

## Deconstructing the Psychology of Reincarnation Critical Thinking and Paradigm Development in the Mystical Philosophy of Reincarnation

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### ABSTRACT

*Reincarnation is one of the most interesting and significant discoveries in the field of spirituality, mystical systems and spiritual development. This paper analyzes the psychology of the constructs underlying it, with particular emphasis on the dilemmas and challenges faced by the soul in its pilgrimage in the planes of matter. In addition, the model of Nonlinear Reincarnation is presented and contemplated. Nonlinear reincarnation is viewed as a powerful alternative way of understanding the evolution of spirit encased in the physical universe.*

**Keywords:** *Reincarnation, Nonlinear Reincarnation, spiritual psychology, wisdom quest, mysticism, soul development*

### INTRODUCTION

In the annals of men, religious, spiritual and mystical revelations have always represented the apex of Wisdom. And in wisdom literature, reincarnation has been one of the most controversial topics in the pageant of human history. Reincarnation is one of the most interesting and significant discoveries in the field of spirituality, mystical systems and spiritual development. It has been discussed in the knowledge database of virtually every religious system since the dawn of time. Upon its broad shoulders rests many concepts and constructs in the spiritual disciplines. It is fundamental, crucial and revelatory.

A fundamental question has always revolved around the fate of the soul upon its exit from the body. Classical and orthodox religious canon has maintained for a long time that we have only one lifetime. One lifetime to enjoy the plethora of gifts from the manifested universe. On the other hand, alternative spiritual traditions have asserted that there is more than lifetime; that humans have multiple lives, played out in multiple settings and environments.

### THE EXIGENCIES OF SOUL PILGRIMAGE

In order to understand the alternative spiritual traditions, let us go on a journey and explore the other side of the theological fence.

The soul and its vehicle are locked in opposite domains, yet living in the same wavespace. The paths of the soul ever beckon to the higher realms. As if in counterpoise, the paths of its vehicle, the body, always remain in fascination with the matrix of spacetime. The two sides are always in disagreement. But they manage to have a conversation. This conversation, this dialogue, this concord is a difficult one. But it must occur if they are both to thrive in their native domains. Having made temporary peace, they are free to pursue their respective aims.

The one who is born from the upper realms is an explorer of multidimensionality. He or she or it (actually this form has no gender, but we will try to use conventional terms for ease of comprehension) is a pure being, without assumptions, devoid of biases, totally open to new experiences and possessed of the spirit of wonder always. But, in order to explore the realms of multidimensionality, this pure being must acquire and maintain vehicles of exploration. There are several kinds of these vehicles, each suited to the plane or dimension or universe of its current fascination. Normally, the soul that journeys within its vehicle is not cut off from the Source. Meaning, he maintains and enjoys actual contact with the higher realms, especially with its realms of spiritual

home. There is a saying: “Home is where the Heart is.” And indeed, it is also true in this instance. In fact, the monad, that is locked within the temporary prison of its vehicles, has made a massive sacrifice just by encasing itself in various case sheaths, as it were, in its efforts to sample and explore the various multidimensional realms. At some point, the soul will be extremely interested in the sensual delights and other pleasures of the realm that he is exploring. This is normal, as long as he is always connected to his base, his Source, his Home. The basic tenet of reincarnation as soul pilgrimage in its ultimate manifestation has been a concept that has been explored by a variety of spiritual masters and mystical thinkers throughout world history, most notably by Lord Plotinus himself (Clark, 2016). One of the greatest mystics of all time, Lord Plotinus discoursed about the verities of the soul world, and his spiritual, mystical and metaphysical teachings have been immortalized by his eminent disciple, Porphyry.

The essence of Spirit encases itself in various case sheaths, or vehicles of exploration in order to make contact with the sensual apparatus of the realm it is exploring. On the other side of the fence, the beings currently navigating that particular realm or dimension are also possessed of certain distinct sensual and perceptual systems which help them navigate the parameters of the realm they are currently exploring.

But what if, by some mechanism, whether intentional or accidental, the monad or the soul is suddenly cut off from the Source, from his spiritual Home, and from the memory of his origins? Then a very interesting existential dilemma arises! We shall go back to this subtopic later.

