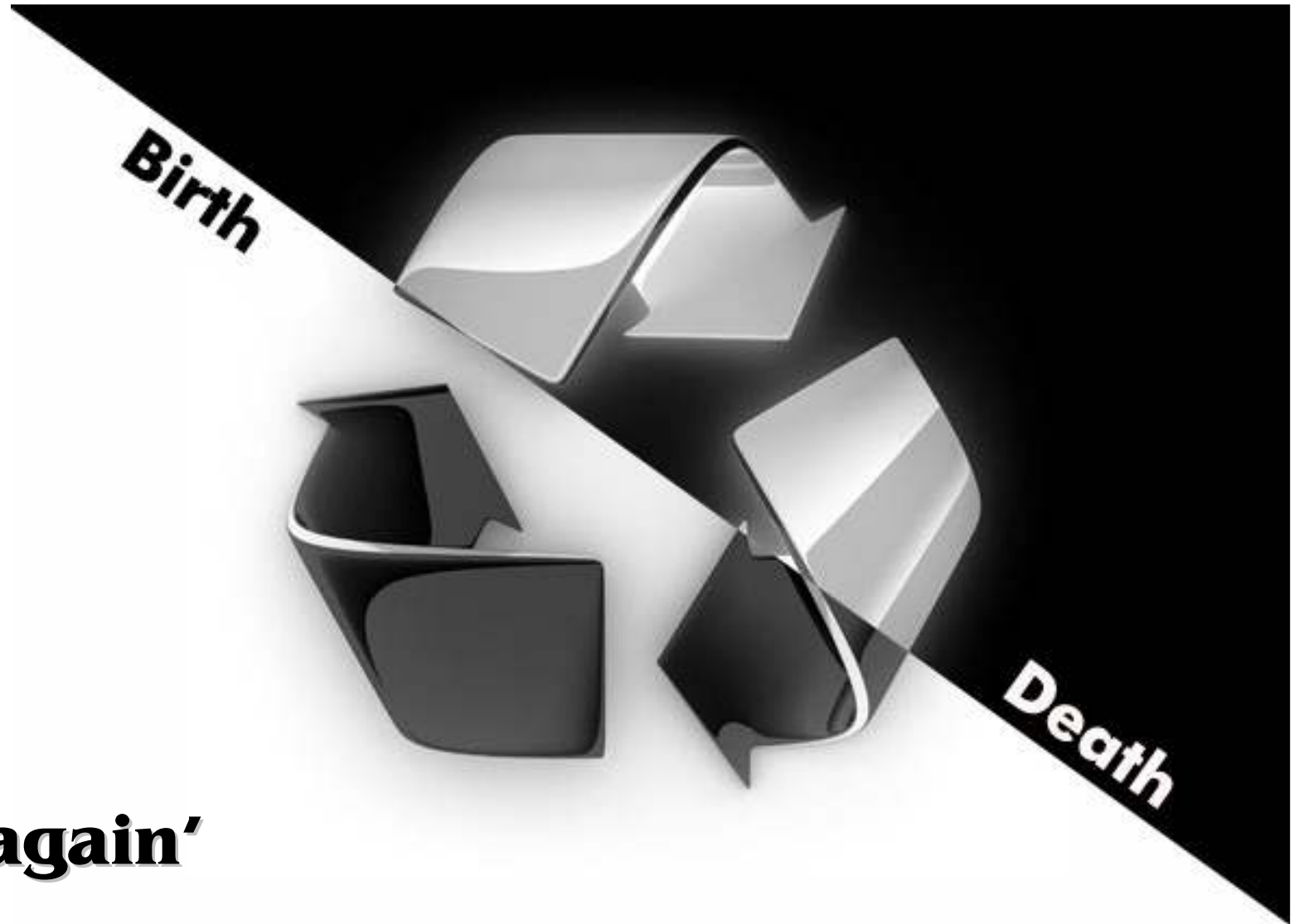


Reincarnation and Karma



re - 'again'

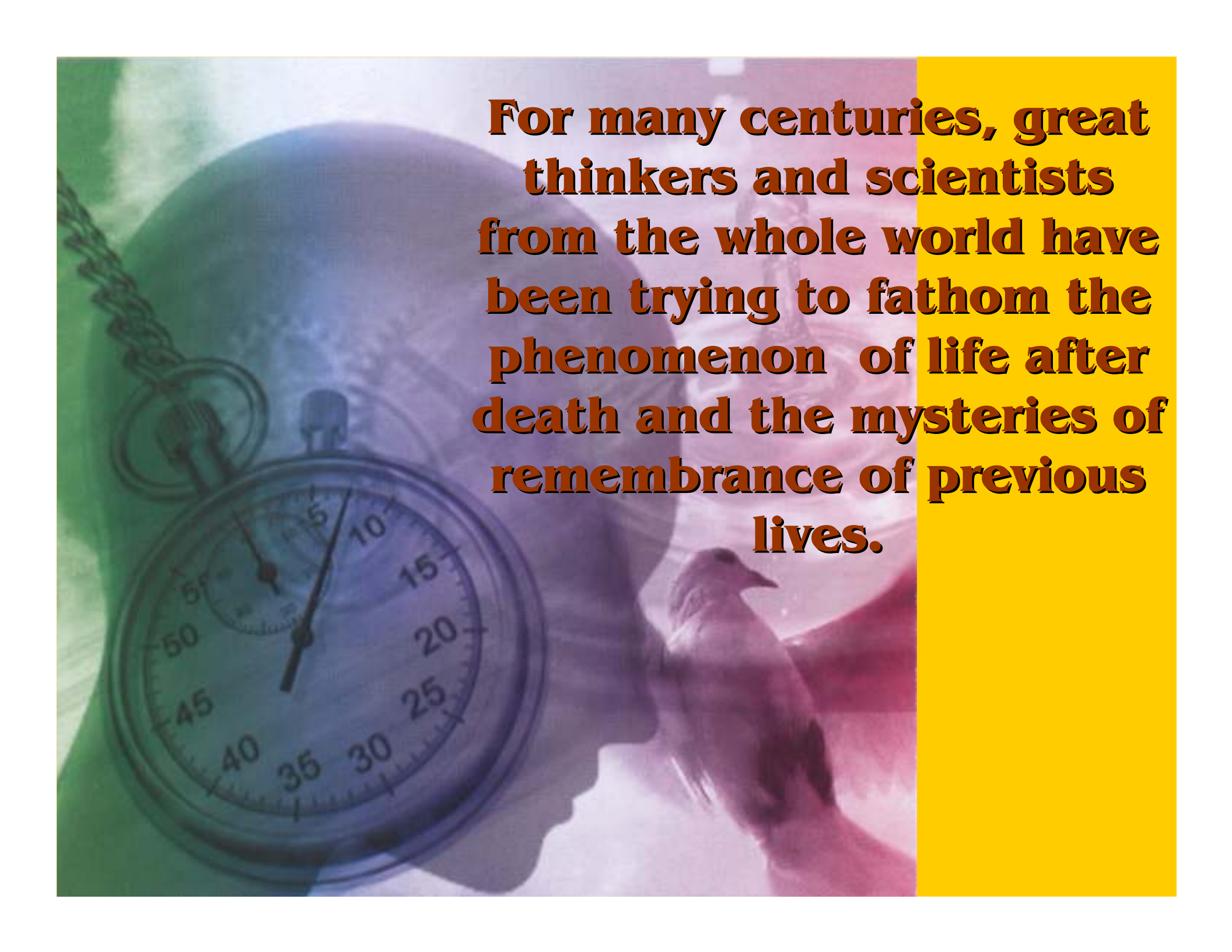
in - 'enter into'

carna (*lat.*) - 'flesh' (ie. body)

**“As a person puts
on new garments,
giving up old ones,
similarly, the soul
accepts new
material bodies,
giving up the old
and useless ones.”**

Bhagavad-gita 2.22





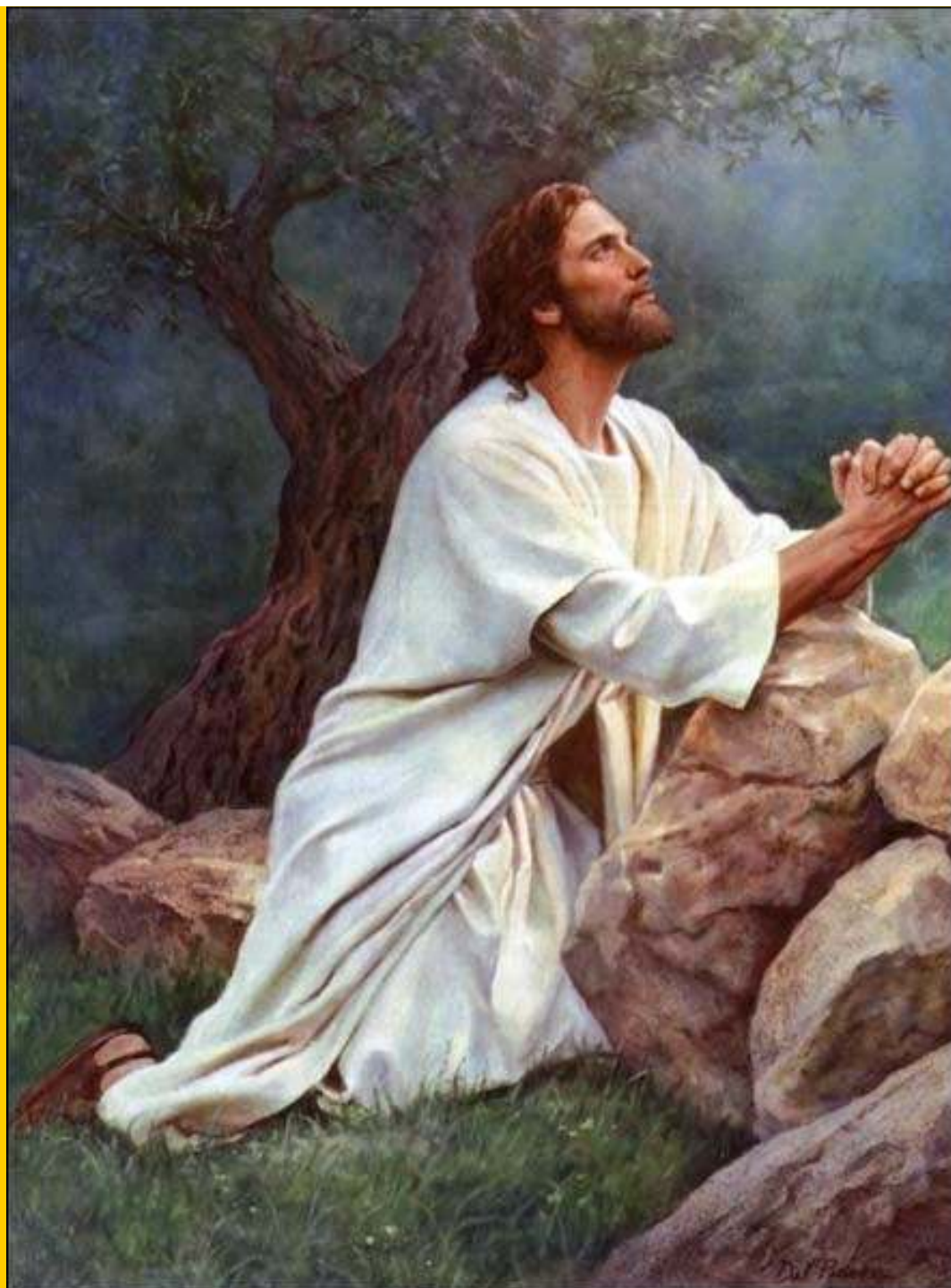
For many centuries, great thinkers and scientists from the whole world have been trying to fathom the phenomenon of life after death and the mysteries of remembrance of previous lives.

Famous persons who were aware of the laws of reincarnation:

1) Jesus Christ, 2) Flavius Josephus (Jewish historian from Jesus' times), 3) Origen (a church father from the 2nd century), 4) Socrates, 5) Jalalu Rumi (Islamic poet from the 13. century), 6) Paul Gaugin, 7) Arthur Schopenhauer, 8) Voltaire, 9) Honore De Balsac, 10) H.D. Thoreau, 11) Mahatma Ghandi, 12) Albert Einstein, 13) J.W. Goethe, 14) Count Leo Tolstoy, 15) R.W. Emerson, 16) Walt Whitman, 17) Benjamin Franklin, 18) Mark Twain, 19) Jack London, 20) Henry Ford, 21) Carl Jung, 22) George Harrison and many others.

