

Life after death: contemporary theories and beyond

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ABSTRACT

Philosophers and thinkers have been theorizing on life after death, and, several theories have emerged on the intriguing topic, as to, what happens after we die. As there are extensively reported discarnate communications, Survival theory asserts there is extension of life beyond death and discarnate spirits communicate. Super psi theory's view is that, there is no extension of life; the reported communications from dead may be through handiwork of a refined form of psi, called Super psi. But wherefrom the communication is extracted; is answered by theory of Radical Survivalism, which stipulates, that the Knowledge form stays in existence after death (there is no extension of life though). It keeps all past events, and all information in storage and this knowledge form becomes a part of Absolute Knowledge form; the communication gets extracted from Absolute Knowledge form through psi or super psi by living people. Some questions still remain unanswered--does the Knowledge form stop here; is there no further manifestation? How, then, we explain new births, can there, still be, life and death cycles? The reincarnations and manifestations of apparitions who communicate with living people are not dealt in the theories other than survival theory. What about life after death of non-human living forms? There are reported existence of living forms in other planets, what happens to them? Can we traverse anywhere in Cosmos after death? If there is survival after death, does manifestation of life in next cycle is in same living speci form or humans can manifest in non-human living forms and vice-versa? The suggested Energy Survival Theory attempts to find answers to some of above questions. The theory is based on the concept of Energy which cannot be created or destroyed; it can, only, undergo transformation.

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From time immemorial, mankind has been curious to know what happens after death. We are baffled by innumerable incidents which are reported across the world, where deceased have made their presence felt to living people.

Krippner (2006), describes an incident when during his dream, his friend's wife "Spotted Fawn" says that she will not be seeing him anymore, and, next morning he hears news of her death.

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I, myself, underwent a bizarre incident which happened when my father breathed his last. He died on 23rd feb 2018 at 2.55 p.m. I came out from the ICU and when I glanced at the relatives of other patients seated on benches outside the ICU, I could visualize my mother sitting there --she had passed away more than 27 years ago! I was baffled and when my brother reached ICU, I asked him to see the lady who is, none other, than our mother. He saw that lady and he, also, jumped with excitement and exclaimed that Ma has come to take away daddy—A connect with deceased!

Reincarnation, vastly studied by (Stevenson, 1984) over many decades, gives account of baffling instances where people recall what they were in previous birth and, the incidents, when verified are found to be true. There is a reincarnation case of Sharada (a Bengali lady), who, is reborn in Maharashtra as Uttara. Uttara began to have apparent memories of an earlier life when she was in her thirties. These memories occurred during dramatic changes in personality, at which time she spoke, Bengali (Marathi was the only language she knew), which she apparently neither spoke nor understood in her normal state, and which, she apparently never had an opportunity to learn.

The appearance of apparitions has baffled many of us since ages and no explanation is found. The most bizarre are the instances concerning Abraham Lincoln who manifested as apparition on several occasions which were witnessed by different eminent people at different times. There is a mention of these in the book by Judith Ennamorato (2006) --Following gives those incidents:

Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt has recorded perhaps the best story of Lincoln's ghost: -
"I was sitting in my study when one of the maids burst in on me in a state of great excitement. I looked up from my work and asked her what was the trouble.
"He is up there ---sitting on the edge of the bed, taking off his shoes!" she exclaimed
"who's up there taking off shoes?" I asked
"Mr Lincoln!" she exclaimed"

Queen Wilhemina of the Netherlands saw the ghost of Lincoln during a state visit. While spending night at the White house during Roosevelt Presidency, she was awakened by a knock on the bedroom door. Answering it, she was confronted with the Ghost of Abraham Lincoln staring at her from the hallway.

Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover and Harry Truman, all, reported hearing unexplained rappings on their bedroom doors. They all believed it was Lincoln.

On several occasions, the wife of Calvin Coolidge reported having seen the ghost of Lincoln standing with his hands clasped behind his back, at a window in the Oval Office, staring out in deep contemplation toward the bloody battlefields across the Potomac.

During one of his visits to the States during world war two, Winston Churchill spent the night at the white house. On one occasion, he climbed out of the bath and naked, save for the Cigar, sauntered into the adjoining bedroom. Startled, he looked up to see Abraham Lincoln standing by the fire place in the room, leaning on the mantle. Churchill simply blinked before saying, "You seem to have me at a disadvantage,". Lincoln apparently smiled softly before simply disappearing.

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Lincoln's ghost, however, was not confined to white House. Some have spotted his spirit walking near his graveyard in Springfield, Illinois.

These incidents are few of many across the world. These prop up a question whether there is extension of life after death?

Survival Theory

Survival Theory has evolved from pre-historic times in different parts of world. Philosophers, prevailing Religions and Researchers across the world, have been, jointly, giving it shape. In Indian Philosophy, "It is believed that when person dies, the soul (a subtle small invisible part in body) leaves the body and joins several such souls in universe. Soul is not destructible & there is no death. The soul does not die, rather, soul changes its position from one body to another, in the way, a person changes clothes and wears new clothes." (Indian Holy book "Bhagawad Gita"). "Some of the souls attain salvation (Nirvana), which is the ultimate state when we become **God**, when, our souls merge with **Him**, the **Absolute**. It happens after attainment of a high standard of development in souls. It is believed that we keep taking births after deaths to raise the standard of development of soul, till the refinement process reaches the supreme state, through the deeds in the lives, and realization of self. Till the stage of Nirvana (the ultimate state) comes, the souls keep wandering in universe in search of a body, enter one, live in the body till bodily death, and then, leave the body again in search of a new body. The Cycle of Birth and Death goes on, which keeps on changing the abode of soul, till, it reaches supreme state of development and then it gets merged into Divine God."

I wonder whether "soul" could be "Energy" which does not perish but changes forms. This thought prompted me to dwell on Energy Survival Theory which will follow after discussing contemporary theories on Survival.