Meanwhile, the vehicles of the monad or soul are its primary expressions in the realms of exploration. These vehicles are chosen for a purpose. They serve the goals of the Soul Curriculum which the monad follows as a guide in its mystical adventures. The soul curriculum of every soul defines the roadmap of its journey. In the realms of the material universe, the vehicles achieve an unusual

power that is characteristic of templates which are operating in their own elemental fields. We recognize that the physical vehicles are children of the material universe. Thus, while souls or monads are exploring in the material universe, their physical vehicles are apt to attain a position of great importance. Again, the normal attitude of the soul is to recognize that physical vehicles are simply tools for the navigation, learning and pleasure of the exploring monad. This equanimity is at its highest in the safety and security of the existential contours of the Deep Self or Higher Self, which represents the core of every reincarnating being. There arises a situation however, when the reincarnating aspects of the Deep Self, which I call the Fractal Selves or fractal souls, are cut off from their Source. This situation gives rise to what mystics now call the “Existential Loop Dilemmas.” The reincarnating aspect, separated from the Source and its Deep Self Core, and phase-locked in the planes of matter, or whatever plane that has caught it as prisoner, may come to think that his current manifestation is already the most authentic one. The only real one. When in fact it is only a façade, a mask, a vehicle of exploration. This propensity to exalt the fractal over the Deep Self or Higher Self may also be magnified by any devious system, born of negative polarity, which attempts to maintain such a state of ignorance for its own egocentric ends and agendas. If this is a state where you find your fractal self involved in, then you are required by the forces of destiny and serendipity, to muster all the resources at your disposal to overcome the boundaries of ignorance and attain the ascended state. To seekers from the planet Earth, we now usually call this the “wisdom quest.” The wisdom quest is the attempt of the fractal soul to realize its own true mystical nature, liberate itself from the bondage of ignorance and willingly and cheerfully choose to graduate from its present state. This is no easy task.

The following table characterizes the differences of acquiring a reincarnation viewpoint, comparing the orthodox human perspective with the perspective of advanced spiritual Seekers who possess a reincarnation perspective:

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**Table1.** Differences between persons with orthodox views compared to persons possessing a reincarnation perspective

	The Normal Way of Perceiving Life	Life from the Perspective of one who understands Reincarnation
Universal Characteristic of Life Paradigm	Life is a one-shot affair	Life is a series of fractal soul experiences, punctuated by various lifetimes
Locus of Control of Personality in his/her life	Take away from this Life every possible advantage you can extract from it. Existential dilemmas abound but ignore them. This particular life is all that matters. Passion and power are drivers par excellence.	Focus on a few critically important areas of your life which you feel are significant milestones for this particular soul incarnation you are having. Maintain equanimity and balance.
Etiology of Personality Dynamics; Characteristic traits in old age phase of life	Some who have not reached as far as they have may develop negative attitudes and fatalism in the later phases of their life. Regret, guilt, shame and sadness abound.	As these people get older, the more they understand about Life in general. They are more compassionate, wise and have far greater equanimity. They are also more relaxed and open to new experiences.
General Outlook	Pessimism	Optimism

### ROADBLOCKS TO SOUL ASCENSION

There are many, many roadblocks to Ascension or soul graduation. The acquired tendencies of the soul may be impediments or barriers. Negative attitudes are definitely impediments, but also are “actuations arising out of habit.” Failure to educate yourself in any way possible is a roadblock, too. Thus, it is incumbent upon every soul to pursue knowledge for its own sake, as well as knowledge for practical purposes. You never know when that bit of knowledge shall help you. Learn, learn, learn. Institutional systems, when implemented by an invading race out of selfish intentions, may be barriers to mystical development also. And to this morass we can also add culture. Culture is definitely a product of the evolutionary successes of a race, but it also possesses challenging variables which may pose as impediments to Ascension itself. Thus, Ascension is a very, very subtle enterprise. It is the most challenging task in any incarnation!

Like any story or narrative, the spiral of reincarnation has its own theme, structure, flavour, timing, colour, vibration, storyline, beginning, middle and climax. Though the outline of the reincarnation process is defined by the soul curriculum chosen during cosmic birth; the variables, specifics and dynamics of that process itself is coloured by the specific requirements of the Higher Self or Deep Self. In this, as in many areas of Cosmic Life, free will and the liberty of choice are essential parameters. The Deep Self is free to choose what narratives it

wants to explore, using his own particular paradigms of learning, in its own contexts, using its own timing and rhythm, and occurring in environments of his own choice. No one can interfere with this Cosmic Law. The Higher Self has complete control of its incarnational perspectives, including the nativity and culmination of those fractal selves. The Deep Self and its incarnational streams are all existing in their own incarnational universes. They are inviolate and given the ultimate freedom to decide their own narrative cycles and progressions.

