

HOW DO WE GET TO HEAVEN?

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After death the material body returns to the elemental world from which it was derived, but two non-material factors of surviving personality persist: The pre-existent God-Spirit, which has recorded a memory transcription of the mortal career, proceeds to the Father, and most swiftly returns; and there also remains, in the custody of the ministering guardian angel, the immortal soul of the deceased human. These phases and forms of soul, these once active but now static formulas of identity, are essential to an individual's repersonalization, his spiritual resuscitation, his individual resurrection, on the first of the "many mansions in the Father's house", hereinafter referred to as "the mansion worlds." And it is the reunion of the Spirit and the soul within a new "morontia body" on the first mansion world that reassembles the surviving personality, that reconsciousizes you at the time of the mansion world awakening.

There is a universe realm of reality which exists on a level between those of matter and spirit. This reality level extends from one to the other and is in contact with both, connecting each. A new term will be presented here which will be used to refer to this level of reality as well as to all things and beings, all manifestations which exist on that level. This mid-range realm is referred to as the "morontia" level of reality.

In the faraway stretches of future time, our world shall have achieved the acme of planetary progress and succeeded in realizing world-wide unity in the

planetary family of God. In partnership with God, mortals shall have achieved the global realization of the truth of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. The Earth will be spiritually united while its citizens shall ever retain their individual uniqueness as they all will become God-loving and man-serving. Then will there be assembled on our world--with the assistance of descending celestial beings from the morontial and spiritual realms--a mid-phase construction known as the "morontia temple". This edifice, even though consisting of morontia materials, will be visible to the advanced and fully evolved humans of this distant future era.

The morontia temple also serves as the place of assembly for witnessing the translation of living mortals to the morontia existence. It is because the translation temple is composed of morontia materials that it is not damaged by the blazing glory of the consuming fire which so completely obliterates the physical bodies of those mortals who therein experience the final fusion of their immortal souls with their divine Indwelling Spirits.

On pre-perfected worlds, those without morontia temples, such as ours, these flashes--signifying the eternal union of the soul and Indwelling Spirit of an individual human being--many times occur in the planetary atmosphere, where the material body of a translation candidate is elevated by quasi-material beings for whom this is possible, notwithstanding their invisibility. A mortal witnessing such an event might describe the experience as one in which the translated individual was carried away into heaven in a "chariot of fire". And in the Bible, there are records of two such fusions which took place on Earth wherein the stories of Enoch and of Elijah and their departures are recounted: "Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away." (NIV,

Genesis 5:24) "As they [Elijah and Elisha] were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, 'My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!' And Elisha saw him no more." (II Kings 2:11-12)

From our knowledge of such instances of the translation of living human beings to higher morontia levels of reality, we understand that natural, physical death is not a mortal inevitability. The majority of advanced evolutionary human beings, citizens on worlds existing in the final eras of planetary perfection--the unending epoch of "light and life"--and whereon there are one or more morontia temples in which translation can safely occur, do not die; they are translated directly from the life in the flesh to the morontia existence.

When the family, friends, and working group of such a fusion candidate have forgathered in the morontia temple, they are distributed around the central stage whereon the fusion candidates are resting, meantime freely conversing with their assembled friends. A circle of intervening celestial personalities is arranged to protect the material mortals from the action of the energies manifest at the instant of the "life flash" which delivers the ascension candidate from the bonds of material flesh, thereby doing for such an evolutionary mortal everything that natural death does for those who are thereby delivered from the flesh.

Many fusion candidates may be assembled in the spacious temple at the same time. And what a beautiful occasion when mortals thus forgather to witness the ascension of their loved ones in spiritual flames, and what a contrast to those earlier ages when mortals must commit their dead to the embrace of the terres-

trial elements! The scenes of weeping and wailing characteristic of earlier epochs of human evolution are now replaced by ecstatic joy and the sublimest enthusiasm as these God-knowing mortals bid their loved ones a transient farewell as they are removed from the material associations by the spiritual fires of consuming grandeur and ascending glory. On worlds settled in light and life, "funerals" are occasions of supreme joy, profound satisfaction, and inexpressible hope.

The souls of these progressing mortals are increasingly filled with faith, hope, and assurance. The spirit permeating those gathered around the translation shrine resembles that of the joyful friends and relatives who might assemble at a graduating exercise for one of their group, or who might come together to witness the conferring of some great honor upon one of their number. And it would be decidedly helpful if all mortals could only learn to view natural death with something of this same cheerfulness and lightheartedness.

Mortal observers can see nothing of their translated associates subsequent to the fusion flash. Such translated souls proceed direct to the resurrection hall of the appropriate morontia training world.

