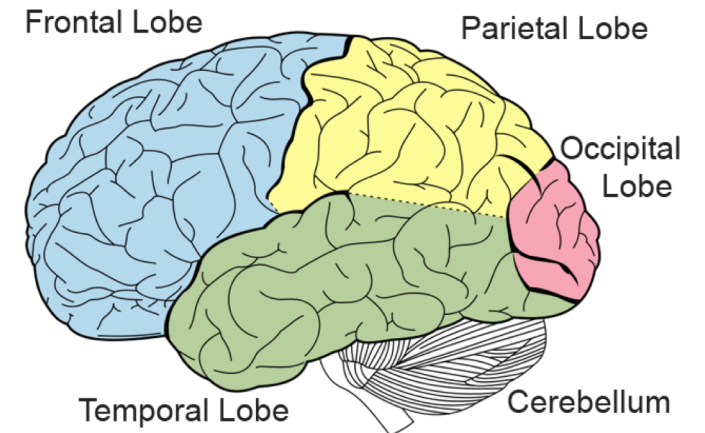


“DO WE HAVE A SPIRITUAL SOUL, OR IS THE BRAIN ITS MODERN EQUIVALENT?”



ROSMINI CENTRE
Saturday 13th February 2016



**Early engraving of a Soul leaving
the Body**

Until a few years ago, the belief that human beings were made of **body and soul** was strong and universal.

The ancient Greeks, the Egyptians, the Romans, and the whole variety of tribes and ethnic groups everywhere in the world affirmed without hesitation that we are made of body and soul and that **the soul is the highest part of us that survives after the death of the body.**

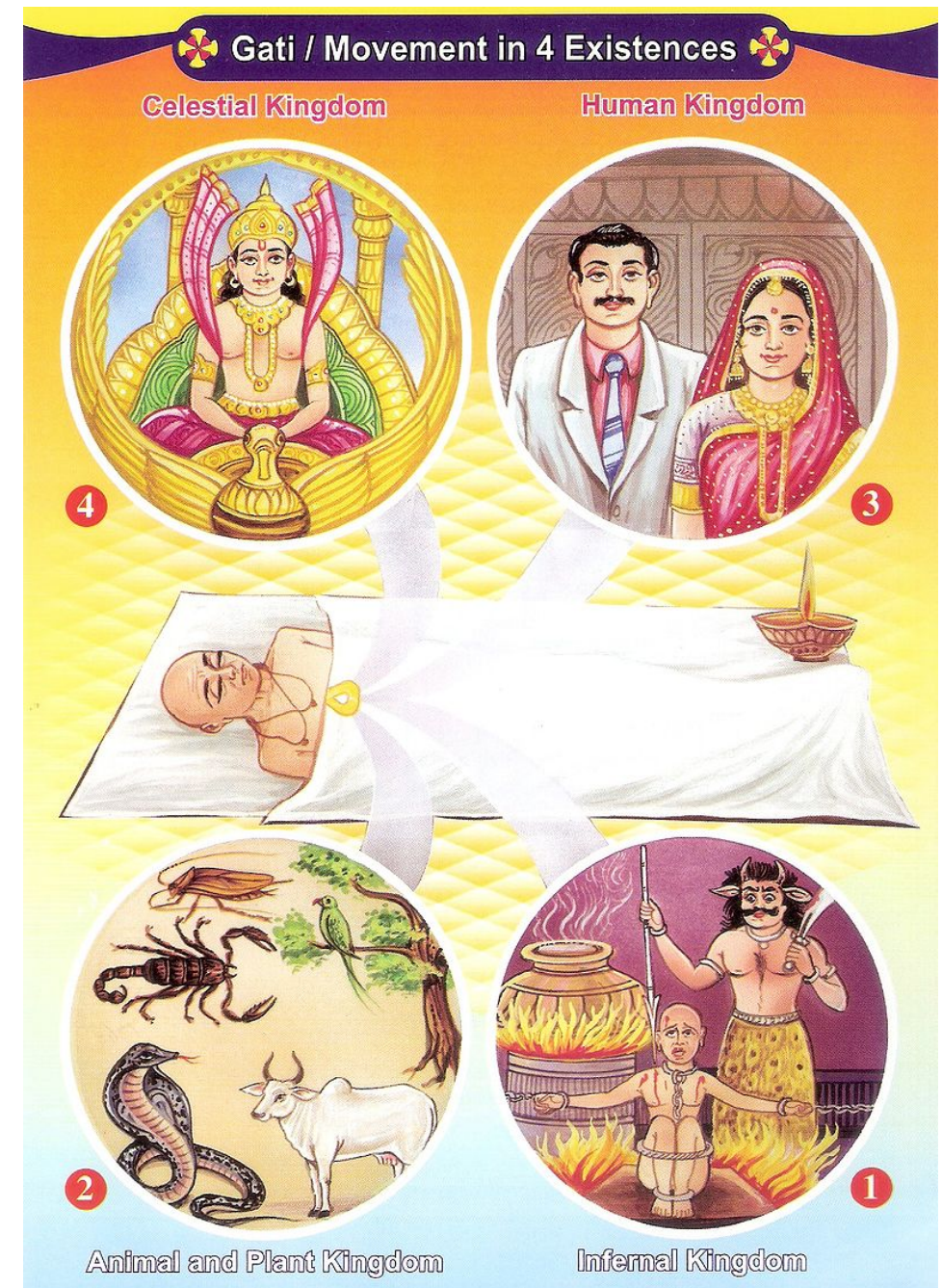


REINCARNATION

The word "**reincarnation**" derives from Latin, literally meaning, "**entering the flesh again**".

Reincarnation is the philosophical or religious concept that the soul or spirit, after biological death, can begin a new life in a new body. This doctrine is a central tenet of the Hindu religion.

The Buddhist concept of rebirth is also often referred to as reincarnation, and is a belief that was held by such historic figures as Pythagoras, Plato and Socrates



The Greeks believed that the Soul pre-existed the body. It was Plato who said that the Soul, once happy in Heaven, was punished by God because of sin and cast out into the prison of the body on earth. Death was seen as a happy release from this prison, the body, and a return of the soul to the blessed life in Heaven.

Paul had a very poor reception when he preached at Athens because he insisted on the “resurrection of the body” – a totally alien view for a Greek!

SOCRATES
explains
death as the
happy release
of the Soul
from the
terrible prison
of the body –
moments
before his
death.



For over 1500 years, there were no doubts in the Christian world that man/woman is made of SOUL and BODY, the SOUL being immortal, the BODY mortal.

Christians were well aware of JESUS' words:

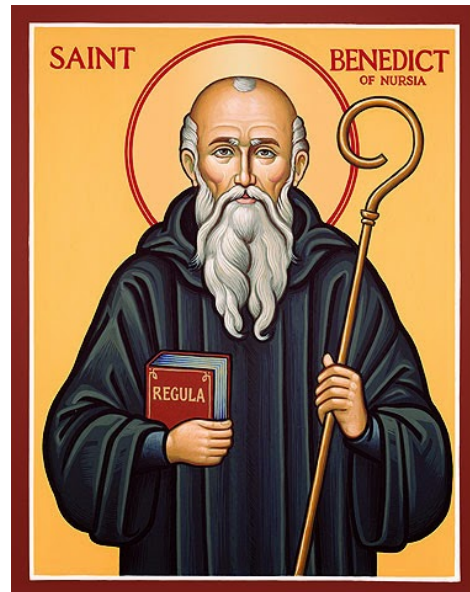
*“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own **soul**? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his **soul**?”* (Mark 8:36-37)

*“Do not be afraid of those who kill the **body** but cannot kill the **soul**; fear him rather who can destroy both **body and soul in hell**”* (Matt. 10:28)

Blessed Rosmini founded the Institute of Charity and the Sisters of Providence for one specific purpose:

“The end of the Institute of Charity is the SALVATION and PERFECTION of one’s own SOUL”

All Religious Orders have the same purpose: they differ from each other about the means of obtaining the salvation and perfection of the soul.



About 500 years ago, a French philosopher called **RENE' DESCARTES** tested this universal strong belief and reached the conclusion that it can be proven by strictly philosophical reasoning.

He preferred to use the word "**MIND**" rather than the word "**SOUL**" but by MIND he meant what we mean by SOUL. For DESCARTES, the **MIND was spiritual, immortal, indivisible, un-extended**; whereas the **BODY was material, mortal, divisible, extended**.

Modern philosophers have torn to bits DESCARTES' DUALISTIC definition of MAN (Body and Soul). In the process, they have eliminated the "**spiritual soul**" as a relic of superstition and ignorance.

A serious moment of crisis for Descartes:

“How do I know that all that I have learned in my life so far is actually true? Could it be that there is no truth at all?”

To overcome the doubt, Descartes locked himself in a cabin and began assessing all his knowledge to see whether it was true or false.

In this cabin, Descartes wrote the book, **Meditations**, in which he described his journey from doubt and scepticism to the splendour of truth.



A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR DESCARTES

When all certainties have disappeared, all of a sudden, Descartes discovers ONE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH which cannot be shaken in any way. He comes to realize that, even in the depths of his doubt, there is something which is absolutely CLEAR and DISTINCT to the mind, and which is free from any doubt.

