

*The
Story
of* YOUR
SOUL

*Recovering
the Pearl
of Your
True Identity*



ELIZABETH CLARE PROPHET

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SUMMIT UNIVERSITY  PRESS®

THE STORY OF YOUR SOUL

Recovering the Pearl of Your True Identity

by Elizabeth Clare Prophet

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A Note from the Editors

Elizabeth Clare Prophet frequently taught about the profound opportunity that is given to every soul to fulfill an extraordinary purpose. This book is a compilation from the author's published and unpublished teachings given over many years. Affirmations, meditations, questions and exercises have been added for self-reflection and to enrich your experience in book discussion groups.

We would love to hear from you about your experiences and insights from reading the book and experimenting with the spiritual tools. Please write to us at Pocket Guides to Practical Spirituality, 63 Summit Way, Gardiner, Montana 59030 or contact us at MyStory@summituniversitypress.com.

The Editors

Summit University Press

*Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting:
The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar:
Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home.*

—WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

PART 1

Who Am I?
Why Am I Here?
Where Am I Going?





The Story of Your Soul

Imagine you are a prince. One day your parents, the king and queen, send you on a mission to a distant land. You must find a pearl guarded by a hungry dragon.

You take off your royal robe and leave the kingdom of your parents. You journey to this distant land, putting on dirty clothing and disguising yourself as one of her people.

Somehow the people of this land discover that you are a foreigner. They give you food that makes you forget your royal birth and makes you believe that you are one of them. You sink into a deep sleep.

Your parents see your plight and send you a letter that tells you to awaken. It reminds you of your quest to recover the pearl. You remember who you are, a child of kings. You quickly subdue the dragon, retrieve the pearl and depart, leaving the dirty clothing behind.

4 Part 1 • *Who Am I? Why Am I Here? . . .*

When you return to your native land, you see your royal robe, which reminds you of the splendor you lived in before. The garment speaks to you, telling you that it belongs to the one who is stronger than all human beings. You put on your royal robe once more and return to your father's palace.¹

Within this story about the quest for a pearl lies the elusive answer to the perennial questions Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? Based on a divinely inspired Gnostic poem called “The Hymn of the Pearl,” this story is an allegory for the profound mystery of your soul’s journey from her first abode down to earth and back again.

It is the story of the soul who descends from the spiritual realms into the earthly planes of illusion and loses the memory of her* origin. She faces the trials and tribulations of the lower life until she responds to the call from Home—the call that leads to her ascent and culminates in union with her God.

*The soul of man and woman is feminine in relation to the masculine, or spirit, portion of being. The soul is therefore often referred to as “she.”

I believe this to be the story of your soul journeying out from the highest point of consciousness to these planes here below and then returning with the pearl. The pearl represents your soul's knowledge of her true identity. Retrieving the pearl and bringing it Home symbolizes her integration with her true identity, her Higher Self.



Life's Grand Design

Each soul is part of a larger scheme. The Creator chooses the precise moment in history for each soul to come to earth to take part in the divine outplaying of the decades and the centuries. This timetable of the conception and birth of every child is part of God's grand design of life—a design so exact that at the moment of conception the genes in each tiny embryo are already suited to the specific soul who will inhabit it.

Consider how wondrously you were made, how God cared for you personally, how your own Father-Mother God ordained your conception,

your parents, your life, your purpose and your reason for being.

But God was not only thinking of you before you were born. He was already thinking of whose great-great-grandmother and great-great-grandfather you might be. The plan of the mind of God, that great cosmic computer, is so vast that none of us can even begin to comprehend it.

So if you have ever felt like an unwanted child, you can let your soul be healed of that burden. For

*Try looking upon
yourself more as
God does. For God
is never confused
and can only see
Himself in you.*

— HAFIZ

your Father-Mother loved you in the beginning, has loved you through your life's trials, and will continue to love you all the way Home.

As each of us makes this journey, we have a mission to fulfill and a unique identity to manifest. God did not create us out of a cosmic cookie

cutter and stamp us out to be exactly like him. Rather, each one of us has been endowed with a distinct blueprint, which is shared only with our other half, our twin flame. This blueprint is a seed

idea from God that urges us to pursue our journey, that pushes us onward and upward, that pushes us to strive.

Striving toward the Goal

When we are not striving and not working toward lesser and greater goals that lead us to our final destination, our soul is unhappy. That unhappiness may show up as sickness, boredom or self-deception. It can take the form of moodiness or little irritations and problems with family members or others—things that we don't associate with our soul's dissatisfaction.