**Jesus Christ in the
Gnostic gospel
Pistis Sophia:**

**“The souls in this
world transmigrate
from one body to
another.”**

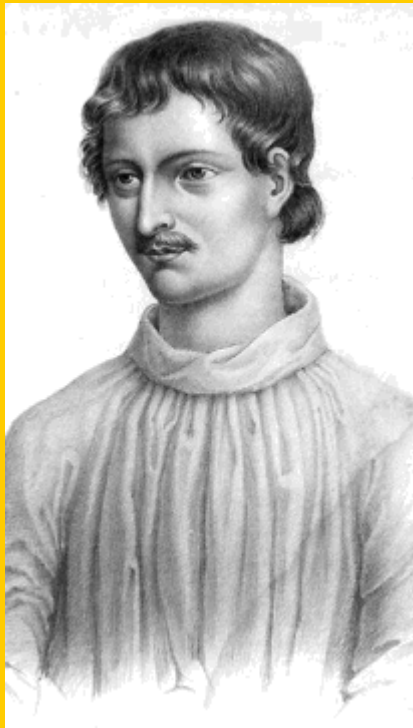




Due to political aspirations, at the infamous council in Nicaea in the year 325 early Christian texts about reincarnation and vegetarian diet were ruled out of the Bible.

For centuries the leading world religions have not taken the laws of reincarnation seriously enough.

In the year 1600, prosecutors of the Inquisition tortured and burned the Dominican priest and philosopher Giordano Bruno.

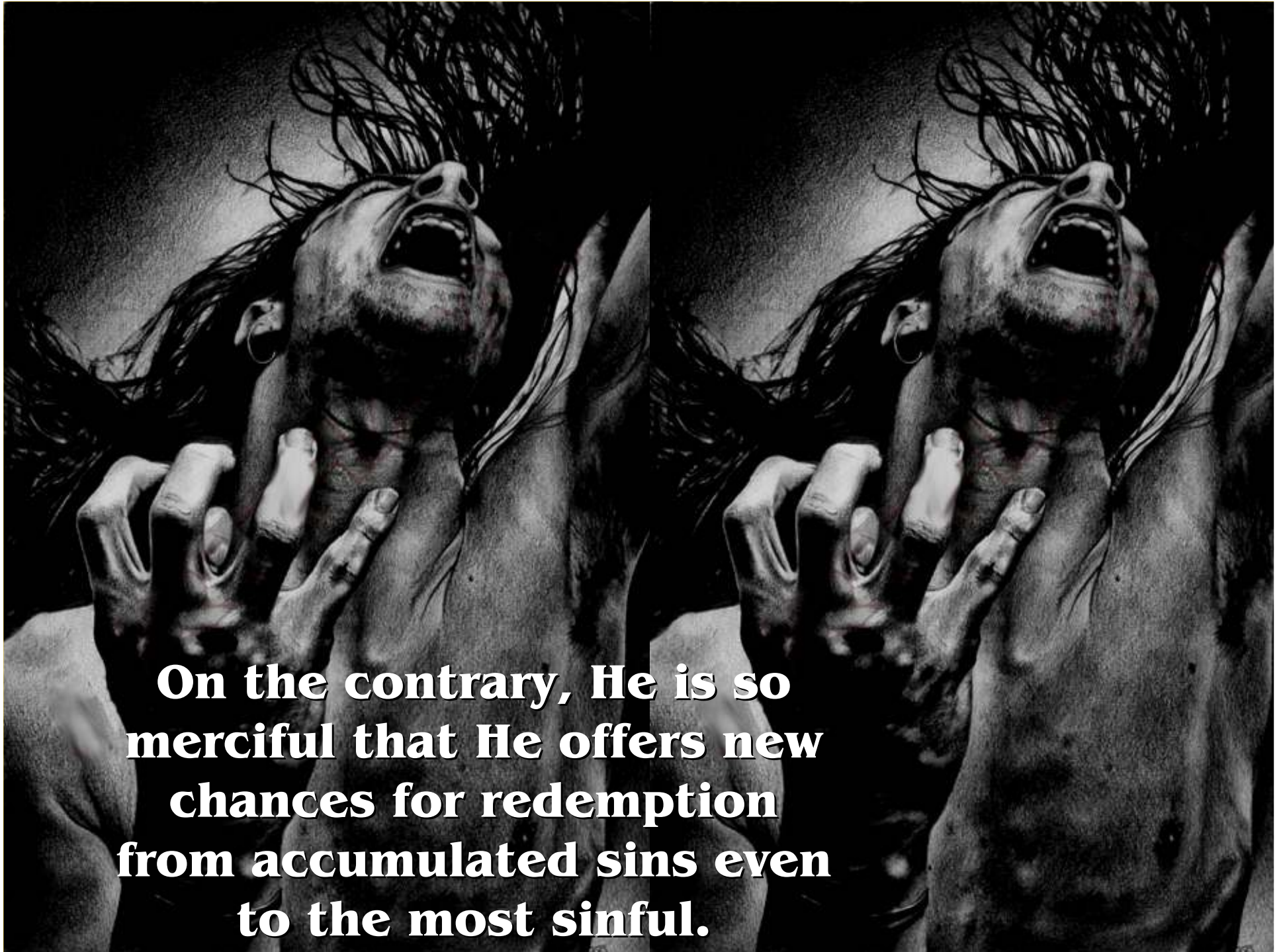


He was proclaimed a traitor and a heathen because he preached about life after death.

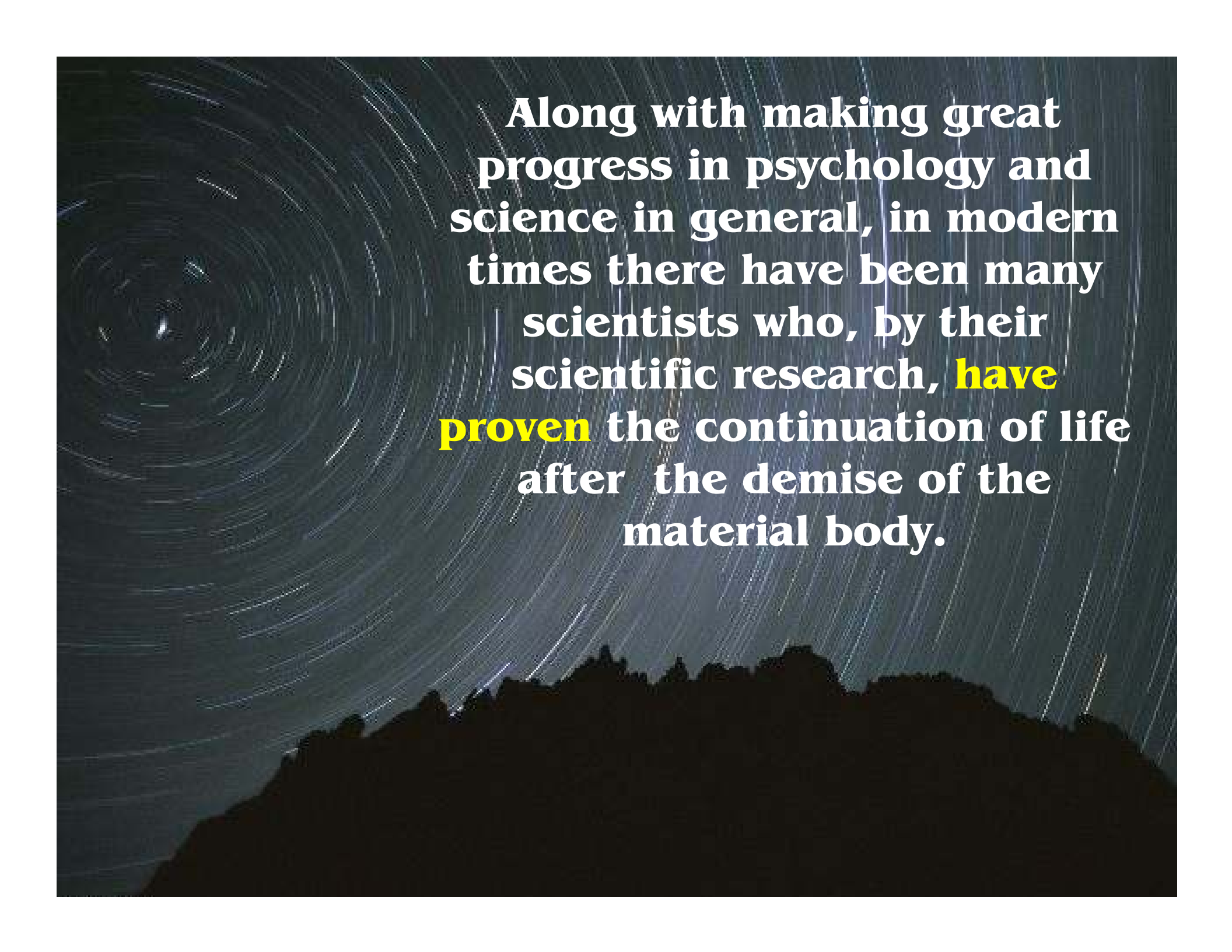


**Reincarnation is
an expression
of God's mercy.**

**God is not so
brutal as to
throw sinners
into **eternal
suffering in
hell.****



On the contrary, He is so merciful that He offers new chances for redemption from accumulated sins even to the most sinful.



Along with making great progress in psychology and science in general, in modern times there have been many scientists who, by their scientific research, **have proven the continuation of life after the demise of the material body.**

That cycle of births and deaths is known in the language of ancient Vedas as **samsara** from the time immemorial. It is depicted by the symbol of a time-wheel.





Dr. Ian Stevenson (USA)

Psychiatrist and author of several books about documented examples of proof of reincarnation.

Dr. Brian L. Weiss (USA)

Hypnotherapist and psychiatrist. Author of books about documented examples of proof of reincarnation.

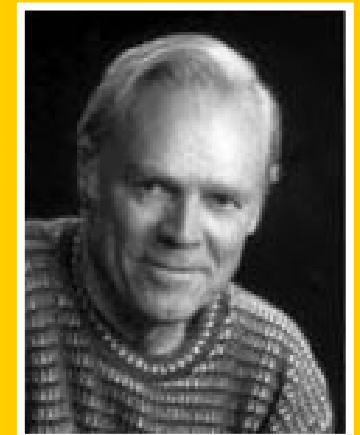


Tom Shroder (USA)

Author of three books. The most prominent is *Old Souls*.

Dr. Michael Newton (USA)

Hypnotherapist and author of four books.



... and many others.

**Do you think you are
the body you see in the
mirror?**





In the oldest sacred books in the world (the Vedas), which originate from God Himself (Krishna), it is written that what we identify with is nothing but a blend of subtle and gross material bodies.



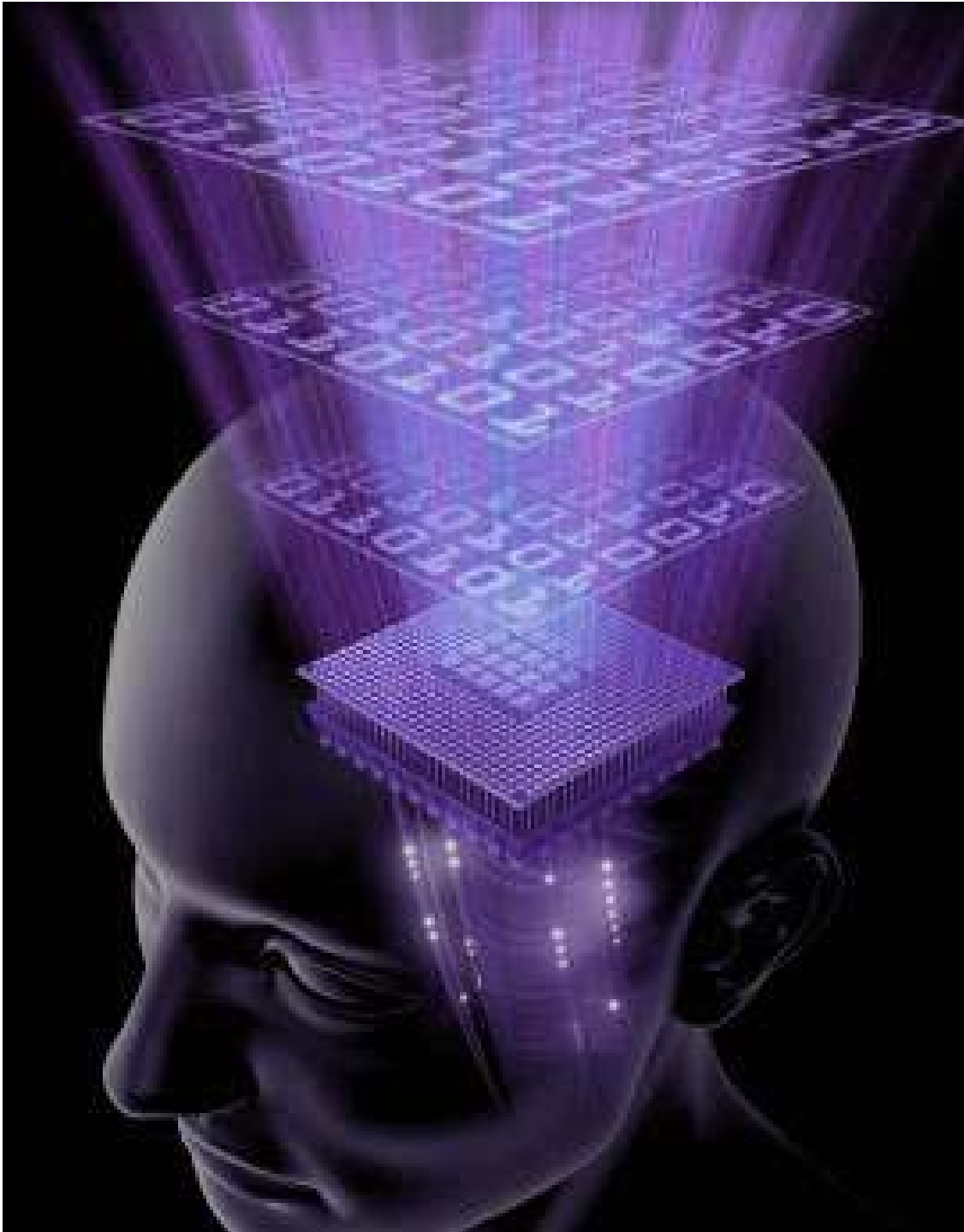
Subtle (astral) body

- **Mind**
- **Intelligence**
- **False ego**



The functions of the mind

- **Feeling**
- **Willing**
- **Thinking**



The functions of the intelligence

- **Resourcefulness in new situations**
- **Distinguishing between good and bad**
- **Control of the senses**

