

5 TYPES OF EVIDENCE FOR THE SOUL



1 The Transcendental Desires

This is the basic argument for a soul from Plato to contemporary Jesuit philosopher Bernard Lonergan:

(1) we have five transcendental desires for perfect truth, love, justice/goodness, beauty, and being; (2) we must have an awareness of what we desire; therefore, we have an awareness of each transcendental; (3) we have the capacity to recognize every imperfection in experiencing these desires, which would not be possible unless we were aware of their perfection; (4) the source of our awareness must itself be perfect truth, love, justice/kindness, beauty and being. This leads to the conclusion that this source (i.e. God) is present when we are aware of imperfection in these “transcendentals,” therefore, we are transcendent.

3 Human Intelligence vs Artificial and Animal Intelligence

There are 4 ways in which humans are connected to the transcendent that artificial intelligence is not: (1) the five transcendental desires (2) the formulation of conceptual ideas, such as abstract inter-relational ideas; (3) self-consciousness, experiencing of experiencing, and the experience of inwardness—David Chalmers’ hard problem of consciousness (4) trans-algorithmic mathematical thinking, manifest by Gödel’s theorem. Furthermore, studies by philosopher of language Noam Chomsky reveal that humans are categorically different from primates in linguistic capabilities and in their capacity to formulate conceptual ideas in language, logic, mathematics, natural science, social science, and philosophy.

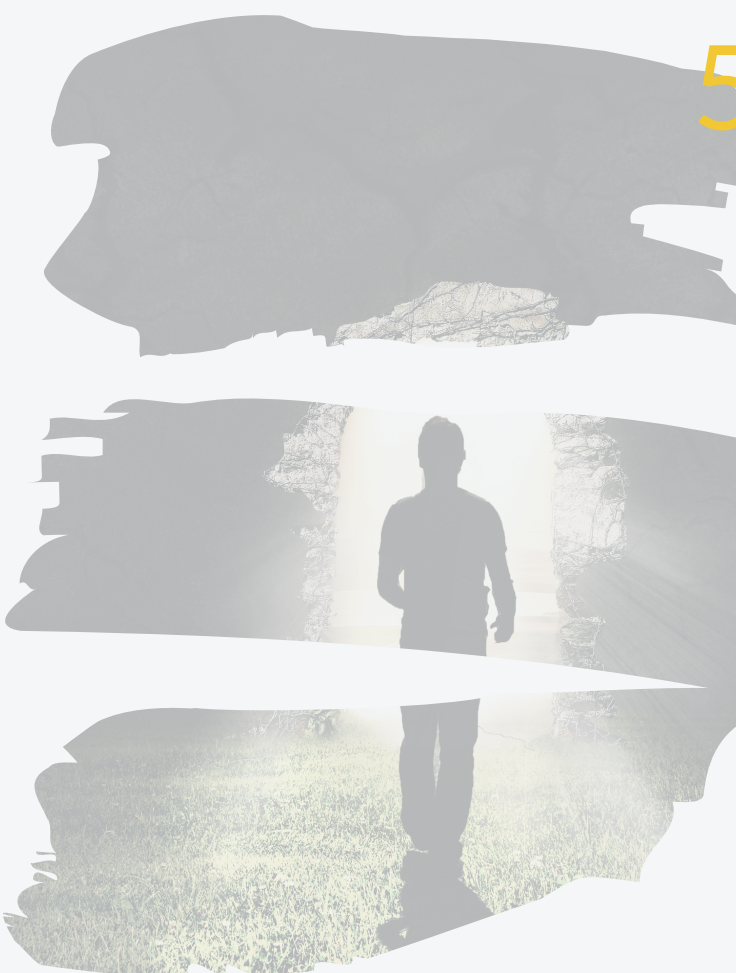
2 God’s Presence to Our Consciousness

The evidence for our interior awareness of a transcendent reality can be correlated with the experiences of thousands of others in different cultures and religions in 3 particular ways: (1) The numinous experience—in which the numen presents itself as mysterious, daunting, fascinating, good, and empathetic, and invites us into itself; (2) religious intuition—in which we sense that the sacred transcendent reality has broken into the world, inviting us to draw closer to the sacred reality through sacred place, ritual, and myth; (3) conscience—through which an omniscient, invisible, searcher of hearts bids us to do good and avoid evil.

4 Free Will and Original Sin

Free will can only arise out of capacities found in our transphysical soul (see the 12 Capacities of the Transphysical Soul here). For example, at the center of free will is our capacity for self-consciousness enabling us to not only to grasp ourselves, but also to choose the powers and desires that will ultimately define the “self” we grasp. We are confronted from childhood by two fundamental options: the option to aggrandize ourselves and to possess others and the material world or the option to pursue relationships with God and others and to submit to the requirements of conscience and empathy/love.

5 Near Death Experiences



There is a growing body of legitimate research around near death experience reports, and peer-reviewed scientific journals have published a number of actual medical studies on the subject. While an NDE is a subjective experience, what we do know is that tens of thousands of people report having one, and similar characteristics are reported across the range of individual experiences. Additional “evidence” is the report of veridical data, and the fact that 80% of blind NDErs report being able to see during their experience. The most conservative interpretation of NDEs is that some aspect of human consciousness is non-physical and continues after physical death. We call this a soul.