Although the Universal Father (God) is personally resident on Paradise, at the very center of the universe, he is also actually present on the worlds of space in the minds of his countless children of time, for he indwells them as the Spirit fragments of his own divinity. The eternal Father is at one and the same time farthest removed from, and most intimately associated with, his planetary mortal sons and daughters.

God, having commanded man to become perfect, even as he is perfect, has descended as the Indwelling Spirit to become man's experiential partner in the achievement of the supernal destiny which has been thus ordained. The fragment of God which indwells the mind of man is the absolute and unqualified assurance that man can find the Universal Father in association with this divine Entity, which came forth from God to find man and sonship him even in the days of the flesh.

Since Indwelling Spirits are of the essence of original Deity, no one may presume to discourse authoritatively upon their nature or origin; they proceed direct from the Universal Father. They are not created beings; they are fragmentized entities constituting the factual presence of the infinite God. They are undiluted and unmixed divinity, unqualified and unattenuated parts of Deity; they are of God and they are God.

The soul of man is a joint product of the interactive performances of the mortal mind and the Indwelling Spirit itself. When mortal mind seeks to do the will of God--a fragment of whom indwells each moral mortal, the "Spirit"--it receives the dynamic partnership of that Spirit as an associate in the living of the mortal life in preparation for the long ascension to Paradise and the eternal career thereafter.

In this process between the mortal mind and Spirit, the soul originates and develops to a level at which it has its own consciousness, will, and identity. The Spirit makes an imperishable record of the decisions and acts of the mortal which will be a necessary part of the consciousness of a resurrected mortal when he re-personalizes in a "morontia", soul-like, body on the

first mansion world. That Spirit "transcript" of the mortal life is indispensable to the memory of a reassembled mortal when he is reunited with the soul in the new morontia body.

The completion of the resurrection of the onetime mortal is achieved by the association of the Spirit (with its mortal-life transcript), the soul (which is brought to the first mansion world by a guardian or transport seraphim), the new morontia mind, and the awaiting morontia body. All these elements are reassembled by the coordinating and unifying capability of the personality of the resurrected mortal. The completion of the reconstruction process makes possible the reawakening of the onetime mortal, now a morontia citizen in good standing in the universal family of God--a surviving child of God.

The personality is the eternal and unique identity of the ascending mortal. On the first mansion world the individual renews his progressive efforts in the ongoing quest for the Universal Father on Paradise and for the comprehension of the facts, meanings, and values of universe reality.

The fusion of a planetary individual's immortal soul with the Paradise Spirit of his Father creates a new kind of universe creature--a new order of cosmic being--which continues as the life of that mortal when his personality resumes its decision-making capability and consequent progress. For those mortals who do not achieve liberation from the physical incarnation through fusion, the death of the body accomplishes for them that which fusion made possible for other mortals: terrestrial escape, liberation from the physical body "life machine" and the material mind.

The souls of those who leave earth through physical death have not achieved fusion with their associated Spirits, and therefore there is a necessity for providing another way of relocating the soul from its terrestrial beginning point to the first mansion world. This is accomplished through the services of the guardian seraphim of each sleeping survivor of the mortal life. To avail oneself of the services of a transport seraphim--to become "enseraphimed"--is not unlike the experience of death or sleep except that there is an automatic time element in the transit slumber. You are unconscious during seraphic rest. But the Indwelling Spirit associated during earthlife with the enseraphimed soul of a deceased human is wholly and fully conscious, in fact, exceptionally efficient since the mortal is unable to oppose, resist, or otherwise hinder creative and transforming work.

When enseraphimed, you go to sleep for a specified time, and you will awaken at the designated moment. The length of a journey when in transit sleep is immaterial. You are not directly aware of the passing of time. It is as if you went to sleep on a transport vehicle in one city and, after resting in peaceful slumber all night, awakened in another and distant metropolis. You journeyed while you slumbered. And so you take flight through space, enseraphimed, while you rest--sleep.

These transporting angels are not directly concerned in your subsequent personality reassembly on the first mansion world. There your new body is a morontia form (one that can enseraphim). You "sow a mortal body" in the grave; you "reap a morontia form" on the mansion worlds.

Your conventional idea of angels has been derived in the following way: During moments just prior to physical death a reflective phenomenon sometimes occurs in the human mind, and this dimming consciousness seems to visualize something of the form of the attending angel, and this is immediately translated into terms of the habitual concept of angels held in that individual's mind.

The erroneous idea that angels possess wings is not wholly due to olden notions that they must have wings to fly through the air. Human beings have sometimes been permitted to observe seraphim that were being prepared for transport service, and the traditions of these experiences have largely determined the concept of angels on Earth. In observing a transport seraphim being made ready to receive a soul for interplanetary transit, there may be seen what are apparently double sets of wings extending from the head to the foot of the angel. In reality these wings are energy insulators--friction shields.

