Introduction

In order to address this and related questions, one needs to understand what and where is **God**, what is the **Soul** and what and who we **Humans** are. We also need to understand what and where is **Heaven (and Hell)**, what **Judgement** means, and what **Karma** means.

God

One needs to understand that as human beings existing in a limited, finite universal existence, WE cannot even conceive of God accurately because God is NOT a being and is not SOME WHERE. God is "EVERY THING" we sense with all our five Physical senses as well as "experience" with all of our Extrasensory senses (Intuition and Psychic Senses) and "EVERY WHERE" – BEYOND Physical existence.

And here is a Paradox, God does NOT "exist" as we use and understand that word, yet "exists" in the sense that God is every WHERE and every HOW that exists, as well as the WHY that everything exists. And the word "exists" as used here is not limited to just the Physical realm. But, as Human beings existing in a Physical Universe, we can only IMAGINE anything existing beyond the Physical realm.

When it is said that God is the Alpha and the Omega, that phrase implies that God is the beginning and the end of EVERYTHING & NOTHING. In the *Kabbalah*¹ – the book of Mystical Judaism – there is a concept of the **Tzim Tzum (or Tsim Tsum)** which is the Jewish description of "Creation." The Kabbalah states:

"Before there was even thought, the "No Thing" looked within itself to "see" what it was, and as a result, everything "expressed" / came into being"

.....words are truly inadequate to describe this process, but as an engineer and scientist, I think of this as "The big Bang". There is a lot more to that story but I am going to leave it at that for now.

So <u>God is NOT a being</u>, yet is capable of expressing itself as a being if the individuals seeking the Divine need such an expression. <u>God is pure consciousness</u>, the consciousness of all that is, including our Soul Consciousnesses.

God as Love

When it is said that *"God is Love"* that is true BUT the "Love" that God is, is nothing like the love that humans know how to express, or can even attempt to

¹ Kabbalah (Hebrew: אַבְלָה Qabbālā, literally "tradition or received knowledge")

express, because God's Love is an Unconditional Love – a totally non-judgmental acceptance – that humans are seldom able to express. At our very best we can express but a "shadow" (words are not adequate here) of God's Love.

People who have had Near Death Experiences (NDEs) and experienced the presence of God or a Divine Being, often state that they experience a blindingly (yet not) bright energy "form" or presence that envelopes them in a warm, comforting "light" that is totally accepting, comforting, etc., and as many report, words are not adequate to describe their experience, yet everyone tries to, and their descriptions are consistently similar.

Souls & Humans

ALL of us (our Souls) are an aspect of the Divine or God expressing in or through our physical bodies which are simply a vehicle that we use while in this physical realm or dimension. We are born (our Souls incarnate) into physical or human bodies and become subject to the Laws of the Physical realm. BUT we (our Souls) are still connected to the Source of our Being = God, through our Intuitive and Psychic senses.

I wrote a book about WHO all of us are entitled "Growing Up Psychic – What Every Parent & Child Should Know About Psychic Sensitivity".² In there I state that everyone is born Psychically Sensitive and that for the first 5 - 7 years we are all aware of an energy (the Aura) around all living things and often speak of their past lives and much more. From my experience, most children "learn" to ignore that energy in order to "fit in" although many remain connected to their Intuitive and/or Psychic sensitivities and my book was an attempt to explain that "phenomena" and provide guidance to both parents, teachers and counselors as well as psychically sensitive young AND older people to help them make sense of their sensitivities and/or the sensitivities of their children and grandchildren.

Ocean Spray but Not the Ocean

WE are NOT a physical body with a Spirit!!.... but in fact, we are an aspect or expression of God (our Soul) occupying our physical body for our time in this physical existence. When our physical body dies, the essence of who we are (our Soul) leaves that vehicle that can no longer provide a means of operating in this physical realm and moves on to the Spirit realm..... WE go back to Source. Our consciousness lives on FOREVER.

² See https://www.amazon.com/Growing-Up-Psychic-Lowell-Smith/dp/0615331572/ref=sr_1_2

Many years ago, at an A.R.E. Conference in Virginia Beach, VA Eula Allen introduced me to what I believe is a very good way to think about this – our Soul and God. If you think of God as the Ocean, then we (our Souls) can be thought of as "Ocean Spray or drops" out of the Ocean. God created "us" as individuated expressions of itself (like drops of Ocean Spray). We are not the Ocean (God) but drops of water out of the Ocean AND with ABSOLUTE ability to create as does God but with the Gift of Free Will. And as part of giving us Free Will to create whatever we choose to create, there is a total, unwavering responsibility for the consequences of our creations. This responsibility for our thoughts, words, and actions is a "Universal LAW" and is the principle on which the law of **Karma** is derived.