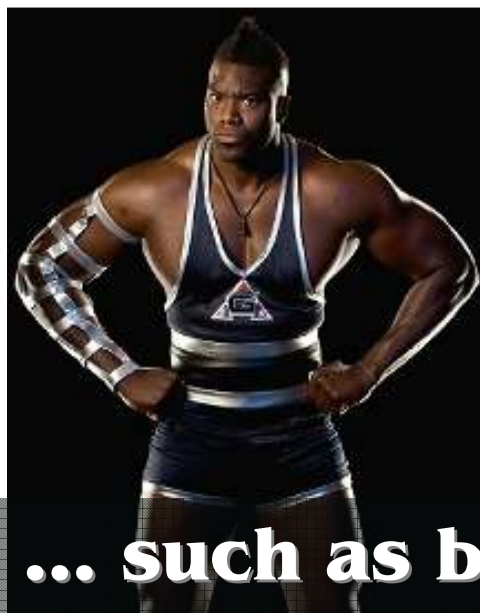


False ego

**forces us to think
that the gross
material or subtle
body is our real
identity.**

False ego is the most subtle material element. Due to false ego, we think of ourselves in terms of illusory identifications ...

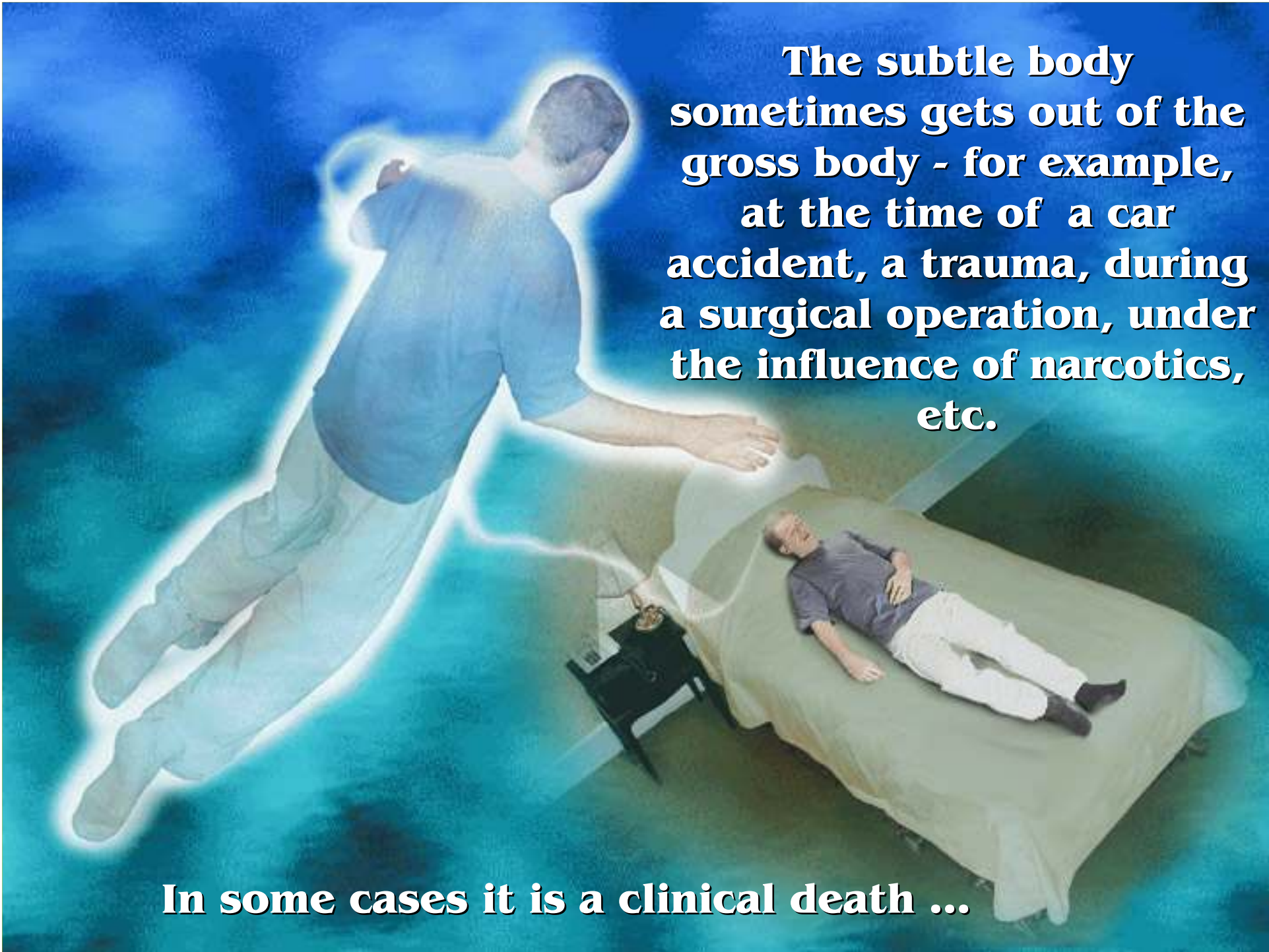




... such as body type, gender, race, nationality, religion, profession, etc.

**Forgetfulness of our eternal spiritual nature
and identification with illusory identities is
known in the language of the Vedas as *maya*,
'that which is not'.**




The image depicts a man lying in a hospital bed, appearing to be asleep or unconscious. Above him, a glowing, ethereal version of his body is shown floating in the air. This glowing body is semi-transparent and has a bright white outline, suggesting it is a subtle or astral body. The background is a dark, textured blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**The subtle body
sometimes gets out of the
gross body - for example,
at the time of a car
accident, a trauma, during
a surgical operation, under
the influence of narcotics,
etc.**

In some cases it is a clinical death ...



... and sometimes astral projection – exiting the body during deep sleep or conscious exiting in wakeful state.



There is a vast number of documented cases of people who could remember in great detail some of their previous incarnations, speak the language from a past life, or master some skills they had learned long ago (in some previous lives).

The spirit soul (our real identity), covered by the subtle body, transmigrates into another material body at the time of death.





**If we are not
the subtle
body, is there
any point in
identifying with
the gross
material body...**



**... which is
subjected to
various diseases,
old age and
death?**

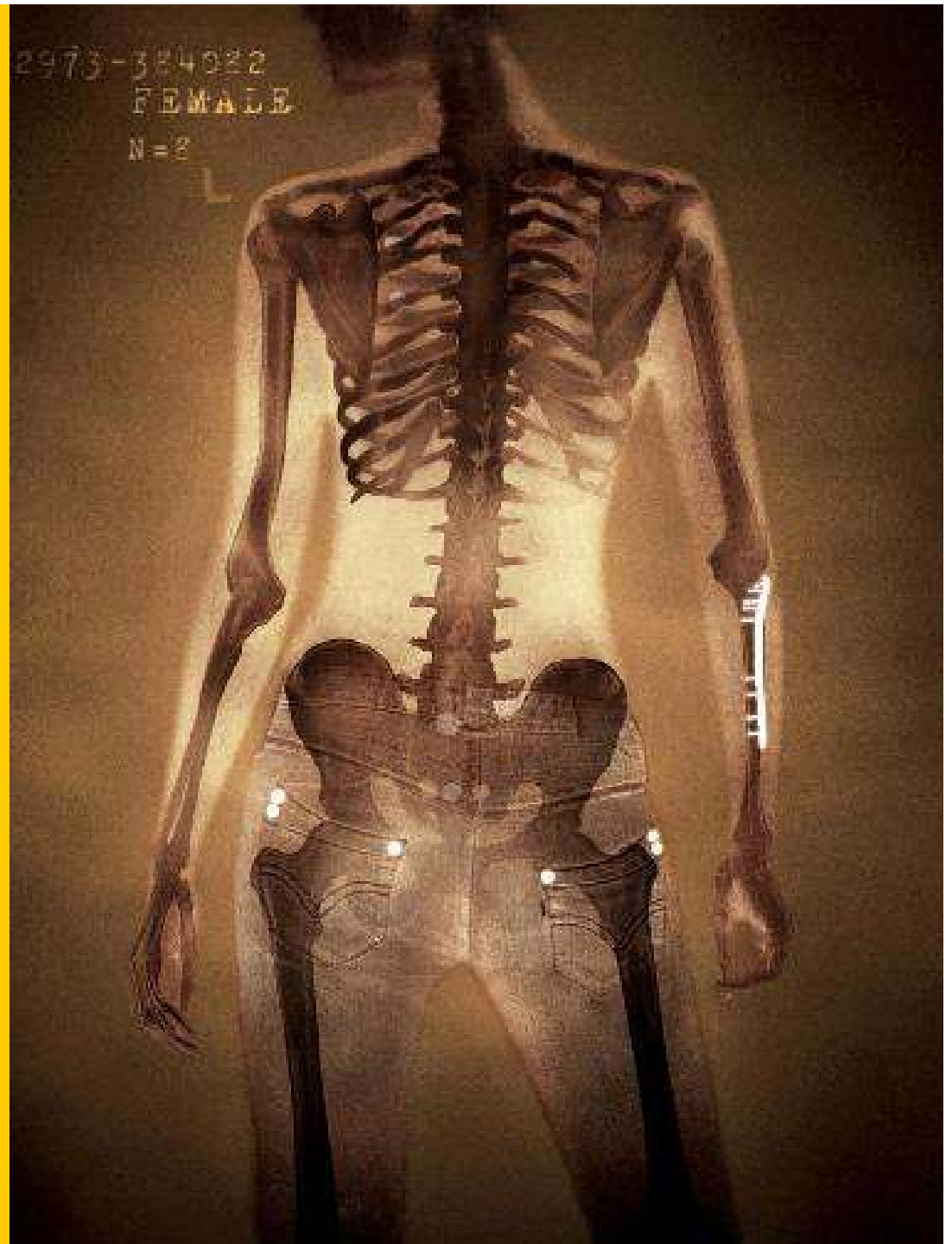


The body has its beginning ...



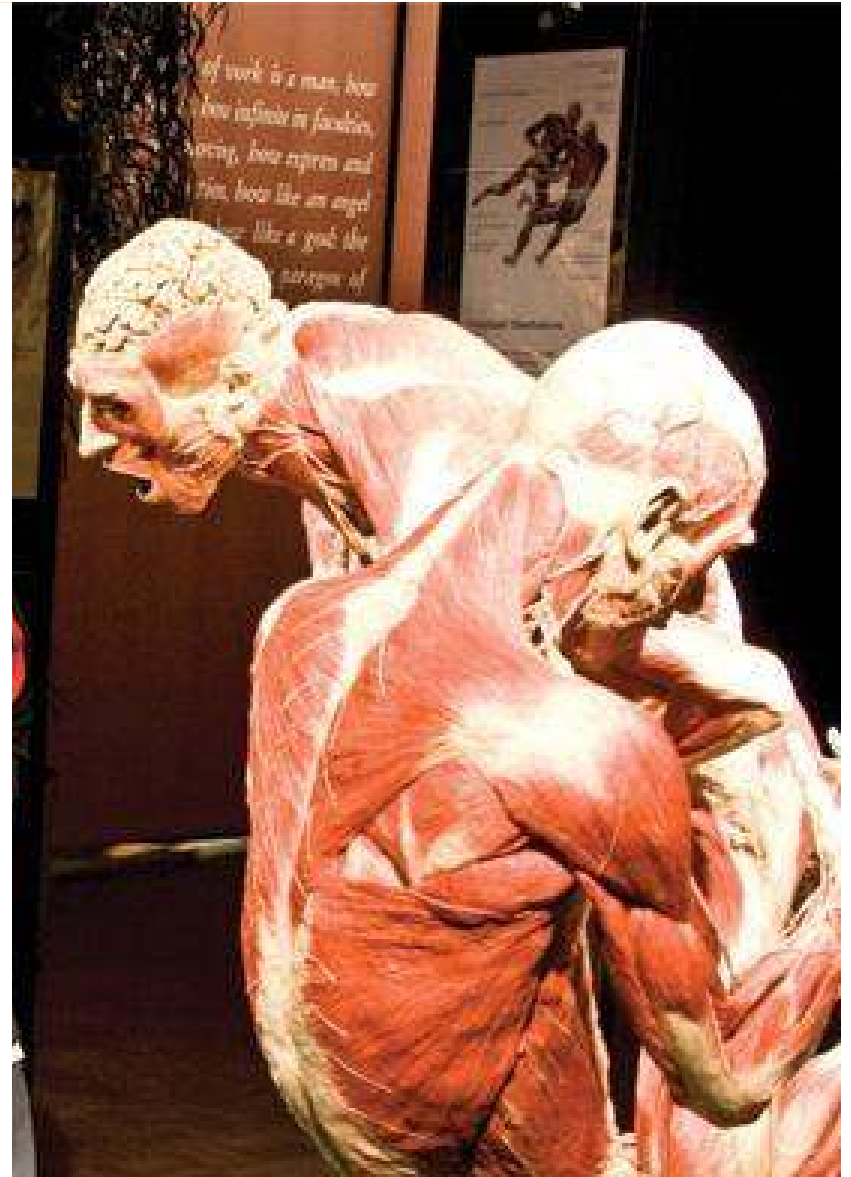
... and its frequently unpredicted end.

