

Study Guide to Cosmic Cradle

A Multi-Cultural Study of the Journey of the Soul

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Lesson 1 - What is the Soul?

The non-existent was not, the existent was not. Then the world was not, nor the firmament, Nor that which is above the firmament. Who encased it and where? How could there be the deep unfathomable water? Death was not, nor at that time Immortality There was no rhythm of day and night.

*THAT ONE unbreathed upon breathed of His own strength,
Other than THAT, there was nothing else whatsoever.*

*There was darkness wrapped in darkness in the beginning;
All this world was only undistinguishable water.*

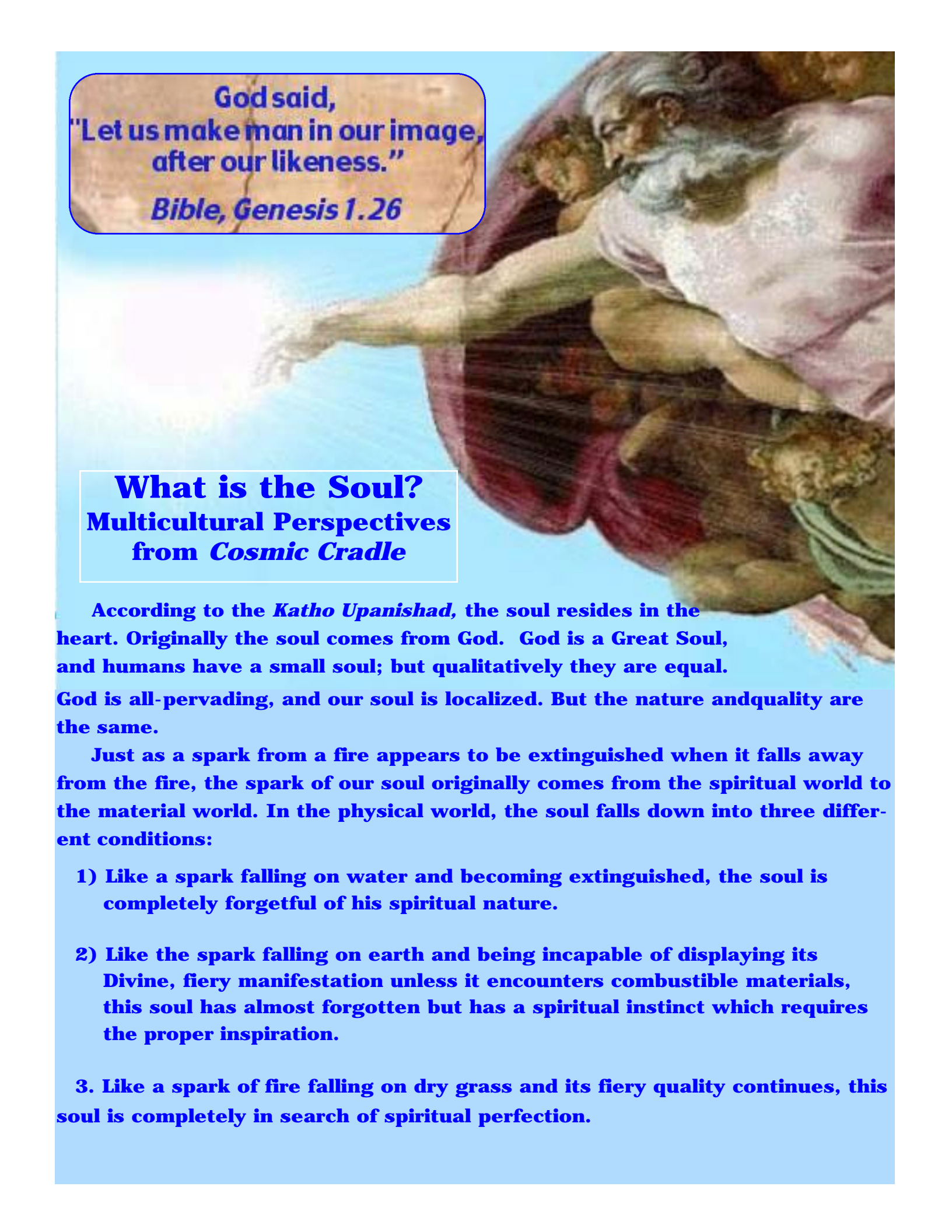
*That empty united world which was covered by a mere
nothing, arose at last, born of the power of austerity. . . .*