This something is the fact that in order to doubt he has to think and that he cannot doubt without thinking. Therefore, in the fact of THINKING as he doubts, he discovers the first truth:

COGITO, ERGO SUM!

i think
therefore
i am

—René Descartes



© Original Artist
Reproduction rights obtainable from
www.CartoonStock.com

search ID: jco0242

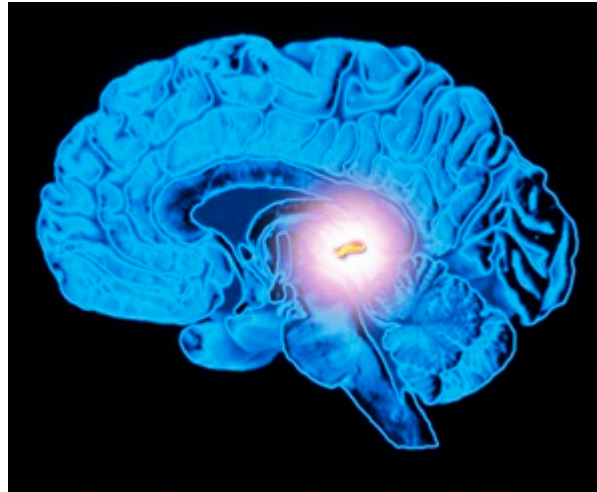
DESCARTES' conclusions:

1. The essence of a human being is the **MIND** (spiritual and immortal);
2. It is easier to prove the existence of the **MIND** than of the **BODY** and of the **WORLD**;
3. The human being is made up of TWO substances (**MIND and BODY**), which have opposite qualities;
4. The **MIND** and the **BODY**, although two opposite substances, **interact** and work together;
5. There is **GOD**, who is the guarantor that what we see clearly and distinctly to be true is really true.

We are essentially MIND, since thinking [cogito] is the first certainty we have. The body is not necessary, I exist as Mind even without the body. Only in Meditation 6, Descartes succeeds in proving the existence of the Body.

Man is, therefore, made up of MIND and BODY: the Mind is spiritual, thinking, immortal; the Body is mortal, material, unthinking. We are made up, therefore, of TWO substances opposite to each other in their qualities.

Yet, Descartes claims that Mind and Body interact intimately, via the PINEAL GLAND in the Brain.



PINEAL GLAND



Rene' DESCARTES

DUALISM = MIND + BODY



MIND

What is the situation TODAY about Body and Soul?

Modern Philosophy has launched a powerful attack on Descartes' Dualism, and on the idea of the SOUL as a spiritual entity different from the Body.

The prevailing view TODAY is that we are simply **"MATERIAL"** beings, made up of **ONE substance, MATTER**. There is no place for a separate "spiritual" substance we call Mind or Soul.



“There is no ghost in the machine”, said G Ryle;

“There is no central core in us called I” said Hume and A.J. Ayer;

“We are our behaviour”, said Ryle, adding that it is a big logical mistake to believe that there is an “inner soul” or “inner mind” that feels or thinks. We are entirely “public” beings, reachable in every part by SCIENCE.

“Our MIND is our BRAIN”, said the Churchlands; one day we shall be able to capture in photographs each of our thoughts, feelings, wishes.

“We are no more than very sophisticated computers, with a hard drive (the Brain) and software (the Mind)”: one day we shall have computers so powerful that we will be lucky if they will allow us to serve as household pets!!

A.J. AYER



G RYLE

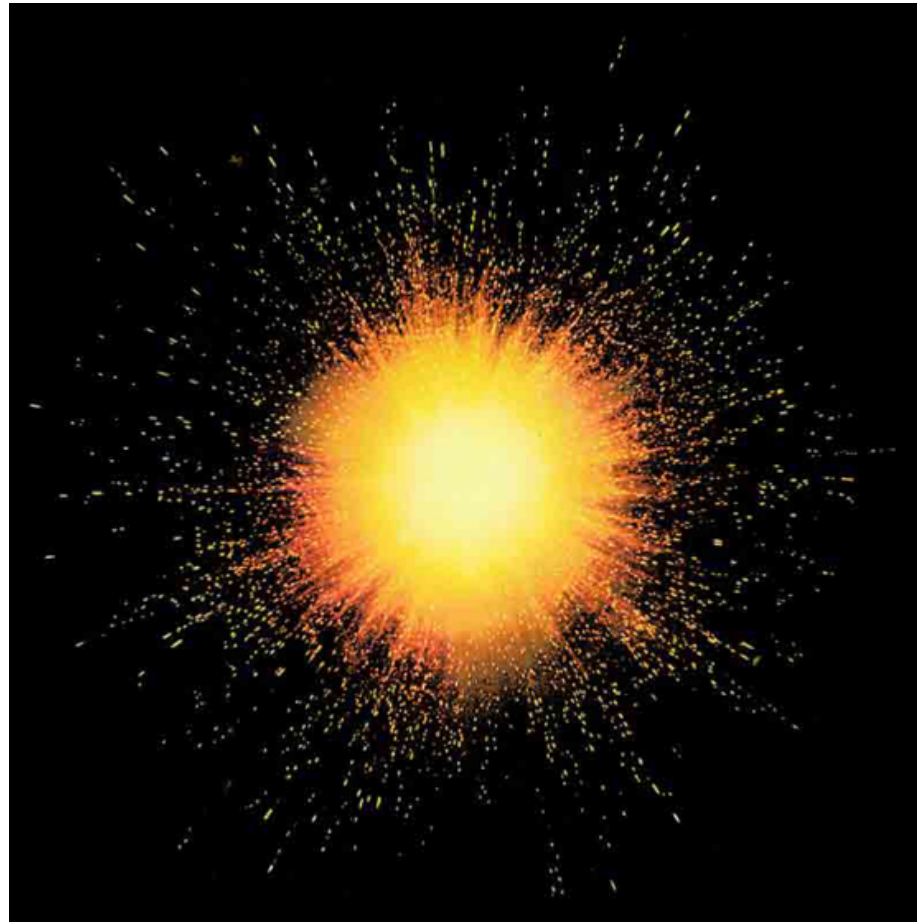
Ancient human beings used “gods” and “spiritual souls” to explain what they could not understand.

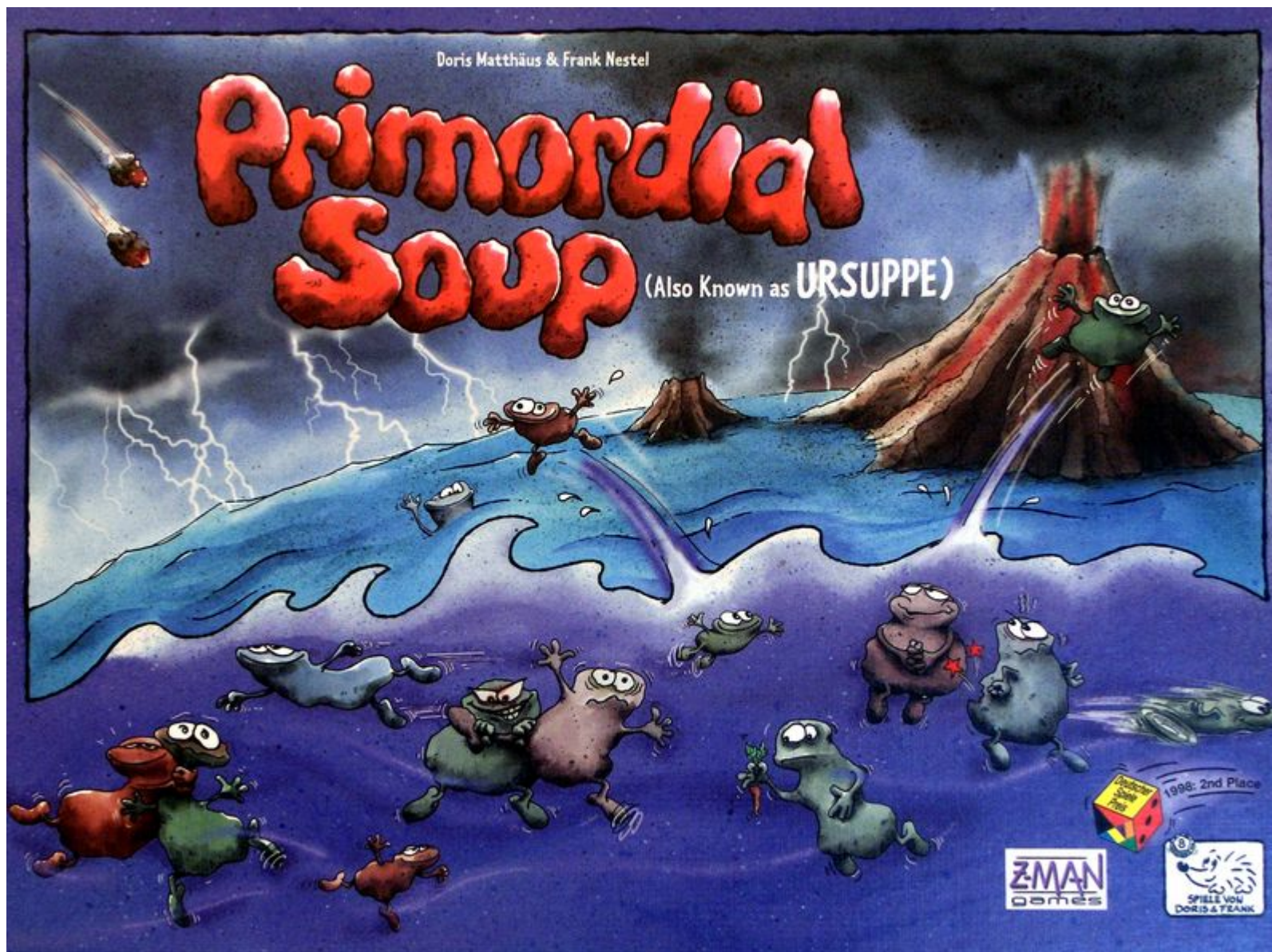
From **Polytheism** they advanced to the belief in one God, **Monotheism**, who could provide explanations for what they found mysterious and inexplicable.

