

Magnificent Souls : Insight into Soul Ages

(excerpt from The Michael Teachings)

As we reincarnate from lifetime to lifetime on our soul's journey -- gathering experiences, learning lessons, and fulfilling agreements -- an evolutionary process transpires and that course of development is called, **Soul Age**.

Soul age refers to how a person has grown from experience on the planet, not just to how many lifetimes he or she has lived. No person is "ahead" or "behind" any other, but is simply occupying another place in the continuous circle leading to and from the Tao.

Each soul age brings a unique perspective and an array of lessons that offer experience, individual choice, and ultimately, the opportunity to learn and evolve.

During this cycle of incarnations, the soul progresses through five soul age stages on the physical plane. Each stage is a mark of the soul's evolution.

Soul Age Stages

1) **Infant Souls** deal with issues of survival; they do not yet have a basis for making sense of what is "out there"—they only know that it is "not me." Infant souls often live on the fringes of society, and their experience of life is simple, earthy, primitive, and mystical. Without loving guidance from older souls who teach them the difference between right and wrong, Infant souls may react violently to perceived threats.



Focus: Survival

Infant Soul Countries: Ethiopia, New Guinea, Cambodia, Areas Near the Equator

Attributes: (+) Innocent, untarnished by culture, purely instinctive (-) Fearful, withdrawn, without conscience, violent

2) **Baby Souls** have a need for structure and tend to live according to beliefs based on dogma, such as religious fundamentalism. Baby souls, focused as they are on bringing people together under the umbrella of civilization, see others, as being "just like me." They can become confused and upset when those "other me's" act differently than expected. Their experience of life is rule-based, rigid, dogmatic, family-oriented, and highly structured around adhering to the laws and mores of an institution or culture -- think of the Middle West and the conscientious drive to be the "model citizen."

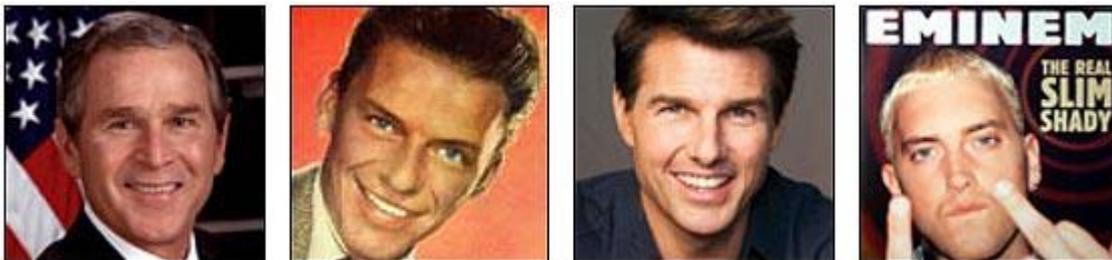


Focus: Rules/Laws; right and wrong

Baby Soul Countries: Iran, Iraq, Haiti, Ireland, Libya, Middle East, Mid-West America

Attributes: (+) Community-oriented, law-abiding, family values (-) rule-based, rigid, bland, judgmental, black and white, religious fundamentalists

3) **Young Souls** are success oriented and set high standards of personal achievement. Young souls are learning to impact the world, and see others as “you’s” they can impact. Their experience of life is competitive, industrious, independent, profit-motivated, win-lose, and in pursuit of anything that leads to prosperity. They fear aging, the natural decline of their bodies, and go to great lengths to preserve their status and appearance. Young souls could be the official soul age for face-lifts, Botox injections, and tummy-tucks.



Focus: Success/Achievement; win-lose

Young Soul Countries: USA, China, Israel, United Arab Emirates

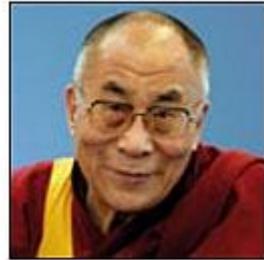
4) **Mature Souls** are relationship oriented and tend to gravitate toward emotional drama. Mature souls, delving into their inner world and exploring relatedness, can keenly feel other people’s “stuff,” and perceive it in the same way they perceive their own. This can make for much intensity and, often, subjectivity. Their experience of life is dramatic, emotional, soap-opera-like, identified, intimate, empathetic, and self-aware.



Focus: Relationships

Mature Soul Countries: England, Austria, Italy, Poland

5) **Old Souls** seek the larger perspective of life, and have less interest in playing the material game. They tend to be more detached, and try to see themselves and others within a larger context, fostering a "live and let live" motto. Their experience of life is laid-back, easy going, detached from emotional intensity, spiritually-minded, and sometimes a little lazy.



Focus: The Big Picture; Philosophical Perspective

Old Soul Countries: Iceland, Holland, Finland, Czechoslovakia

Soul Age Levels

Each soul age consists of seven levels of development that must be completed before graduating to the next soul age. Each level averages three lifetimes to complete, sometimes more, sometimes less. An Infant soul, for example, would begin at level one and gradually progress through six more levels before moving up to the Baby Soul stage. This continues until the 7th level of the old soul stage is reached. All and all, as Varda Hasselmann mentions in her book, there are thirty-five levels in total that must be completed before cycling-off the planet, the 35 steps of the reincarnational cycle.

JP Van Hulle once described the soul age levels using an analogy of swimming at the beach. Here's an expanded paragraph on that concept:

At the first level we're still adjusting to the new environment. We dip our toe in the water, test how cold it is and wonder if we should get in. At the second level we waded into the water a little further, first up to our ankles, then to our waist, attempting to anchor ourselves against the undertow and unsure if we're ready to make the plunge. Around the third level we finally dive in and swim below the waves, totally submerged in the experience. At the fourth level we come back up for air and now feel comfortable in the water, plunging beneath the surface for another swim, and occasionally wading into large waves that crash over us. We've discovered that the beach is fun, and we teach others what we've learned. By the time the fifth level arrives we've grown bored and want something new. We grab a surf board and begin riding the waves, expanding on how we can experience the beach with more variety. Around the sixth level another surfer thinks we're hogging the best waves and angrily shoves us off the board. We awkwardly fall back into the water and strike our head against a rock. This could be a karmic repayment. At the seventh level we decide we've had enough and return to

the beach, satisfied with the mastery we've achieved and looking forward to our next outing and a new soul age cycle to explore.