

## Spirit

Spirit represents the great mystery, the unknown force humans struggle to grasp and understand; it is the Universal. Soul is a Life Force that is bound to our beings and this earth and thereby indirectly to the universe. Spirit being universal or cosmic is not bound and extends to the full extent of our Universe. All-encompassing, Spirit exceeds our current knowledge and capabilities to fathom the depth and immensity of this universal phenomenon. People intuit, conjecture, project, and create structures that define and depict the force behind the creation of the Universe. There is no limit of the human capacity to conceive, imagine, and create interpretations of our existence and of the Universe's creation. Conjectures of our human condition and ultimate purpose on Earth and our understanding of spirit are myriad and many of those are aligned with a given culture. That human beings do not know the ultimate significance of the Universal concept we call Spirit has not deterred anyone from making a valiant attempt to seek Spiritual awareness.

The quest for understanding our origins and the Spiritual truths that we've come to accept has a strong genetic basis. Human beings who have evolved from primates share up to 96 plus percent of their genetic determinants. Through the process of genetics, humans have developed deductive reasoning and language which results in the theoretical proposals we proffer regarding our origins and universal spirituality. Some human beings now pass down genetic predispositions for spiritual questing. Through anecdotal studies and mapping of family inheritance we are able to trace spiritual questing. The quest for spirituality often shows up in young childhood.

Given that individuals with spiritual seeking desires have sought to make contact with Universal Spirituality, teachers arose and religious structures formed around those teachings. Lao Tzu and Hinduism were the early precursors to Buddhism, Sufism, and other eastern practices. It was only natural that physical structures where the teaching could be manifested were erected. From Hindu teachings we gain the understanding of a soul. When the soul left one body it sought another life in reincarnation. The Tibetan culture has selected a human guide, the Dalai Lama, to lead us to spiritual understanding. With the migration into Europe and the Americas, we attribute to Abraham the spawning of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Islam has the Quran, Judaism has the Torah (Tanakh), and Christianity has the new testament of the bible, upon which they base their liturgical teachings. As Christianity developed in the West, priests were designated as intermediaries between the Creator and the Soul thereby denying direct access to the Spiritual Creator. In modernity, many people are now open to novel understandings of Spirituality which require no intermediary or authority but are

blessed on the basis of powerful firsthand experience in which a spiritual connection is fostered.

Currently, physics and higher forms of mathematics are touting the premise that the Creator is intelligent and intentional. There is evidence now from our studies of astronomy, biology, anthropology, mathematics, and the humanities that the universe strives for intelligent and intentional functionality. We also realize that many values, morals, and acceptable behaviors are determined by a given culture. The concept of love and its derivatives crosses all cultural values and comes the closest to be considered as the universal value. All the precepts of love and spirituality are deeply entwined and are the core element in all of the religious and spiritual practices in the world.

In the last 50 years through convergence of all of the schools of thought, we've come to understand that all life forms that have a body are unique and that every living thing is connected. Physics has validated that there is no such thing as space, which means the energies of the universe flow through us whether we cognitively realize it or not. In our current understanding, astronomers estimate there are 6 billion earth-like planets and 40 billion planets that support life in some form in our milky way galaxy. The estimate of planets in our universe is staggering. Astronomy is currently seeking to engage with any planet that supports human-like beings.

Thomas Aquinas and others are credited with saying, "We may be able to say what God is not, we are not able to say what God is." The Self Soul Spirit model proffers that it is the responsibility of the Soul to direct the Self in life here on Earth to honor the interaction between nature (genetics) and nurture (living experiences) in the attempt to live a meaningful and purposeful life. That life is ultimately delivered to the Universal Spirit. It behooves each of us to select forms of spirituality and apply them in every aspect of our living.