Now we have **SCIENCE**, which has been extremely successful in providing answers, and will continue to do so. There is no longer any need to believe in a spiritual God or in a spiritual soul.

SCIENCE is based on observation, on facts, on verifiable hypotheses. **SCIENCE** is public, the whole universe is the object of its investigation.

The **BIG BANG** was caused by **MATTER** (Hydrogen and Helium). The whole **UNIVERSE** evolved from **MATTER**. Even “organic life” evolved from the primordial soup of inorganic matter. The idea of a “spiritual substance”, like the **SOUL** or the **MIND**, goes against the evidence provided by **EVOLUTION**. How can one “prove” scientifically that we have a “spiritual” Soul?



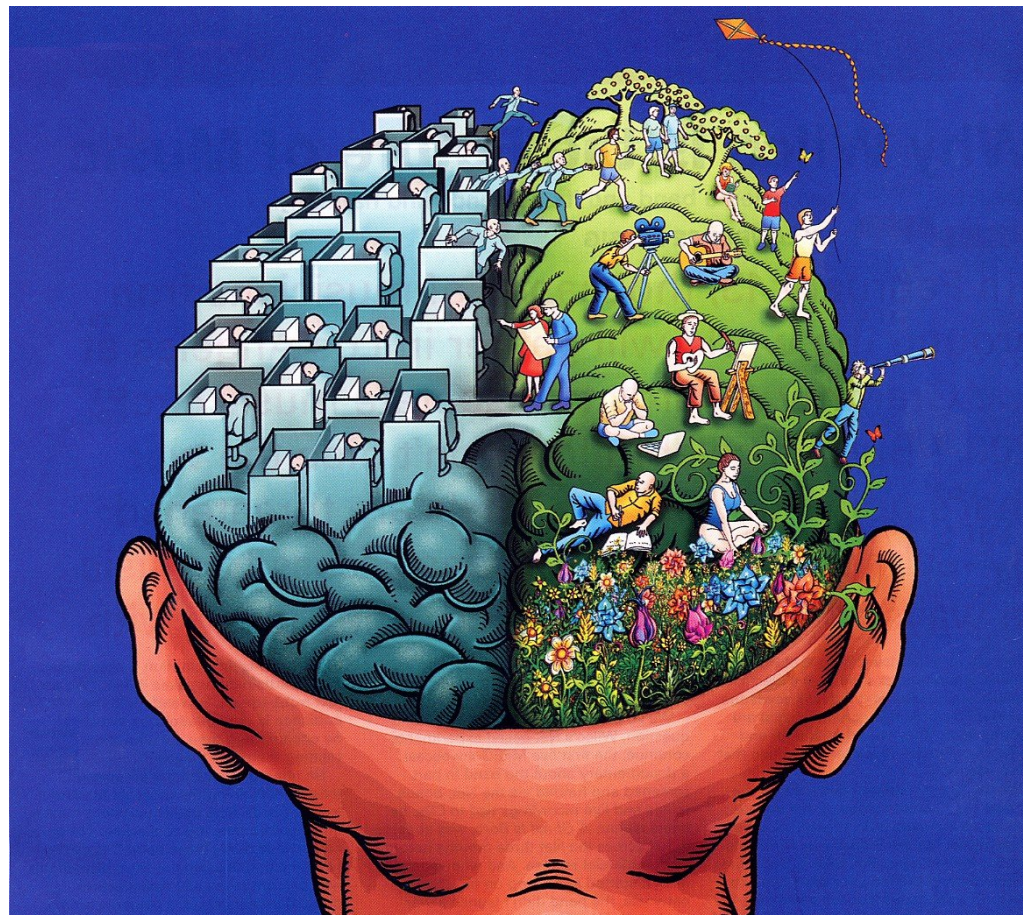


DID LIFE EVOLVE FROM MATTER?

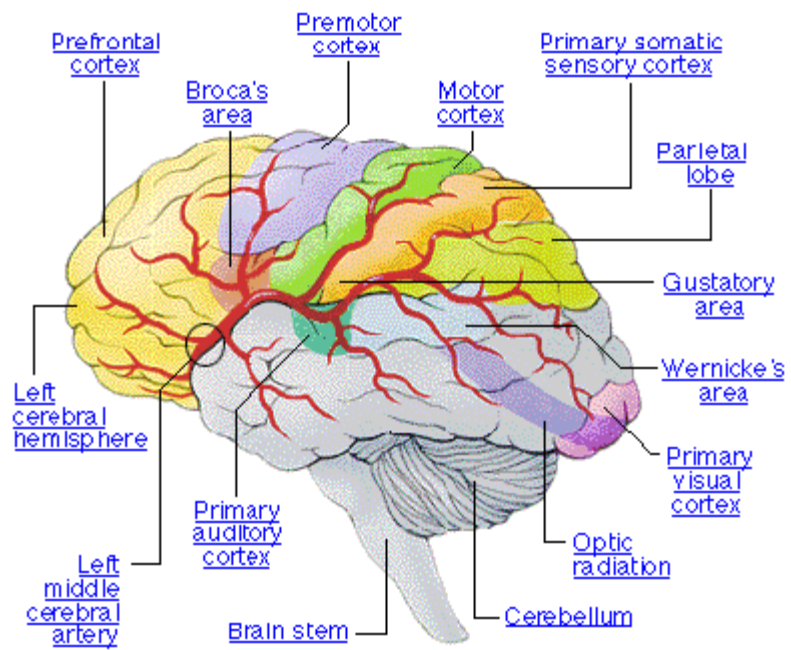
The prevalent philosophical view of the soul/mind today is essentially materialist, and all efforts are directed at acquiring a deeper understanding of the workings of the brain.

Few philosophers today doubt that the brain is the seat of all mental phenomena which will find a full explanation through science. The brain contains more than 100 billion nerve cells and each of these electrically-active units can be connected with up to 10,000 others – creating a structure of mind-boggling complexity.



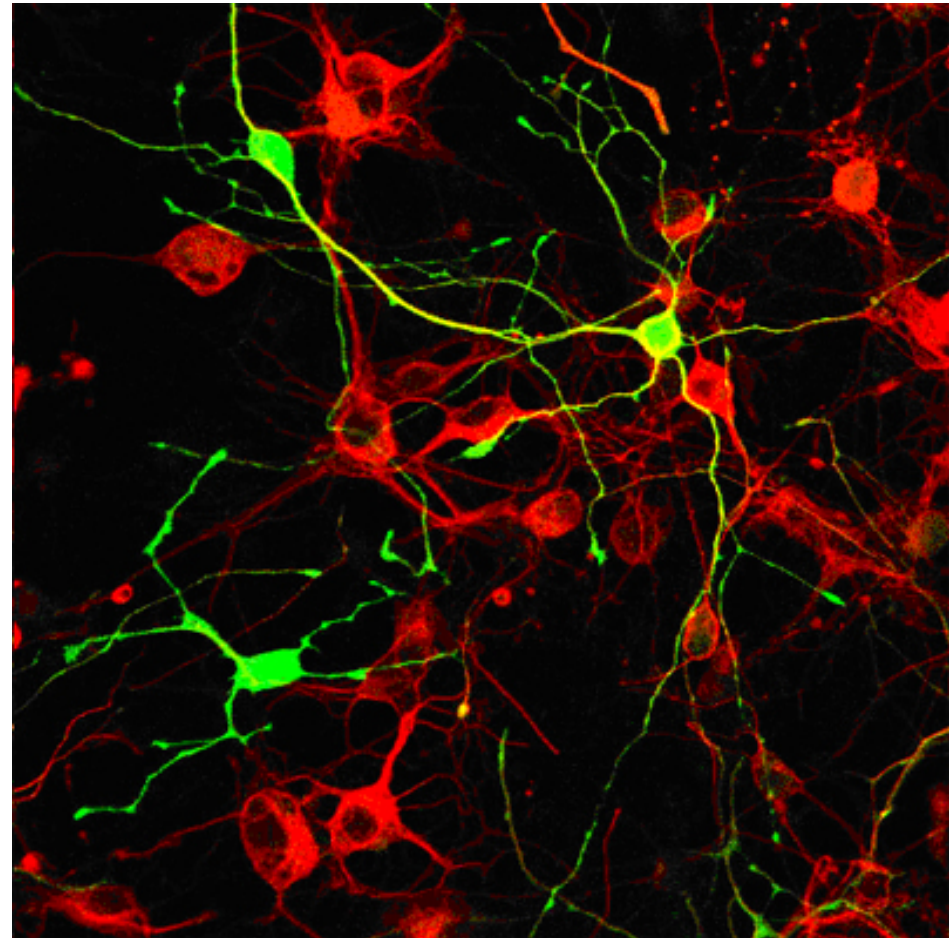


Scientists believe the human brain represents one of the last great mysteries of biology. If it can be understood – they claim – then we might finally know the true nature of consciousness, a concept that is at the heart of the philosophical debate over what it means to be humans.