**It is made of
fragile and
perishable
materials.**



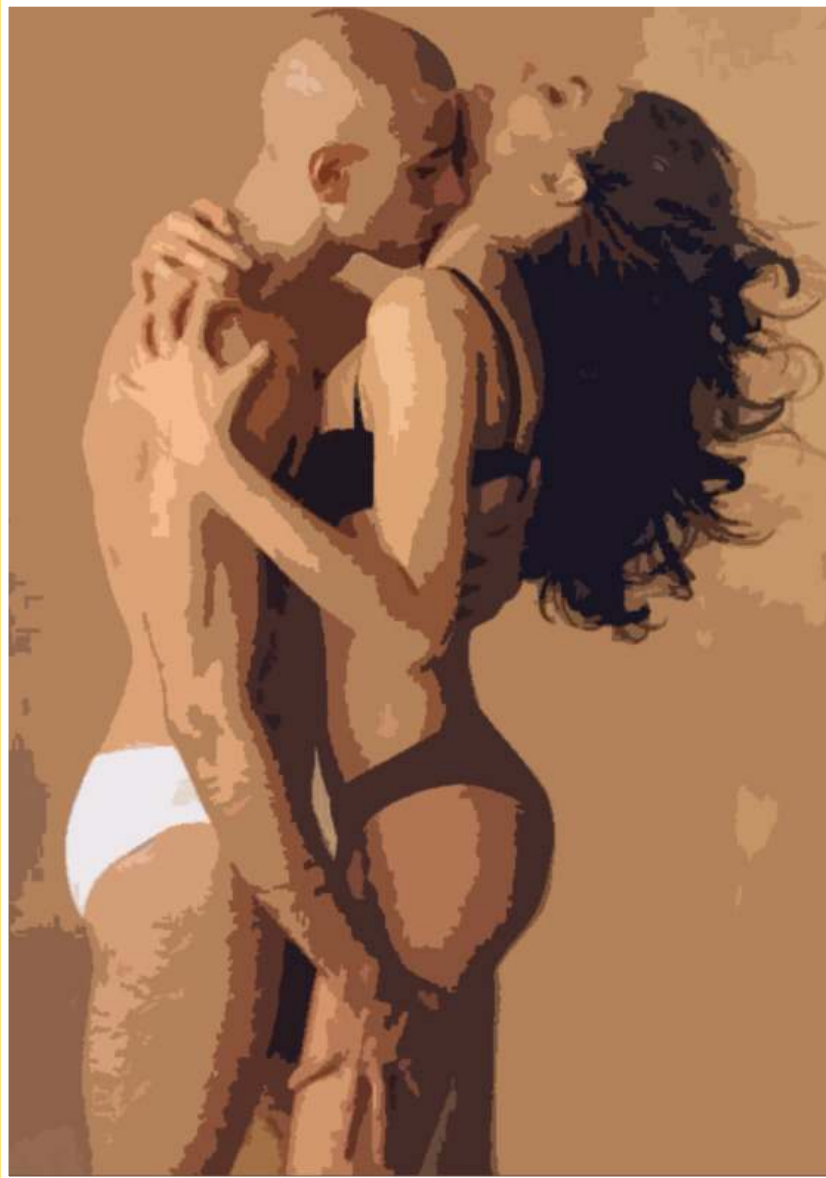
**It is subjected to
endless diseases.**





The beauty of the body is only skin deep.

And yet most people

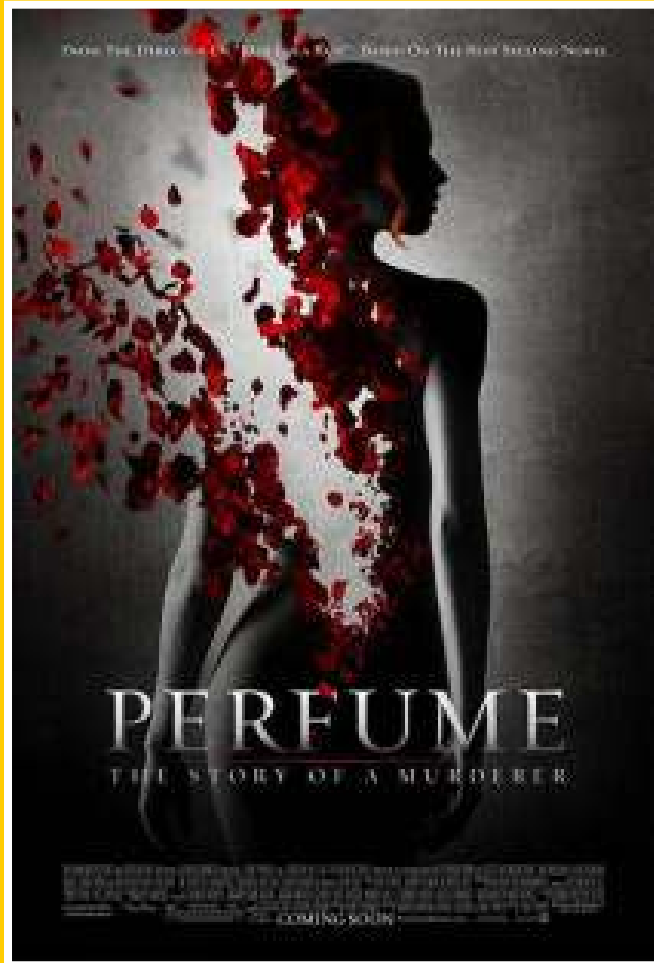


think that the body ...



... is meant exclusively for enjoyment.

Thus, they are too concerned about the body



and disregard their real identity.



**It is just like
polishing a
birdcage
without feeding
the bird within.**

**In this allegory the
cage represents
the body and the
bird, the soul.**

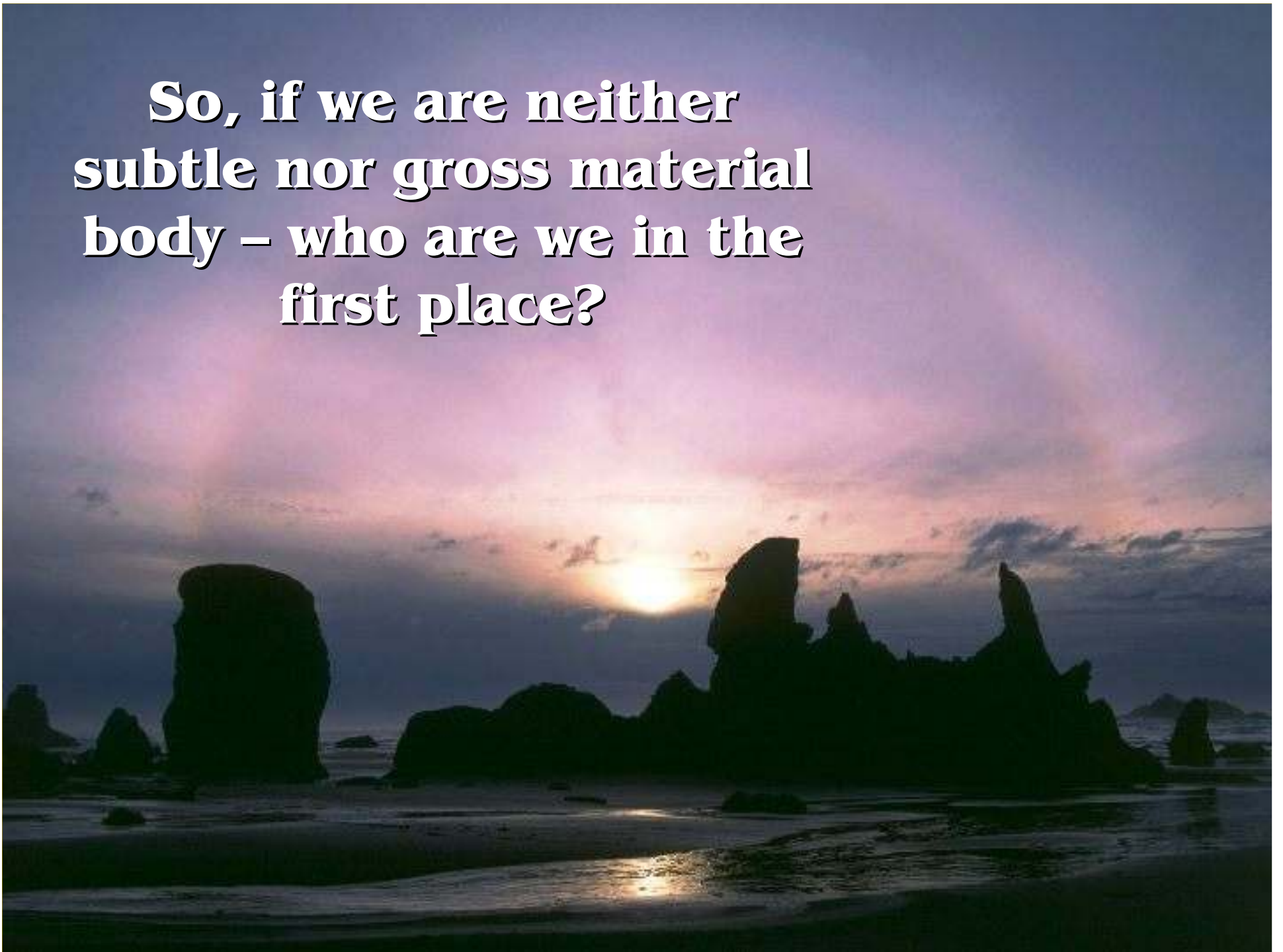
A composite image of Earth, the Moon, and a bright star in space. The Earth is shown as a large blue and white sphere on the left, with the Moon as a smaller grey sphere below it. A bright yellow star with a lens flare is on the right. The background is a dark blue space with small white stars.

**The Vedas inform us that there are
8.400.000 species of living beings
in the universe.**



**These are only
some of them**

**So, if we are neither
subtle nor gross material
body – who are we in the
first place?**



The spirit soul located in the heart
is of an atomic size.

**“For the soul there is never
birth nor death. Nor, having
once been, does he ever
cease to be. He is unborn,
eternal, ever-existing,
undying and primeval. He is
not slain when the body is
slain.”**

Bhagavad-gita 2.20



The symptom of presence of the soul is consciousness which animates the body and gives it life.



**Without the soul, the body is nothing
but a lump of lifeless chemicals.**

“As the embodied soul continually passes, in this body, from boyhood to youth to old age, the soul similarly passes into another body at death. The self-realized soul is not bewildered by such a change.”

Bhagavad-gita 2.13.



By a certain law, the soul transmigrates from one type of the body into another.



That law is called

KARMA

The law of action and reaction

Example 1.



According to the infallible law of karma, those who kill and eat animals have to take an animal body in the next life in order to go through the same experience.

Example 2.



Those who are pious and do good things to other living beings are rewarded by various conveniences in the next life.

Example 3.