*Who really knows? Who in this world can truly say?
When did creation start, how did creation happen?
The gods were subsequent to the world's creation,
so who knows when it originated?*

*He, from whom this creation arose, He may have fashioned it, or
not. No one else can.*

*He who is its
superintendent
in the highest
Heaven,*

*He assuredly
knows,
or if He
knows not,
no one else
does.*



**God said,
"Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness."
*Bible, Genesis 1.26***

What is the Soul? Multicultural Perspectives from *Cosmic Cradle*

According to the *Katho Upanishad*, the soul resides in the heart. Originally the soul comes from God. God is a Great Soul, and humans have a small soul; but qualitatively they are equal. God is all-pervading, and our soul is localized. But the nature and quality are the same.

Just as a spark from a fire appears to be extinguished when it falls away from the fire, the spark of our soul originally comes from the spiritual world to the material world. In the physical world, the soul falls down into three different conditions:

- 1) Like a spark falling on water and becoming extinguished, the soul is completely forgetful of his spiritual nature.**
- 2) Like the spark falling on earth and being incapable of displaying its Divine, fiery manifestation unless it encounters combustible materials, this soul has almost forgotten but has a spiritual instinct which requires the proper inspiration.**
- 3. Like a spark of fire falling on dry grass and its fiery quality continues, this soul is completely in search of spiritual perfection.**

Greek and Roman philosophers affirm the soul's nature as light.

(Cosmic Cradle, p 59)

- * **Heraclides Ponticus – Light.**
- * **Heraclitis – A spark of starry essence.**
- * **Hipparchus – Fire.**
- * **Boethos – A mixture of air and fire.**
- * **Parmenides – A mixture of earth and fire.**

The Jewish *Kabbalah* teaches the soul is a circumscribed light. The Old Testament says, “The soul of a man is the lamp of the Lord. ”*(Cosmic Cradle, p 59)*

Medieval Christian near-death visions and other-worldly journeys shed light on the soul. Caesarius of Heisterbach documents two visions of the soul: 1) The soul is “a glassy spherical vessel, with eyes before and behind, all knowing and seeing everything at once.” 2) Soul is “a spiritual substance, spherical in nature, like the globe of the moon.” “To those free of flesh the soul appears as a luminous sphere whose gaze extends to all directions.” *(Cosmic Cradle, p 59)*

**Certain souls become foreign
sojourners on Earth due to
the soul's fall and
punishment.**

*Church Father Origen
Early Christianity*

Cosmic Cradle
p. 297

“DEJICERE” – TO CAST DOWNWARDS



In visions of Drythelm (699 AD), Tundal (1149 AD), and Edmund (12th century Christian monk), souls ascend in the form of sparks. And 3rd century Christian hermit-visionary Zosimus experienced his “soul as a shape of light, perfect in all the body apart from the distinction of male and female.”

(Cosmic Cradle, p 60)

**Know ye not that ye are
the temple of God
and that the Spirit of God
dwelleth in you.**

I Corinthians 3:16

The soul possesses fire or light according to Native Americans.