A mysterious world

NEURONS



MODERN THEORIES OF MIND:

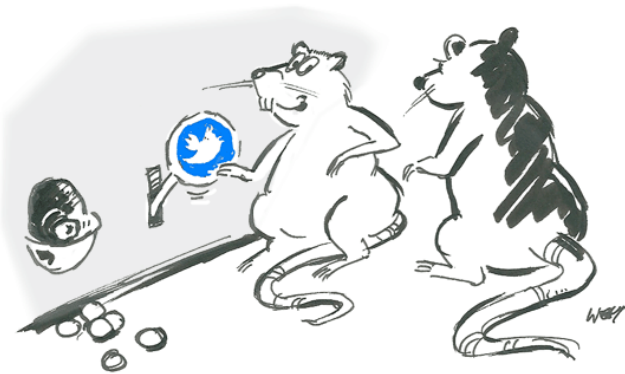
EPIPHENOMENALISM

MIND=BRAIN

IDENTITY THEORIES

BEHAVIOURISM (Logical and Psychological):

STIMULUS and RESPONSE

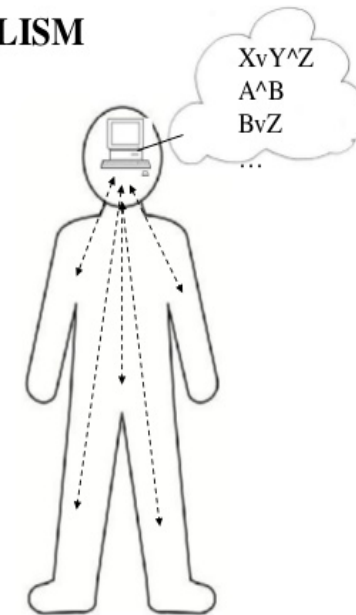


This is brilliant! Every time I press this button I get a reward.

FUNCTIONALISM

– Computational Functionalism/
RTM

- How mind and body communicate: beliefs and desires are information, represented by symbols, and symbols are physical states of a processor, and the processor is connected to the muscles of the body.



58

STIMULUS – PROCESSING - RESPONSE

If there is no SOUL, then we have problems...

Who does the thinking in us? Who or what in us feels pain, joy, sorrows?

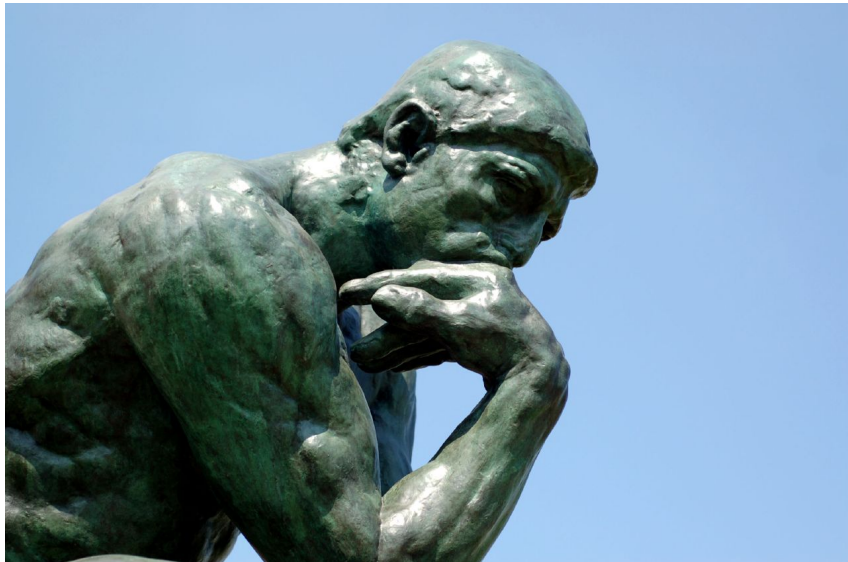
How can MATTER be free?

How is MORALITY possible? MATTER is under the rule of physical LAWS!

Why should MAN be more valuable than a STONE? Both are made of MATTER!

If everything is MATTER then there is no GOD!

What does it mean to say that thoughts, feelings, desires, beliefs, art, etc. are made of MATTER?

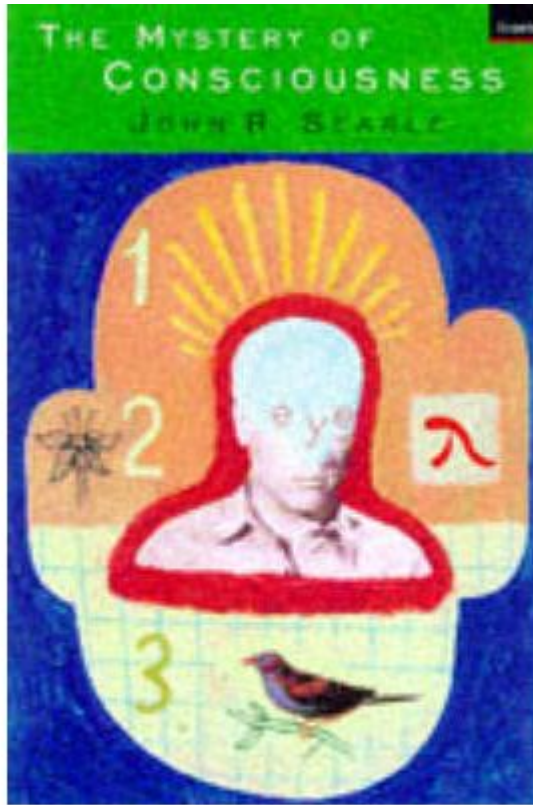




J. Searle is a highly respected modern American philosopher. It is his opinion that the **modern philosophy of mind** has gone seriously wrong.

Common sense sides with him in his condemnation of theories that deny the existence of **truly spiritual experiences** like **consciousness, intentionality, subjectivity, and mental causation.**

He defines all crudely materialistic theories of mind as **nonsense.**



***BUT, how can
MATTER generate
SPIRIT???***

*His own theory, however, does not live up to expectations. He makes the **spiritual** mind “**emerge**” from matter (the **BRAIN**), and as it emerges, it takes on completely different characteristics, **spiritual** ones.*

He does not explain how this “spiritual” is generated by the material, except to say that a great number of things in the universe present similar irreducible features when looked at the **micro** and the **macro** level of their organisation: the transparency of glass, the liquidity of water, the solidity of the table are all irreducible features at the **macro** level of matter. At the **micro** level, the atoms of glass, water, table, cannot be transparent, liquid, solid.

BRAIN=Micro level; MIND=Macro level.



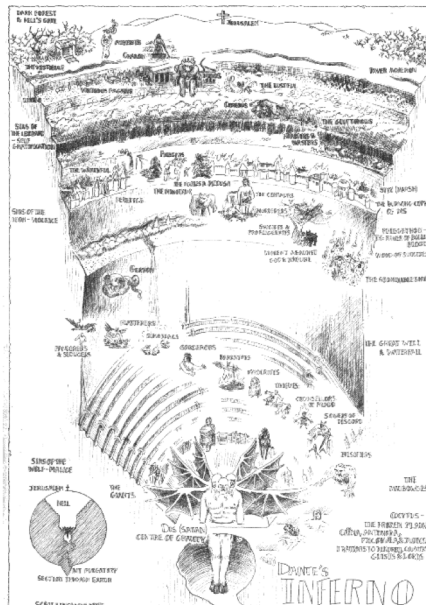
Water at the micro-level is H_2O ; but at the macro-level has qualities like fluidity, transparency, of a very different nature. So is for the “glass” or for “fire” and many other objects.



It has been the constant view of Christianity that human beings are made up of Body and Soul, the **body being material and mortal**, the **soul being spiritual and immortal**.

Christianity has also proclaimed the **existence of the “after-life”**, Heaven or Hell, where body and soul will be “re-united” at the resurrection of the body.

At death, the body disintegrates into corruption, but the Soul continues its existence in the presence of God – in the joy of Heaven or in the suffering of Hell. Purgatory is a preparatory stage on the way to Heaven for Souls who are in need of further purification.



What is the SOUL?

Many people believe in the existence of the soul, but they would have great difficulty in trying to express their views on what the soul actually is.

Some may say that the soul is a spiritual “something” present in each person and created directly by God.

