

THE EXAMPLE OF THE TURTLE: COMPARING TWO VIEWS OF THE AFTERLIFE

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GREEK CONCEPT: THE TRANSMIGRATION OF THE SOUL

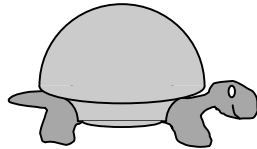
(THE SAME IDEA ALSO UNDERLIES IN THE HINDU CONCEPT OF "REINCARNATION")

ASSUMES THAT HUMANS ARE ETERNAL INFINITE SOULS; INDEPENDENT OF GOD

Here the shell represents the "earthly body" and the bare innards represents the "soul" imagines the existence of the soul without the body; the soul never really "dies":



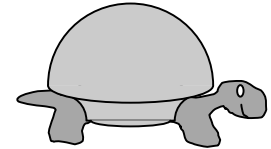
Pre-existence
(the soul is eternal)



Earthly Life
(the soul temporarily lives in a body)



Between Lives
(the living soul is set free from the body)

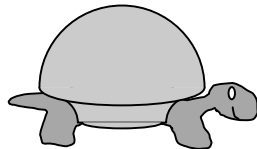


Second Life
(the soul is put in a new body)

HEBREW CONCEPT: THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

ASSUMES THAT HUMANS ARE FINITE CREATED BEINGS, DEPENDANT UPON GOD

Here the shell is never separated from the bare innards, what happens to one, happens to the other both body and soul comprise the nature of human beings; human beings do die, but are resurrected by God:

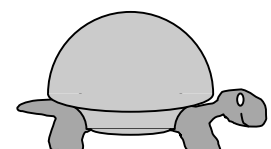


No Pre-existence
(human life has a beginning;
only God is eternal)

Earthly Life
(a human is body/soul in one;
both comprising the living being)



Death
(humans truly die; existing only as
a shadow or reflection of the former self)



Eternal Life
(God resurrects the whole person;
in a new and eternal form)