Ye Are Gods

The statement that we are aspects of God is spoken of in the Holy Bible in Psalm $82:6^3$ – a Psalm of Asaph where it says: *"I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High."* and the word used in the original Hebrew text is "Elohim" which implies "the Most High God". So, in this passage, Jesus was reminding everyone that WE are Divine aspects of the Most High God.

Actors in a Play Analogy

It is often said "*we are but actors in a play*" and the reason that analogy is used is because this Essence of who we are – our Soul – exists in the Spirit realm. It comes to the earth plane and incarnates into a physical body, expresses through that "vehicle" for a period of X years and develops a personality by making choices throughout its lifetime. And because most people aren't "aware" of who they really are – they forget that they are an actor in a play and begin to believe that they are the part they are playing. They believe that their physical existence is REALITY, but in fact that REALITY is a temporary existence and that is why life is often referred to as a "Play".

Our true identity (our Soul) is the Actor taking on a role and using a physical body to express that role. When the play is over – when we die – the actor (our Soul) leaves and returns to Source – the Spirit realm. The amazing thing is, EVERYONE, even the most heinous criminal is a Divine aspect of God (its Soul) expressing in a Human (a body) form living its temporary existence as a Human and creating an

³ Psalm 82 – A Psalm of Asaph, states that "...Ye are gods..." What is interesting is that the passage of John 10:34 is about an incident when as the Jews (Priests & followers) were about to stone Jesus (Yeshua), he uses the same phrase. Also interesting is that Asaph was one of the Incarnations of the Master Soul (Yeshua).

existence that is either uplifting or not so. And that is a TRUTH that most humans have a hard time making sense of and accepting.

Heaven & Hell

Let's now talk about *Heaven* and *Hell*. First of all, *Heaven* is NOT a place, but a State or Level of Consciousness and exists everywhere AND nowhere. Similarly, *Hell* is also not a place but a State or Level of Consciousness that also exists everywhere AND nowhere. So, the statement *Hell on Earth* can and does occur – both in a physical expression but mostly as a state of Consciousness, and I dare say that we have all visited that experience multiple times in our lifetimes.

Just like when a cloud suddenly appears, it occupies the "space" where it is, yet that "space" is the same space that existed before it formed. The only difference is that the conditions in that "space" changed causing the cloud to form or manifest.

As reported by thousands and thousands of people who have had Near Death Experiences (NDEs) *Heaven* (and *Hell*) are levels of awareness's or states of consciousness that they become aware of in their "altered" state. Some NDE'rs report experiencing "*hellish*" conditions in which they report as being aware of "*hellish*" conditions either themselves or they experience others experiencing various "*hellish*" conditions. But they all state that their experiences are not confined to a Place but to a State or level of consciousness. Many have reported that when they call upon God, Jesus, etc. they immediately find themselves surrounded by Light Beings who somehow "extract" them from that level of consciousness to a light filled "space". I used the word "space" here, but it is NOT a "space" as we tend to think of that word, but more an uplifted awareness, which isn't really a "space", but the English language fails me here.

I am able to understand the difference between an uplifted/higher state of awareness versus a normal human state of awareness because I have experienced both. This higher or uplifted state of awareness is one where you are aware not with your physical or even Psychic senses but with your Soul consciousness, and you become aware of every-thing, every-one, every-where. In fact, you become aware of awareness/consciousness itself as just a part of "who" you are, AND you recognize that EVERYONE is also a part of that awareness/consciousness. It is very difficult to explain in human terms, but Spirit tells me that this is an appropriate explanation.

Judgement

The word Judgement as used in the Physical realm, implies evaluating acts / actions, the reasons behind the acts, the effects of the acts, AND the attitude of the

individuals carrying out or responsible for those acts, and then Judging – forming an opinion or conclusion about and giving a verdict on, which implies a punishment supposedly fitting to some agreed to standard for the act/action and its impact on that individual or those individuals who were "harmed" or negatively affected.

Over the centuries and millennia, human societies have formed a belief that the Divine or God would (must?) Judge in the same way or manner. So there has developed a belief that when one dies, there is a "final Judgement" in which God or the Divine will *"Judge"* everyone for everything that they thought, said and did and if it was not "God like" or acceptable to God, that person would either be placed in a purgatory situation, or would be *"Judged unacceptable and be cast into Hell for eternity"*.

God's Judgement

Based upon my extensive study of both eastern and western religious beliefs and teachings, my study of many Metaphysical authorities on this subject, my own Meditation experiences and encounters with Divine Presences, and the thousands and thousands of NDE cases that have been documented, that is NOT what happens. Instead, as almost all NDE experiencers have reported, they are greeted by a loving and caring "presence" often referred to as "Light Beings" or Beings/entities consisting of "Light" that were incredibly bright but not blinding to the eye. AND there was never any judgement or condemnation for the things that one had done. The only judgement that is sometimes referred to is the self judgement each entity experiences when they are given a "Life Review", and there are many different versions, but all with the same theme of NO Judgement by a God or Divine Being. Held responsible for their thought, words, and actions YES, but not "Judged" by any Divine being.