They would also readily agree that we do not know much else about the soul, which remains in their minds as a mysterious ghostly presence that detaches itself at death flying to God, perhaps through a tunnel at the end of which there is a great light.

Yet, the SOUL is the most common reality of our being, is what makes us *“alive”* from the very first moment of our conception.

We affirm our SOUL every time we say *“I”*, or talk about ourselves and our perceptions of the world.

Far from being a mysterious ghost, the SOUL is at the very centre of our every day life. Rosmini claimed that we have far more evidence for the existence of the SOUL than we have for the body, and that it is not the case that the SOUL is in the body but that the body is in the SOUL.

Without the SOUL the body would be dead: where does this leave all modern theories that eliminate the spiritual soul?

“I see, I hear, I speak, I think”: it is the SOUL reflecting on its activities and affirming itself by means of language or of actions.

The SOUL is MYSELF, a feeling being in its fundamental corporeal feeling, in its fundamental intellectual feeling, and in its fundamental feeling of freedom and of volition.

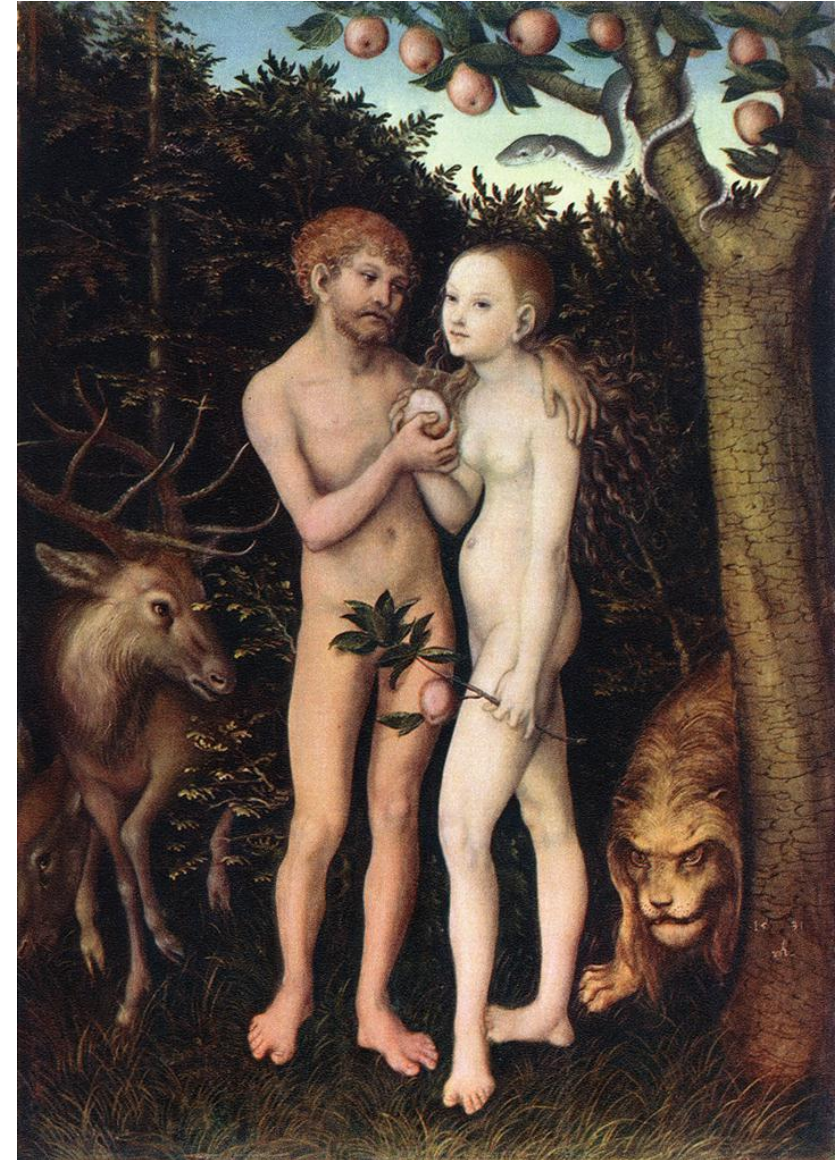
The most powerful
weapon on earth is
the human soul on
fire.

Ferdinand Foch

Let us try to understand what the SOUL is. All **living** beings have SOULS. The soul is what makes a being “**alive**”.

ANIMALS have souls, since they are “**alive**”. To be alive is to “**feel**”, is to be “**sentient**” beings. The SOUL in animals is their “**feeling**”: that which feels is the SOUL.

The SOUL is that which feels, in animals and in human beings.





The SOUL in a HORSE is “that which feels”, i.e. that which sees, hears, smells, touch, savours; that which follows its powerful “instinct” to seek pleasure and to recoil from pain.

The horse is a “feeling” subject, and its SOUL is the “fundamental feeling” it has from the moment of conception: it is because the SOUL is a constant fundamental feeling that the horse is able to feel all its particular sensations.

The SOUL in Human Beings is “that which feels”, is the “fundamental feeling” we have from conception. It is the constant feeling of ourselves, of every part of our body, that makes us “alive”.

It is the SOUL that has all the various “sensations”; it is the SOUL that is driven by instinct to pursue pleasure and to avoid pain.

At conception, we are at once “feeling beings”: we feel our body, and the world around us, we feel intellectually, though not consciously, and we feel our freedom and our will, though, yet again, unconsciously.

Notice that, unlike the impossible problem of dualism of Descartes, we are one subject who feels in three ways.

BUT, the HUMAN SOUL is infinitely different from the pure “animal” Soul, in that it has essential qualities unique to human beings. The Human Soul is a fundamental feeling but is also an INTELLECTIVE, VOLITIVE SOUL.

The HUMAN SOUL has the constant vision of BEING, which makes it intelligent. From the moment of conception, the Human Soul has the vision of the IDEA of BEING, which is the *“light that enlightens every man that comes into this world”*.

Whereas animals are driven exclusively by instinct, remaining in total darkness concerning “understanding”, “knowing”, “being intelligent” etc. the SOUL of the HUMAN Being is INTELLIGENT and HAS WILL and FREEDOM.



The **SOUL in ANIMALS** is spiritual – it is a **corporeal fundamental feeling**, i.e. the animals **feel constantly their bodies** and the world around them.

FEELING is always a passive faculty. The active faculty is **INSTINCT**.

In HUMAN BEINGS, the SOUL is

A **corporeal** fundamental
feeling

An **intellective** fundamental
feeling

A **volitive** fundamental
feeling

The Fundamental feeling is the
passive faculty.

The Will is the **active** faculty.

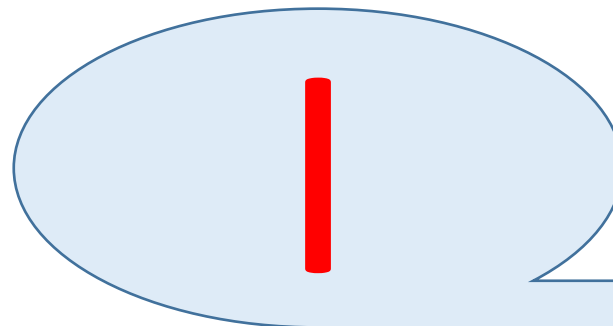


Whenever you say “I”, the “I” is your SOUL speaking and being aware of itself. How many times do you say “I” during the day? It is your SOUL that says what it feels!

“I see the rose, I smell its scent, I feel its velvet petals, I admire its beauty”, are all statements issued by the SOUL that sees, smells, feels, admire.

The SOUL is in every part of the body, giving it life, and feeling it in a constant manner.

The SOUL is ONE: it is the same SOUL that feels, thinks, wills, desires, plans, sees, hears, etc. This is one of the reasons why the SOUL CANNOT BE MATERIAL.

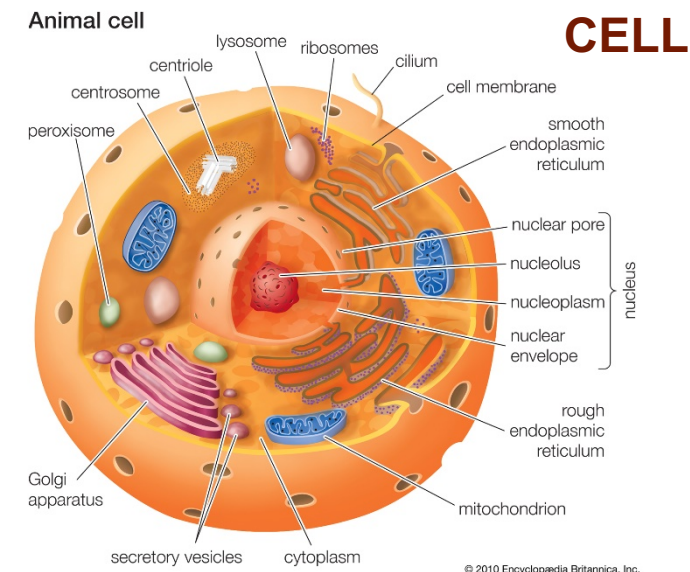
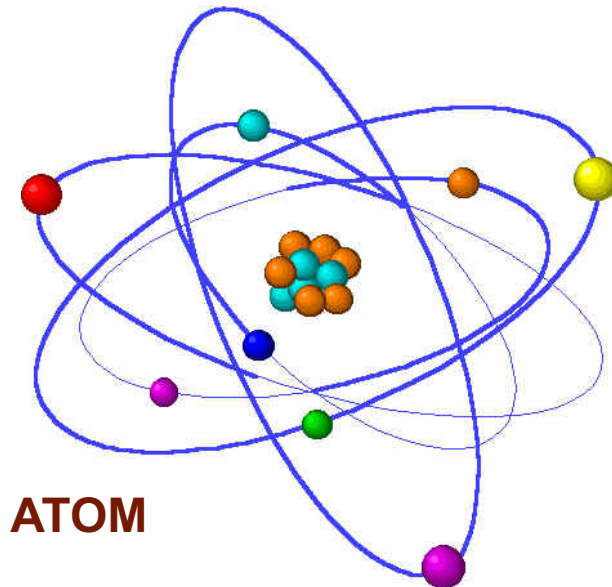


Matter is, by definition, extended and therefore divisible. Each particle of matter is outside every other.

