

The Over-Soul

“The soul looks steadily forwards, creating a world before her, leaving worlds behind her. She has no dates, nor rites, nor persons, nor specialties, nor men. The soul knows only the soul; the web of events is the flowing robe in which she is clothed.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The “Over-Soul,” functions as a continual unbroken form of the Higher Self which is the plane of eternal wisdom. It is the collective indivisible Soul of which all individual souls and identities are included. This Over-Soul is able to survey the past, the present and the future with the power of its timeless awareness. It is from this knowing that incarnated personal consciousness is able to retain the limited memories of each physical manifestation. For this reason, the Over-Soul serves as the repository or collective aspect of all experiences. *“It is the absolute reality and basis of all existences conceived as a spiritual being in which the ideal nature imperfectly manifested in human beings is perfectly realized.”*—Webster’s Dictionary

The term “Over-soul” has more recently been associated with the concept of *Paramatman* where (*param*) means “Supreme” and (*atman*) means “Soul.” Thus, *Paramatman* literally means; “Supreme-Soul.” In this context, the term “Over-soul” is understood as the experience of this underlying reality of the indivisible “I am Consciousness.” If you understand the concept of One Mind, One Spirit and One Consciousness, then you can understand the Over-Soul. According to Ralph Waldo Emerson’s essay *IX*; *“The Over-Soul is the celebration of the mystery of the human soul in matter and its mysterious existence as ‘part and particle’ with the eternal One.”* In truth, there is really only One Life of which everything else is merely a representation. The Over-Soul is the ever abiding presence i.e., the Creator. All manifestation is simply the Oneness of being, re-presented in various forms, all forms. There is only one consciousness from which the entire universe is spawned.

There is an evolutionary progression constantly being carried out on all levels of existence and this progression is constantly being managed by the Over-Soul much like our own individual life experiences. The Over-Soul (being the source from which all things originate) is essentially the collective repository of creation on every level from the very fundamental to the extremely complex. This is not to be mistaken with the Cosmic Hall of Records or the Akashic Record which is the collective memory but rather the Over-Soul is the immaterial essence, the animating principle, or actuating cause of each individual life. It is the spiritual principle embodied not only in human beings but all rational and spiritual beings. It is the intelligence of all existence both great and small.

We are all one eternal family and the Over-Soul is merely a large fragmentation of all that is. Your life stream and my life stream are essentially one in the same. Our countless streams of existence are generated through the ever expanding consciousness that is seeking to experience life as the individuals that we are right now. We are each minute aspects of the Over-soul, creating and experiencing human awareness in the form of life. Emerson attests to this by saying, *“That Unity, that Over-Soul, within which every man’s particular being is contained and made one with all other; that it is the common heart shared by all.”* Throughout each of our life experiences, our collection of lessons gets stored in the Over-Soul of which our overall life purpose is stored. The divine plan of our lives is known only through this massive mind and the individual mind always mingles with the Universal mind.

In the bible and countless other places, the Over-Soul is considered to be an on-going repository or account of all deeds; hence, the “Book of Life.” Every experience is being recorded not so much for an impending judgment but rather for the sole purpose of keeping track of our evolutionary progress. Upon

completing each life-stream, we return to Source which is the Over-Soul where we undergo a life review of sorts. This synopsis enables us to know and understand firsthand the type of existence we carried out. During this soul-review, it is decided which experiences we are to have in our on-going process of spiritual development. These experiences are then introduced to us in a future incarnation by those particular individuals that have agreed to assist us along our path of discovery and spiritual development.

These lessons come in the form of experiences being carried out by everyone within our particular soul-group. Parents, siblings, close friends, loved ones and other members of our soul-groups have all agreed to be a part of our journey, as we have agreed to be a part of theirs. We show up in each other's lives to present the experiences that we have decided to have in order to expand our unique sense of awareness. Therefore; the people we encounter throughout our many life cycles are the same people or spirits recurring in different bodies, different aspects and differing roles. A parent for us in this life may have been our sibling in a previous life. Conversely, we may have been the parent. Oftentimes we interchange roles within our soul group to better serve one another. The point here is that we ourselves are not capable of keeping track of our soul lessons because the Over-soul is said to be veiled from the human mind by "*sanskaras*," or impressions, acquired over the course of evolution and reincarnation. These past impressions form a barrier between the Over-Soul and its true identity. However, the Over-Soul *is* aware and therefore able to keep track of each and every occurrence throughout our many levels of existence. Thus the world, as perceived through the impressions of the past appears plural, while reality experienced in the present, unencumbered by past impressions, perceives itself as the one indivisible totality, i.e. the Over-Soul.