Moreman(2006), also suggests, dissolving self with everything and everyone, after soul gets refined after several life cycles –he goes on to say, "according to eastern philosophies, our belief in ourselves as individuals is the result of our ignorance on our part, and through a succession of lifetimes, we might become sufficiently enlightened, that, we recognize this. Once the recognition is attained, then, the dissolution of illusory individual is achieved and the essential components of true self are revealed in a union with everything and everyone."

In India, there is a school of thought, which, believes that the souls of people, who die prematurely (before completing their cherished dreams or before fulfilling some strong wish during the life time), remain restless after bodily death, and, in attempting to try to fulfil the wish, try to come in contact with the living world before they get entry into a human body. It is, in between this transference stage, that, we see the bunch of souls, who are termed as "spirits or ghosts." Such instances come to us as evidence of survival after death.

Religious books, Bible, Koran and the scriptures of Hindu, Buddhists, abound in ghostly tales i.e, dead return in form of ghosts to communicate with living (Crooke 1896/1968, Freed and Freed 1993). In far east, contact with deceased ancestors has been a part of society for millennia (Cheu 1988, Emmon 1982).

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The religions of different cultures have tried to deal with death--most have put forth a belief of continuation of life after death e.g Christian and Islamic have evolved to be believer in Personal Resurrection in distant future (Moreman 2006). It is only this belief, which, prevents Muslims to destroy the dead body by burning; instead, they bury the whole body so that on the “D” day of resurrection, their bodies will come to life.

Greek pyramids are testimonials of belief that in future, dead will return to life and, hence, dead bodies are mummified.

In 1882, the Society for Psychical Research was founded, basically, to explore the possibility that the human personality survives death and can communicate with living humans. Frederick Myers was a pioneer researcher engaged with the society from its inception. He was very passionate about the research of life beyond death. He and his colleagues carried extensive research. He wrote a book consolidating all his findings, “Human Personality and its survival of bodily death.” He was born in 1843 and died at the ages of 58 in 1901.

He was so dedicated that it is evidenced that his work continued even after his death and that he continued to communicate till 1931 to psychics around the world in his own style by giving fragmented pieces of information which did not make any sense to receiver but when pooled at SPR as per Myers instructions, fitted like a jig saw puzzle and brought forth his thoughts comprehensively. These aspects are well covered in a book by Erica Simon, (2006)

While Myres, certainly left no stone unturned to give to the best of knowledge which came to him during and after his life; there were others, who were pursuing research collecting information from all parts of the world and analyzing them to form a plausible theory of life after death.

The research was continuing in form of surveys, which were conducted involving thousands of Americans (Associated press ,1982) and western Europeans (Goldman 1993). The surveys indicated that majority of respondents expressed their belief in life after death.

Eastern religion believes in collective existence after death (Braude 2003) whereas western philosophy maintains individuality after life.

James (2002) talks about Mystical states where individuality is lost & we become one with **Absolute** and we become aware of oneness --- this resembles the Indian school of thought discussed above in the paper.

The survival theory suggests, (Krippner 2000), that the communication with deceased happens through direct experience, or through mediums, who demonstrate their ability of calling spirits and communicating with them and, lastly, through memories of past life i.e., reincarnation.

After death communication-- ADC, the term, coined by Guggenheim and Guggenheim (1995); means any contact between a living person and the conscious spirit or soul of dead.

LaGrand (1999), referred ADC as spontaneously experienced contact with a deceased loved one. Krippner (2006) while discussing on, “Getting through grief,” examines After Death Communication (ADC) from different perspectives. He is first amongst many, to study effect of ADC on experiencers.

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ADC incidents are reported in surveys across the world; Grimby(1993) interviewed 14 widowers and 36 widows in Sweden and 82% of them reported experience of “Hallucination,” concerning dead spouses, within a month after death. Marris(1958) surveyed 72 widows in London, and, 50% sensed presence of dead and so on.

The survival theory captures beliefs of survival after death, but, it does not attempt to represent any factual research to find out whether, in reality, we continue our existence after death or not and their causal reasons. I have, still, not come across such a research and I am not aware whether it is being attempted.

Currently, what is being attempted is trying to think philosophically, and, using logical thinking, we are trying to establish theories about what could happen after death; Survival theory and other alternate theories are the result of such efforts.

We discussed Survival theory which believes that there is extension of life after death. Its manifestations are in form of discarnate spirits, who communicate with living persons (after death communication -ADC) directly, or, through mediums. Its manifestation is also seen in cases of incarnation i.e rebirth.

Competing with above theory are two theories—1) Super psi Theory—Braude (1992, 2003), Sudduth (2009) and 2) Radical Survivalism Theory--- Storm(2006).

We shall dwell on these theories in next paragraphs:

Super psi Theory

Braude(2003) claims, that, Super psi theory can give better alternative explanation to so called survival incidents. He goes on to say, “In most areas of science, fundamental philosophical assumptions, usually, form part of the received conceptual background. But in the case of survival research, deep philosophical issues dominate the foreground. Many have wondered whether the very *concept* of survival is intelligible. And as the reader may realize, some have decided that it is not, and have therefore argued that we should reject the survival hypothesis a *priori* (see, Flew, 1976).”

It will be, too harsh and abrupt, to reject the hypothesis on such a weak logic, but, what if, an alternate hypothesis can explain the so-called survival incidents in more easy and plausible way. In Survival theory relating to after death communication (ADC), the experiencer, comes to know about something, hitherto, unknown to him, through communication from discarnate person(deceased, returning after death)----could it not be due to Medium’s super psi ability of seeing beyond normal and get to know the details through the very refined and advanced psi ability (Super psi) i.e learning the details, without interaction with spirit of deceased, as propagated by Survival theory.

Sudduth (2009) believes that, the most serious obstacle, to taking even the best evidence for survival at face value, is the possibility that the data can be explained in terms of highly-refined psi (Super psi) among the living.

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We, often, assume that, if psi occurs, it can occur only up to a modest degree. Why so, we, simply, have no grounds for placing antecedent limits of any kind, on its scope or refinement. If, “psi,” can occur at all, then until we have evidence to the contrary, we must assume that it can occur at any level of magnitude or sophistication. In fact, not only, do we have no evidence against the possibility of unlimited psi, but, certain bodies of data actually support it. So called Mediums can be examples of people possessing high level of psi ability (super psi ability), (Braude, 1986).

