

Preserving the Astral Being.

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Preserving one's Astral being is a concept that has been entertained by many minds. In the major religious systems, the being (to say, Spirit, or incorporeal 'essence') of the follower is usually united or brought-to-and-with their Deity of worship. They see the physical as 'dirty', suffering, and evil, and hold that the being comes originally from their Deity – down to the Physical realm – and upon death reuniting with this Spiritual Realm. In the religions of Ancient Greece, the Dionysian religions held that the Physical was holy in itself, that the Spiritual was united together with the Physical, in a cyclic scheme of birth-growth-decay-rebirth.

However different these two attitudes may be, they both held the belief in a Spiritual force within them and a Force beyond them (capital 'F'). With the interesting developments of Occultism that has happened throughout the last centuries, these two attitudes have been reflected upon and either altered towards the individual, or discarded entirely. We have many different philosophical concepts and world-reality perceptions proposed. A rather curious 'interest' of many individuals is the preservation of the Spiritual, Astral being rather than unite with their Deity; this has been commonly seen as 'LHP' in contrast to 'RHP' in terms of goals of attainment, wherein the LHP spectrum, we see to preserve themselves in their own God-forms or Realms, and in the RHP spectrum, cosmic reuniting with the Source, or in reincarnation (albeit loosely understood by many).

Labels aside, the idea of preserving one's being is not a new one regardless. In 2008, a Stele from the 8th Century B.C.E. was discovered that gives the “first written evidence that the people in this region held to the religious concept of the soul apart from the body.” The Stele's transcription reads, among other things of the Officer to whom it was engraved, that his soul would live on within the Stele.

This concept of the preservation of the soul or Spiritual being within Physical objects such as stone or other natural, hard – lasting - and ancient materials dates back thousands of years, even to the Egyptians. Within their concept of the soul and its five parts, the *ba* was also thought to exist in inanimate objects, because the *ba* was “everything that makes an individual unique, similar to the notion of 'personality'.”

More memorable is the story of the Golem, and the metaphysical concept of 'ensoulment' of an object. This is not a strange idea within Occult circles; many rituals exist to create what are currently referred to as 'thought forms', and to even attach them to objects. The idea is the same with the Soul for many, wishing to live on within stones or statues, even the ancient concept of the Cult Image; or even the Incorrupt Bodies of Saints, awaiting their eventual resurrection, their bodies preserved and 'beautified'.

The idea of the Astral or Spiritual being preserved beyond the existence of the Physical body is both an interesting and an ancient one, and the concept has taken many forms throughout many cultures. It is interesting to see the similarity of views despite the divide of cultural and societal norms and standards, and the reoccurrence of this theme that has appeared within human history.