(Cosmic Cradle, p 60)

- * **Eskimo – A light or fire.**
- * **Iroquois – A minute spark of fire.**
- * **Skidi Pawnee – A miniature star.**
- * **Omaha – A glimmer of light, a halo.**
- * **Mandan – The color of light and transparent.**
- * **Quinault – Like the full Moon.**
- * **Naskapa – A spark of illumination.**
- * **Achomawi – Light.**

*We regard the soul as the
greatest and most
incomprehensible of all.*

**Iglulik Eskimo
(Cosmic Cradle, p.251)**



Native Americans see the soul exiting the body as light at the time of death. (*Cosmic Cradle*, p 60)

- * Quinault – A ball of fire flying through the air throwing off sparks and making a crackling sound like burning spruce twigs.**
- * Naskapa – A lightning flash.**
- * Chinooks (Northwest) – Fire with sparks falling down; like a fire brand.**
- * Tuscarora (North Carolina) and Cusabo – A spark or flame.**
- * Cora (Mexico) – A white human figure or a ball of fire spreading light in all directions.**



Native Americans also represented a person's free soul – as a subtle, ethereal perceptible mirror image. (*Cosmic Cradle*, p 60)

- * Huron – A tiny human with head, body, arms, and legs.**
- * Kwakiutl – A person's double, but like smoke or shadows.**
- * Haisla – A precise image of the person, but only as big as a fly.**
- * Quinault and Salish – A miniature baby, yet looks like fog.**
- * Athapascans – The soul stands two feet high and is human in appearance. dress, and actions.**
- * Shoshoni – A person as small as a pea or ten inches high.**
- * Cheyenne – A silhouette without detail, clothing, or features.**
- * West Greenland – “Pale and wan- they have neither flesh, bone, nor sinews ... as if they were nothing.”**



Medieval Christianity represented the soul as a naked child adorning cathedrals, biographies of saints, bas-reliefs on royal tombs, as well as art of dying woodcuts. (*Cosmic Cradle*, p 44)

We find the soul represented as a homunculus in Asia and Australia as well. (*Cosmic Cradle*, p 44)

- * **Malayan Peninsula – A thin, thumb-sized, vaporous human image which can fly quickly from place to place.**
- * **Australian Aborigines – A little body residing in the breast.**
- * **Fiji (Nakelo tribe) – A diminutive child.**



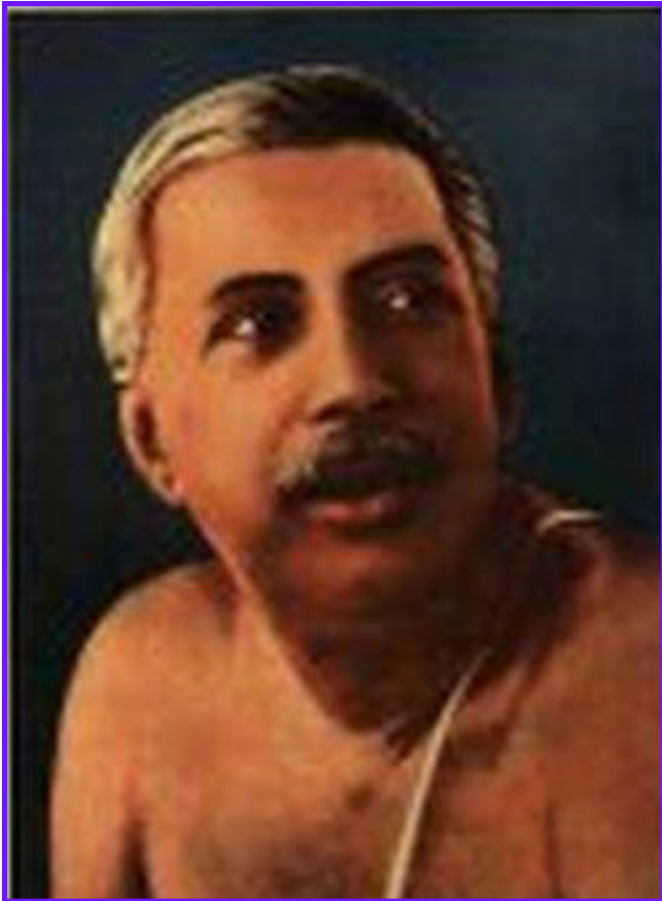
**“Many times it happened:
lifted out of the body into myself;
becoming external to all other things;
beholding a marvellous beauty;
then, more than ever assured of community
with the loftiest order;
living the noblest life, acquiring identity with the Divine.**

**Yet there comes the moment of descent,
and after that sojourn in the Divine,
I ask myself how it happens
that I can now be descending,
and how did the soul ever enter my body,
the soul which, even within the body,
is the high thing it has shown itself to be.”**

**Plotinus (205 to 270 AD Rome)
Cosmic Cradle, p. 568.**



Thakur Anukulchandra (1888 to 1969) recalls how a prime point let itself explode into millions of hyper atoms. Each hyper atom then burst into millions of supra-hyper atoms resulting in “an uncut indivisible physically inconceivable point.”