Since, we, presently, have no grounds for imposing any antecedent limits on the scope or refinement of psychic functioning, we cannot deny possibility of having access to information only through the medium’s super psi ability, how he uses the ability; is immaterial, and, we need not bother about it -it is, just, an extension of psi event, and that’s it.

In order to dwell on the subject further, Sudduth (2009) defines *M evidence*.

Data collected from mediumship constitute an important evidence – called, “*M evidence*.”

M evidence includes significant veridical information about the life of some deceased person(s), possessed by the medium, and communicated to sitter. Mediums acquire knowledge of various facts, ostensibly, originating from the deceased personality, especially, knowledge of events or activities in the lives of friends and family of the deceased. *M evidence* also includes data about, how, this veridical information is communicated to the sitter by the medium. *M evidence*, also, includes various physical phenomena frequently alleged to occur in séance settings (for example, materializations, levitations,).

It is widely held that the mediumship attributes some degree of psychic functioning to medium, but survivalist believe that the discarnate spirit has influence over the medium by psychic means i.e., it is not medium who use normal psi but the *discarnate spirit*.

Whereas, the super-psi hypothesis attempts to explain *M evidence*, solely, in terms of psychological and paranormal resources at command of medium i.e there is no role of discarnate spirits, just because the medium possesses super psi ability, the manifestation of *M evidence* takes place.

However even in Survival hypothesis, psi has its manifestation, because, discarnate spirit’s communication to medium, cannot happen through normal communication channels, these have to come to medium’s mind through some paranormal means(psi), e.g., mediums must exercise telepathy to engage in communications with discarnate spirits.

In some prominent cases of mediumship there is evidence that indicates that the medium is, at times, in telepathic rapport with the sitter or with others at a distance. This raises the possibility that the medium acquires all veridical information about the deceased by means of telepathic interactions with the minds of living persons also. And even, where, telepathy with other living persons, can be ruled out, there remains the possibility that veridical information was acquired by means of a broader repertoire of psi functioning, e.g., clairvoyance or retrocognition.

Several prominent philosophers and parapsychologists have argued that discarnate persons, if they exist, would have to rely on exotic modes of cognition and causation in their communications with the living. These include Anthony Flew(1976), H. H. Price (1966), Alan Gauld(1982) and Stephen

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Braude (Braude, 2003: 20–22); (Broad, 1962: 409); (Flew, 1953: 69); (Gauld, 1982: 139, 145, 159, 231–232, 236, 241, 248–250) ; (Penelhum, 1970: 30–36, 39–43); (Price, 1953, 1957). The discarnate persons lack the sensory perceptual systems used by living agents to acquire knowledge about their environment. They do not have bodies and so cannot affect the world by moving their bodies in some particular way. Their means of acquiring information, sending it, and causally influencing the physical world, would have to be through powers or capacities that operate independent of sensory perceptual system and body. It is beyond logic to say how it is possible, and psi may be the possible means of doing so.

Furthermore, persons who survive death, they, as discarnate entities, might occupy a world constructed solely from their stock of memories and desires. They will never have knowledge of what is happening in the physical world now, and they can never communicate with the living or other discarnate persons, and can never bring about effects in the physical world using normal communication channels.

Furthermore, in cases of trance mediumship, the discarnate persons are not, merely knowers, but also, agents who bring about physical effects. For example, they can affect vocal cords of the medium and cause some animation in medium's body. So, there must be a causal chain originating from the discarnate person and terminating in such physical event.

Following inferences emerge from above paragraphs:

- Discarnate persons send veridical information to the mind of living agents.
- Discarnate persons have highly specific knowledge of living agents and the physical world acquired after their death.
- Discarnate persons operate causally on the physical world.

These three, taken together, summarize *discarnate interactionism*. We can, now, state, in a preliminary way, a conditional claim, that expresses the link between discarnate interactionism and the data of mediumship interpreted as evidence for survival. Nonetheless, three things seem relatively clear. First, the data of mediumship are important to the empirical case for survival.

Secondly, discarnate interactionism is present to some degree in other ostensible evidences of survival (for example, apparitional experiences, near death experiences). Mediumship, arguably, exhibits a very high degree of interactionism, but interactionism is not unique to mediumship.

Thirdly, the implications of interactionism in mediumship will apply to the case for survival, in general, if *M* evidence is part of the case for survival.

As explained above, the survivalist interpretation of mediumship indicates that discarnate spirits not only have knowledge of persons, places, and events from their earthly lives, but they also exhibit a range of knowledge of postmortem facts.

So, even, if we supposed that a deceased person relied solely on the sensory perceptual faculties of the medium to know the postmortem facts, how did these facts got transferred to discarnate. To make it happen, psi functioning has to step in to explain this.

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There remains the interesting question, of course, as to what kind of psi is utilized to acquire postmortem knowledge- clairvoyance, telepathy, or both.

But discarnate psi functioning is needed, not only, to account for how the deceased acquires knowledge of postmortem facts, but also, in accounting for how a discarnate person can *communicate* this information to the living. In discarnate cognition, the causal chain operates *from* the world or human minds to the discarnate mind, but communications between the deceased and the living would seem to require causal chains that move in the other direction, from the mind of the discarnate person to the mind or world of the living. All these would require psi functioning. A discarnate person by definition, lacks the ordinary means of communicating by own voice, writing, bodily gestures, or facial expressions.

Such a person must either utilize telepathy to directly send information to the mind of the medium, or, alternatively use PK to gain control of the medium's physical body and bring about physical effects, that can serve as a means of communication.

While living agents bring about physical effects by using their bodies, the discarnate agent's mental states would have to directly produce changes in the physical world. So, discarnate psi is required for both the acquisition of post- mortem knowledge (by ESP) and the communication of anything (by ESP or PK).

All above, if taken in conjunction, bring forth following inference - "If *M* phenomena are evidences for postmortem survival, then discarnate persons and some living persons exhibit psi functioning." We have examined the super-psi hypothesis and the survivalist interpretation of the data associated with mediumship. We argued that if the data of mediumship are evidence of postmortem survival, then a very strong interactionist thesis about discarnate persons and their relation to the world must be true.