In an earlier manuscript, this author has created and conveyed a particular way of underscoring the importance of the freedom of the soul to pursue its cosmic curriculum, expressed in its right to explore its incarnational and navigational perspectives. This document has come to be known as the Spiritual Declaration of Human Independence (Rimban, 2014).

### SPIRITUAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN INDEPENDENCE

**By Sensei Erwin L. Rimban**

Conceived and written September 13, 2014, The Philippine Islands

I am a human. I am a citizen of the Multiverse. I am a disciple of the symmetry of Ultimate Reality. Consequently, I have the rights and privileges of a being and citizen of the manifolds of the Cosmos, fully recognizing the

diversity and multiplicity of the Multiverse, and its capacity to express and evolve all forms of Life.

I am a human. I have the right to Life and Meaningful Existence. In all my cosmic explorations, I have the right to protect the identity and security of my being, fully recognizing the rights of other cosmic beings to the same. In addition, I have the right to celebrate, modify and evolve my own cosmic identity, cognizant of the dynamics of change, and respect the rights of others to the same.

I am a human. I have the right to Truth, and Knowledge, and Wisdom. I have the right to access, contemplate, celebrate, articulate and disseminate Truth in all its forms, without endangering the harmony of the Cosmos in the pursuit of Truth. I respect the rights of all other cosmic beings to Truth and the celebration of Truth in the community of cosmic beings.

I am a human. I have the right to free expression. I have the right to express myself aesthetically and experientially in all the forms of Art. I have the right to pursue, celebrate, present and modify my Art in all forms possible, as long as it does not injure a cosmic being, or cause injury to humanity or the community of cosmic beings in any way. Whenever my Art causes discord in the harmony of the Cosmos or purports to cause injury to any being or system of beings, I am willing to enter dialogue to modify such Art and rectify its mistake, in order to preserve and facilitate the harmony of the community of cosmic beings. I uphold the harmony of the whole, and the evolution of the Totality over the desires of a singularity.

I am a human. I have the right to go Home. In all my cosmic adventures, I have the right to inquire and quest for my true home, the nativity and origin of my being. In all cases where home is situated in higher realms or dimensions, I have the right to pursue Ascension in all its forms. Whenever such desire and quest occurs, the systems and communities of beings in the cosmos must respect this right and provide meaningful assistance, or refrain from constructing any impediments, as well as allow me the right to go home peacefully, cheerfully, and cordially. I have the right to extricate myself from impediments to the wisdom quest, as well as all other systems born of polaric duality which prevents my ascension and return to higher realms.

I am a human. I have the right to experience all the facets of Ultimate Reality in all the realms, planes and dimensions of the Cosmos. Let no system of thought, or set of beings ensnare, or deceive, or enslave me in my peaceful exploration. Whenever such dichotomies of deception occur, may I exercise my right to resolve my harmony, integrity and freedom within the concord of cosmic harmony. Let my thoughts dwell on unity encompassing diversity, fully realizing the rights of other communities of beings to experience Ultimate Reality in their own ways, modes and styles, and frames of reference.

I am a human. And I am free. Free to travel the manifold dimensions of the Cosmos. Let us all respect the rights of every being to cheerfully experience Life in all its forms, acquire Wisdom and return Home.

I am a human. I am free. I am Love. And I am recursive!

A human soul is an explorer par excellence. In order to elicit maximum learning from its incarnational lives, the Deep Self is invited by the Cosmos to sample and experience as many varied lives as much as possible. The dance of the energies represented by the Houses of the Zodiac is only a guide to the variety, multiplicity and diversity of lives that a fractal soul can assume. At the same time, the natal astrology chart is a map that gives an insight into the range of possible lives and incarnational streams that a cosmic being can assume. An array of archetypes can dazzle the imagination. Child, warrior, lover, scribe, mother, father, sage, king, queen, mystic, genius and the like. These archetypes are the templates of assumption, characteristic of the infinite dances that a soul can assume. These and many more archetypes are you! You are them, in your thousands of lifetimes! You have loved before, been betrayed before, died before, a thousand times a thousand! You have been born a king, entrenched in the pedestal of power. You have been born a beggar, experiencing the extreme poverty that life can offer. You have been born a queen, a shamaness, a priestess, a lover, etc. You cannot graduate without experiencing the male as well as the female perspectives of the universe. All of us are both male and female, as well as beyond male and female.

