

Zillions of Lifetimes

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I believe in eternal progression. Our inner drive is toward improvement—eternally, continually. We learn from our experiences, good and bad. Next time, we want to do better.

Our level of spiritual advancement did not suddenly arrive, *ex nihilo* (out of nothing), to where it is now. It was developed incrementally over eons.

When we incarnate, a veil is drawn on our memory of our previous existence. This enables that incarnation to serve well to test our spiritual stature for our best growth in that incarnation.

Before we incarnate, we sign off on the purpose ~~as~~ /objectives of our life, ~~to~~ having chosen to play a particular role on the planet, having been seen as qualifying for that role, and tailoring it to our specific needs for growth and testing. We purposely choose a life path that will ~~test~~ us up to our ability to ^{, not more,} endure[^], while also bringing ^{as} joy and fulfillment as we find and fulfill our life calling, ~~as~~ doing our part in the body of Christ.

What qualifies us for the role we select is our previous incarnations. The present circumstances of our incarnation can be misleading as to our true stature, ^{our} having chosen an extremely unsavory situation to overcome and rise above, with help from God.

Our incarnating did not start in human form, but spanned the full array of earlier-level forms of animals, fish,

birds, insects, microbes, plants, fungi, and even minerals, molecules, atoms, quarks, etc... Each incarnation enabled us to develop spiritual/soul abilities/acumen. Our present incarnation as humans benefits from those other incarnations.

This planet isn't the only place where we've incarnated. There are zillions of other planets out there very much like this one. ‡ The real estate for incarnation is unlimited. However, there are phases where we are tied to a group of incarnating souls to benefit from that group's development.

‡ (see my 8/20/22 editorial, "Zillions of F.T.s")

‡ Suicide is giving up on an incarnation and carries detrimental repercussions, not having carried out one's mission. It is murder of self, and is accompanied with intense grief for not carrying out the purpose for which one was born. Further growth cannot be accomplished until that life purpose is successfully accomplished (ergo, somewhere else)

A reason God didn't include reincarnation as part of the Christian belief system is that they would tend to live it up and procrastinate their repentance. They need the heaven/hell scare fest to keep them in line. That said, there are a few scriptures that are compatible with multiple lifetimes, including Matt. 16:13, 14; 17:10-13. And though Alma 40:5, 8, 10 is talking about resurrection, it also applies to reincarnation.

Resurrection is real, but it can be willfully escaped to do another incarnation.

Eternity is a long time. We don't stop improving. There are plenty of places to go for another chance.

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