

## *Communications*

### **Why Not Reincarnation?**

I am writing in response to Rev. Dan Goodenough's article, "Why Not Reincarnation?" (*New Church Life*, January 2007). I am puzzled by his view that "reincarnation is not the work of a Creator God who loves his creation and wants to maximize happiness." Surely a God of love would never give up on us. He would give us as many chances as we need to live the kind of life that would get us to heaven. The Lord's love extends to all people, and he never gives up on us. He forgives seventy times seven, and his mercy endures forever.

We are told in the Writings that all people are predestined to heaven and none to hell:

A discussion about predestination once took place and many of the spirits, owing to the chief ideas they had adopted in the world, were of the opinion that some people have been predestined to heaven and others to hell. But I heard a response to this from heaven, which was that no one has ever been predestined to hell, but that all have been predestined to eternal life. (*Arcana Coelestia* 6488)

It is a dictate of sound reason that all are predestined to heaven, and no one to hell; for all are born men, and consequently the image of God is in them. (*Divine Providence* 322)

All people, no matter what their state, have remains of goodness from the Lord, and these are never destroyed. The Writings have this to say about remains:

The Lord so preserves all of those states with the individual that not even the least of them perishes. I have been given to know this from the fact that every one of man's states from his infancy right through to extreme old age not only carries over into the next life but also reappears. Indeed those states are exactly the same as when he lived in the world. Thus not only are goods and truths in the memory carried over, but also all states of innocence and charity. And when states of evil and falsity, or wickedness and false notions, recur—for every single one of these as well, down to the smallest detail, is carried over and reappears—they are at that time moderated by the Lord through those states of innocence

and charity. From all this it becomes clear that if a person possessed no remnants, he would inevitably be subject to eternal condemnation.  
(*Arcana Coelestia* 561)

This tells me that no one is condemned to eternal damnation since everyone has remains which are never destroyed. When we look at the world it is obvious that not everyone has the good fortune to be born to loving parents and brought up the right way and so make it to heaven in the space of one short earth life. Why wouldn't our loving Heavenly Father give us all as many chances as we need to get it right and find the happiness of heaven? How long it takes is irrelevant—eternity is a very long time. The happiness of heaven is what the Lord wants for everybody, and we are all predestined to heaven. I see no reason why the Lord could not replant our spiritual remains (our essential goodness) back into new life so that they can continue to grow.

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Dear Editor:

I would like to add the following to Dan Goodenough's article on Reincarnation:

The purpose behind reincarnation is the idea of a second or more chance on regeneration. Every time we come back, we can become more heavenly. What always turned me off to this idea and reincarnation is the fact that if we keep improving, then eventually we will die and dissolve in the Infinite. We will lose our own personality, and then what was the purpose of these many incarnations? I am back where I was not before.

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