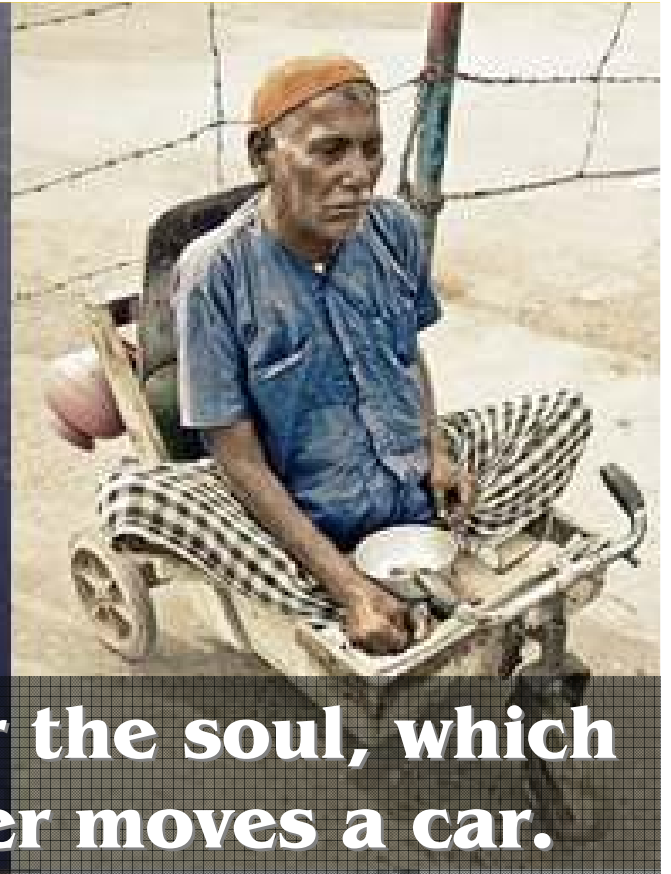
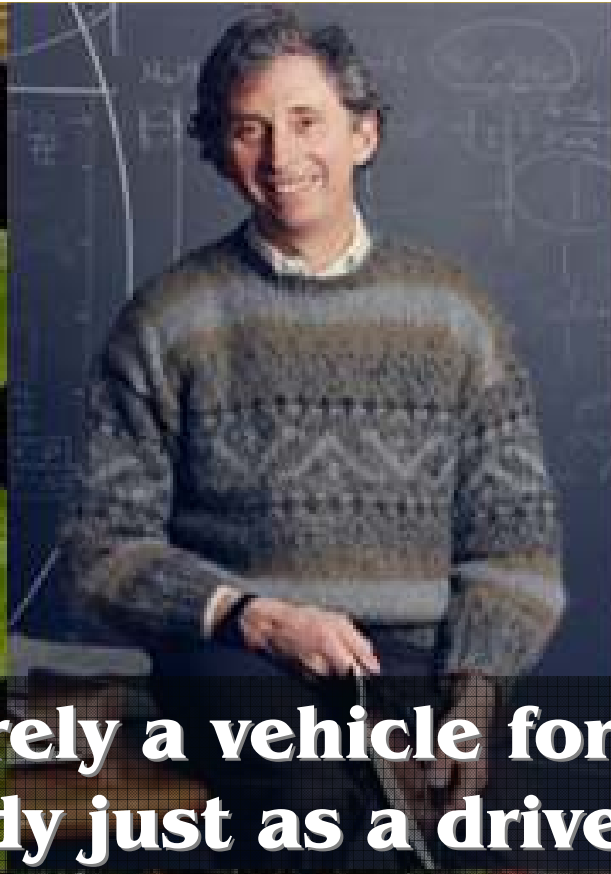


**Good and bad karma
constantly intertwine.**

**“It is said that the soul is invisible,
inconceivable, immutable, and
unchangeable. Knowing this, you should not
grieve for the body.”**

Bhagavad-gita 2.25





The body is merely a vehicle for the soul, which moves the body just as a driver moves a car.



According to our karma, we drive a good car or a bad car.

A black and white photograph of a film strip. The strip is looped around a cylindrical object, possibly a film canister. The strip shows a scene with a man and a woman. The man is on the left, looking towards the woman on the right. They appear to be in a room. The film strip is the central focus, with its perforated edges clearly visible. The background is a plain, light color.

**What happens when the
soul leaves the body?**

**Right before or at the time of death,
people see 'the movie of life'...**

... the light at the end of a tunnel,



... and some subtle beings.



According to the activities during life, at the time of death some people meet angelic beings and some meet monstrous ones.



**Why do we have to
constantly change
bodies?**

**It is due to universal law of
karma, which forces us to
enjoy or suffer the
outcomes of our activities
(good or bad deeds).**



**This law is also known as “as you sow,
so shall you reap.”**

**Sinful activities are the main reason
for suffering. These may be
categorized into four groups.**



They are ...



**Eating meat, fish
and eggs**



Illicit sex



Intoxication



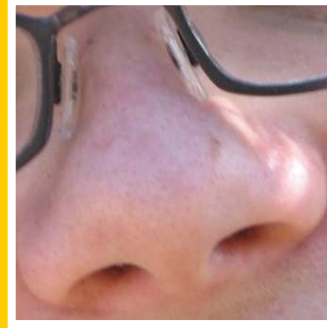
Gambling and cheating

In spite of numerous, indisputable proofs of life after death, many people do not believe in reincarnation.

They are guided by slogan: "I believe only those things I can perceive by my senses."



But our senses are extremely limited and imperfect.

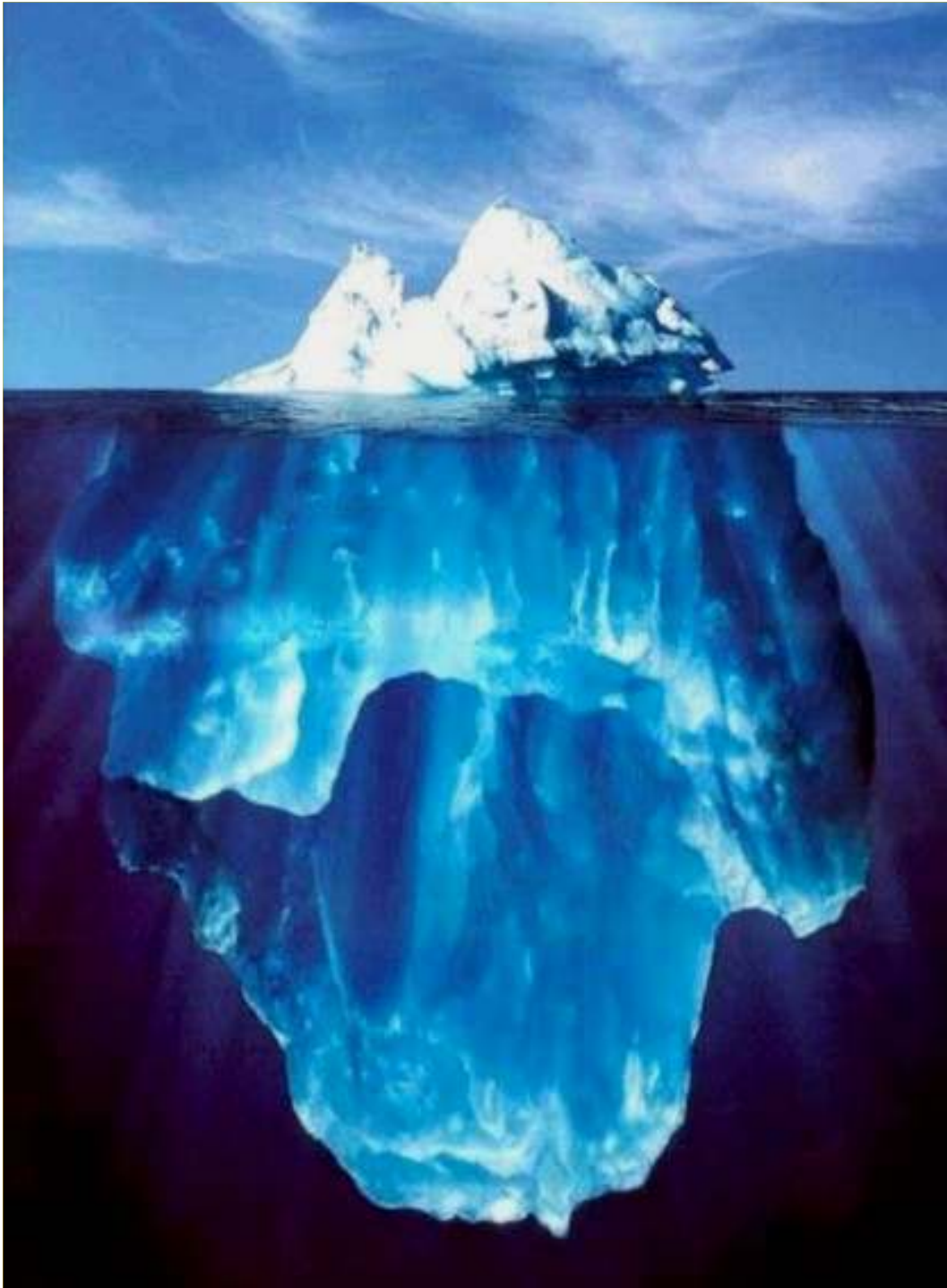


Eye can see mostly gross matter. It cannot see micro-organisms, distant objects, nor anything in pitch darkness.

Ear can hear only sounds in the frequency between 20Hz and 20.000Hz. We cannot hear hyper-sounds and ultrasounds.

Nose cannot perceive scents perceivable by dogs, who have 15 times better sense of smell.

The same limitations are applicable to senses of **touch** and **taste**.



The world we perceive is but a small part of reality, just as we can see only the tip of an iceberg.

Just as the larger part of an iceberg is hidden under the water, likewise, the larger part of our (spiritual) individuality cannot be perceived by our imperfect material senses.



**Who governs the
universal laws of karma
and cycle of
reincarnation?**

**God (Krishna) is
situated in the heart
of every living being as
the witness of all our
activities, thoughts
and desires. He is not
partial to anyone, and
He awards everyone as
they deserve.**



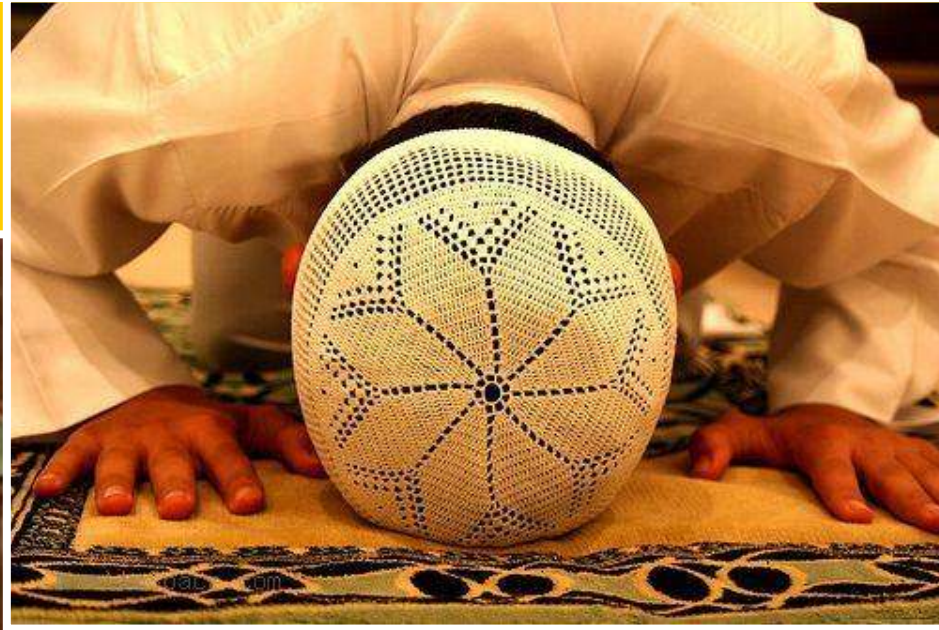
According to our desires and activities, we receive and change our bodies just as actors change roles and costumes.

What happens with the sinful and the pious people at the end of life?



The sinners are cast into one of 28 hellish planets situated at the bottom of the universe.

After suffering on the hellish planets, they take birth in some lower species or as a human being who will continue to suffer due to bad karmic reactions.

