



Transcending Matter: Evidence from Psychology and Parapsychology for the Existence of a Soul World in Brahma Kumaris Philosophy

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Abstract

This paper explores psychological and parapsychological research that supports the Brahma Kumaris' concept of the Soul World—a non-physical realm beyond the stars that serves as the original home of all souls and the Supreme Soul. Characterized by peace, happiness, love, bliss, and purity, this Soul World aligns with findings in near-death experiences (NDEs), past-life memories, peak mystical states, transpersonal psychology, and studies of consciousness beyond the brain. Drawing upon credible studies in psychology and parapsychology, this review supports the plausibility of a dimension beyond material existence, consistent with spiritual traditions and subjective reports.

Keywords: Spiritual Home, Supreme Soul, Brahma Kumaris, Spirituality, Soul world

1. Introduction

The Brahma Kumaris spiritual worldview describes a realm called the Soul World (Paramdham) that exists beyond the observable universe, specifically beyond the stars. It is believed to be the original abode of all souls and the Supreme Soul—characterized by absolute peace, stillness, purity, and light. While traditional science does not address metaphysical realms, recent findings in quantum mechanics and cosmology challenge

materialist boundaries and suggest the possibility of higher-dimensional or non-physical realities. This article examines how material science supports the potential existence of a Soul World in alignment with Brahma Kumaris' teachings.

2. Near-Death Experiences (NDEs)

2.1. Common Features

NDE research by Moody (1975), Greyson (1983), and Van Lommel (2001) consistently reports experiences of floating outside the body, traveling through a tunnel, encountering a light being, and experiencing peace and unconditional love.

2.2. Reports of a Realm of Light and Peace

Many NDEs include descriptions of a luminous realm beyond physical reality, filled with bliss, love, and calm—closely resembling the Brahma Kumaris' Soul World.

Implication: NDEs provide experiential testimony of a domain that mirrors the qualities attributed to the Soul World.

3. Past-Life Memories and Reincarnation Research

3.1. Cases Investigated by Dr. Ian Stevenson and Jim Tucker

Children recalling past lives often describe an intermediate state between death and rebirth. Many speak of a peaceful light-filled realm or a divine presence.

3.2. Verifiable Details

Thousands of cases documented by Stevenson show accurate past-life recall, suggesting consciousness continues beyond physical death.

Implication: These findings support the idea of a non-physical transition space where souls reside temporarily, consistent with Paramdham.

4. Mystical and Transcendental States

4.1. Peak Experiences (Maslow)

Maslow (1964) described "peak experiences" characterized by timelessness, unity, peace, and transcendence of the ego—qualities that reflect the Soul World's description.

4.2. Mystical Experiences in Meditation

Studies of deep meditative states (Newberg, d'Aquili) show that advanced meditators report states of light, bliss, oneness, and detachment from the physical body.

Implication: These subjective experiences provide insight into the consciousness state of souls in the Soul World.

5. Transpersonal Psychology

5.1. Stanislov Grof's Work

Grof's research into expanded states of consciousness through holotropic breathwork and psychedelics reveals experiences of a universal consciousness or cosmic home.

5.2. Self-Transcendence and the Noetic Realm

Experiences of unity consciousness and spiritual light suggest that human consciousness can access non-material realms.

Implication: The Soul World may be part of what Grof and others call the transpersonal or noetic dimensions of consciousness.

6. Mediumship and Afterlife Research

6.1. Controlled Studies (Wind bridge Institute, Gary Schwartz)

Controlled experiments with mediums report consistent, verifiable communications from deceased individuals. Page | 4

6.2. Descriptions of a Peaceful Light World

Messages often include descriptions of an afterlife realm of peace and spiritual radiance—similar to the Soul World.

Implication: Suggests that some aspect of personality continues and may enter a non-physical plane of existence.

7. Consciousness Beyond the Brain

7.1. Non-Local Consciousness (Van Lommel)

Van Lommel's longitudinal research supports the idea that consciousness can function independently of brain activity.

7.2. Terminal Lucidity

Reports of clear consciousness moments before death suggest that mind may not be fully dependent on the brain.

Implication: Supports the notion that consciousness (soul) may belong to a dimension beyond the physical brain and body.

8. Shared Death Experiences and Pre-Death Visions

8.1. Observations by Raymond Moody and Peter Fenwick

Caregivers and relatives sometimes share visual or emotional experiences of peace and light at the moment of someone's death.

8.2. Visions of a Light Realm

Reports include descriptions of traveling through light or seeing a serene realm, often consistent across cultures.

Implication: These suggest transitional glimpses into the Soul World.

9. Limitations and Ethical Considerations

- **Subjectivity:** Much evidence is experiential and not empirically verifiable by traditional methods.
- **Cultural Influence:** Interpretations of experiences may be shaped by prior beliefs.
- **Scientific Integration:** Greater collaboration between psychology, neuroscience, and spirituality is needed.

10. Conclusion

Although the Soul World described by Brahma Kumaris is a metaphysical concept, psychological and parapsychological research provides substantial indirect evidence that such a realm may exist. Near-death experiences, past-life memories, mystical states, and mediumship consistently describe a peaceful, radiant, non-material realm. These findings collectively support the plausibility of a spiritual dimension—beyond stars and space—where the soul originates and to which it returns, in alignment with ancient spiritual traditions and modern consciousness studies.

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