

HUMAN PRIVILEGE

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Privileges occurring in the world are many and varied – from political to financial to educational to cultural to geographical to societal to the pigmentation of skin. Yet, the privilege that continues undetected, let alone observed, but which is the absolute greatest of privileges, is that of having a human form, i.e., being human.

The answer lies in the principles of reincarnation and transmigration – realities that transcend the boundaries of the present life, the present incarnation. In fact, it may be a shock to the current consciousness of human life but every human being on earth was born with a golden spoon in his/her mouth. The reason for such a privilege is that every person alive was born *human*, and being human is no small thing. Quite the contrary. In fact, being human is arguably the greatest blessing and privilege any of us could ever have.

The following excerpt, which helps explain this great privilege of being human, is from Chapter Two of *Karma – The Definitive Guide to the Supreme Law of this World* (available at Amazon.com and RichardKing.net/books).

THE WHEEL OF TRANSMIGRATION

All Saints believe in the reality of Transmigration – the movement/migration of the soul via reincarnation (rebirth in a new body) through various living forms from vegetation to insect to ocean life to birds to animals to human. Transmigration is actually a condemnation of dying and being reborn over and over again in various bodily forms, not necessarily human, until or unless we can ascend into higher planes of existence and exit this lower dimension.

Transmigration is often associated with Indian religions such as Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism. However, great thinkers such as Socrates, Plato and Pythagoras also believed in transmigration. As its truth is realized, Western cultures will follow suit as the deeper secrets of spirituality expand.

There is a belief that transmigration and reincarnation are New Age concepts. Actually, they're not. They're ages old. Pythagoras, for example, died approximately 495 years BCE (Before the Common Era). Socrates died in 399 BCE; Plato died approximately 417 BCE. These were three of the greatest thinkers in history and they lived well over 2,300 years ago. Verily, one could make the argument that Western understanding of spirituality is late to the party.

The process of transmigration is often referred to as the Wheel or Cycle of Transmigration, also known as The Wheel of Eighty-Four, Eighty-Four Lakhs, Chaurasi or simply "Wheel" for short. One lakh equals 100,000 units.

The Wheel of Transmigration is a construct of 8,400,000 forms of life into which the soul can incarnate. And here's the critical point: of this 8,400,000 forms of life, the highest form is man, and only man has the ability to know of God and merge his soul into the ocean of God's energy. This means that 8,399,999 other forms of life are left devoid of divine access. Only man has the privilege of being God-conscious. This is why the human body is sacred beyond belief and is referred to by Saints as the Top of Creation. Only in the human body can one know there's a God and even merge himself with God. How special it is to be human!

As the famous Indian Saint, Guru Nanak, states: (*Guru Nanak, His Mystic Teachings*, Professor J. R. Puri, Radha Soami Satsang Beas, 1982, 2nd Edition, p.283)

Precious is the human birth; only the saints know its worth.

And: (Ibid., p.341)

Men are victims of their evil passions and are dominated by their worldly attachments. They forget that the human birth is a very rare gift, the only one in eighty-four lakhs of species for attaining release from birth and death.

Nanak goes on to say: (Ibid., p.50)

Not only does God live within the human body, but it is only within this body that He manifests himself. Thus, it is doubly blessed.

From the Bible we read: (I Corinthians 3: 16)

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

If one is not convinced about the importance of the human body within the Wheel of Transmigration, the following quote from Saint Charan Singh should make one think deeply about the extreme and incredible gift each of us has been given. (*Quest for Light*, p.166)

The human body is not given to us in every birth. We get it only after millions of lives, and it is a very rare and precious gift not to be wasted upon the perishable things and objects of this world.

Millions of lives! We have been given this unbelievable gift of the human body – the Crown Jewel of all living forms in this creation – after eons of time enslaved in the Wheel of Transmigration in the other 8,399,999 forms of life! If this does not put things in perspective as to how utterly blessed we are as human beings, then what will?

How many of us take our temporal human body for granted, not knowing the immensity of goodness and opportunity it affords? And since human life is temporal, would it not

be wise to make the most of its use while we can? Of course it would be, and we'd better, lest upon our death we are thrown back into the Wheel of Eighty-Four, for God only knows how long. Contemplatingly, how many eons of time comprise 8,400,000 lives? We can't know, but let's hope we adopt the spiritual program of elevating our consciousness so we continue making upward progress on the Ladder of Life, thus avoiding the Wheel of Eighty Four and its unthinkable enslavement.

In consideration, Saint Jagat Singh offers the following warning which helps place this entire discussion of the Wheel of Transmigration in its proper perspective. (*The Science of the Soul*, p.38)

(Unfortunately), the true value of the human body is realized after death when man regrets that he has squandered his most precious possession. The result is that he has to go to hell or to lower births.

In his book, *The Dawn of Light*, Maharaj Sawan Singh comments: (Radha Soami Satsang Beas, Punjab, India, 1st edition, 1985, p.192)

In the cycle of transmigration, birth as a human being takes a long time to come again. Once the opportunity is lost, there is the cycle to go through. A slip from the top of a mountain means a heavy fall, and a stop on the way down is rare.

Guru Nanak weighs in: (*Philosophy of the Masters*, Vol. 1, Huzur Maharaj Sawan Singh, Radha Soami Satsang Beas, Punjab, India, p.30)

The cycle of transmigration is dreadful, and it is beyond the comprehension of the human intellect.

Swami Ji Maharaj, the Great Saint of Agra (19th Century), corroborates Saint Charan Singh's statement regarding transmigration: (*The Science of the Soul*, p.64)

This valuable body you got after roaming in millions of lower lives. Now do not lose it in vain pursuits. Take heed! Give your attention to Devotion. Have pity on your poor soul and save it from transmigration's wheel.

In capitalizing the word *Devotion* he is referencing the worship of God, adherence to Divine Laws, as well as the purification and perfection of our being.

Swami Ji Maharaj offers this dire and very sobering warning in his book *Sar Bachan: Book 2, Sayings: (#86)*

If, however, you don't believe in either what I say or in the writings of the Saints, the path of Transmigration lies before you. Walk upon it by all means.

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Having this understanding of transmigration is paramount and transcends every type of worldly privilege known to man, rendering them inert. If human beings, individually or collectively, refuse to act on this spiritual knowledge, the future of such souls is perilous. However, in speaking of the Lord's mercy, Saint Charan Singh says, with a dire warning:

He always helps us and gives us chance after chance to make the best use of our life. But if we refuse to make use of that chance, naturally we have to go down into the lower species. [THE MASTER ANSWERS: Maharaj Charan Singh, Radha Soami Satsang Beas, Punjab, India, 5th edition, p.355,1980]

If this warning of having "to go down into the lower species" is dismissed, then we have grievously missed the glorious opportunity of the HUMAN PRIVILEGE.

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