

THE ENIGMATIC SOUL AND ITS DIFFERENT NAMES

INTRODUCTION

Many people speak of the Soul, sometimes from a religious point of view, other times as a matter of speech, both mostly without much understanding of the content or real meaning of the word. Without pretending that I can fully grasp a real understanding, because I cannot, I will give it a serious try, based on the knowledge I am gathering from studying the Ageless Wisdom and consulting my own inner source, my Higher Self.

So, in this paper I will try to deal a bit (more is not possible in a short paper and with my incomplete knowledge) with the great question: what is the Soul according to my own Higher Self and the Ageless Wisdom? Side questions to be touched on are: is the Soul immortal; is it our essence; how is it related to the personality and the Monad; which other names are there for the Soul and are they the same or (slightly) something else?

DEFINING THE SOUL

I prefer to start my endeavor to define the Soul out of my head, not searching for quotes in the Ageless Wisdom literature, trying to delve into my own pool of incomplete knowledge and maybe receive some glimpses of intuition. Just see what comes up, when I ask the great question:

What is the Soul?

Maybe I even can try my 'old trick', which is to ask it to my Higher Self, a technique I used earlier in the writing of my first book 'Stairway to Heaven'.¹ It proved to be an interesting source of knowledge, although the veracity may be questioned of course. But which veracity isn't? Maybe the same goes for the knowledge in the Ageless Wisdom literature. Who can tell for sure, besides perhaps the Masters?

Whatever, this is not the topic of this paper. So let's ask my Higher Self, which perhaps is the Soul itself:

What is the Soul? Higher Self, are you the Soul? And if so, who or what are you?

Well, interesting you ask me, your Higher Self, the part of your self that is able to perceive from a higher point of view than the lower part of your self, the personality, the 'you' that you think you are most of the time. This is simply because I am not immersed as 'you' are in the maya, glamour and illusions of the lower planes where you live your life as the personality.

Let me start with your first question regarding the nature of the Soul. There are many levels of consciousness within the human constitution. There is the human soul, whose consciousness and identity is initially that of the personality. Over many

lifetimes this human soul develops and achieves “Egoic consciousness”, which is the consciousness of the Solar Angel that is present within the Egoic Lotus. This Egoic Lotus is a vehicle for the Solar Angel who is the true Soul.

Whooh, not too fast please! You posit some new terms here, like Solar Angel and Egoic Lotus. I'll ask you about this a little later. So, you say that the true Soul is the Solar Angel. I'll come back on that one.

But what about you, my Higher Self, are you the same as the Soul?

I think you could say I, whom you call your ‘Higher Self’, which is a name frequently used in the popular New Age culture, am your ‘individual’ Soul. Ultimately of course there is no individual Soul, no ‘my Soul or thy Soul’. The Soul is One, there is only One Soul, the Soul of Humanity.

But I, your Higher Self, you could see as the divine consciousness which is all-knowing, all-loving and all-purposeful, and that has extended part of itself in your individual Soul, also called the Ego in the Ageless Wisdom.

The Ego is a name that confuses the New Age adepts, and others too, because the word ‘ego’ mostly is used for the separated personality. But ‘Ego’ with a capital E is your individualized Soul, which is another word for your Higher Self, which would be me...

Cool, this is apparently still working. I like this. Let me go on.

Are you my essence? Are you immortal?

These are two questions, which are interrelated indeed, so I understand why you ask them together.

I am not exactly your essence, although you could say the consciousness part of me is representing it. This part is immortal, but the form part, which is called the Egoic Lotus, is not. The Soul builds itself a “lighted house” and therein dwells for a great many incarnations. This lighted house, which I have referred to as the Egoic Lotus, or Causal Body, will be shattered and dissolved at the 4th initiation. This of course will be a new start, a new stage in your evolution. That would be great, don't you think so?

Yes, I would like that a lot. I can't wait actually, but I will have to, at least for a while I guess. Anyhow, let me go on.

Since you are not exactly my essence, then what is?

Your essence is the Monad. The Monad is the indivisible core atom, which by far is not the physical atom scientists are speaking about. It is very non-physical, and it is a spark of Life, of God, or of the primal Source or Cause.

It is of course a simplification of the process, but let me say that God emerged, awakening from his long sleep in pralaya, the long night of nothingness, into

manvantara, the long and contemporary day of livingness, of manifestation. He exploded into an innumerable amount of sparks, or Monads, who started a very long journey downwards towards more density. This descending journey is called the Involution, the opposite of the more familiar Evolution, which is the return journey of ascension, up towards the Light where the Monad originally came from. So the Monad's journey ends, as it returns to its Source after aeons of experience.

The nature of this experience is very well expressed by Master Djwhal Khul, or DK, in the book "Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle" from Alice Bailey on page 176. Please look it up and paraphrase it.

