

INDEPENDENT SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION

of the United States of America

Our Principal Beliefs

Original in black Children's simplified in red Ministers comments follow

4) We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.

4) We Never die.

Rev. Phillip Falcone: "We are energy and energy cannot be destroyed, nor can it be created. Energy simply is. Therefore, we exist. The question becomes complicated if you accept the process of reincarnation, which has some science supporting. If I continue after the body dies, and I am able to speak through a medium, how can I also reincarnate? The same way I can have a presence in a building after I have moved away. My residual energy is like George Carlin's *Stuff* routine. Everywhere I go, I leave a little something behind that says, 'Phillip was here.' During birth and death, a tremendous amount of energy is used, and like sparks shooting from a live wire, sparks of me are shooting out. Some of those sparks come together and form a residual image that is able to exist on the astral plane while the rest of me continues on to the next body. Because this energy is a part of me, the flow of information carries on. Not all Spiritualists agree with reincarnation. I do because of Ian Stephenson's theory that reincarnation is part of the natural process of life since there appears to be an attractor pulling us forward."

Rev. Thomas Janssen: "We are Spiritual Beings having a Human Experience. We are created in the likeness and image of God. Our Mind/Awareness exists without form, perhaps as energy but in the likeness and image of God. Science has discovered that in the physical universe nothing can be created or destroyed. Matter can become energy and energy can become matter but neither can be created new nor destroyed (i.e. - removed from existence). Our physical body will definitely stop living at some point but it is not who we are. Our Mind/Awareness more closely defines this. Our self awareness, our thoughts, our memories and our feelings make up what defines each of us. This energy of self exists independent from the physical body and continues intact after the change of death. We call this existence as energy Spirit.

In Spirit the amnesia required to fully focus on this one life experience fades away and our greater self is realized along with our part in the Divine Plan. After fully integrating all that the last life experience provided for understanding and growth we are ready to return for another physical experience. Our ultimate purpose is to move toward becoming One again with the Divine Source. In Spirit we choose to come into physical body specifically for the growth it can bring to our Spirit and to assist others doing the same. We each have a role to play in each other's plan. Sometimes despite our best intentions we will be the *bad guy* in another's life experience. It is our intention which determines much about what we might label as *good or bad*.

We plan each life with the full understanding of our greater goal. We select the circumstances and conditions in which to be born. We choose that which will assure a particular set of experiences. Experiences which once transcended provide a leap in our

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Soul's Progression (i. e. - growth of Spirit). Much like one who wants a college degree will plan, along with advisors, the specific classes required next to move toward that particular degree.

At some point we will be ready for a greater role in this wondrous Universe and the unfolding of Creation."