(The following description of seraphic take-off refers to the departure of a spirit or morontia being by utilization of a transport seraphim, and the planetary take-off of a guardian seraphim carrying the soul of a mortal personality from Earth to the first mansion world is undoubtedly very similar if not identical.)

When a surviving mortal's soul is to be enseraphimed for transfer from Earth to the first mansion world, it is brought by the guardian seraphim to the headquarters of the sphere and, after due registry, is inducted into the transit sleep. Meantime, the transport seraphim moves into a horizontal position immediately above the universe energy pole of the planet. While the energy shields are wide open, the sleeping soul is skillfully deposited, by the

officiating seraphic assistants, directly on top of the transport angel. Then both the upper and lower pairs of shields are carefully closed and adjusted.

And now, under the influence of beings who can manipulate such super-physical realities, a strange metamorphosis begins as the seraphim is made ready to swing into the energy currents of the universe circuits. To outward appearances the seraphim grows pointed at both extremities and becomes so enshrouded in a queer light of amber hue that very soon it is impossible to distinguish the enseraphimed soul. When all is in readiness for departure, the "chief of transport" makes the proper inspection of the carriage of life, carries out the routine tests to ascertain whether or not the angel is properly encircuited, and then announces that the traveler is properly enseraphimed, that the energies are adjusted, that the angel is insulated, and that everything is in readiness for the departing flash.

The mechanical controllers, two of them, next take their positions. By this time the transport seraphim has become an almost transparent, vibrating, torpedo-shaped outline of glistening luminosity. Now the transport dispatcher of the realm summons the auxiliary batteries of the living energy transmitters, usually one thousand in number; as he announces the destination of the transport, he reaches out and touches the rear point of the seraphic carriage, which shoots forward with lightninglike speed, leaving a trail of celestial luminosity as far as the planetary atmospheric investment extends. In less than ten minutes the marvelous spectacle will be lost even to reinforced seraphic vision.

There is something real, something of human evolution, something additional to the Indwelling Spirit, which survives death and which departs from

Earth in this resplendent fashion. This newly appearing entity we have been discussing is the soul, and it survives the death of both the physical body and the material mind. This entity is the child of the combined life and efforts of the human you, a planetary mortal, in liaison with the divine you, the Spirit. This child of human and divine parentage constitutes the surviving element of terrestrial origin; it is the morontia self, the immortal soul. And the guardian angel is the custodian of each individual's soul during the time between mortal death and the morontia resurrection in a tremendous morontia "building" on the first mansion world:

From the Temple of New Life there extend seven radial wings, the resurrection halls of the mortal races. There are one hundred thousand personal resurrection chambers in each of these seven wings terminating in the circular class assembly halls, which serve as the awakening chambers for as many as one million individuals. The real and conscious reassembly of actual and complete personality takes place in the resurrection halls of mansion world number one. Throughout all eternity you will recall the profound memory impressions of your first witnessing of these resurrection mornings.

Just as a butterfly emerges from the caterpillar stage, so will the true personalities of human beings emerge on the mansion worlds, for the first time revealed apart from their onetime enshrouding in the material flesh.

From the resurrection halls you proceed to the Melchizedek sector, where you are assigned permanent residence. Then you enter upon ten days of personal liberty. You are free to explore the immediate vicinity of your new home and also have time to gratify your desire to consult the registry and call upon your loved ones and other earth friends who may have preceded you to these worlds.

The infant-receiving schools of our local system of worlds are situated on the first mansion world. These infant-receiving schools are enterprises devoted to the nurture and training of the children of time, including those who have died on the evolutionary worlds of space before the acquirement of individual status on the universe records which begins with the child's first moral decision. In the event of the survival of either or both of such a child's parents, the guardian angel deputizes her associated cherubim as the custodian of the child's potential identity, charging the cherubim with the responsibility of delivering this undeveloped soul into the hands of the Mansion World Teachers in the probationary nursery on the first morontia world.

The awakening of a child occurs at the exact time of the parental arrival on the first mansion world. And then are these children given every opportunity, as they are, to choose the heavenly way just as they would have made such a choice on the worlds where death so untimely terminated their careers. On the nursery world, probationary creatures are grouped according to whether or not they have Indwelling Spirits. Children of pre-Spirit ages are cared for in families of five, up to the time of the arrival of a child's Spirit. Children who already had Spirits on their native world, but who have not made a decision for or against the ascension career, are resurrected, grow up, and eventually make their individual decisions concerning survival. They grow up in morontia world families usually with four other such children. The ages of these family groups of five whose ages are approximately six, eight, ten, twelve, fourteen, and sixteen. If these children choose to survive, they begin their ascension careers with no further delay. Those who elect not to survive complete their lives, encounter death, and are not resurrected. Such children become as if they never existed. Many children who choose the ascendant life leave the nursery world in time to catch up to and progress with their parents.