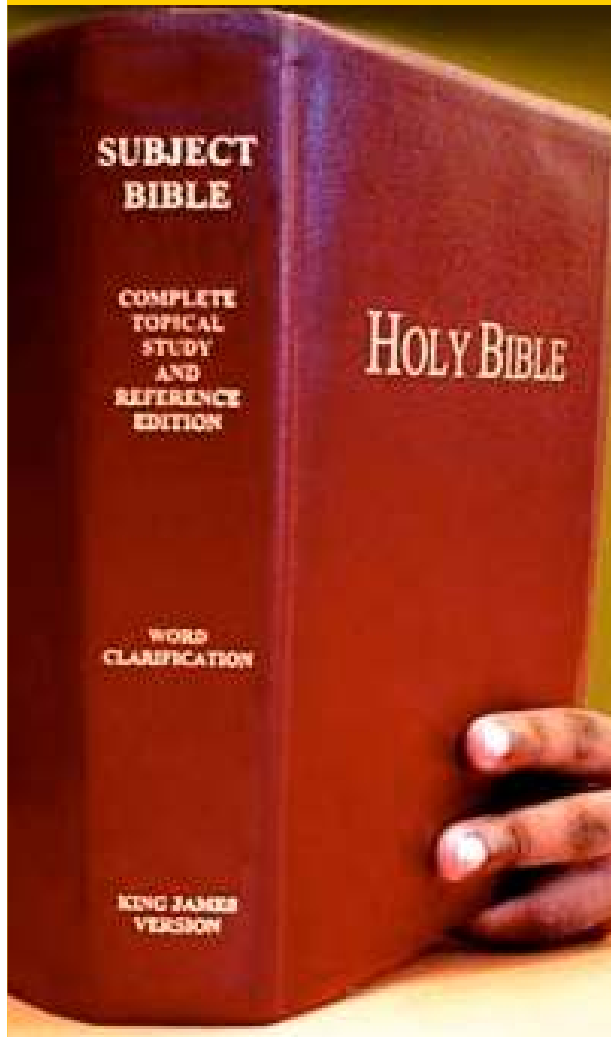


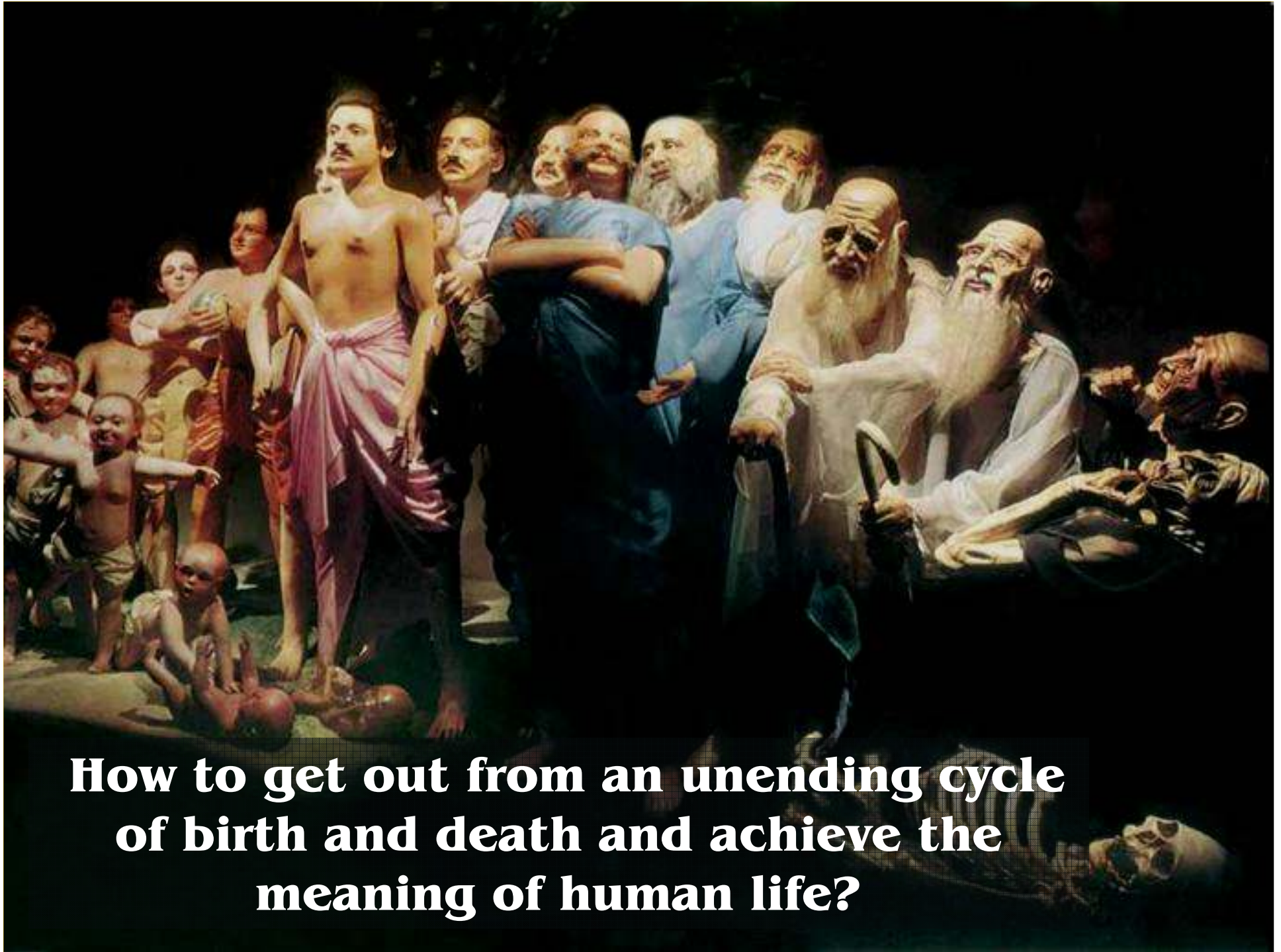
**Who is
truly
pious?**

The pious are not those who merely pray in the church, mosque, synagogue or temple. Neither are they those who merely believe in God. (Nor are they those who are simply dressed in priestly garb).




The pious are those who according to the principles of their religion, who do good deeds to other living beings, and who are free from anger and greed - i.e. those who indeed understand and closely adhere to the fundamental principles of the religion they follow.



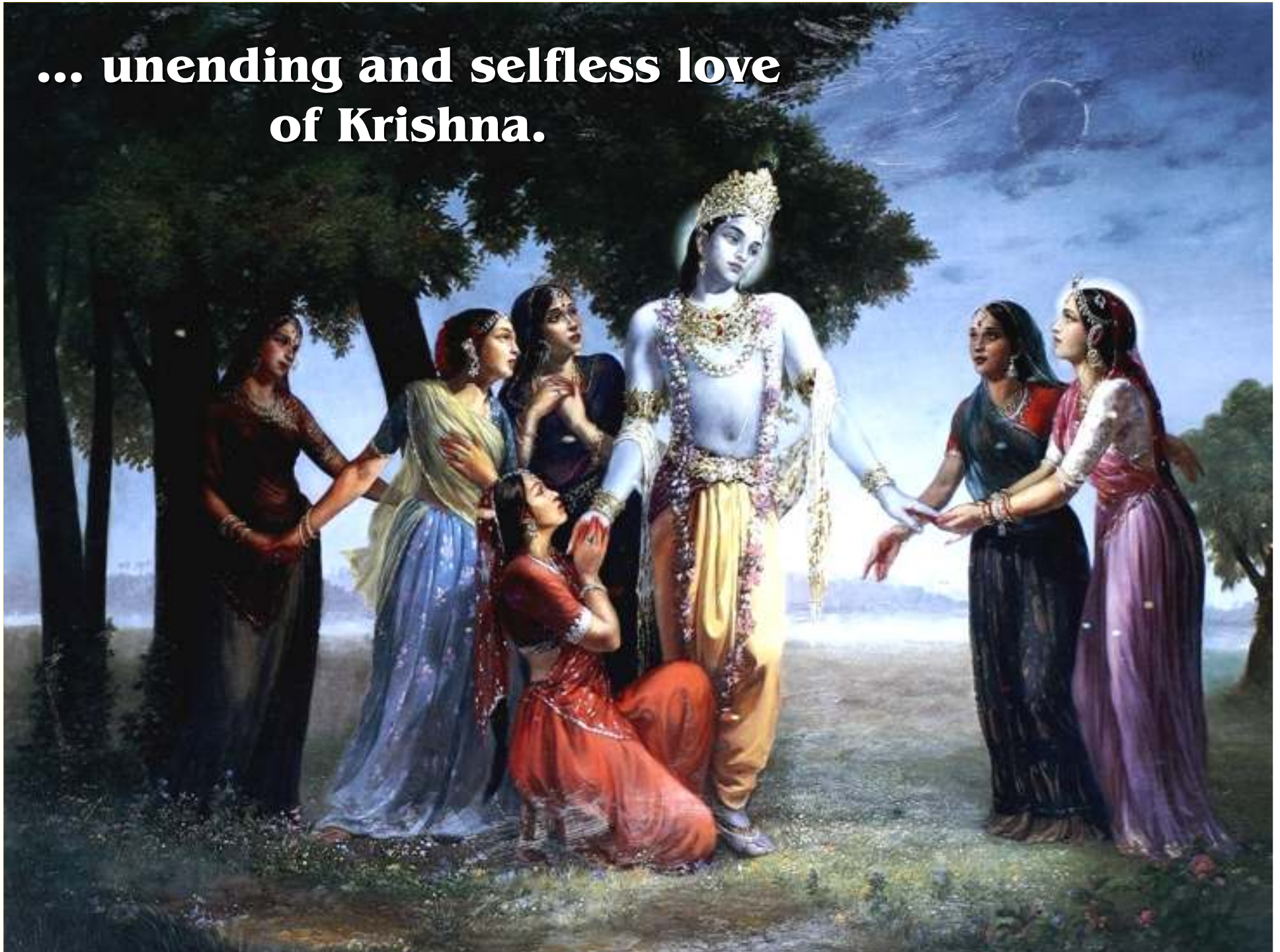


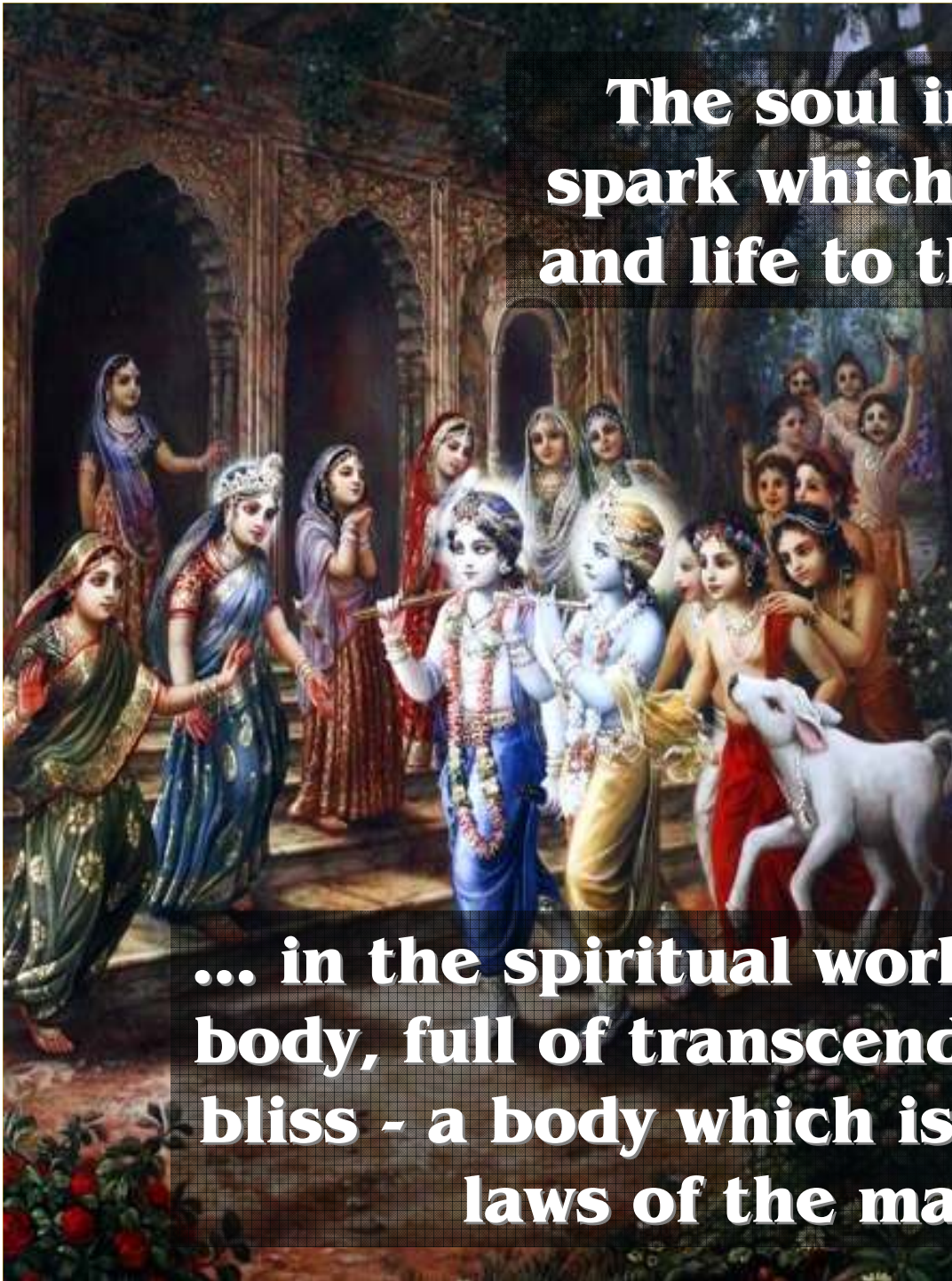
**How to get out from an unending cycle
of birth and death and achieve the
meaning of human life?**



Every living being (the soul) have their eternal spiritual form (either male or female), which becomes fully manifested when we achieve the perfection of human life ...

