

Eternal Life — a Matter of Fact

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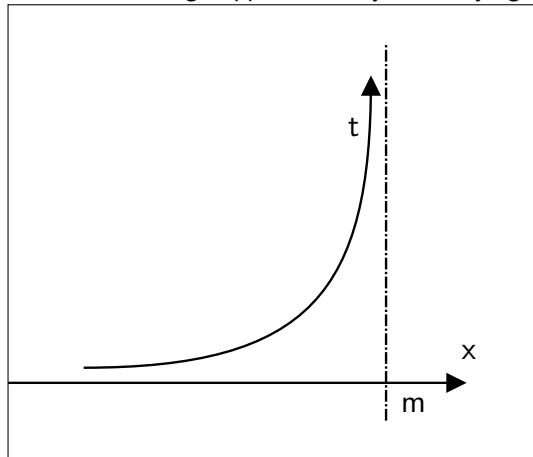
The immortality of our soul and the reality of eternal life is *not* a religious question, is not a matter of belief, but caused by the way our nerves and brain operate.

The most important fact is that *time*, as we perceive it, as we live in it, is not a physical phenomenon. Instead, it is produced actively by our perception and consciousness. You certainly know that four hours can feel like half an hour, e.g. when you have a nice party with nice friends. But four minutes also can feel like half an hour, e.g. when waiting for an ambulance after an accident.

Your own, perceived time is only loosely related (1) to the physical time and (2) to the time of other human beings. Normally only the sequential order of events is the same.¹

The same is with dreaming: E.g. fallen to sleep in a very exhausting situation (on a conference, on travel, etc.), you can have a dream which contain weeks of adventures and action stories, while lasting only a few minutes, seen from outside.

A similar thing happens when you are dying:



Let x be my personal time, sitting beside you and watching you dying (or the other way round, it doesn't matter !-) Let m be the time instance when all your brain activity is gone, all your cells

¹ ... and even this not necessarily! E.g., when you enter a dark room, which you know very well, and turn on the light without the need to search for the switch, then you will see the light a few milliseconds *before* you feel the moving of the switch with your finger-tips! This is due to the different distances the electric potential of the nerves must travel. E.g., a well-trained musician will recognize this delay very precisely!

stopped working, etc. At this point you are definitely dead, seen from outside. But nothing hinders your personal time t to proceed in eternity in a way which is called "asymptotic" in mathematics. Without ever reaching the line m . Living for ever.

I'm pretty sure that this is exactly what will happen. Because there is no sensible reason for anything else.

EPIKUR: "Death . . . is nothing to us: *when* we are, death is not come, and, when death is come, we are not." (my italics) [1]

What ends your dreaming every morning?
And what, if awakening does not happen?

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There will be never any time "after" our death. But there will be an everlasting dream shortly "before", eternally approaching it, never reaching it. Obviously, this period will be the most important one in our life, since it will last much longer than any other, namely for ever.

So the most important thing everyone has to do is to care for the sanity of her/his immortal soul. But how? Now the different religions and moral systems come into play. I personally think that (1) everyone has to find his/her own way, that (2) any religion / belief is okay, as long as it does not want to dominate or convince others, because (3) w.r.t. the core facts the more mature religions basically all say the same.

A peaceful life in death is most likely when you leave the outer world without hatred, angst or deficits. When you have lived in peace, when you have tried to understand, to support and to love your fellow humans. Aware to be a small, but important integral part of one big idea, which is common to all humans, but different for everyone. Which some people call "God", others "Higher Power", some "Idea", others "Love".

It is greater than you, and it loves you. That will save us.

References

- [1] Epikur, "Letter to Menoeceus", in: Robert Drew Hicks "Stoic and Epicurean" , 1910
- [2] Lindgren, Astrid, "The Brothers Lionheart" / "Bröderna Lejonhjärta" , 1973