



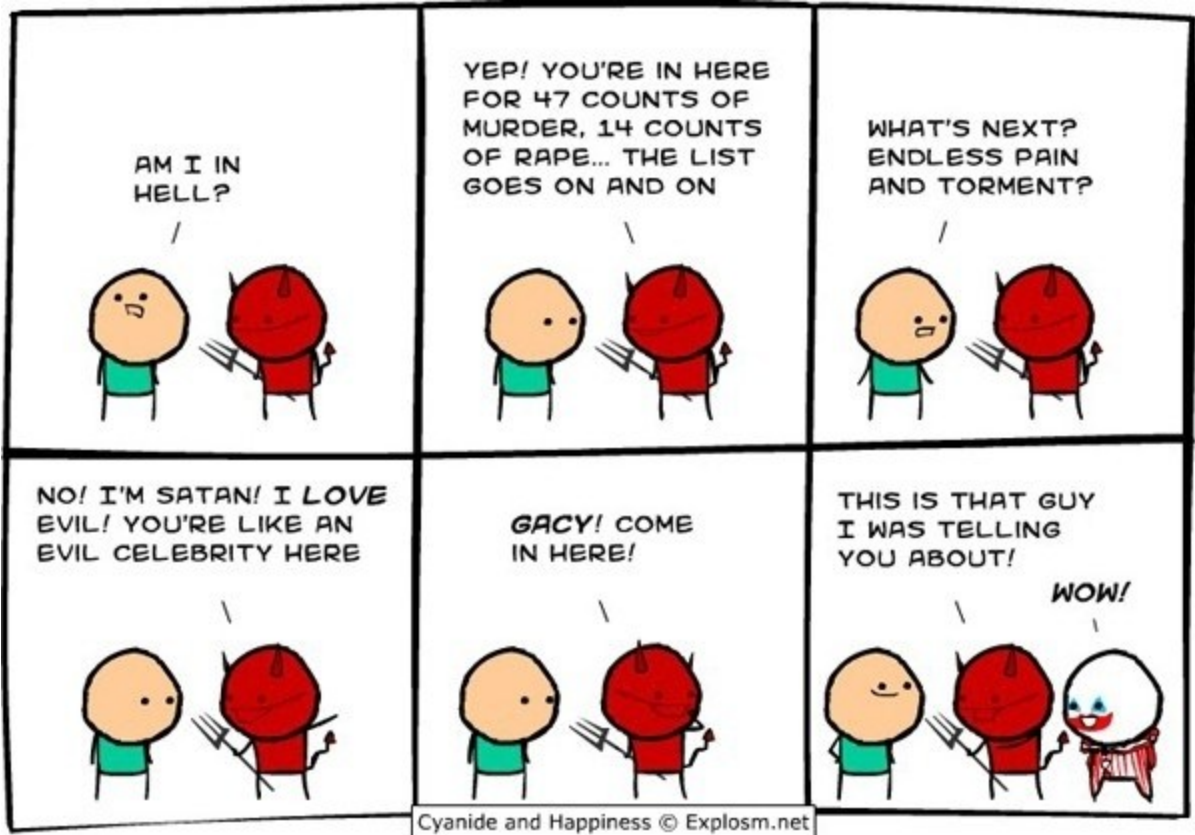
*I would love to believe that when I die I will live again, that some thinking, feeling, remembering part of me will continue. But as much as I want to believe that, and despite the ancient and worldwide cultural traditions that assert an afterlife, I know of nothing to suggest that it is more than wishful thinking.*

**Carl Sagan**

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All three explanations—eternal life, reincarnation, and nothingness—are descriptions of the same reality. The soul continues without the body, recombines pure with its source, and returns to the nothingness of infinite and eternal peace. The soul is love. Love is a paradox during life, and after without the bounds of spacetime.



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*We are punished by our sins, not for them.*

**Elbert Hubbard**

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*"You have been to hell, Ketut?"*  
*He smiled. Of course he's been there.*  
*What's it like in hell?*  
*"Same like in heaven," he said.*  
*He saw my confusion and tried to explain. "Universe is a circle, Liss."*  
*He said. "To up, to down—all same, at end."*  
*I remembered an old Christian mystic notion: As above, so below.*  
*I asked. "Then how can you tell the difference between heaven and hell?"*  
*"Because of how you go. Heaven, you go up, through seven happy places. Hell, you go down, through seven sad places. This is why it better for you to go up, Liss." He laughed.*  
*Same-same," he said. "Same in end, so better to be happy in journey."*  
*I said, "So, if heaven is love, then hell is.. "*  
*Love, too," he said.*  
*Ketut laughed again, "Always so difficult for young people to understand this!*

**Elizabeth Gilbert**



*But it is the will of God and nature, that these mortal bodies be laid aside, when the soul is to enter real life. . . . A man is not completely born until he be dead.*

**Benjamin Franklin**



*After your death you will be what you were before your birth.*

**Arthur Schopenhauer**



*Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads.*

**Henry David Thoreau**

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*What love we've given, we'll have forever. What love we fail to give, will be lost for all eternity.*

**Leo Buscaglia**

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*Love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence.*

**Erich Fromm**



*I know I am deathless. No doubt I have died myself ten thousand times before. I laugh at what you call dissolution, and I know the amplitude of time.*

**Walt Whitman**



*Why should we be startled by death? Life is a constant putting off of the mortal coil—coat, cuticle, flesh and bones, all old clothes.*

**Henry David Thoreau**



*All things, in all their aspects, consist exclusively of 'souls', that is, of various kinds of subjects, or units of experiencing, with their qualifications, relations, and groupings, or communities.*

**Charles Hartshorne**



*We are all born for love. It is the principle of existence, and its only end.*

**Benjamin Disraeli**



*What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.*

**Helen Keller**

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*I know now that there is no one thing that is true—it is all true.*

**Ernest Hemingway**

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