A “cell” in your foot is outside a “cell” in your nose and there cannot be direct communication and feeling of one by the other.

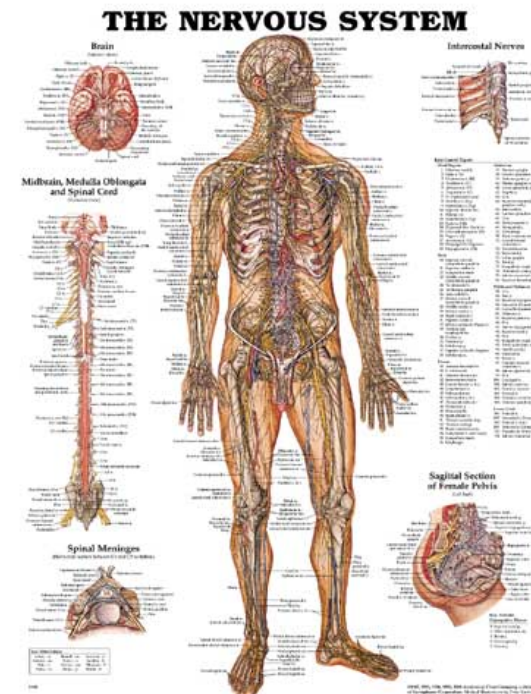
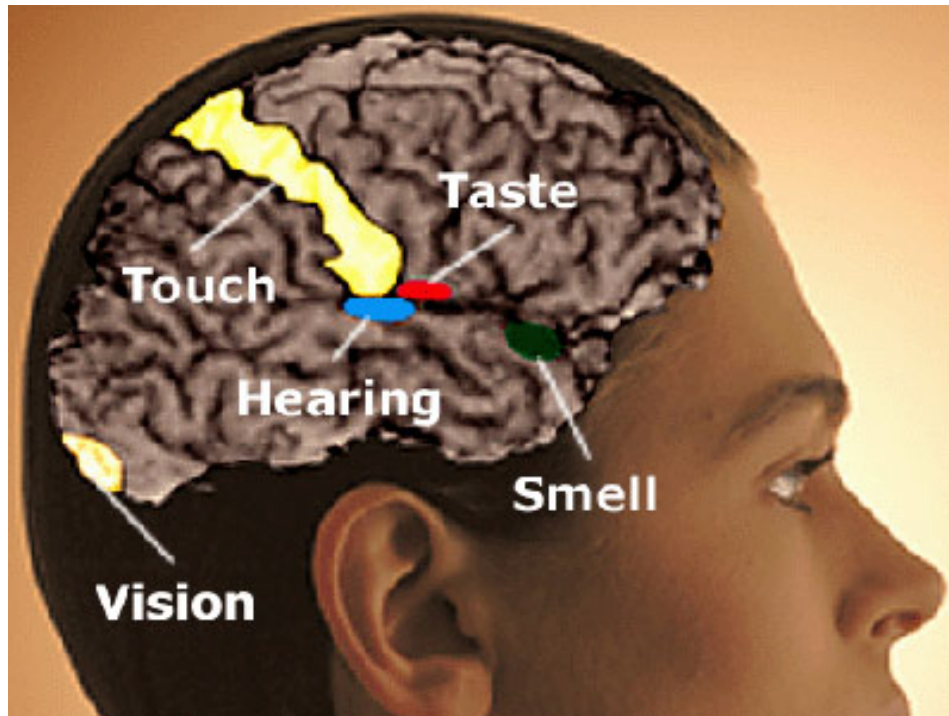
That which feels must be spiritual – not made of matter – so that it may encompass every particle of matter, feeling it, in the unity of the whole body.

The body is made up of billions of cells, separate from each other; **the SOUL is ONE, and it must be “spiritual” if it is to “feel” the whole body.**



When you say “I”, you experience yourself as **ONE** being. Your “I” has an infinite number of different sensations, yet you know you are ONE. It is this ONE that feels every sensations, knows what it knows, wills, and desires that is your unique, private SOUL.

What about the **BRAIN** and the nervous system? They reach every part of the body, and they, perhaps, do what is attributed to a spiritual SOUL!?



But both the **BRAIN and the Nervous System** are made up of infinitely small particles of chemical matter, one outside every other. Imagine billions of atoms, one in its own entity: **they stay divided, and one cannot “feel” what every other of the billions of atoms is “feeling”!**

It is only something of a different nature than “matter”, that can “feel” what is happening in the billions of individuals atomic particles of matter.

If you keep in mind that the **SOUL** is that which feels and that **MATTER** is that which is being felt then the puzzle of the composition of the Human Being (and of animal) is solved: **SOUL and BODY**, spiritual and material.

The **BRAIN** and the Nervous System are the **MEANS**, the **CHANNELS** whereby the spiritual **SOUL** feels the body. So it is the **SOUL** that feels pain, not the brain; it is the **SOUL** that thinks, loves, is sorry, is happy – not the brain. The **BRAIN** is a **TOOL** used by the **SOUL**.

Rosmini proves that we have a “fundamental feeling” of ourselves since conception.

“Life”, for Rosmini, is the intimate conjunction of spirit and matter, of soul and body, which produces this fundamental feeling that remains constant and permanent until there is life.

This fundamental feeling is at the basis of all other particular feelings which are felt in a part of the body simply because the whole body is constantly felt by the fundamental feeling.

The fundamental feeling is the feeling of our body reached by the nervous system, through which we feel our own life. It is through this feeling that we have a most intimate and unique perception of our own body which we feel as one entity with us.

If we did not feel our body in a constant and permanent way we would have great difficulty in explaining how we become aware of particular sensations in parts of our body; if we admit to its existence then it becomes clear that since we feel our body in a constant way we immediately become aware and feel the particular sensation that alters the status of the fundamental feeling in that part of the body.

It is true that it is very difficult to become aware of the fundamental feeling which is innate and constant. But having a feeling and being aware of it are two different things.



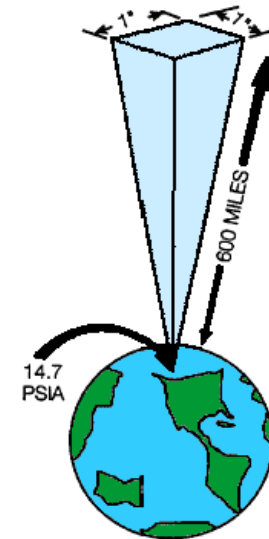
Rosmini suggests an exercise to try to catch this fundamental feeling:

Put yourself in a dark, peaceful place and keep still for a long time, trying to rid your mind of images and ideas of things; you will notice then that you can no longer perceive the boundaries of your body, the location of your hands, feet, and of all other parts. At that stage you should begin to perceive this fundamental feeling of the life of your body.

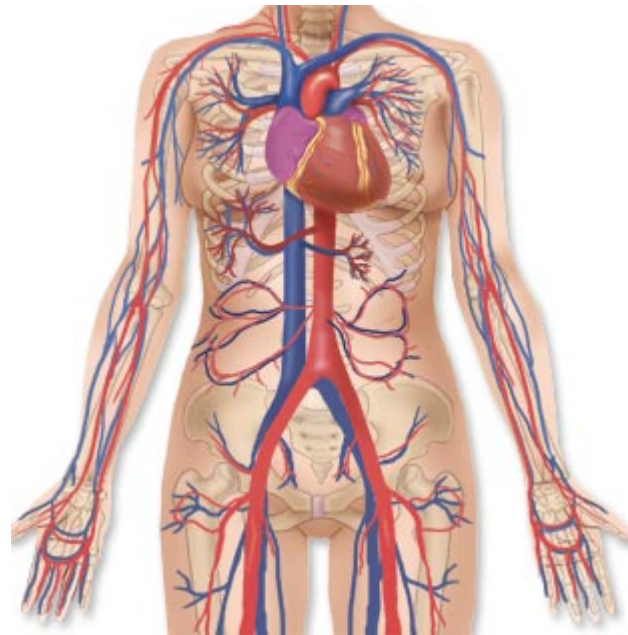


Rosmini uses four examples to help us understand how difficult it is for us to be constantly aware of the presence of the fundamental feeling.

