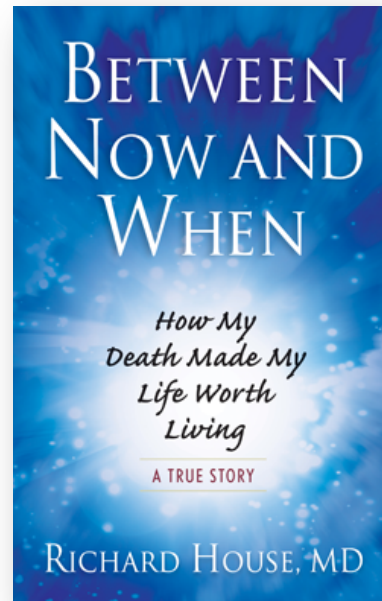


ARTICLE

What's Going on Here?

By Richard House, MD
(955 words)



Most of us are so distracted by the worries of daily life that larger issues are easily shunted aside. Unless, that is, some troubling event intrudes – like the death of someone close to us, or a beloved dog needs to be put down. Do dogs go to heaven? Pope Francis reports that they do – *all creatures large and small*, he says. One supposes that humans who live well get their shot at heaven too, but is hell then a possibility for those who fall short? Let's hope not, for no one toes the mark all the time.

Besides the pressing question of what occurs when we die, there are others:

- Why do we die at all?
- Is there really a loving God, and, if so, why all the suffering?
- Are we really the *same soul* viewing life differently, as some spiritual traditions declare?
- Do we only live once, or is reincarnation the deal?

These questions dangle before us just beyond reach. That is unless one adopts the answers given by various religions and spiritual traditions. The Buddhists say that we come back to Earth time and time again until, until, we get it right. Christians are here only once, which adds incentive to live life well, judgment day ever looming. And then there are the atheists who declare that what you see is what you get – no God, no heaven, no hell, just a void, a cold, silent nothing after death.

With such panoply of thought, some of us are prompted to seek out answers for ourselves. We are the seekers of Truth, pilgrims that want to know more than what Wikipedia has to offer.

God, heaven, angels. Are there really angels? Well, Hollywood and the supermarket tabloids suggest that there are. Moreover, some very thoughtful people have collected quite a body of

evidence that there are indeed angelic spirits that want to help us poor humans struggling on Earth. *Into the Light*, by John Lerma, MD, is a fascinating account of angels that frequently appear to hospice patients just before death. Not only do these spirits lend a helping hand, as Joe Black patiently waits his turn, they also straighten out earthly affairs beforehand.

As for higher dimensions beyond what our senses report, what about ghosts?

I'm surprised that ghosts don't have their own reality show by now – so popular have they become. Of course, those of you who haven't *seen* an angel or a ghost are at a distinct disadvantage. God, His angels, and even ghosts, are generally hidden from view, the doors to higher dimensions difficult to find and even more difficult to open, but it is possible, and hallelujah, getting easier every day. Why? Because we are entering a new age. As the aging rock musical *Hair* intoned, *This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius...*

All fine and well, but what does it mean for the average guy or gal who struggles to pay bills and stay on top of earthly concerns? And what about the nightly news reports that suggest that we humans are not making much progress. In fact, it seems like we are sliding into a hell of our own devising:

- Mayhem in the Middle East; beheadings on the internet.
- Shootings all over America; is the mall really safe?
- The rich get rich and...

Ah, the dawning of a new age requires that the old one pass away, and, at this point, good riddance: This age ain't working.

So, where does that leave us seekers of Truth? How do we prepare to surf the Great Tsunami when it erupts from the oceans of disgruntled Mother Earth?

Primarily, it is an attitude, a reflection of the greatest spiritual teaching of all: *We are all one*. We are the same soul, each of us experiencing life through a different set of circumstances. We are cut out of the very fabric of God (who exists) and have been sewn together in a patchwork quilt of color and shape, but we are One nonetheless.

Beyond this, little else matters. Everything follows naturally when one is prepared to accept this basic truth.

Sure, you can speed up the process by engaging in good-person practices. The seven virtues are counters to lower-self behaviors: charity, love, compassion, forgiveness, surrender, love, selflessness, patience, love. Did I mention love?

But sometimes spiritual awakenings come to us unbidden in spite of a life that may seem

unworthy. The biblical story of Saul on the road to Tarsus is a good example. He, the great tormenter of early Christians, was suddenly blinded by an intense white light that opened his inner sight. He would become *St. Paul*, the great champion of Jesus and one of the founders of the Christian faith.

Here's another. Stockbroker Bill Wilson, a sad and hopeless alcoholic, fell to his knees and begged God for a cure. The white light that followed carried Bill's consciousness into what he called *the fourth dimension*, and his craving for alcohol was eliminated. Moreover, he was able to transmit this mystical energy to others in the new fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Yes, there are higher dimensions where God's angels find heavenly employment. Yes, a new age is on its way in spite of convincing evidence to the contrary – and yes, we are all One.

Let's prepare ourselves to ride the crest of the coming wave and enter the new age with banners flying high, each banner emblazoned with one word: Love.

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Richard House, MD, is the author of *Between Now and When*, published by New Page Books, due out in May 2015. EAN 978-1-60163-375-0, List Price: US 15.99, Canada 18.95.