Okay, I found it. DK says that the purpose of the Monad's experience is that of "consciously expressed divinity". And he adds in his so eloquent tone of voice: "See you, therefore, the beauty of the spiritual process, and the planned aid given to the sons of men at all stages of their return to the centre from whence they came?"

Right, that's the one I meant. Very well done. Now what? You have more questions? Fire ahead.

RELATED NAMES FOR THE SOUL

Well, there seem to be a bunch of other, related names for you, my Soul. We already discussed the Higher Self and the Ego. And you already mentioned some more names used in the Ageless Wisdom, such as Solar Angel, Egoic Lotus and Causal Body. I would like to know more about this. Are they the same as you, or are there differences? Let's start with the Solar Angel whom you called the true Soul.

So, you are also my Solar Angel, do I understand that right?

In a way I am indeed, but in another way I am not. I am aware of the fact you don't like these kind of double and 'fuzzy' answers, so let me clarify myself. But I have to use the other names too in my answer.

Over time, as you evolve in Soul consciousness and transform vices into virtues, I, your Egoic Lotus or Causal Body, likewise expand in beauty, radiance and potency, and mirror more perfectly the qualities of the Solar Angel. It allows the Soul-infused personality, you, to take on the qualities of the Solar Angel. Thanks to your hard work by the way. Are you aware of that?

Are you asking me a question now?

Yes.

Maybe a bit. I was not, but it's starting to grow on me, the meaning of this long way I am walking, my role in it and the cooperation with you, my dear Soul, and with my Solar Angel. Or is that you? Please elaborate a bit on this question, because it is not so clear to me yet.

I will for sure. I wasn't ready yet, but I interrupted my own line of reasoning by asking you a question. So, let me go ahead.

The Solar Angel is a great Being, an advanced Deva, who is sacrificing himself to help you to infuse me, the Soul, therewith redeeming you, the personality. We together, the Soul and the Soul-infusing personality, build in qualities into the Egoic Lotus and foster greater expansion, quality and potency. This develops and unfolds the petals in the Egoic Lotus, enabling it to radiate more light, love and power that are more fully expressing the magnificence of the Solar Angel. The phrase "I build myself a lighted house" refers to the building work of both the Solar Angel and of you, my dear personality.

Although this Angel is actually the Soul, in the beginning this Angel was not I, your Higher Self, or your Ego as your individualized soul. It was overshadowing me, and looking after me and assisting me in my guidance of you and the many previous lower selves before you I happened to incarnate in. But many lives ago, more than you think, I started to develop slowly into a fuller expression of the nature of the Solar Angel. So it seems that I am becoming more and more adult so to say. Thanks to your faithful daily work of study, meditation, aligning and fusing with me, service and suffering the struggles of daily life, I slowly but persistently evolve as an Ego into a more accurate expression of the Monad.

When you, the personality, become more and more infused by me, the Soul, you provide an increasingly useful instrument for my expression on the physical, astral and mental planes. Your task is to become aware of me, the Soul, and to transmute your personality consciousness into Soul consciousness, while still preserving your personality consciousness.

Does this make sense to you, my beloved?

It surely does. Thanks for your answer. But I am not sure I like it that you call me your 'beloved'. On one hand I do, but on the other hand it sounds a bit too New Agey for me. But never mind, that would be an unimportant fling of me, your lower self, who still has a strong judge in him, which makes him focus sometimes on the minor things, which distracts him, me, from the essence.

Well, I think you hit a very essential point here. Your relationship with the word 'Love', a very essential issue if you ask me. You are a bit reluctant, or maybe awkward is a better qualification, towards this word. The love petals in me, your Higher Self, are not fully opened yet, although they may be more open than you might think. I want to stress the fact that you are loved, and loving, and love itself. You sometimes judge yourself as not very loving, but I would like you to reconsider your standpoint on this. Be aware of the fact that real love is an expression of me, the Soul. This has nothing to do with personality love.

Pfff, I will think about it, thank you. But for the time being I think I have to focus on the topic of this paper. You frequently used the term 'Egoic Lotus'. And I understood this Lotus is the form wherein your divine consciousness dwells, or more specifically: the consciousness of the Solar Angel. So it seems you are not exactly the same as the Egoic Lotus. This raises the next question:

Could you be more specific about what the Egoic Lotus actually is?

I would ask you to answer this question yourself and use some of the knowledge from the books of Alice Bailey for this. Reading books is not my thing, although I am aware of their content. Therefore, it seems a bit odd that I am going to quote from books. So give it a shot.

Okay, the ball is back in my field. As I become more infused by you, my Soul, and our collaboration builds greater quality into the Egoic Lotus, its petals become unfolded and radiate with great beauty and potency. In “*A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*” (TCF, p. 538-539) it is said that the Egoic Lotus is twelve-petalled with three knowledge petals, three love petals, three sacrifice petals, and three inner petals. The outer nine petals are unfolded in the evolutionary process, undergone on the three planes in the three worlds (physical-etheric, astral and mental). The opening of the three inner petals brings the revelation of the jewel in the Lotus, the withdrawal of that jewel from the Egoic Lotus, and its return to the Monad from whence it came. The jewel is now united with the Monad on the Monadic plane, which marks the most significant moment when the Monadic spark that was extended into the Lotus returns to its source, the Monad.