Our body is pressed from all sides by the **atmospheric pressure**, yet we are not aware of such force on us until we experience a change in pressure, as it happens when we climb high mountains or we dive at great depth into the sea. We feel the alteration simply because we feel constantly, but without noticing, the normal weight of the atmosphere.



The **circulation of the blood** causes a constant feeling to which we are so used that we do not notice it, until some sudden surge in the speed and power of the circulation makes us advert to what normally we do not pay attention.



The feeling of the **temperature of the body** is not commonly noticed, until it varies for some reason, and then we do feel the change.

The **force of gravity** pulls constantly all our molecules towards the earth, but we do not notice it, unless there should be a sudden change in the force of gravity that causes us to become aware of it.



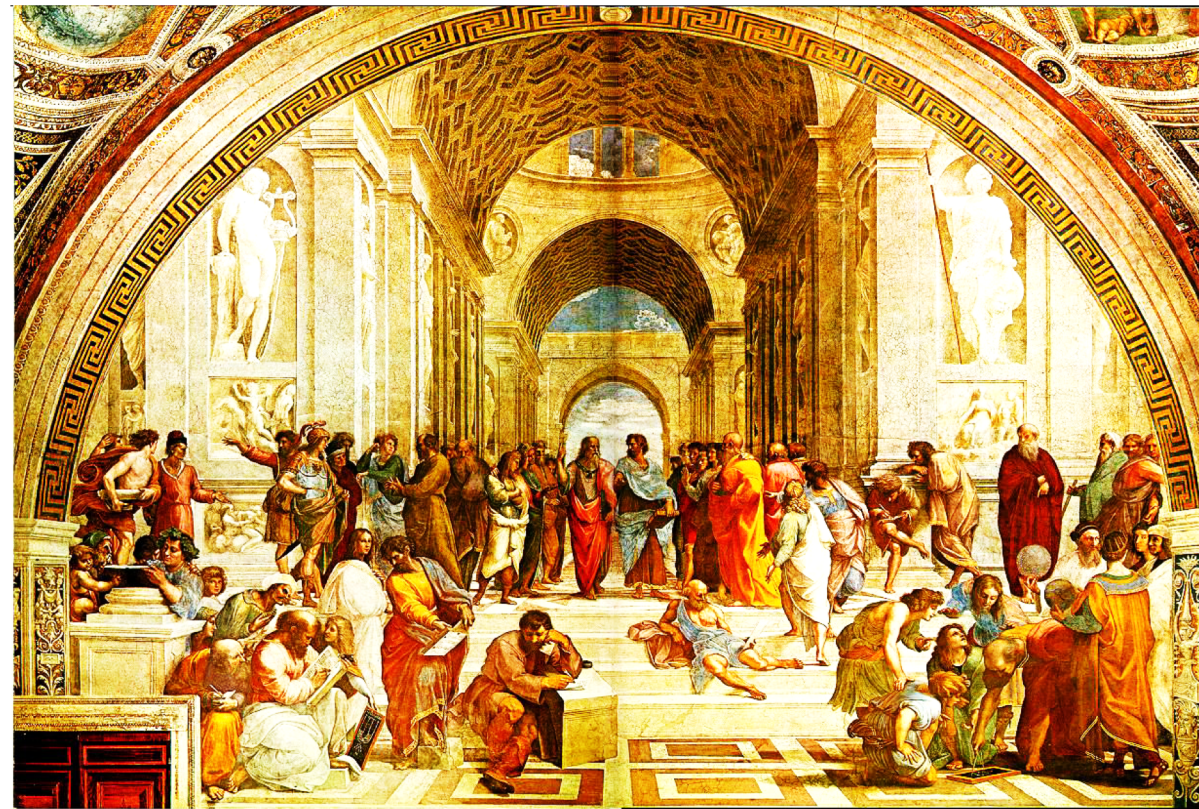
Why gravity was not discovered in Tahiti.

Based on an idea submitted by Zachary H. Levine and Ellen S. Levine

DEFINITION OF MAN

Plato had defined the human subject *“an intelligence aided by organs”*, and **Aristotle** provided the definition which was adopted by the Scholastics, *“The human being is a rational animal”*.

Of the two, Aristotle’s definition is by far the better; it ignores, however, the active part of the human being which is the will, and it neglects the fact that the intellect precedes reason.





ROSMINI's Definition

Rosmini provides two definitions of the human subject, the second of which is a more detailed explanation of the first.

1- The human being is an intellective and volitive animal subject.

2- The human being is an animal subject endowed with the intuition of indeterminate ideal being and with the perception of its own corporeal fundamental feeling, and operating in accordance with animality and intelligence.

The Human Subject is a PERSON, of an infinite dignity

The PERSON is the INTELLECTIVE, VOLITIVE SUBJECT endowed with FREEDOM

The seat of PERSONHOOD is the **Free WILL**

The PERFECTION of the PERSON is acquired by a WILL that is GOOD

EDUCATION in the family and in the schools should aim at making the WILL GOOD

Distinguish between **NATURE** and **PERSON**:

NATURE is the sum of all “natural” endowments, talents, dispositions (good at Maths, at Music, at Sports; good at a profession – good doctor, good scientist, etc.)

PERSONHOOD resides in the free, intelligent WILL (a good person is a highly moral person).

Do animals have souls? Yes, indeed; they are animals because they have a feeling soul. Are the souls of animals immortal?

*Death is the separation of the soul from the body, hence, once the body corrupts and disintegrates, once the body can no longer be “felt” by the soul, then even the “feeling” principle ceases to exist. **The soul of the dog or of the cat ceases to exist at the moment of the breaking up of the intimate union of that which feels and that which is felt, the soul and the body.***

There is no soul of the cat or of the dog that survives death, hence souls of animals do not go to heaven!

*However, Rosmini says that the soul in animals is a simple, spiritual principle that cannot die: the soul in a dog feels all molecules of the body, and when the body breaks up, **by multiplication**, the soul uses as that which is felt whatever matter is sufficiently organized to be felt.*

Hence the soul of the dog is no longer the soul of the dog but becomes by multiplication souls of many aggregates of matter that can be felt, clearly at a stage of organization which is very basic and primitive.

The human soul is immortal

The soul is a substantial feeling. The feeling of the animal soul is purely corporeal. The feeling of the human soul is not only corporeal, but also intellectual and volitive.

We have seen how intimate and essential is the connection of the soul to the body. Feeling requires “that which feels” and “that which is felt”, the soul and the body.

The felt body cannot exist without the feeling soul and the feeling soul cannot exist without the felt body. We have also seen what happens to the soul of the animal when its body dies. But what happens to the soul of the human being?

When the body dies, the human soul retains its identity by the continuous presence to itself of the idea of being, and in the idea of being it sees all its cognitions, perceptions, and memories.

The immortality of the human soul is real and is depending on the fact that our soul has been made intelligent and has ideal being as the constant object of its vision, an object which is infinite, universal, divine.

Through the vision of this object, the soul can also see all other personal characteristics, ideas, and affections that contribute to its own unique identity and individuality.

The Human Soul is IMMORTAL because the IDEA of BEING is IMMORTAL, coming from the ETERNAL GOD. The Idea of Being is in us from the moment of conception, and for all eternity.