### **REINCARNATION PARADIGMS AT BAY**

The adventures into various realms of exploration always have incipency points as well as culmination points. It is customary to understand this process using the lens of the sequential mind. This gives rise to the phenomenon we now call as Sequential Reincarnation. The roadmap of sequential or linear reincarnation is very distinct and has given rise to prototypical assumptions and explanations. A soul chooses a life. He enters the fields of Immanence (various realms of exploration) with certain goals and objectives in mind. He/she enters the material plane and lives that particular life (the fractal soul phase) and then he exits it (death phase). Sequential or linear reincarnation is the prototypical explanation offered by both the classical Hindu and Buddhist spiritual systems.

However, this author belongs to a select group of mystical writers and thinkers who have discovered and are advocating the contemplation of a radical form of reincarnation. This is the concept of Nonlinear Reincarnation (Rimban, 2017). Seminal ideas of this unique form of reincarnation have been offered in various writings, most recently *Nonlinear Thought in Metaphysics, Psychology and Education* (Rimban, *Journal of Metaphysics and Connected Consciousness*, July 2017). The idea for this form of reincarnation can be visualized by looking at a painting. We look at a painting in a nonlinear way or holistic way. We do not look at it in a sequential way. In Nonlinear Reincarnation, the Higher Self, situated in the higher dimensions, pre-selects a set of lives, to be explored by its fractal souls. The Higher Self, immortal, hyper-intelligent and totally secure in its foundation in the higher realms, can look at its set of lives holistically, guiding them with art, elegance, wisdom, compassion and an equanimity that is beyond the understanding of beings in the physical realm. Dr. Eben Alexander, one of the foremost neurosurgeons in the world, who was able to journey into the higher realms while being comatose for days, gives a startling revelation of the power of nonlinear dynamics in his book, *Proof of Heaven* (Alexander, 2012). This book is highly recommended as an initial starting point for those who want greater understanding of the power of higher dimensions and alternate realities.

We can say that there are two ways of apprehending Ultimate Reality. One is the sequential mind pattern and methodology and the

other is the nonlinear mind pattern and methodology. The predictive powers of the sequential mind, in its own context, are awesome, for it seeks to create, cultivate and propagate alphabets of understanding, which it uses to navigate from the known to the unknown. These alphabets are all the languages, from the linguistic forms to the mathematical worlds, to the computer languages and thence into all the symbolic forms. These languages are powerful in their own right, for they give rise to a certain kind of internal logic that arises out of their syntax and coding. Like a game of chess or the set of equations in geometry, these languages persist for they can define protocols in their own worldspheres. Remember that all forms are fractals of the Cosmos, and therefore partake of its power. In this sense, sequential constructs have an abundance of order. Why? Because that is the part of the cosmos that they express. The problem, however, occurs when the sequential mind attempts to translate these languages and interpret the Cosmos as a whole. Here the map fails. And it fails miserably! The Cosmos is too awesome to be interpreted by any kind of mental map, however profound that map is. A map is still a map. Thus, there are limits to what a map can understand.

On the other hand, the nonlinear processing aspect of Ultimate Reality apprehends multidimensional realms simultaneously. It is like looking at an art form, or listening to a piece of music, or watching a dance performance. The whole is assimilated completely, not part by part like the one in sequential thought. The learning style is holistic, and the learner assimilates a large amount of data. In the same way, by configuring his fractal souls as nonlinear processors, the Higher Self is able to assimilate a very large amount of data. He assimilates a large amount of data simultaneously, all coming from the many lives that he has, which are happening all at once! This is an awesome discovery and could revolutionize world thought. Nonlinear reincarnation can also explain the fact that most humans do not have memories of past lives. This is because human souls reincarnating in the nonlinear manner do not have past lives. What they have are parallel or nonlinear lives! The experiences of the fractal souls of a being undergoing nonlinear reincarnation yield an incredible amount of data, processed at an astoundingly prodigious rate. The Higher Self with nonlinear fractal lives is a learner par excellence.

## Deconstructing the Psychology of Reincarnation Critical Thinking and Paradigm Development in the Mystical Philosophy of Reincarnation

Thus, this author would like to encourage esoteric, spiritual, mystical and metaphysical seekers of all kinds to discover, research, study and learn more about the possibilities and permutations of nonlinear reincarnation. It is an idea whose time has come. It may bring to light many of the darker aspects of consciousness that

humanity has failed to process since the dawn of time. It may bring to light many of our universal questions and provide definitive answers to many of our hypothetical dilemmas.