Furthermore, this interactionist thesis requires psi functioning in discarnate persons and living persons. The heart of the argument shows that the survivalist interpretation of mediumship is committed to the same kind or degree of psi functioning as postulated by the super-psi hypothesis. Since psi involvement is there in both the theories, even degree or refinement is not pertinent; the two theories may stand on their own merit and there must be other reasons which can reject either of them. Till then both hold their ground; only we have been able to establish that psi is a common component. In short, super-psi and survival are only two ways of looking at the same thing.

Radical Survivalism Theory by Storm (2006) treads a middle path between above two theories
Storm (2006) maintains the same view point as given above i.e., super-psi and survival might only be two ways of looking at the same thing. The perfect analogy is, "The wave nature, and, the particle nature of light in quantum physics; are two different ways of looking at one and the same phenomenon."

That is how the universe is, and the paranormal phenomena; survival, specifically, may be no exception. Only difference in way of looking is that on one hand survival theory, dwells on continuance of life after death and manifestation of which is in form of discarnate spirits who bring to light the feats, hitherto unknown; whereas super psi strongly advocates that reaching the

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unknown feats is not through discarnate spirits, but, through living people only and is achieved through the super psi ability in living people.

As per Storm (2006), Radical Survivalism, is comprised of three main components — Absolute knowledge, Super-psi (or super-cognition or super-perceiving), and Mythopoetic construction.

The model proposes that:

- (i) The theory is not governed or restricted by arguments from crippling complexity, or the laws of causality, or the principle of parsimony,
- (ii) Theoretically, all events, and the characteristics that all beings have, along with all their experiences, would be preserved as absolute knowledge after the demise of the corporeal form for some time unspecified;
- (iii) Absolute knowledge can be accessed by conscious beings,
- (iv) Such access is facilitated by the super-psi process, but normal processes may be sufficient in themselves,
- (v) Active and passive agency is involved in such processes, and
- (vi) The mythopoetic function (though not essential) facilitates these processes, resulting in the manifestation of survival-like experiences.

Storm brings forth concept of absolute knowledge in his theory.

Jung (1960) states that **Absolute knowledge** is the knowledge that is ordinarily beyond the limited ego complex (i.e., not mediated by the sense organs), but, which appears in so many psi experiences and is “not a conscious knowledge as we know it, but rather a self-subsistent ‘unconscious’ knowledge.

Storm, also, discusses relevance of consciousness with Absolute knowledge:

“Hameroff (1994) claims that consciousness should be viewed as an emergent property of physical systems. However, although consciousness has its origin in distributed brain processes, it has macroscopic properties— most notably the “unitary sense of self,” non-deterministic free will, and non-algorithmic “intuitive” processing.

Some part of personal identity has its origins in consciousness, but that is not to equate the two. So just as a library, for example, is not the same thing as the librarian. All features of personal identity comprising of all thoughts, values and beliefs along with memories of all events experienced in life, gets transferred after demise and are preserved or sustained as forms of knowledge or information, which, gets manifested in form of knowledge or information (which become part of Absolute knowledge).”

Storm goes along the above thinking and is of the opinion that all events and all beings, after demise (along with all their experiences), are preserved or sustained as forms of knowledge or information (which become part of Absolute knowledge), and that cognition and super-cognition facilitate access to these constant or continuous forms.

All minds maintain their existence even after death in some kind of mind or “psychophysical field.

This is a middle path between survival theory and super psi theory as it replaces incarnate spirit of Survival with Absolute knowledge and retains the use of super psi.

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One argument against super psi is by Almeder (1992), who says that super psi evidence is like proposing that a particular person robbed a bank even though we have no antecedent or independent evidence that the person in question exists (Almeder, 1992: 52), so, before one can appeal legitimately to super-psi as an alternative way of explaining anything, one should have some empirical evidence that in fact super-psi exists.”

The above argument, seem, unnecessarily stringent. It would be more sensible to suppose that when we have two competing explanations for observational evidence, if the hypotheses are equal in all other respects, the superior hypothesis is one that already has something going for it, epistemically, in the way of independent evidential support.

The two theories i.e Survival and Super psi, are, in fact, not competing but, as we saw, have commonality in the sense, that both cannot stand without the support of psi, be it, normal or super psi.

Storm’s theory, also, needs the pillar strength of psi, the only difference he is making is to replace the discarnate spirit with knowledge form (a part of Absolute Knowledge).

In conclusion, Storm suggests that, “If one was born and existed in the world, then the events of that existence are maintained. However, by the evidence, we cannot say for how long, but it appears that some form of the essence (or major components) of those who have lived, was maintained after their demise. And perhaps that future form, may, primarily be as we designed it to be. That belief logically extends from the conception of absolute knowledge (in what- ever form one imagines that conception to take, and for want of a better term).

So much so, for the contemporary theories about life after death. In essence, all theories speak that it is possible to access discarnate events, only, ways and means may be different. Survivalist maintaining existence of discarnate spirits; Super psi, while not believing in manifestation of discarnate spirits, proposes that the information can be achieved through a refined and transcendental psi called Super psi; Radical Survivalism theory says that, there is continuance of life through transference of life’s events and information to absolute knowledge and to have access of the same through psi means.

There is commonality on one aspect i.e on use of psi, be it psi or Super psi.

The Contemporary theories on “Life after death”, do not touch many aspects relevant to life after death.

While occurrences of postmortem knowledge of previous incidents (got through séances) could be explained through Super psi but how do cases of visible apparitions be explained by above two theories. Even when these are not visible to living humans, their presence is marked by animals like dogs, cats and rattlesnakes. Erica Simon (2006) writes, “Animals often do react to apparitions--quite often with fear.”

Reincarnation is another area which is not touched by “super psi” and Radical Survivalism Theory. Instances of reincarnations are overwhelming. Stevenson’s whole life’s work speaks volumes about it but the two theories do not touch upon this intriguing phenomenon.