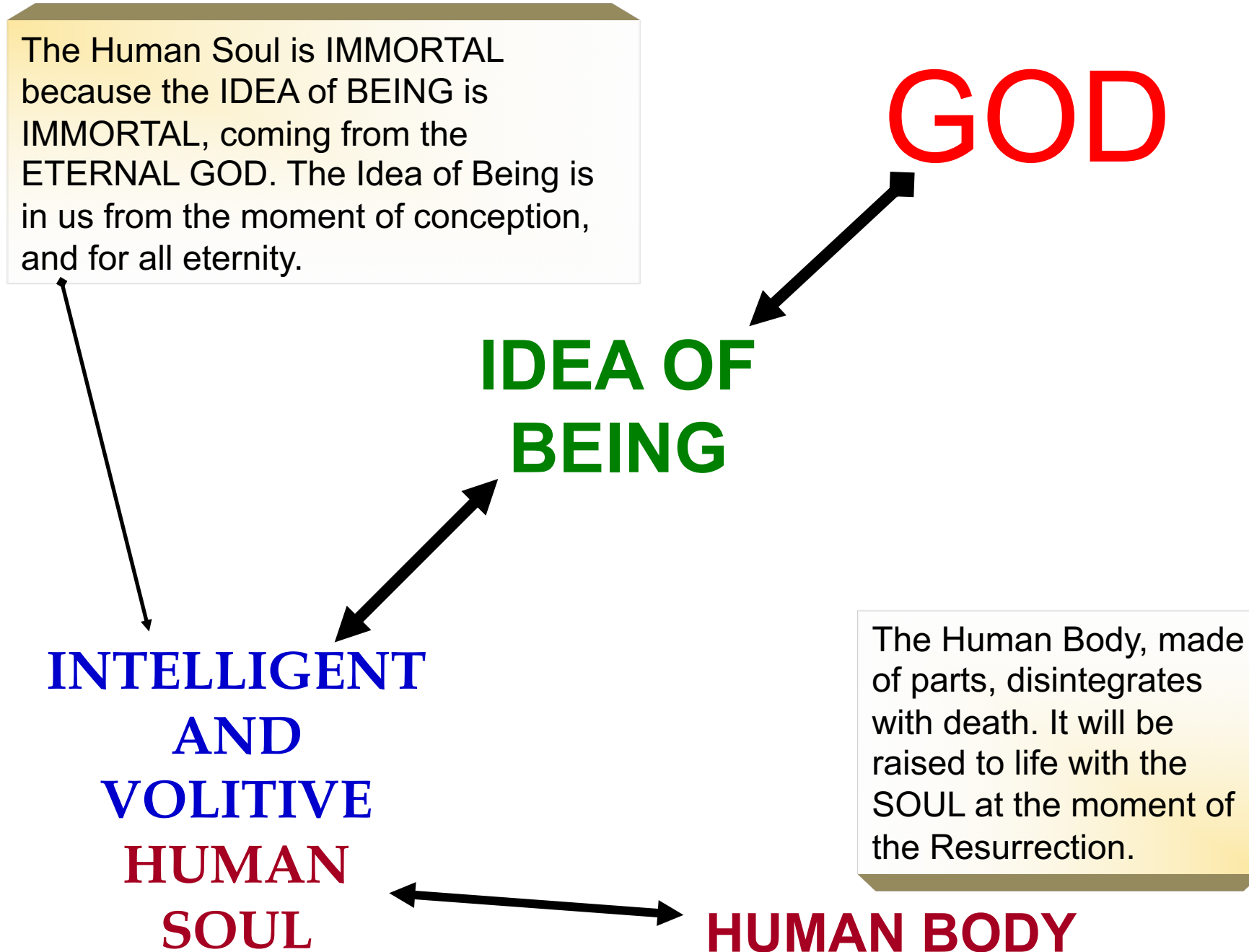
GOD

**IDEA OF
BEING**

**INTELLIGENT
AND
VOLITIVE
HUMAN
SOUL**

The Human Body, made of parts, disintegrates with death. It will be raised to life with the SOUL at the moment of the Resurrection.

HUMAN BODY



The generation of the human soul

Is our soul created directly by God? Do our parents pass it on to us in the same way as they pass on to us our body? The majority of people think that **the soul comes from God**, at the moment of conception.

Rosmini taught that the generation of a human soul goes through TWO LAWS:

The LAW of GENERATION

The LAW of ILLUMINATION

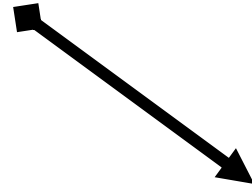
Parents generate a living child, passing on their animal/sensitive SOUL by a process of multiplication and fusion. In simple words, the SOUL of the child is a new SOUL generated by the union of the SOULS of the parents. This is true for the “animal or sensitive SOUL” we have. It is at this stage that we inherit the consequences of ORIGINAL SIN and the STAIN on our own SOUL.

PARENTS



LAW of GENERATION:

The SOULS of PARENTS
generate a new
SENSITIVE SOUL,
together with the BODY.

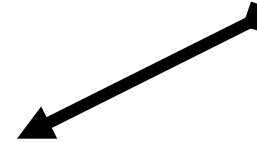


GOD



LAW of ILLUMINATION:

GOD creates
INTELLIGENCE, WILL,
and FREEDOM in the
Sensitive SOUL, elevating
it to a HUMAN SOUL.



**The moment of CONCEPTION OF A NEW
HUMAN BEING**

By the LAW of ILLUMINATION, **at the same time** of the conception of a new life and the passing on of a new sensitive SOUL, GOD creates the INTELLIGENT and VOLITIVE SOUL, raising the sensitive soul to a HUMAN SOUL.

The HUMAN SOUL is created by GOD by enlightening the purely sensitive soul with the IDEA of BEING, making it Intelligent, Rational, and gifted with Freedom and Will.

We can say that parents gave us the sensitive soul, but it is God who created our intellective and volitive SOUL by the giving of the Idea of Being and by creating our Intellect and our Will.



**A Happy
FAMILY**

No animal soul can ever become a human soul by itself.

It is God who makes the sensitive corporeal soul become a human soul by providing the light of reason – the idea of being.

Rosmini says that God may have established a law whereby at the conception of a sensitive corporeal human soul there is also immediately the granting of the enlightening via the idea of being.

Since the whole human race was contained in the loins of Adam, this law of illumination has happened ever since the time of Adam automatically at the moment of conception of a new human being.

In other words, there is no need to “disturb” God at the conception of a new human being: the illumination happens automatically by means of the law established by God right at the beginning of the human race.

What is extremely important to keep safe is the knowledge that the intellectual/volitive soul is created directly by God.

The SOUL – **that which feels** - needs the Body –**that which is felt. At the death of the Body, what does the SOUL feel?**

My SOUL is IMMORTAL. It is correct to say that the “I” will never die, it is my Body that is subject to death.

Original sin is passed on by our parents. But my Intellective Soul was created directly and perfectly by God!



This means that our **sensitive soul comes from our parents!** We are truly very close to them in every respect!

The hypothesis that all particles of matter are animated

Modern philosophers of mind often produce as a criticism against a spiritual mind or soul the fact that it seems impossible to establish any time or manner for the emergence of a spiritual substance completely different from matter.

The Big Bang, they say, originated with the explosion of a ball of gas, that is, with matter. The whole universe evolved from that, therefore everything in the universe, including human beings, are entirely “material”: there is simply no place for a spiritual substance.

Moreover, science has not discovered yet firm evidence that life evolved from inorganic matter, but there is a certainty among scientists that life did evolve from inorganic matter, possibly from a kind of “primordial soup” that favoured the evolution of matter into amoebas, or single cell organisms, and from them into all forms of life in the animal kingdom.

For Rosmini, **souls cannot evolve from matter**. It is simply impossible, because a soul is a simple, un-extended principle that feels and matter is an extended body that cannot feel.

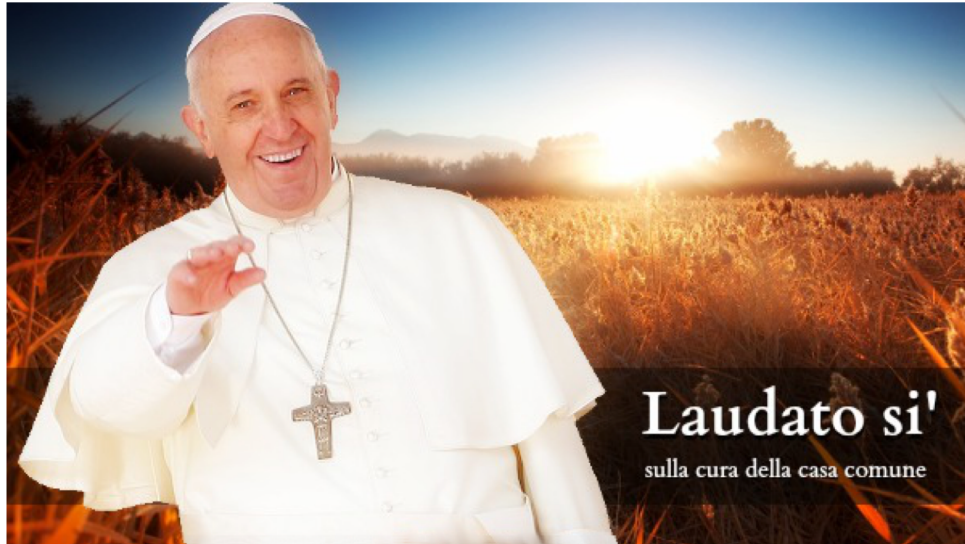
There are two possibilities for the existence of souls, either direct creation by God at some stage in the long history of the universe, or the possibility that matter was never alone, that all matter has a soul. On this second view, the original ball of gas contained not simply matter but also very basic spiritual souls that were the feeling principles of an infinite number of rudimentary organised, extended bodies.



Rosmini claims that there is no contradiction or absurdity in the idea that all particles of matter have an elementary soul; his own view, which he defines a probable hypothesis, is that the animation of the universe makes philosophical sense. His definition of “body” or “matter” as that which is the “term” of a feeling principle requires the presence of a feeling principle in all particles of matter.

The presence of rudimentary souls in matter, makes man/woman very close to the whole of creation. Matter is not “dead”, but it has a “feeling” principle or soul. This is the reason why we feel the beauty and greatness of nature, and, through nature, of GOD

Pope Francis's Letter **LAUDATO SI'** speaks about our responsibility towards creation, which together gives thanks to the Creator God.



SOME CONCLUSIONS

The existence of the spiritual SOUL:

1. Explains the whole of Man, in his spiritual and physical dimensions
2. Is the solid basis for Morality, Freedom, Dignity of the Human Person
3. Explains the longing for the supernatural world of GOD

The denial of the existence of the spiritual SOUL:

1. Makes Man a total mystery, impossible to understand
2. It makes Morality, Freedom impossible
3. It cannot justify the infinite dignity of the Human Person
4. Makes true Religion impossible
5. Reduces GOD to a myth