Yet our soul is impressing upon our outer awareness, "You are stifling me. You are not fulfilling the purpose for which I was born. And I will not leave you in comfort. I will make you without comfort until you return to follow the inner plan of life."

Our divine plan is waiting for our free-will confirmation. If we believe in predestination, we may think we don't have to do anything—it's all going to happen anyway. But in reality, because of the gift of free will, we can choose to implement

our divine plan or not.

I can remember when all I knew about my divine plan was that I had to do something for God in this life, that I had a mission and I had to find out what it was. And since I didn't know what it was, my mission became finding it out. So each day during my childhood and my schooling, I would try to study and pursue those subjects which, if mastered, would lead me closer to the knowledge of my life's mission.

Do you know your mission, your divine plan? One clue is that your mission is often your passion. So you can ask yourself what you are passionate about. Another clue is that your mission usually involves perfecting the talents that God has placed within your soul.

Above and beyond all else, the purpose of life, the answer to "Why am I here?" is to find God—in yourself, in your talents, in your calling and in your service to life. It is to endow everything you do with God's Spirit. Endowing everything with God's Spirit is making his Spirit permanent in you. This is the journey of integration back to the kingdom of your Father-Mother God.



Your Soul's Divine Potential

The following glimpse of the “pearl” can serve as a road map for your personal journey. It can also help to answer the questions “Who am I?” and “Where am I going?”

The soul is the living potential of God—the part of you that is mortal but can become immortal. She gains immortality through her journey.

Remembering that the pearl represents the soul's knowledge of her Higher Self, you can meditate on the following picture, the Chart of Your Divine Self. It illustrates your spiritual anatomy—your divine nature and direct relationship with God.

This Chart shows three distinct levels of consciousness. In relationship to the story of your soul's journey, you might look at the lower figure as your soul's consciousness and the middle figure as the consciousness of your Higher Self, the guide for your journey. The upper figure can be seen as the birthright of royal consciousness that is yours when you finally return to your heavenly abode.



THE CHART OF YOUR DIVINE SELF

The I AM Presence

The highest level of consciousness is represented by the upper figure—the Presence of God with you, the Father-Mother God—the all-loving, all-knowing, all-pure, all-powerful God. This is the I AM Presence, the Presence of God individualized in each of us. It is your *personalized* I AM THAT I AM, the name that God revealed to Moses at Mount Sinai when God said, “This is my name forever and this is my memorial unto all generations.”²

God saw us in the plight of having forgotten where we came from and who we were in the beginning. So he gave us a memory of himself, a memorial. He gave each one of us an I AM Presence—a portion of his being and consciousness. (See the image on page 10.) This is the consciousness you will put on when you arrive at the palace of your father, just like the prince in the story.

Surrounding your I AM Presence are seven concentric spheres of pulsating spiritual energy. These spheres, called the causal body, contain the record of all the good works you have ever performed, stored as your treasures in heaven, your

cosmic bank account. No two causal bodies are exactly alike, because their shimmering spheres reflect the unique spiritual attainment of the individual soul.

Your Higher Self

The middle figure in the Chart represents your Higher Self. This is your inner teacher, your dearest friend and the voice of conscience that guides, warns and comforts you on the homeward journey. The Higher Self will give you unerring direction if you will tune in to this still small voice within you.

Jesus discovered the Higher Self to be “the Christ” and Gautama discovered it to be “the Buddha.” Thus, the Higher Self is sometimes called the Inner Christ (or Christ Self) or the Inner Buddha. Christian mystics sometimes refer to it as the inner man of the heart or the Inner Light. And the Upanishads mysteriously describe it as a being the “size of a thumb” who “dwells deep within the heart.” Whether we call it the Christ, the Buddha, the Atman or the Tao, each of us is meant to become one with our Higher Self.

The Crystal Cord and Threefold Flame

Looking at the Chart, you will see a ribbon of white light descending from your I AM Presence to your heart. Called the crystal cord or silver cord, this is the crystal clear river of life mentioned in the Book of Revelation.³

It's like a mighty river of energy—energy that empowers us to think, feel, reason, experience life and grow spiritually. But when we turn our attention away from those things that contribute to our soul's purpose, that energy starts to fragment. Rivulets of energy flow away from the main-stream and the blueprint of our life, and this can sap us of the full strength we need to carry out our mission.

Your crystal cord nourishes and sustains the flame of God anchored at spiritual levels in the secret, or hidden, chamber of the heart. This flame is called the threefold flame or divine spark—literally a spark of sacred fire from God's own heart kindled within you. By fully accessing the power, the wisdom and the love of your threefold flame, you can fulfill your soul's reason for being.