At the end of your ten day period of leisure you begin the second step in the Paradise journey, for the mansion worlds are actual training spheres, not residential abodes.

On mansion world number one (or another in case of advanced status) you will resume your intellectual training and spiriutal development at the exact level whereon they were interrupted by death. Between the time of planetary death and resurrection on the mansion world, mortal man gains absolutely nothing aside from experiencing the fact of survival. You begin over there right where you leave off down here.

Almost the entire experience of mansion world number one pertains to deficiency ministry. Survivors arriving on this first of the mansion spheres present so many and such varied defects of creature character and deficiencies of mortal experience that the major activities of the realm are occupied with the correction and cure of these manifold legacies of the life in the flesh on the material evolutionary worlds of time and space.

If you are not to be detained on mansion world number one, at the end of ten days you will enter the translation sleep and proceed to world number two, and every ten days thereafter you will thus advance until you arrive on the world of your assignment.

John the Revelator (author of "Revelation", the last book of the Bible--a mighty revelation which thereafter was unfortunately edited, reorganized, deleted from, added to and amended) saw a vision of the arrival of a class of advancing mortals from the seventh mansion world to their first and glorious

"Heaven", or "Jerusem": the "heavenly Jerusalem". He recorded: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire; and those who had gained the victory over the beast that was originally in them and over the image that persisted through the mansion worlds and finally over the last mark and trace, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, and singing the song of deliverance from mortal fear and death." (Revelation 15:2-3) Perfected space communication is to be had on all these worlds; and your anywhere reception of such communications is made possible by carrying the "harp of God," a morontia contrivance compensating for the inability to directly adjust the immature morontia sensory mechanism to the reception of space communications.

Paul also had a view of such ascending universe citizens (perfecting mortals on Jerusem), for he wrote: "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the grand assembly of Michael, and to the spirits of just men being made perfect." (Hebrews 12:22-23)

Seven times do those mortals who pass through the entire mansonia career experience the adjustment sleep and the resurrection awakening. But the last resurrection hall, the final awakening chamber, was left behind on the seventh mansion world. Thereafter, it is no longer necessary for an advancing mortal to become unconscious during the time in which the attunement of his morontia body to the higher energy frequencies of the next and subsequent morontia worlds is achieved; nor, thereafter, do these gradual adaptations entail an interruption in the continuity of the memory of that ascending mortal.

During the near-future times of the morontia transformation, ascending mortals advance through many gradations of universe life.

Your passage through the morontia life, this wonderful borderland life, will be an unforgettable experience, a charming memory. It is the evolutionary portal to spirit life and the eventual attainment of mortal perfection by which ascenders achieve the goal of time--the finding of God on Paradise.

There is a definite and divine purpose in all this morontia and subsequent spirit scheme of mortal progression, this elaborate universe training school for ascending creatures. It is the design of the Creators to afford his children of time a graduated opportunity to master the details of the operation and administration of the grand universe, and this long course of training is best carried forward by having the surviving mortal climb up gradually and by actual participation in every step of the ascent.

The mortal survival plan has a practical and serviceable objective; you are not the recipients of all this divine labor and painstaking training only that you may survive just to enjoy endless bliss and eternal ease. There is a goal of transcendent service concealed beyond the horizon of the present universe age. If the Gods of the Paradise Trinity designed merely to take you on one long and eternal joy excursion, they certainly would not so largely turn the whole universe into one vast and intricate practical training school, requisition a substantial part of the celestial creation as teachers and instructors, and then spend ages upon ages politing you, one by one, through this gigantic universe school of experiential training. The furtherance of the scheme of mortal progression seems to be one of the chief businesses of the present organized universe, and the majority of innumerable orders of created intelligences are either directly or indirectly engaged in advancing some phase of this progressive perfection plan.

In traversing the ascending scale of living existence from mortal man to the embrace of the Deity on Paradise, you actually live the very life of every possible phase and stage of perfected creature existence within the limits of the present universe age. The progress of man from the level of a planetary native to that of a Paradise citizen embraces all that now can be--encompasses everything presently possible to the living orders of intelligent, perfected and finite creature beings. If our future destiny as personalities who have achieved Paradise citizenship is service in new universes now in the making, it is assured that in this new and future creation there will be no created orders of experiential beings whose lives will be wholly different from those which mortal ascenders have lived on some world as a part of their ascendant training, as one of the stages of their agelong progress from animal to angel and from angel to spirit and from spirit to God.

There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, and this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are your for the striving!