

3. Souls living on Earth

Brussels 10-08-2006

If we are all spiritual beings having a human experience in a physical body, then who we are in this lifetime, as well as what other people mean to us, is simply a temporary illusion. For example, thinking that we know the people we feel close to is an illusion. We might know who they are in this life, their personality, their tastes, and the relationship they have with us, but we do not really know their soul (at least for the great majority), therefore we do not know who they really are. We don't know who they were and what they did during their past lives, or who they will be in their future lives, therefore we only know them on a superficial level. We feel attached to their identity in this current life, not realising that there is so much more to every individual than the illusive identity he or she has in this life.

Some people believe that souls tend to reincarnate in proximity with the souls they have had close bonds with in past lives. However, even if this were true, the kind of relationship we have with the same souls is probably different in every life, therefore the concept of romantic love, maternal and paternal love, sisterly and brotherly love, as well as friendship, is all an illusion because these kinds of relationships between two specific individuals exist only in a particular life time. This means that in reality each human being is alone in his or her path to ascension or enlightenment yet part of the bigger whole, and that human bonds are only part of our human experience on this earth.

Some ancient traditions stipulate that we do not only stay in proximity with the souls that we were close to during our other lives, but also with the ones that we have had a conflictive relationship with or have some kind of unfinished business from one or an accumulation of lives. Many times people feel a strong sympathy for a particular individual without knowing exactly why, and this is usually reciprocal; or vice versa, you may feel suspicious about someone, or even feel negativity towards that person even though he or she has not given you a reason to feel that way. This can be explained partly through this subtle aspect of things. Although we have little or no memory of our past lives (in the current state of humanity), our subconscious can sense certain things in certain situations; this could be why sometimes we "have a gut feeling" about certain issues or people in particular contexts.

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