

224 What Is the Soul?

Quote from Lecture 111 *Soul-Substance --Coping with Demands*

31	<p>QUESTION: I would like a clear definition of what the soul is. I think it would clarify this lecture.</p>
32	<p>ANSWER: As you know, there are many interpretations of the soul, and they may all be quite accurate. If they seem contradictory, it is because words are too limited to describe a dimension inaccessible to human language. This is why higher dimensions can never be made accessible by verbal learning, but only by inner experience which, in turn, becomes possible only if and when inner errors and distortions are dissolved.</p>
33	<p>Let me explain the soul as we use it here. The soul is the sum total of the inner personality: the thinking, the feeling, the concepts, the potentials, the attitudes, the patterns, the characteristics, the temperament, the emotions, the idiosyncrasies -- everything that is behind the physical being. It also includes, of course, unresolved problems. But it does not include the cover-up for the unresolved problems, the pseudo-solutions, or the false defenses. They are not part of the soul itself. But the particular choice of the pseudo-solution is an expression, or manifestation, or indication, of the soul.</p>
34	<p>QUESTION: Karma, then, is the memory of the soul from former unresolved problems?</p> <p>ANSWER: I would not say memory. It is the result of all previous incarnations. Karma is the effect the soul has produced.</p>
35	<p>QUESTION: The sensitivity is carried along?</p> <p>ANSWER: Of course. The sensitivity, the perception, and the ability to experience. All these faculties have a progression. One person's sensitivity may be on the lowest note of the keyboard, another's on the highest. The latter may exist in a healthy or unhealthy way. Karma, as you know, is the result of everything up to the present point.</p>
36	<p>QUESTION: You gave attributes to the soul of a physical, material nature. You gave it roundness and malleability in a physical sort of substance. Is it localized like any other organ in the body?</p>
37	<p>ANSWER: No, it is not localized in that sense. It <u>is</u> a body, consisting of matter very similar to your earth matter, although not perceivable with your physical organs. As you know, and have often heard, it is a "subtle body." When I spoke of roundness, it does not mean it is a round form, like a ball. The surface of the subtle body can have all the attributes I discussed. You might best compare it with the consistency of skin</p>

	<p>and flesh, but the surface of the subtle body of the soul has much greater variety than physical skin and flesh. Words are so limited that they may often seem preposterous, but this is the best way of giving you an idea of what the soul-body may look like.</p>
38	<p>QUESTION: May I ask about the relationship between the subconscious and the soul?</p> <p>ANSWER: The soul <u>is</u> the unconscious mind. The unconscious motivations, attitudes, driving forces, and inclinations are from the soul and the deeper regions of the unconscious self belong to the real spiritual being and the real spiritual being is at home in the deeper regions of the unconscious self. However, the unconscious is only a part of the soul, much of it is conscious.</p>