Thakur witnessed that ultimate point – the Cosmic Soul – create an infinity of beings out of itself like thousands of sparks coming from a fire. The souls were destined to live through a series of lives so long as they remained subject to the illusion of personal individuality. (*Cosmic Cradle*, p. 599)

Beverly Anderson likewise recalls the origin of her soul:

I remember before I left as a spark of God – I remember my spark and Him. And the profound limitless power of that makes me a little nervous. He is in the major leagues and we are in the minor leagues. But talent grows, evolves, and matures, and we will get there, too. But I will be fine doing the minor leagues for

awhile. I am not ready to do that format yet. I do not respect it enough. I will, with time, as will all of us.

I remember coming from the “All That Is,” as a projectile of light. I remember being spat out, pushed out like a projectile and I was screaming through the universe as a spark of light, like a little star. I knew that I was going somewhere, but I did not know where. There was no fear, just a feeling of sheer exhilaration.

I clearly remember stars whizzing by, but there was no sensation of movement. There was no density, no up or down, no left or right, no time, no sensations of colors, sound, or heat. You just were pure energy surrounded by comfort and ease. (*Cosmic Cradle*, p. 633)

“The Time that my Journey takes is Long and the Way of it Long. I came out on the Chariot of the First Gleam of Light and Pursued my Voyage through the Wilderness of Worlds, leaving my Track on Many a Star and Planet”

Rabindranath Tagore – *Gitanjali*

I have no parents: the heavens and earth are my parents.

I own no home: awareness is my home.

I have no life or death: the tides of breathing are my life and death.

I have no divine power: honesty is my divine power.

I have no means: understanding is my means.

I own no magic secrets: character is my magic secret.

I own no body: endurance is my body.

I own no eyes: the flashes of lightning are my eyes.

I own no limbs: promptness is my limbs.

I own no ears: sensibility is my ears.

I possess no strategy: "unshadowed by thought" is my strategy.

**I possess no designs: "seizing the opportunity
by the forelock" is my design.**

I possess no miracles: right-action is my miracle

I possess no principles: adaptability to all circumstances is my principle.

I possess no tactics: emptiness and fullness are my tactics.

I possess no talents: ready wit is my talent.

I have no friends: my mind is my friend.

I have no enemy: carelessness is my enemy.

I possess no armor: benevolence and righteousness are my armor.

I possess no castle: an immovable mind is my castle.

I possess no sword: absence of little self is my sword.

**Anonymous Samurai poem
(14th century, Japan)**



*“Go back into yourself.
Truth dwells in the inner man.”*

—St. Augustine

Reading Assignments for Lesson 1

- a) **A Projective of Light, pp. 633 - 635.**
- b) **The Cosmic Soul and the Big Bang, pp. 599 - 560.**
- c) **Chapter 16, Travellers from the Light, pp. 285 -306.**
- d) **p. 315, Vedic Conception of the Soul.**
- e) **pp. 594 -595, Cosmic Memory.**
- f) **p. 312, Between Two Destinies, p. 312.**
- g) **p. 214, Chinese Spirit World.**
- h) **pp. 344 - 346, Soul Bird.**
- i) **Chapter 9, The Time Before Time Began. 169 - 171.**
- j) **Chapter 13, Lodge of the Great Manitou, p. 251 -260.**
- k) **Chapter 14, Land of the Boomerang, p. 263 - 271.**
- l) **Chapter 15, The Great Mother’s Maternity Ward, p. 273 -283.**
- m) **p. 349, Island of Perpetual Youth.**
- n) **p. 395 , Chi-Children.**