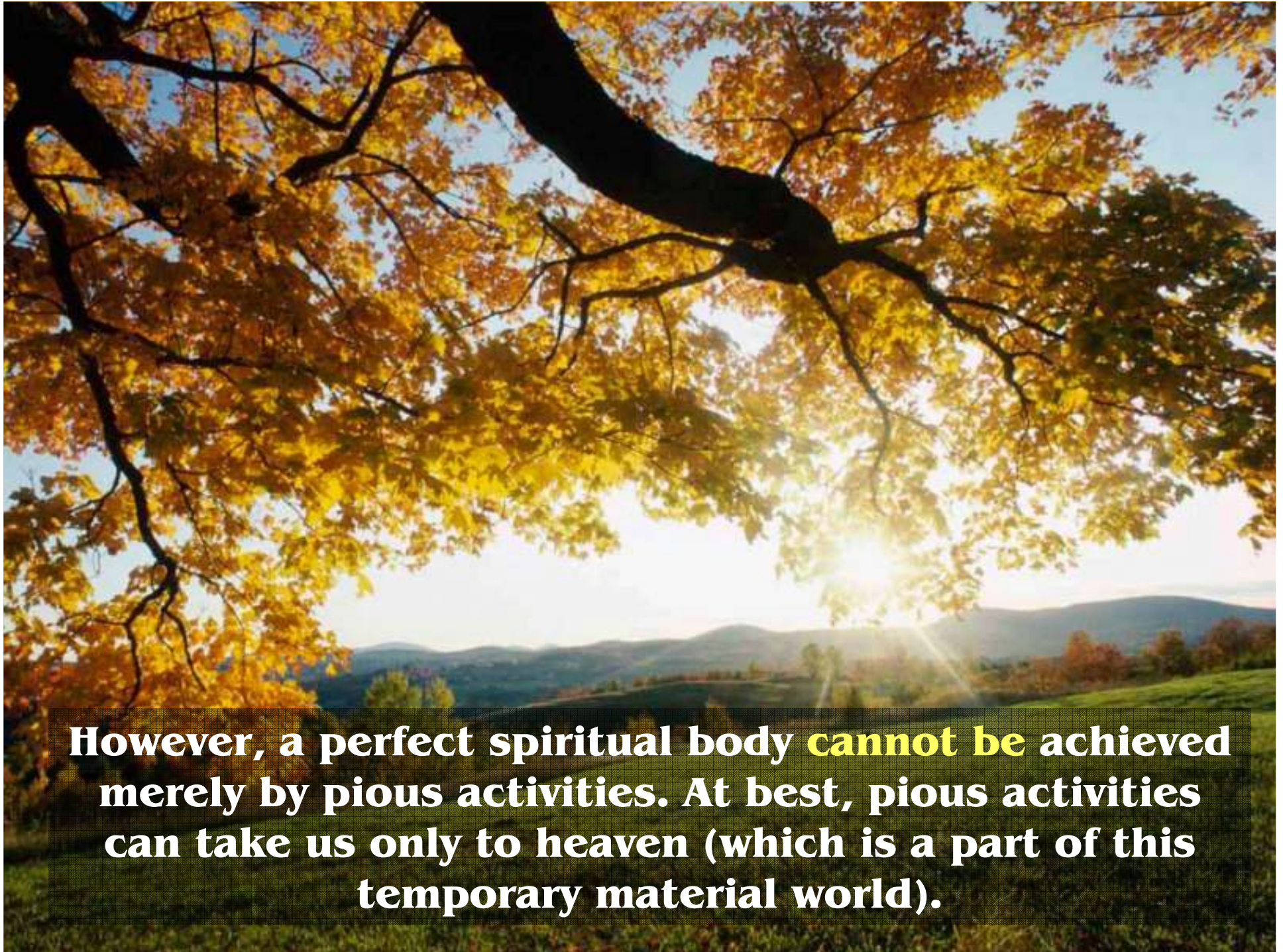
**... unending and selfless love
of Krishna.**



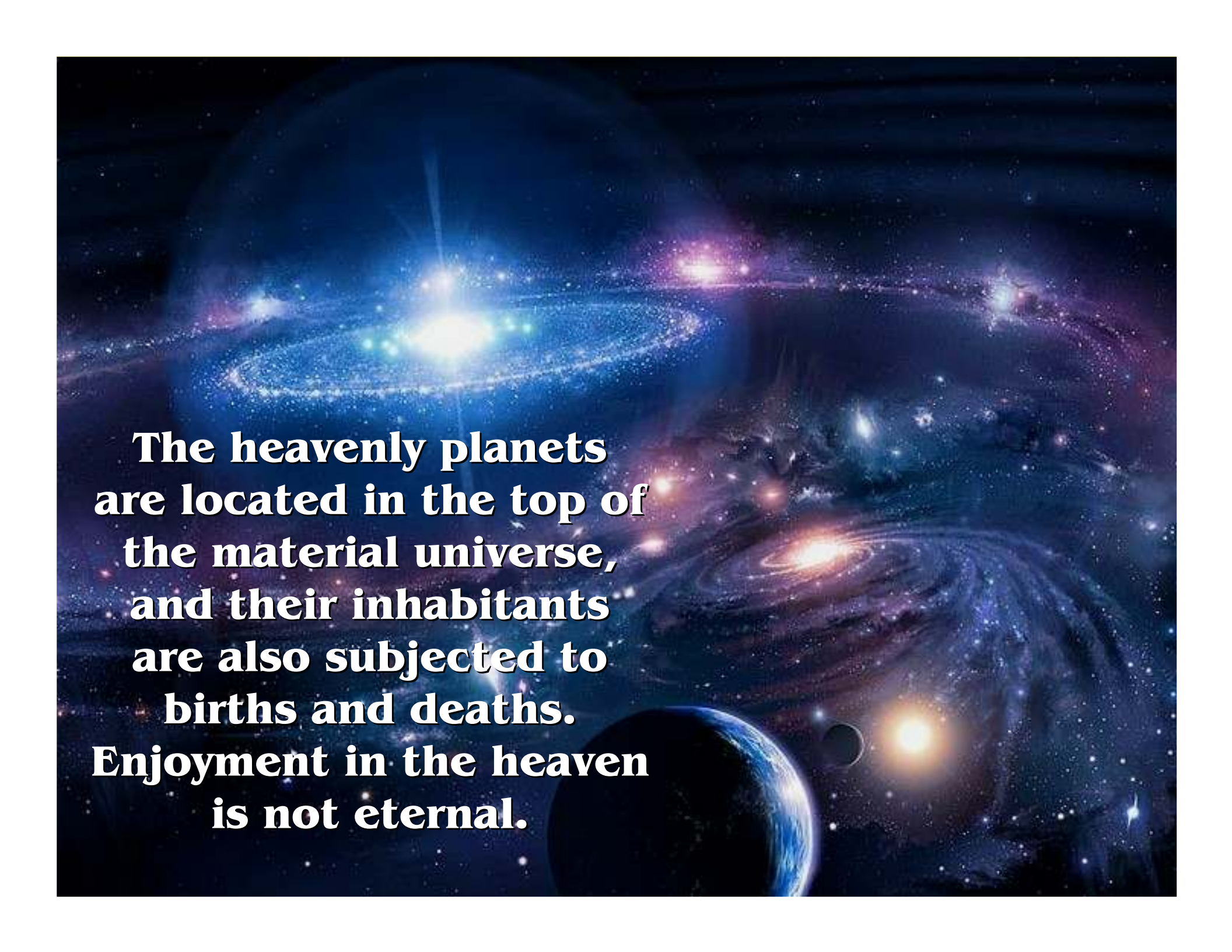


The soul in the form of a tiny spark which gives consciousness and life to the material bodies ...

... in the spiritual world resumes its eternal body, full of transcendental knowledge and bliss - a body which is not subjected to the laws of the material energy.



However, a perfect spiritual body **cannot be achieved merely by pious activities. At best, pious activities can take us only to heaven (which is a part of this temporary material world).**

A vibrant, multi-colored cosmic scene featuring a blue and purple galaxy, a yellow star, and the Earth in the foreground.

**The heavenly planets
are located in the top of
the material universe,
and their inhabitants
are also subjected to
births and deaths.
Enjoyment in the heaven
is not eternal.**

According to their original nature, the living beings are *sat* - eternal, *cit* - full of perfect knowledge, and *ananda* - unlimitedly blissful.



When eternal living being gets entangled in Krishna's lower, material energy - it identifies itself with the material body which is *asat* - perishable, *acit* - full of ignorance and anxiety, and *nirananda* - full of miseries.



**Every living being is free to choose the world
in which they wish to live.**

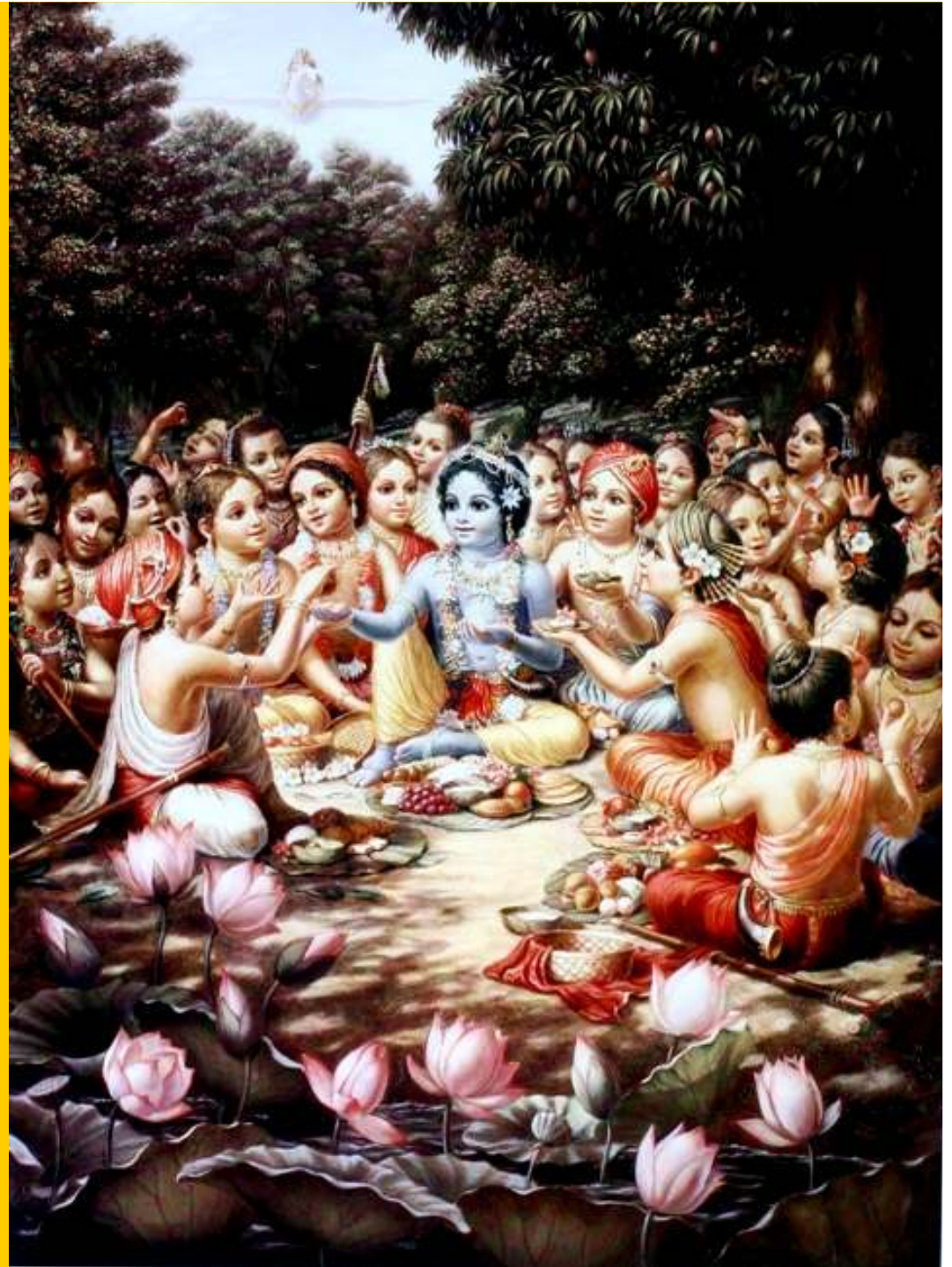


The world of selflessness and loving service, or ...