The following table presents, compares and contrasts the two different models of reincarnation:

**Table2.** *The Two Different Paradigms of Reincarnation: Nonlinear Reincarnation and Sequential Reincarnation*

	Sequential Reincarnation	Nonlinear Reincarnation
General Strategy of the Learner	To explore a sequence of lives one by one, each building on the previous;	To explore lifetimes simultaneously; to explore a dimension in a nonlinear pattern
Cognitive Processing of Information	Information is processed at a manageable rate, one lifetime at a time. After the expiration of the incarnation, the Higher Self contemplates the lessons learned and prepares another soul with another vehicle of expression.	Information is processed at a prodigious rate. Massive amounts of information from fractal souls pour into the central haven called the Higher Self. The Higher Self pre-selects the nature and dynamics of these various fractal souls.
Mastery of Existential Dilemmas	Existential dilemmas and life lessons are mastered one at a time. Fractal souls may have knowledge of previous lives. Sometimes, this may be to the advantage of the incarnating being. Sometimes, knowledge of past lives may become impediments to growth.	Existential dilemmas are mastered in a very elegant manner. The Higher Self chooses a set of fractal souls which shall express its goals and objectives in the various parallel lives that it assumes. The Higher Self has the freedom to select the kinds of lives it wants to experience, in their particular flavours and occurring in environments of its own choosing.
Prevalence as a Soul Curriculum	This incarnational strategy is commonly chosen by young souls, or souls who have difficulty assimilating nonlinear content. Also, beings newly initiated into the gifts and challenges of incarnational systems may choose this because it is a relatively easier soul curriculum.	This incarnational strategy is commonly chosen by more advanced Higher Selves. It is also entertained by souls who have no difficulty assimilating nonlinear content. Since nonlinear reincarnation may protect the incarnating being by temporarily eliminating the memories of past lives, beings that utilize this format are very brave indeed.
General Assessment of Soul Navigational Strategy	Best taken by young souls and inexperienced souls. However, this soul curriculum may take longer time periods to complete.	Best taken by very, very advanced souls. It is extremely challenging but is completed in relatively shorter periods.

### CULMINATING THOUGHTS

From the point of view of reincarnation, the culmination of a narrative brings with it all the connotations and associated meanings that are unique to such a transpersonal phenomenon. Again as learners of the phenomenal universe, it is incumbent upon us to contemplate the possibilities of such an event with the utmost care. Now is the time to harness all our spiritual and mystical resources. Now is the time to bring forth all the wisdom that we have acquired through eons of reincarnation. Now is the time to unite, brothers and sisters. For it is extremely imperative for all of us human souls to inquire

and quest whether we are now in the stage of culmination. Ascension, the culmination of our quest eons ago, is our birthright. Always has been, always will be. Reincarnation is a gift, a very powerful gift of the Cosmos. It allows spiritual beings from various dimensions of the Cosmos to discover the manifold realities of Life in all its plethora of permutations. It is the fulcrum of soul pilgrimage. As cosmic learners, let us learn to use it to our optimum advantage.

As a concluding exercise, let us contemplate this beautiful poem of Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1863), which highlights the infinite beauty and mystical elegance of reincarnation:

Sudden Light, Dante Gabriel Rossetti

I have been here before,  
But when or how I cannot tell:  
I know the grass beyond the door,  
The sweet keen smell,  
The sighing sound, the lights around the shore.  
You have been mine before,—  
How long ago I may not know:  
But just when at that swallow's soar  
Your neck turn'd so,  
Some veil did fall,—I knew it all of yore.  
Has this been thus before?  
And shall not thus time's eddying flight  
Still with our lives our love restore  
In death's despite,  
And day and night yield one delight once more?

### **CONCLUSION**

Nonlinear Reincarnation is a powerful way of understanding the evolution of spirit within the planes of matter. It is fundamental, crucial and revelatory. Since many concepts and constructs

rest upon the broad shoulders of reincarnation, then it is extremely worthwhile for spiritual seekers around the world to study, reflect, contemplate, and research more about this new, unique, and revolutionary spiritual paradigm. Let more and more spiritual seekers know the Truth from many angles. Let Wisdom guide us into the proper synthesis. But we can only reach the Summit of the Mountain by exploring as many mystical, spiritual, religious and scientific paradigms as possible. Let us not be afraid to explore.

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