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Also, all the theories are confined to human life; what happens to non-human lives – whether these survive death or their journey stops here?

Scientists have found signs of Life on Mars. There can be life in many planets of the Universe; their life forms are not yet known -whether they resemble humans or have different forms is not known. What would be happening to their lives, once they meet death?

Furthermore, could there be transmigration across planets when death manifests. Could it be possible that after death, the post-death human forms manifest in life as non-human species or vice-versa within earth planet or across the Cosmos.

The Radical Survival theory assumes that “After demise, all past events (along with all their experiences), are preserved or sustained as forms of knowledge or information which becomes part of Absolute Knowledge” --- this is too abstract and raises several questions.

What are detailed features of Knowledge form and Absolute Knowledge Form, and, how do these forms manifest? How individual knowledge gets stored and in what ways are these stored, so that, not only, they remain permanently in place, but can, also, be retrieved with ease when required.

The Absolute Knowledge form, as I understand, may be eternal, and knowledge keeps on adding to it by knowledge forms which come on the scene when a person dies. There is no deletion of knowledge in the Absolute Knowledge form; which would mean that the Absolute Knowledge form will have infinite capacity of storing information, it is difficult to visualize the infinite capacity and the intricacy involved in storing and arranging huge incoming daily data in a way that the retrieval of information is possible.

The theory is silent about what future happenings take place to knowledge form after it becomes part of Absolute knowledge (at death of a person). Does it have future transformation or transference, or, it remains, forever, as historic knowledge form embedded in Absolute Knowledge form. Does it mean that Radical Survival theory does not believe in cycle of birth-death-birth? i.e., the same knowledge form does not get reborn and create a new knowledge form on death. This would mean that after the current generation dies and their knowledge form gets added to Absolute Knowledge Form (AKF), further additions to AKF will cease. Knowledge Form gets created at time of death, what is its relevance to birth? How do we account for new births, which is, a reality!

On the other hand, if reincarnation is believed then, what happens to the past knowledge, does it pass on to the entity born and how do we carry the concept of knowledge form to further life-death situations. Furthermore, if there is a life -death cycle, how is the individual identity tracked of an individual knowledge form over many life cycles.

These are few questions (there may be many more) which need answers.

I have wondered, whether could we think still differently than the thought propagated in the three contemporary theories, which may provide answers, even partially, to the questions raised in preceding paragraphs?

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I have attempted to provide some answers in a theory which is an attempt to do an improvisation of Survival theory, supplementing it with thoughts put forth in other theories. I deviate from extension of life after death, and, I believe that, there is, in fact, no termination of life; it is only transformation of energy forms from one form to another and continuation of knowledge and information is not through knowledge forms but through Energy forms. The theory is based on concept of Energy and hence I call this theory, “Energy Survival Theory”

Energy Survival theory

I made a cursory remark about Energy, somewhere, in this paper, where, I had wondered whether “Soul” of Survival Theory could be “Energy”, because, like Soul, Energy does not perish, but, only, changes form.

The theory is being based on the scientific truth that Energy cannot be created or destroyed; it, only, changes form.

Before we go on to define the Energy forms, let us have a look at Energy and its forms.

Text book definition of Energy says “Energy is usually defined as the source of Power that can be used to accomplish work or a goal, or to create an effect.”

Cyndi Dale (2009) delves further to define it as information that vibrates—Scientific research has proven that everything Energetic contains Information.

Vithoukias George (1980), “***Physical energy manifests in the positive time space frame, is electrical in nature, and has positive mass. It travels slower than speed of light and gives rise to gravity. This means that you can see it.***

Cyndi Dale (2009) goes on to suggest, “Subtle Energy”, which occupies the next time space frame (or other time space frames), manifests in the negative time space frame and has negative mass. It is negative in nature and travels faster than light. It gives rise to what some call levitational force---This means that you can’t see it—but can note its seemingly paranormal effects”

Beside “being informed” Energy also vibrates. Science has verified that everything in the universe vibrates. Vibration is produced in the form of Amplitude and frequency: Oscillations that generate more energy. These oscillations carry information that can be stored or applied In Classical Physics, a particle, which is a point of mass, can exist only at one place at a time; but quantum physics says that a subatomic particle actually has to be in two places at a time; and some of these places can be other worlds.

These rules, revealed thru quantum physics, are closer to those which explain ***Subtle Energy***. They imply that though subtle energies and their structures cannot be seen, they can be shown to exist because we can perceive their effects the scientific terms ***physical energies are veritable/measurable***; and ***Subtle energies are putative/ non-measurable***.

The core evidence for ***Subtle Energy***, in general, includes: -

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- Use of various magnetic devices, such as superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID), for perceiving electromagnetic energies beyond the bounds of body
- A process that embeds a human intention onto a simple electrical device, thus, showing the effect of its physicality
- Various experiments using organic/inorganic and living materials that reveal a unique, secondary level of physical reality affected by human intention
- Experimentation that shows that the human biofield operates at a unique level of physical reality
- Determination of L field (life field)—electrical field and T field (thought field) organize subtle energy

Why are we not able to see Subtle Energy fields? Human senses operate within a narrow range in the electromagnetic spectrum, the measurable band of energy that produces various types of light. Our eyes can only detect radiation, the term for noticeable energy emitted by substances, in the range of 380 to 780 nanometers. That is visible light. Infra-red light, which we cannot see, has a wavelength of 1000 nanometres, and far-ultraviolet light operates at 200 nano meters. We cannot see what we are not capable to see. Subtle Energy moves faster than light and has no mass, we do not currently have the equipment needed to measure them but this does not mean that what is invisible does not exist. The micro-organisms which could not be seen by eye, needed microscopes to prove that they exist. Similarly, Subtle energy exist but is invisible to the eye.

Subtle energies operate by different rules than the measurable energies. The subtle energy rules for the subtle structures are encoded with ideas from quantum physics, the study of energetic interactions on the micro levels. Subtle energies, rule breakers as they are, can stretch --- and sometimes completely ignore---time and space, change form at will, and occupy many places at one time.