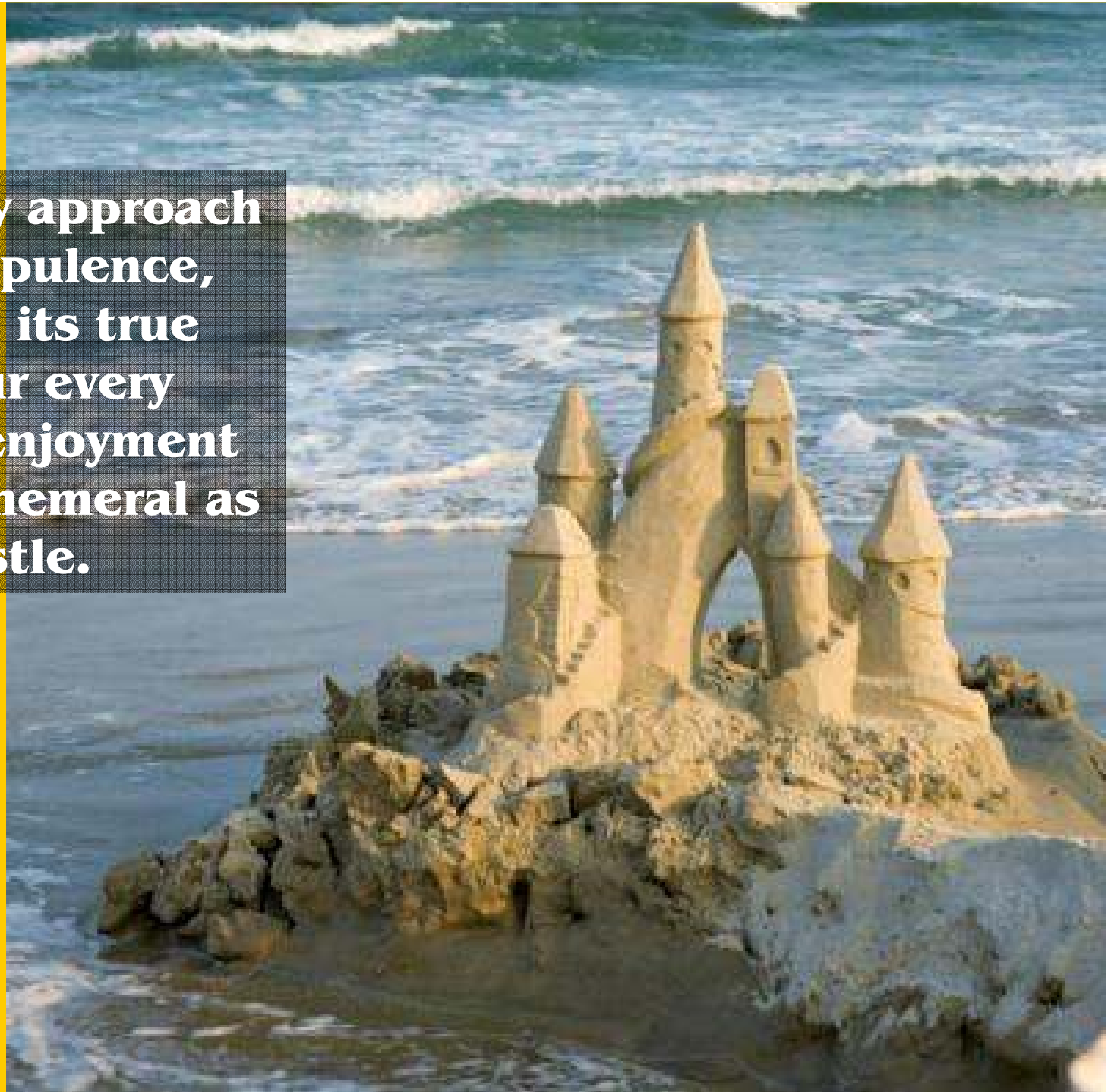


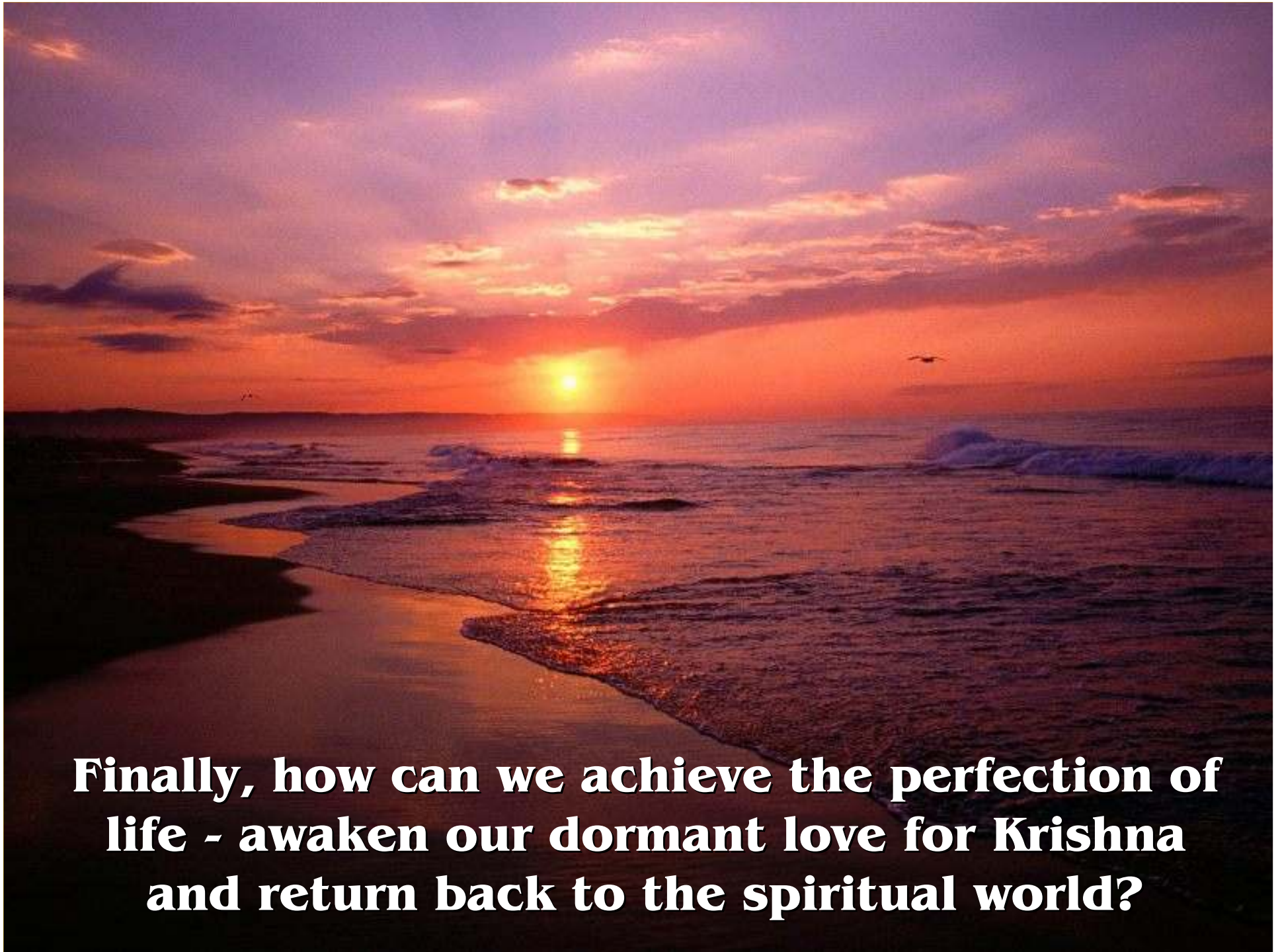
**... the world of vanity, evil and avarice.
The choice is always ours.**

Krishna is the creator and owner of all opulence, spiritual and material. If we approach Krishna with an attitude of humble service and with a pure heart, all divine opulence will be available to us, too.



**If we selfishly approach
Krishna's opulence,
neglecting its true
owner, our every
attempt at enjoyment
will be as ephemeral as
a sand castle.**





Finally, how can we achieve the perfection of life - awaken our dormant love for Krishna and return back to the spiritual world?

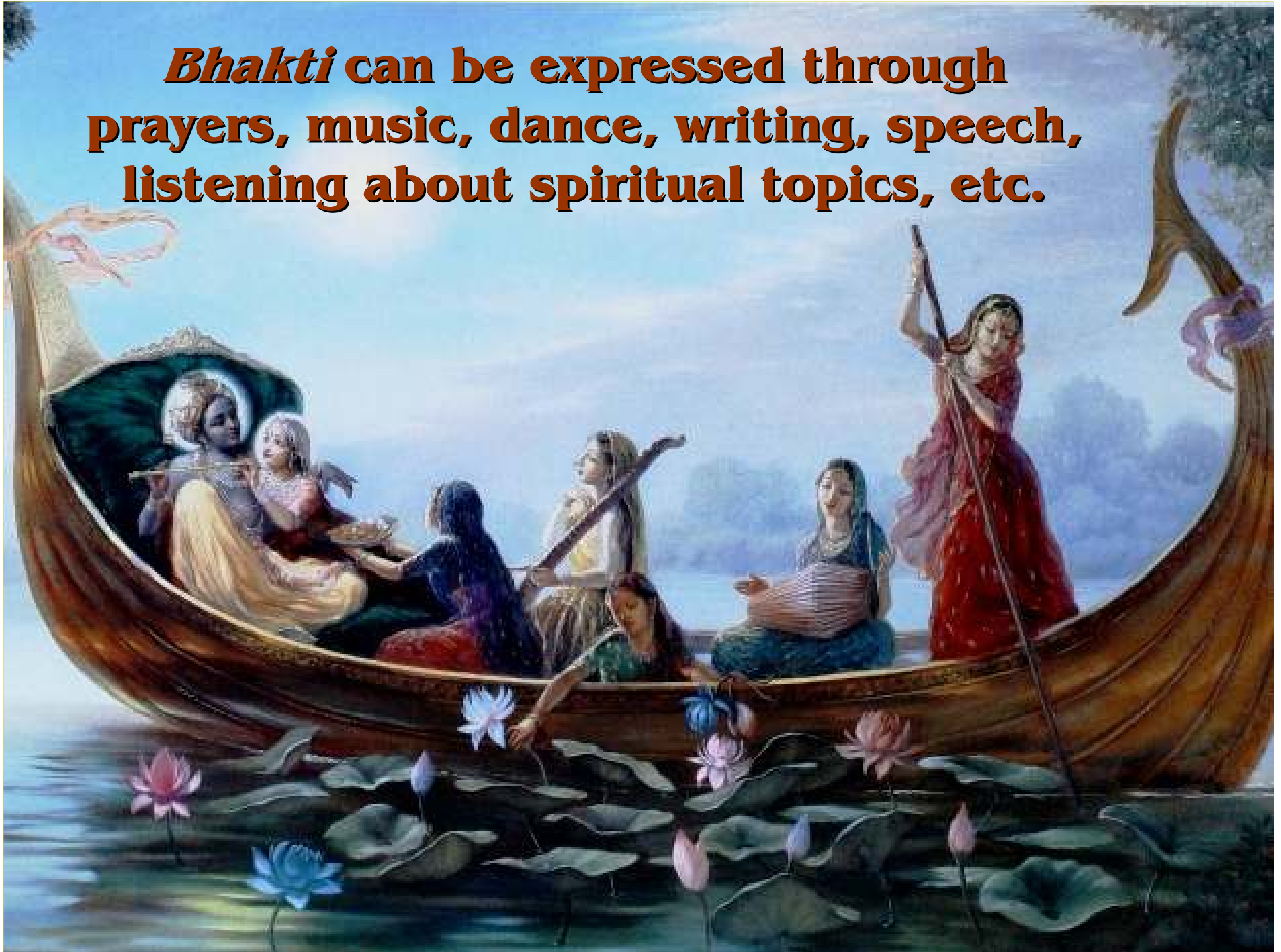
**By the exchange of
selfless spiritual love.**



Krishna created all living beings in order to exchange pure, unselfish love with them. Those who by free choice agree to such an exchange of love are called *bhaktas* (devotees) who render devotional service (*bhakti*) to Him.

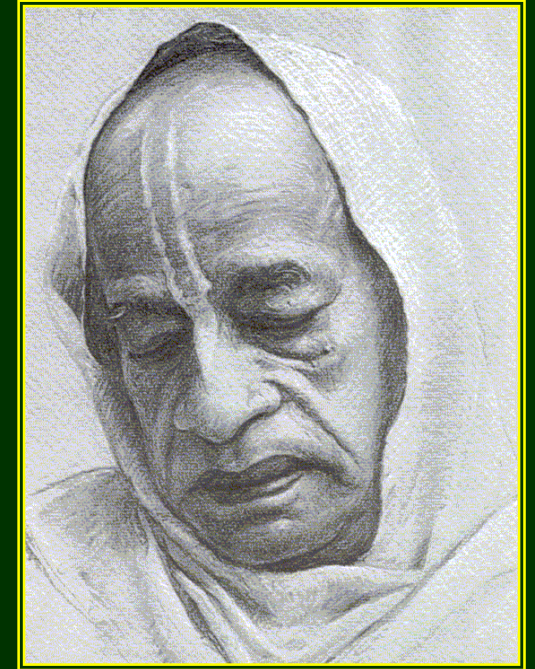


***Bhakti* can be expressed through prayers, music, dance, writing, speech, listening about spiritual topics, etc.**



**Author of the presentation: Vladimir Pavić
(Vrsabha das)**

ISKCON “International Society for Krishna Consciousness”
(Founder A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada)



Please visit our website www.krishna.com and read some of our books which convey the ancient wisdom that has been preserved by generations of saints through thousands of years. This slide presentation has been made according to the philosophy of the **Bhagavad-gita** and the teachings of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, a genuine spiritual master who made the spiritual tradition of the ancient Vedic literatures available to the whole of humanity.

The end?