Imagine the secret chamber of your heart as your private meditation room. It's the place where you can commune with your Inner Buddha, your Inner Christ. Jesus was referring to the secret chamber of the heart when he spoke of going into the closet to pray. The mystic Teresa of Avila called this closet her "interior castle." Truly entering this closet is going into another dimension of consciousness.

Your Four Lower Bodies

The lower figure in the Chart represents your soul in embodiment evolving in time and space. Your soul is clothed in garments of four lower bodies, though only the physical body is shown. These are four energy fields, or sheaths of consciousness. They are like colanders stacked inside each other, each vibrating in a different dimension. They surround your soul and function as her vehicles of expression in the material world.

Aside from your physical body, you have an emotional, or desire, body—the body of your feelings and desires. You also have a mental body, the body of thinking and reasoning. The etheric body, the highest vibrating of the four, is your memory body.

When your four lower bodies are in alignment, like a set of colanders with their holes lined up, the light of your I AM Presence can flow freely through you. So part of the work of the spiritual path is gaining balance in these bodies—physical, psychological, mental and spiritual balance.

The Ascension

The goal of each soul's journey in time and space is to permanently unite with her Higher Self and I AM Presence in the ritual of the ascension. This is the integration of the three levels of consciousness shown in the Chart. In Western religion, we say we've entered heaven. In Eastern terms, we've attained liberation or *parinirvana*. According to Gnosticism, we have reclaimed our pearl and returned to our divine parents. These are just different ways of describing the soul's state of consciousness once she has ascended back to the heart of God.

A powerful way to accelerate your journey is to invoke spiritual light, including the violet flame. The spiritual energy of the violet flame is shown surrounding the lower figure in the Chart. The violet flame is the color and frequency of spiritual

The Trikaya, or Three Bodies of the Buddha

Some Buddhists believe that each aspirant to Buddhahood successively “puts on” three bodies. He begins at the level of the Nirmanakaya, called the Body of Transformation. This is the physical form of an embodied Buddha, such as Gautama Buddha. It is also the refined, purified body of the striving disciple evolving on the spiritual path. In the Chart, it relates to the lower figure.

The aspirant then puts on the Sambhogakaya—the Body of Bliss or the Body of Inspiration. This relates to the Buddha Self, or Christ Self, corresponding to the middle figure in the Chart.

Next, he puts on the Dharmakaya, which is called the Body of the Law or Body of First Cause—the timeless, permanent body of the Buddha. It corresponds to the upper figure in the Chart.

When the three bodies of the Buddha are united and experienced simultaneously, they are known as the Vajrakaya. In Sanskrit *vajra* means “the diamond,” which is the symbol of the ascended state.

The union of these three bodies correlates with the full integration of the soul with her divine image—the Christ Self and I AM Presence—and her final ascent to her God.

light that stimulates the qualities of mercy, justice, freedom and transmutation. It can be invoked to purify your four lower bodies and consume negative thoughts and feelings. The Chart also depicts a protective tube of white light that descends directly from your I AM Presence in answer to your prayers. (See pages 102–115 for how to give calls for the violet flame and the tube of light.)

The Chart, therefore, can be seen as a pictorial version of the story of the prince—or the story of your soul, reclaiming the pearl and finally returning to the kingdom of her Father-Mother God.

Soul Reflections

1. Imagine yourself as the prince in the story.
Where do you see yourself in the journey?
Awakening from a deep sleep? Fighting dragons?
Reclaiming the pearl?
2. What do you consider to be your unique mission?

If you know what it is, might there be an aspect beyond what you've been doing?

If you don't know, think about what you enjoy doing, the things that give you the greatest sense

of fulfillment, and your gifts and talents. Or ask five people who know you well what they think your special gift is. Reflect on all these things to see if they give you any insights about your mission.

3. How is your soul speaking to you right now through your body, mind and emotions?

How might she be trying to get your attention?

Write down your thoughts. Then as you continue reading this book, be alert to how you might work with your soul to resolve these things and make your life better and more fulfilling.

4. In what ways does the Chart of Your Divine Self expand your understanding of yourself as a spiritual being?

 *You are a soul and a fiery spirit...*

The soul has been likened by some to a pearl that has been cast into the sea of the material universe. The goal of our life is to go after that pearl and recover our true identity.

In *The Story of Your Soul* Elizabeth Clare Prophet tells your story. It is a story of awakening and overcoming. It is a story that champions your profound worth and nobility. It is a story written in the stars that only you can make a reality.

The story of your soul is waiting to be read!

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