Another unique characteristic of subtle energies is that within the subtle structures, they not only adjust the physical world but, also adjust to it.”

Barabara Ann Brennan, an expert on the human energy field, states that the *Subtle Energy* Structure sets up a matrix for cellular growth; it is therefore present before the cell grows.

We define ISEF – Individual Self Energy Form as a subtle Energy form. ISEFs refer to all living things be it human /non-human reside on earth or in other planets. Each living form is a transformation of this subtle energy form which is unique and it never perishes but transforms itself. As subtle energy it is not bound by space or time and can travel at speed higher than light as is the feature of Subtle fields. The Subtle energy form can transform to a life Energy form –we define it as Self Life Energy form (SLEF). SLEF manifests at time when birth of living organism takes place. The life energy form is the physical body of the living speci. By virtue of its mass, the speed reduces and is not compared to the speed of Subtle Energy. Subtle energy form ISEF when it transforms to SLEF loses the property of unboundedness of space and time and it gets localized till the SLEF does not have transformation to the original ISEF at time of death of the Physical form. Its movements get restricted to great extent till the time its manifestation is in form of life energy form SLEF.

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There is no question that human beings or for that matter all living forms are more than physical bodies. I can say that a lucid out-of-body experience verifies the fact that the physical body is merely a “temporary Shelter” through which our consciousness or awareness manifests itself merely in the physical dimension.

Astral projection leads to phenomena of Bilocation when the non-physical body separates from the physical and the individual is able to realize that our self-awareness resides in non-physical as opposed to physical body.

ISEFs when transformed to Physical forms remain connected to our physical bodies i.e., SLEF by a retractable field or energy commonly referred as “Silver cord” ---*Robert Crookall(1977) –The study and practice of Astral Projection* . The silver cord acts like a leash on our physical body(as per me it is SLEF) in that it prevents it from getting lost in the outer realms or fails to return to the physical body; the silver cord performs as a intermediary between the physical body(SLEF) & Subtle energy form(I call it ISEF), broken only at the time of Biological demise—At that time, however the non- physical body (ISEF), which houses the consciousness, departs to begin a new phase of existence between physical lives obtained by further transformations at new birth cycles as physical bodies. The period between transformation to non-physical body (The subtle energy form) to retransformation to new physical body is termed as ‘the intermissive period’.

The “silver cord”, often referred as one’s bio-energy or energetic body; is the connection point through which the fields of energy flow back and forth between physical (SLEFs) and non-physical bodies (ISEFs). This constant exchange of energy is necessary in order to maintain the function of our body whether in physical state or outside physical state in non-physical state. It also enables non-physical state (ISEF) to travel great distances from its physical counterpart (SLEF). In intermissive period ISEF can travel to distant places and get transformed to a new Life form SLEF and get localized at that place temporarily till SLEF transforms back to ISEF, which is then free to move out anywhere.

The Silver cord remains intact till death occurs. At death the cord snaps and transformation takes place from Physical form to Subtle Energy form and ISEF becomes free to move into ethereal space.

While the Subtle energy form has transformation in physical form, it does preserve its traces of subtle nature in form of Aura surrounding the physical body.

AURA

The aura has been known by many names in many cultures. The Kabbalists called it an astral light. Christian artists depicted Jesus and other figures as surrounded by coronas of light. The Vedic scriptures and teachings of the Rosicrucians, and Indian Buddhists, and many Native American tribes describe the human energy field in detail.

In fact, John White & Stanley Krippner (2011) , authors of Future Science, list ninety-seven different cultures that reference the human aura, each culture calling it by a different name.

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Science has been actively involved in penetrating the mystery of the aura since the early 1500s. During that time period, Belgian mystic and physician Jan Baptist van Helmont visualized it as a universal fluid that permeates everything. The idea of the aura acting like a fluid—or flowing—as well as being permeable has remained consistent throughout history.

Theories have revealed the Aura to have a fluid or flowing state; to be comprised of different colors, therefore frequencies; to be permeable and penetrable; and to be magnetic in nature, although it also has electromagnetic properties.

Lawrence & Phoebe Bendit (1977) says the same of the auric field, asserting that it permeates every particle of the body and acts as a matrix for it.

Barbara Brennan:1993 (a contemporary expert on the aura), suggests, “AURA exists before the cells grow. Living forms do possess an “Aura” (an energy form) around them”

Cyndi dale (2017), an expert on aura writes, “Scientists have been investigating—and substantiating—the existence of the aura, specifically, the human energy field that surrounds our entire body, adding to the knowledge our ancestors already possessed.

AURA is present as traces around the physical form and after death, sometimes, manifests as “Apparitions”, in shape of discarnate life shape as was seen in its latest SLEF form and become visible to contemporary living forms.

Rudolf Steiner, a brilliant author and philosopher, suggested “that Aura is made of ether, an element comparable to a negative mass, or a hollowed-out space. We can only surmise, but perhaps the field may be actually made of both electromagnetic radiation (specifically magnetism) and an antimatter that allows a shift of energy between this world and others.”

Above discussions are for Aura and Apparitions which are part of our Energy Survival theory. As per our theory, ISEF is unique for each living species be it human/ non- human be it a resident of earth or planets or is hung in cosmos.

In the book by Cyndi dale on Subtle Energy –she makes a mention of Dr. Oschman who says, “It is a fact of physics that subtle energy fields are unbounded.” This means that our biomagnetic energy fields extend indefinitely.

In Energy Survival theory we can say that ISEF (the subtle energy form) is present eternally and the Life form SLEF comes into being when sperm and egg of living species unite but the egg fertilization happens only when ISEF (the subtle energy form) gets entangled in sperm and egg bondage and loses its subtle form and its transformation happens to life energy form SLEF, though, the traces of Subtle form remains in form of Aura surrounding SLEF.

CYNDI DALE (2009) goes on to say “Researchers agree that the subtle energetic structures interface between the physical body and the subtle energies (and their domains). Subtle structures differ from biological structures. For example, you cannot speak of a subtle energy structure as the field located in only one place, such as out of the body. While physical bodies are restricted to one

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place, the subtle field penetrates every particle of the body and expands beyond it. It has no limitation of space and time.