In ‘*Discipleship in the New Age I*’ (DINA I, p. 763) I read that the Egoic Lotus is also called the soul body. But I thought the Causal Body is the soul body. And I heard you mention the terms ‘Egoic Lotus’ and ‘Causal Body’ as synonyms.

Are the Egoic Lotus and the Causal Body exactly the same?

Read a little further my friend, you are on the right track.

In ‘*The Light of the Soul*’ (LOS, p. 39 and 212) I see that the Egoic Lotus is mentioned as a synonym in the same sentence as the causal vehicle or the Causal Body. On p. 212 it is literally said that “...*the ego, the soul, lodged in the causal body, or egoic lotus.*” So it seems that you, my Soul, are not entirely the same as the Egoic Lotus, because it is said here that the Soul is lodged in the Egoic Lotus. But the Egoic Lotus and the Causal Body seem to be the same.

Not too fast, dig deeper.

In “*Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle*” (TEV, p. 135) it is said that the Soul expresses itself through the three aspects of the Egoic Lotus: knowledge, love and sacrifice. So this indeed seems to indicate that the Egoic Lotus and the Soul are not the same. How confusing!

Yes, I understand it must be quite confusing for you. Here DK uses the word ‘Soul’ for the consciousness that utilizes the form, the Egoic Lotus. He uses the same term for different things, or for different aspects of the same thing, in the Alice Bailey books. But there are subtle nuances between all these words. And we are unraveling them together. Which is kind of fun, isn’t it?

Yes it is, although it is also a bit annoying sometimes, for me, the digging Capricorn personality with his concrete mind who likes to have things clear and concrete and well-structured.



Whatever, I go on. On page 151 of TEV *“the soul-body, the causal body or the egoic lotus”* are used in the same sentence as synonyms again. So I understand these are not the same as you, my Soul, but there seems to be no difference between the Egoic Lotus and the Causal Body.

You are still jumping a bit too quick. Keep on reading.

So there is a difference?

Yes, a slight one, and for you to describe. And maybe you can in the same time give a coherent definition of the Causal Body.

I cannot find the difference in the Bailey books, but when I try to think logically I guess that the Causal Body is a more appropriate term for the vehicle, or envelope, which contains the Egoic Lotus. The Causal Body stores one's virtues between incarnations, gradually accumulating experiences and improving over time, becoming ever more pronounced and vivid. The Egoic Lotus forms the radiant, unfolding and flowering part of the Causal Body and is the contact point of the Soul *within* the Causal Body. As the Causal Body evolves, its increased radiation and developing quality expresses as opening petals of the Egoic Lotus. Vice versa, with the unfoldment of the twelve petals of this Egoic Lotus the Causal Body grows in radiance and raises in frequency, and in the end it will dissolve. With this destruction of the form, or the Causal Body, the substance of the Egoic Lotus is liberated and returns to its source. Actually two liberations are taking place: a) the release of the jewel, which is the extension of the Monad into the Lotus; b) the substance of the Egoic Lotus is Solar Angelic substance, and when the Egoic Lotus is shattered it becomes reabsorbed into the Solar Angel.

*I'm impressed. I couldn't have said it any better. Try to put it **all** together in a compact summary and you're absolved.*

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The Soul is individualized as a Higher Self, or as the Ego with a capital E. It is the representative of our essence as long as we are human. It lives, or is settled in the Causal Body which gathers and stores virtues during many personality lives until all the petals of the Egoic Lotus, which is the expression of the Soul within the Causal Body, are fully opened.

At the 4th initiation the Causal Body will shatter and the substance of the Egoic Lotus is liberated. The personality will become infused by the Soul and will achieve Soul consciousness. The man, no longer a man, proceeds his evolutionary way into the next kingdom, the fifth kingdom of Souls.

So, the Soul is not our real essence. This is the Monad. While the consciousness part of the Soul is immortal, the form part, or the Causal Body/Egoic Lotus, is not. The Soul incarnates many times into different personalities, or lower selves, or egos with a small e, which live their lives on the three lower planes, struggling and thereby gathering the virtues to be stored in the Causal Body and unfolding the petals of the Egoic Lotus.

In the beginning the Higher Self or Ego is overshadowed by the Solar Angel, a great Being who is sacrificing himself to project a part of its consciousness into the Egoic Lotus and builds it out of its own substance. It ensouls it, as a consciousness it dwells within it, and it perfects it over many incarnations.

Amen. You are absolved.

Eric Huysmans,
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¹ Regrettably, or not, this book, with its English title, is in the Dutch language, and in this way of not much use to the great majority of my fellow students in the Ageless Wisdom.