

Article 54: A Little About Immortality -part 1

For a long time, religions have assumed that if you believe that at death you will inherit eternal life and happiness, you will not fear death ...and can, from this belief, live a more fulfilling and enriching life. Are you concerned about your own death ...or the death of another? Well, if in some way you were not concerned about or afraid of death, would the matter of immortality ever come up? If immortality exists, there is an aspect of you, frequently called soul, which continues after physical death, ...and this indicates that your everlasting soul is not some indivisible something that is perfect and unchanging, for your soul obviously learns and grows. Do you sense the soul of yourself which learns and grows? That ever-expanding soul offers meaningful immortality for you to accept or reject.

Can we **prove** that immortality or meaningful immortality is real? No, of course not, ...so consider this: If life does not continue after death, ...then immortality is of no concern, for nothing can be done to change that, ...and if life does continue after death, in one form or another (reincarnation, resurrection, afterlife, everlasting soul), then eternal life, being a fact, is of no concern. Now we are free to discuss immortality, ...and we'll start by saying that you grow old and die primarily because you see others grow old and die, but more than that, your judgments alone blind you to the truth of life ...and withhold your understanding of immortality.

After many years of being ever-faithful, overcoming desires, performing suggested rituals and ceremonies, doing good works, and releasing physical limitations through prayer and mediation, a seeker sought out an exceptionally wise holy man and asked him to reveal the "pathway to enlightenment and the key to everlasting life." The holy man, sensing the earnestness behind the question ...and without a word, took the seeker to a nearby river ...and waded waist deep into the icy water. Then, almost in a single motion, and without speaking, the holy man suddenly whirled around and forced the seeker's head under the water ...and held it there. Despite the seeker's desperate struggles to get free, the holy man held on tightly. Finally, when the seeker's lungs were about to burst, the holy man brought the head to the surface ...where the seeker gulped in the life-giving air.

After a brief moment of recovery, the holy man asked, "While I held you under the water, ...what did you want most of all? Was it enlightenment and immortality?"

"What did I want? I wanted air ...desperately! ...more than anything else, ...I wanted air. Nothing else mattered, ...but I had to get free of your grasp."

"That's certainly so," the holy man declared, "and when you want enlightenment and immortality as strongly as you wanted air, you will have them, ...but you must free yourself from the deadly grip judgments have upon your mind, ...just as I gripped you head."

Undesirable beliefs, thoughts, attitudes, emotions, experiences, and ways, all of which are founded upon judgments, do not attach themselves to you, you personally choose these things and continue living them, often until they create the entire environment of your self and life and become unwelcome disturbances in your mind and body and life, ...but this is a moment-by-moment choice, it does not come from previous experiences and teaching, from others, or even from tradition or society, ...and these are not given to you as tests or lessons, you alone are the creator and sustainer of these judgments, patterns, and burdens. It is your mental-inertia that chooses to endlessly re-create these undesirable beliefs, thoughts, attitudes, emotions, experiences, and ways instead of creating and living new, more enriching and fulfilling patterns with equal ease, ...and with lifeself-enhancing results. By holding onto previous patterns, especially of judgment, and the resultant experiences, even if they have failed to serve you, you alone withhold ever-growing, sustaining, and renewing immortality from your self and life.

You have an ever-creative mind,
use it!

The statement, *as old habits and judgments die, new life springs forth*, is more properly stated that *as new life springs forth, old habits and judgments die*. A close friend, suffering for years with severe asthma and deformed arthritic-hands, deciding she had had enough of staying at home struggling to tend to an ungrateful family, found that, when she divorced her husband and her ungrateful family to live her own enriching new-life, her asthma and arthritis eased dramatically, such that she could do things she hadn't done in years; and her attitudes (outpicturing as asthma) and her lack of fulfilling activities (outpicturing as arthritis) changed as well, ...such that she was more giving and forgiving. Obviously, by living her self and life anew, and not continuing her patterns of judgment, that had released much of the fear and tension she had held onto for years.

In much the same way, had Adam and Eve changed their life to live without judgments, they could easily have returned to the Garden in Eden and passed "the cherubims and the flaming sword which turned every way, to keep (protect) the way of the tree of life," ...which the Lord had set there. In other words, it was only their continuing to live by the fruits of judgment which deprived them of everlasting life.

People facing the reality of death
are often more-receptive to a new life
...and to letting go of their judgments,
which have slowly drawn the life from them.

It is said that a drop of water is not immortal ...simply because it can be reduced to hydrogen and oxygen; ...and if during the reduction process the water were to declare that it had a spiritual state of consciousness which would survive its reduction, you would probably scoff at such an idea, ...or at least be very skeptical. But maybe, just maybe, this is true, for as water may be converted to vapor that easily recombines as water and again reveals its essence or aqueousness, water may also be reduced to hydrogen and oxygen ...and be easily recombined as water ...to reveal its on-going or everlasting aqueousness, ...which was physically destroyed and reconstituted as water. Does this destruction of water through reduction to basic elements and their recombining to water constitute immortality? ...or the immortality you desire? If something in our example is missing ...it must be *memory*, for immortality without the awareness of immortality through memory has no real meaning.

It seems that the only question is, "Do the atoms of hydrogen and oxygen carry the memory of their previous combination and aqueousness? Are you the one to say no to this? ...and if so, how do you know? Are you the one to declare that since memory, and thus meaningful immortality, is a function of a brain ...and since neither hydrogen or oxygen have a brain, they cannot have memory or meaningful immortality?"

If so, remember that many materials exhibit memory, in that, if deformed, such as bouncing a rubber ball or bending metal, through memory on the cellular level, they tend to return to their original form. And if you re-form the ball or metal, they will take on the new memory, ...just as you do when living a new lifeseff or experience. Call it what you will, this is memory! And if you were to reduce the rubber ball or metal to their primary constituents ...and reconstitute those elements, ...wouldn't you expect the reconstituted ball to "remember" to bounce ...and the metal to "remember" to hold its form?

It appears then, that immortality, in any meaningful form, depends upon memory, for if immortality exists without memory, it has no meaning

or real existence; ...and all matter, in one form or another, exhibits memory. For example, Einstein spoke of "the spooky effect" ...in which he declared that if you split a particle and separate the halves an infinite distance apart ...and affect one part, the other half will simultaneously respond. Dr. Einstein declared that since there is no time delay between the two reactions, the parts cannot be communicating, ...therefore, the only reasonable conclusion is "spooky": ...that the parts "remembering" when they were one, react as one. This spooky effect reveals memory at the primary level of particles.

By any meaningful definition, reducing water to hydrogen and oxygen and reconstituting those elements as water with memory of its aqueousness, reconstituting rubber and other materials ...with the memory of their previous form or ability to act or respond in certain ways, and particles remembering their original oneness reveal the continuation of memory through death and resurrection. Through these processes, the atoms or particles remembered their nature or acquired form ...and in this revealed meaningful immortality. This is life everlasting! Or do you have a meaningful description of immortality which does not depend upon memory?