Bio-magnetic human energy fields, may, in fact, be **a kind of ISEF related to humans** and these extend indefinitely; non-human Bio-magnetic energy fields may, similarly, relate to non-human ISEF.

Thus, we could say that ISEFs have no limitation of space and these bio-magnetic fields extend indefinitely.

In our Survival Energy theory, we maintain that ISEF is the Subtle energy form which is the unique identity for each individual, and, the form is eternal. Since the energy cannot be created or destroyed, the number of Individual Self Energy Forms will be distinctly, infinitely finite and the total number will not change.

Cosmos has many planets and the planets may have living energy forms, human and non-human. The colossal number of energy forms in the cosmos is beyond imagination. Even at planet Earth, the number will be bewildering large. Compared to the sum total of humans, the number of living non humans on Earth will be many-many times the number of humans. If, we add all these, the numbers in totality will be unimaginably high. Furthermore, if we add the total of such numbers for each planet, the figure, which we shall get, may be so high that we may have to think it in terms of infinity.

I won't say the figure is infinite because of the limit on Energy that it cannot be created or destroyed. Thus, whatever numbers are there in the cosmos and planets, these remain as it is, only their energy forms may be changing e.g from human to non-human, from this planet to other planet and even they may go transformation within human or non-human. Energy forms are eternal but constant in numbers, so the number will be large but finite, maybe, we can say, that we may have infinitely finite numbers of ISEFs.

ISEFs are invisible but are existing eternally and are unbounded on space and time scale. The transformed SLEF continues from infancy till death and at death the transformation happens and SLEF transforms to ISEF as the silver cord snaps at time of death

ISEF undergoes transformations to newer SLEFs and from SLEF back to unique ISEFs continuously and these transformations are viewed by us as life-death-life cycles.

In a life cycle where ISEF has manifested as SLEF i.e a living entity, the physical form has a materialistic real body which grows from infancy; attains maturity gaining knowledge all the time and then comes a stage when the physical form vanishes due to snapping of silver chord i.e death occurs ---this stage is achieved when the SLEF the life energy form transfers all accumulated knowledge to ISEF to once again manifest itself as some other new SLEF at a future time point.

The particular individual in form of ISEF is unchanged and this is the true identity but its transformations to various SLEFs give it a worldly local identity localized at the planet where the

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ISEF was at time of transformation and SLEFs go on changing at each transformation. But the ISEF remains unchanged eternally.

Sheldrake (1980) holds that “past life memories could pass from lifetime to lifetime through a soul’s energy field (*in our Survival Energy Theory, the soul’s energy field is ISEF*). These memories would be non-local in nature and therefore not anchored in the brain or a particular life.”

Our ENERGY SURVIVAL THEORY is in line with Sheldrake’s above thinking, where, by definition itself, transition of past knowledge and memory of past events get anchored in ISEF, because, the physical life energy form (SLEF) is embedded in it.

We can theorize that the physical form, which is lost at death can manifest as a different SLEF in visible physical form again when fertilization of human/ non-human cell happens through fertilization of different sperm/ovum entangling the unique ISEF.

The New physical form, in new physical entity, will add to the knowledge in ISEF which already has accumulation of knowledge from previous SLEFS who were entangled with it in past. The new Physical form will be known by a different name in the physical world. In this perpetual cycle, ISEF, continues to evolve further and gets on getting refined through the various life cycles and goes on adding more and more knowledge, Manifestation of which comes to us in witnessing learned wizards, like Eienstein, Newton and the like appearing on the earth.

Unlike Survival theory, there is no end by merging with divine because energy does not perish.

The above discussions have given elaborate description about SLEF getting transformation in life form in unending cycle of life-death -life and in each life SLEF gets a new identity. In one life it may be John and in another it may become Mary and for that matter in several lives it may be an animal or insect --this leads to identification crisis. But the crisis does not happen because the individual ISEF is unique and, however, SLEFs get known by different names in different lives but corresponding ISEF is unique and it has unchanging identity.

Perplexing question is, how each individual life energy form (ISEF) is uniquely identified And how could its track can be kept as it is undergoing transformation continuously to different life forms and in its original form may be moving in different planets in cosmos and may be getting new life form in a different planet The energy form ISEF may be changing locations across cosmos and planets, and, there is transformation of energy form from dormant to visible, and, in each visible form it takes a new look, possibly, in same speci or in new type of living speci, i.e., it may , in one life form be a human and in the other, it may be an animal or an insect or any other life form.

It is evident that ISEF is the individual form which does not change so its tracking in a unique manner can be possible through its virtual Permanent unique number assigned to it (as done in case of identifying citizens of a country). Even, if its component SLEF undergoes different life forms at different locations at different times, the ISEF is still identifiable by PUIN.

I may be changing into different life forms when my SLEF underwent transformations by manifesting into different physical lives in life-death-life cycles but ISEF retains its same identity. In current manifestation, I am identified by name, Naresh Kumar, but this is not my unique

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identification, because, in next life, I, may be named as Wilson or by any other name (I may, even, be animal or insect) because ISEF will have different SLEFs— But my real identity will be my unique PUIN as ISEF

We have discussed in detail about various aspects of Energy Survival Theory, how energy transformation explains life – death-life cycles and how it relates to the thoughts of contemporary thinkers on Energy and also, we have dealt the complex problem of identity crisis, however, a significant point still remains --- *Incarnation*.

SLEF once manifested as a physical body after transformation happens from ISEF to SLEF dies and reverse transformation SLEF to ISEF happens. And then in life-death-life cycle the SLEF manifest again as a different person when ISEF re transforms into SLEF. Since the accumulated knowledge / intelligence and memory gets stored in ISEF, in the new life the memories are accessible from the ISEF and in rare cases, the new life form does gets access to it and we have the phenomenon of Reincarnation.

Communication is another intriguing factor and we shall deal with it now.

Communication between Energy forms

ISEF when transformed to SLEF, the Physical form will communicate with other live SLEF using known five senses.

