

SOUL ABODE IN MAN

(A Research Summation by Dr. Vladimir Bonch-Bruevich in the BOOK of LIFE)

This Writer has had a life-time interest in the Book of Life as originally published by Dr. Vladimir Bonch-Bruevich (Dr. VB-B) after living amongst the recently migrated Doukhobors to Canada from Georgia in Russia in 1900.

I had a limited ability in reading the Russian version, but I was very interested in the English translation by Professor V.O. Buyniak in 1978.

My religious exposure included 'flirtations' with other Christian religions but my Doukhobor ancestry experiences resulted in more questions than answers.



The Dr. VB-B Canada mission, as recommended by Leo Tolstoy, was to record, into print, in 1901, the basically oral 'Way of Life' of the Doukhobors. My Scientific training accepted the methods used, by Dr. VB-B, to gather all the 360 Psalms that were recited by the Doukhobors in Canada, Trans-Caucasia, Amur, Sumara and other locations and assemble them in one publication.

As noted by Dr. VB-B, on page 9

"....All the works of Doukhobor literature which I have recorded were taken from those Doukhobors who lived in the Tiflis Government, District of Achalkalaki, in villages Efremovka, Spassovka, Orlovka, Boganovka, Rodionovka, and Tambovka. Records from Doukhobors of Kars and Elizabetopol region were also taken. When comparing all groups of Doukhobors, I was not able to notice / any / difference between reading of these Psalms, with exception of / some / insignificant variants, or to see, generally, any significant diversion in their knowledge of the 'Book of Life'. It is evident that for them the 'Book of Life' is common property in which one makes additions or changes by informing all those concerned...."

I became especially interested in Dr. VB-B summary of the 'Soul Abode in Man' as state in his Preface on page XVIII:

".....Where there exists love of one another, there abides God". "God is a Holy Spirit, a Holy Place in Himself, the Soul --- His body --- is immortal; not born, not created, it is eternal original, --- it will clothe itself in light, like with a vestment, in its eternal immortality". "Our body is of this earth --- it is not man but its man --- the Soul in body is a celestial intellect, a divine one" What, then, is a soul? Human soul is the body of God. "The soul is action; it is human power". What kind of power is it, then? The Doukhobors say --- "The soul is reason. The human soul --- reason --- is similar to "merciful God". It is an "image of God", it has

originated "from wisdom", and "wisdom" is "God himself", thus the soul, the reason of man, is the abode of God himself. Everything reasonable is divine and everything divine is reasonable.

God appears in Trinity. "God remains in three persons". The first person is father light. The second person is son of life, our God. The third person is peace-light Spirit, our God". And since "The Father is Light", "beginning", "wish", "Word". "The Son is the result of God's word", "the creator of all living beings". "The Spirit is essence", the creator of all spiritual blessings", "The Spirit is essence", the creator of all spiritual blessings". Then this triplicity, trinity of God is presented as "height --- the Father, width --- the Son, depth --- the Holy Spirit". In man all this manifests itself in three senses: "God Father --- memory; God Son --- reason; God Spirit ---- free will; God Trinity --- as one".

The beginning of creation is also one in itself, just as indivisible is the man endowed with invariable characteristics which belong to him only: "memory" not only as a voluntary and involuntary memory but also as an eternal link of the present with the past.

And since the soul, God's abode in man --- is reason, and reason is son of God, therefore man who contains reason is son of God. He is divine, man-God.

With one's death the body disappears, and the soul "parts from it and leaves for heavenly abodes. Your soul shall depart to eternal life, and your body shall decay and return to earth "Our body shall turn into dust, and our soul shall return to its eternal home, where there is no death, no sorrow, no guilt, no weeping, no thirst; where exists an everlasting day, and eternal light", i.e., it will merge with all "visible and invisible world", with cosmos.

Human soul, a source of reason in human life, is immortal. It is eternal, the same way as nature itself is eternal, as life is, as the world is, as the universe is, as God is. With death human shell disappears --- his body, but his soul --- an absolute reason --- this primary source of man, remains in this world as something which knows no death....."

I found it interesting that Dr. VB-B also found that some Doukhobors believed in reincarnation as he states on page XIX in his preface to the Book of Life:

"...The soul of such a "righteous man --- as the Doukhobors consider themselves ---- passes from generation to generation among the "jut kind", i.e., among the Christian / Doukhobors themselves. It / the soul / migrates, so to say. From one individual to another, all the time transmitting with it all its characteristics of divine wisdom. But even among the Doukhobors there are, or may be found, the unrighteous. The soul of such "fallen" men, their "shaken" mind, obscured by animalistic, carnal, diabolical origin of life, is transmitted after death to those people, not to Christians but the remaining ones, who live not according to their intellect, to those whose deeds are wicked...."

With this basis, I developed a graphic interpretation of all these findings of Dr. VB-B to present it in a separate Blog entry, following this one.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO INSPECT SAME! All constructive suggestions for improvement will be considered to emend this draft.

My purpose and intent is for a more expanded understanding of Soul by my family and friends and so is not intended to be a scientific nor a religious presentation by Elmer Verigin.

It is for the enjoyment and consideration of my Readers.

Compiled by Elmer Verigin November 08, 2025.