The only thing that most of NDE'rs report is the full awareness of the impact of their thoughts, words on actions, but not as though they are watching, nor from their point of view, but completely reliving and experiencing (in the scene) the "offended" person's experience. And as Dannion Brinkley says about his 1st NDE, he had to experience what his actions caused in the individuals he harmed as well as experience the harm that offended person did to others, again from the offended person's perspective. And he said, "out to 5 levels of offenses".

So, there is NO Judgement of a deceased person by God or the Divine, only a total Loving acceptance and approval by the Divine, and in fact the entire Divine realm.

Although there are many Biblical statements about Judgment, I believe these statements are based on wording by mostly Jewish Rabbi's expressing the man-made laws that they had come up with, NOT a Divinely inspired idea.

Karma

Now let's explore the principle of **Karma**. The word **Karma** generally means "meeting self", which isn't exactly correct but that is a good way of thinking about it. The word **Karma** is actually derived from the Sanskrit word *karman*, meaning "**act**", and a good way of thinking of it is a person standing in circle of Dominos and pushing one – when the last domino falls on him/her, they did it to themselves.

In its earliest specialized usage, the term *karma* carried no ethical significance. And in ancient texts ("*The Vedas*"; 1000–700 BCE) of the Vedic Religion, which proceeded the Hindu Religion, *karma* referred simply to ritual and sacrificial action. However, as the priestly theology of sacrifice was articulated by Brahman priests over the following centuries, ritual action came to be regarded as effective by itself, independent of the gods (or Gods?). Karma as *ritual* functioned autonomously and according to a cosmic ritual law.

It turns out that in the Hindu religion, there are actually 3 different types of karma: **Prarabdha Karma**, **Sanchita Karma**, and **Kriyamana Karma or Agami Karma**.

- 1) **Prarabdha karma** is experienced through the present body and is only a part of Sanchita Karma = The sum of one's past Karmas.
- 2) Sanchita karma is the sum of one's past karmas, and
- 3) Kriyamana or Agami Karma is the result of current (this lifetime) decisions and actions.

So, the concept of **Karma** that has evolved over several centuries can be expressed as follows:

Karma is the process by which a Soul faces the full & total impact of the thoughts, speech, and deeds carried out by the human being (which the Soul is operating through) in a lifetime, and the Soul learns from those "experiences" and makes decisions about WHAT and HOW that Soul will set up experience opportunities in "future lifetimes" to allow it to remediate / correct / ameliorate the impact its thoughts, words and actions created.

This isn't exactly correct, but this is a good way of stating the principle of **Karma** and how it is created and how it is "corrected" or "atoned for". The following is an example of how this works.

Question:

Does a Soul that comes to the Earth plane and incarnates as a Human (its Avatar) and then CHOOSES to become a mass murderer – for example like an Edi Amin,

How does Karma work if there is NO Judgement in Heaven?

Pol Pot, Charles Manson, etc. – do they have to face some sort of "punishment" for their thoughts, words and actions after they die?

Answer:

The simple answer is YES & NO. NO, because there is no punishment in the Spirit realm AND YES, in that each Soul has to experience the impact its thoughts, words and deeds created, and must "pay" – no one knows the "price" to be paid for it depends on the agreements that were made prior their (the Souls affected) incarnation.

However, nobody gets off without facing the consequences of its thoughts, words and actions, AND each Soul chooses HOW and WHEN it does so.

The longer answer is much more complex because it involves multiple Soul path plans and can (and most likely does) involve multiple lifetime interactions with multiple Souls/entities.

Life Path Plans

When a Soul incarnates into the earth plane, some sort of general Soul Path plan is established between that Soul and a number of other Souls that it will interact with while in that incarnation. However, when it incarnates a "veil of forgetfulness" hides that plan and the entity begins to create its earthly life path without conscious awareness of the Soul's Path Plan. Yet that "Plan" is available to each entity through its Intuitive and Psychic senses. And because of Free Will, a human entity / consciousness can choose a different path which creates a different set of "opportunities for growth" and can (and often times does) in fact create Karmic situations that were not part of the original "Plan" that Soul had, and the Creator / God will not / cannot interfere, for It/He/She created all Souls with Free Will.

Conclusion

So, does *Karma* exist, YES it does but it is NOT a Judgement by God. *Karma* is the word used to describe a very complex process where each Soul examines the experiences that Soul created and experienced during its incarnation as a Human being, and "discerns" whether those thoughts, words, and deeds were in accord with, or agreement with the agreements it created prior to that lifetime.

I hope and trust that this will be / has been helpful to each person who reads this and provides you a sense of peace and hope.

Respectfully, Rev. Lowell K Smith <u>www.ReflectionsInLight.org</u>