But how communication happens when it transforms into latent dormant state as ISEF, when the Individual Energy Form has achieved a timeless, space-less feat which transcends long distances with limitless boundaries of time and space. It may be hung in cosmos or may have landed on a different planet. In invisible subtle energy state, it does have accumulated knowledge gained through its several life forms. How the knowledge gets transmitted is a vital question!! We have experienced across globe that communications do come even after death to the near dear ones even though their occurrence is not frequent. How does it happen when the energy form is in dormant state i.e., ISEF?

The subtle nature of the energy form ISEF, by definition is capable of transcending long distances and capable of energy transference, hence, communication to another ISEF having dormant energy form is possible for obvious reasons. But rarely there is a leak from Subtle energy form ISEF to other SLEFs and this comes as discarnate communications or ADCs (After death communications). Presently, it is beyond our thinking asto how the leak may be happening but since the discarnate communication, as observed, are rare, sporadic and spread over across the world, the underlying factor may be the **pressing need** for such communications. The departed SLEF, in last life, if had some unfinished desire or incomplete work may feel the compelling need for communication. May be the Super psi of SLEF may be at work which could extract information from ISEFs which do exist and have all accumulated knowledge. Alternatively, as stated above, there is possibility of leak of information from ISEF which is received by other SLEFs---how that leak happens is a subject matter currently not known.

Communication between ISEF to Non-human SLEF will not be intelligible to us and, hence, is not discussed.

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Summary of Energy Survival Theory

There are infinitely finite number of life forms in this cosmos and we have termed them as a manifestation from their unique Individual Self Energy Form (ISEF) which have got transformed to present live physical form SLEF. ISEFs have virtual unique identification number. ISEFs get transformation to SLEF which is the Physical form visible to the current world at any planet. SLEF form is physically visible from birth to death; at death it transforms to Subtle energy form ISEF which is invisible and, then, physical manifestation is not possible.

The ISEF could be thought as a music system or a bulb--Physical manifestation of life is similar to unplugged ear phone, resulting in manifestation of audible music or switched on bulb state, where illumination has manifested. Illumination or audible music resemble the physical life being led by individual. When plugged or when bulb is switched off, music becomes inaudible to world, when bulb is switched off illumination is not visible to world but the music system and bulbs do exist. The form ISEF exist as do the Music System and the bulb but to world they manifest when we unplug the ear phone or when we switch on the light.

SLEF, the transforming energy form of the Individual energy form, undergoes physical transformations, symbolizing life -death-life cycles; and all past events, information, learnings and knowledge gained, not only from the last life, but from all previous life cycles are intact, because, those are integral part of ISEF which is eternal, and, SLEF is only temporary transformations of ISEF. Not only that, but, even, post mortem events/ information, also, remain stored in ISEF.

CONCLUSION

If we consolidate above discussions, we see that, The Energy Survival Theory appears to be answering most of the questions which had remained unanswered in competing contemporary theories. Concept of Individual Self Energy Form takes into ambit all living things-human / non-human. The theory also includes the individual energy forms of earth, as well as that of planets and also the ones hanging loosely in Cosmos.

Manifestation of life and death and to life is through transformation of ISEF to SLEF and then to ISEF and cycle goes on. The theory also talks about how an individual's identity is maintained even when there is continuous transformation happening of its Energy form. During transformation of SLEF, all past events, information and knowledge of all past lives are intact in Individual Self Energy Form ISEF. Apparitions and reincarnations are explained in our energy Survival theory, the discarnate communication is also dealt with. Theory talks about how life forms get created at other planets also.

The Suggested Energy Survival Theory synchronizes very well with contemporary thoughts on Energy and covers all aspects of The Survival Theory , the only difference is that where Survival theory talks about death and discarnate , our theory says that there is , in fact , no death, it is only Energy transformations which happen to manifest births and deaths as commonly talked about.

It is evident in the discussions, that the basic thoughts in the theory takes most of contents of Survival theory but does not believe in discarnate individuals. Energy Survival Theory is also on the lines of Storm's theory with a deviation that *Energy Form*, substitutes *Knowledge Form*.

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In my opinion, The Energy Survival Theory is a small improvisation of Contemporary theories and it just gives some more flesh and meat to these theories by finding answers to some questions which could not be answered by some of the contemporary theories and last but not the least, the theory, tries to bring in its ambit non-human species at earth as well as on other planets and most importantly the theory is anchored with Scientific principle that Energy does not perish, but, only changes form.

Limitation in all contemporary theories, including Energy Survival theory, is that in all above, there is philosophizing peep into beyond life. We are trying to apply our mind and are imagining about beyond life.

Real research into when, why and how, is currently not happening, because of difficulty, that, we are trying to research an area where the ticket is one way, i.e., if we go, we cannot come back and report, i.e., It may be paradoxical to think of research on life after death, because, for this research one has to die and experience it. Can there be a way out?

We have witnessed that there has been a way out in brain research which also had a paradox e.g., brain to research itself. But we have succeeded and made a breakthrough, however, major portion of brain is still unknown. Will there be some way by which we shall be able to do research about, “life after death”. In Statistics, we are taught to do extrapolation based on trends –could it be extended to death research?

There is also a lurking fear, which always manifests when we are intruding into Unknown i.e., what would happen to living person, who, tries to venture into the unknown and tries to decipher the mystery.

In India, the founder of Indian Paranormal Society, Mr Gaurav Tiwari, who was actively involved in, after life research, met mysterious death at age of 31 and, till date, the mystery of his death is not solved. A faint black ring was found around his neck--- what caused this, could not be established. Before his death, he had expressed his feelings that negative powers are pulling him towards them!!

We await a miraculous breakthrough Causal research.

I conclude the discussion with a dream that, rising above philosophizing about life beyond death, a long-awaited day will come when a courageous brilliant and extremely knowledgeable person, amongst us, will, in real sense, decipher the causal mystery of life after death in a scientific way. My intuitive feel is that Neurological research on brain (only 1/3rd of brain is researched so far); and more knowledge on “What Consciousness is”, may assist in peeping through the mystery. I would love to see that day!!

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