

DIMENSIONS OF TIME

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The belief in personal survival after death is based either on religious faith or on the Kantian philosophical postulate. The question as to whether it can be based on a spiritistic experience should be left open.

We can comprehend macrophysical reality in a four-dimensional continuum. We can visualize this to ourselves only by analogy with a curved two-dimensional surface. In this way we comprehend space in one dimension; time is the second dimension. This is the description of a physically-determinate world. With regard to microphysics, this is only an approximate description. On this plane our life-course would appear as a so-called world-line, but only in a way that has already been determined. But we undeniably experience: (a) our memory; (b) our freedom and responsibility.

The fact that we can visualize the past means that the events experienced must last a length of time. We not only move away from the world-line of our next life but, to a certain extent, we can survey it as a whole. Furthermore, we materialize it to the extent that we make decisions with respect to possibilities. For this freedom and for duration the introduction of a second time-dimension is necessary.

This second time-dimension can give significant meaning to the idea of survival after death. When we have completed our life, we survey our world-line and its meaning; we may be able to recognize to what extent we have fulfilled our task. The significant meaning which we connect with survival after death would thus be the following: The world

line of our body remains the expression of the Essence of our life. Maybe too in this second psychical time-dimension we can survey whatever concerns us on this earth; and particularly we may be able to find ourselves in inward communication with the beings with whom we are connected in our life-line. Finally, to religious persons this second time-dimension would cover their relationship to God.

For parapsychology this pattern means that during our lifetime we may be able to enter into communication with other beings on the same level, as well as with beings in nature on lower levels.