



# The Numinous Factor

The Spiritual Basis of Science and of Life

John L. Walker, PhD

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## Preface

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This is a spiritual book. It suggests ways by which all of us can expand our spiritual consciousness to unlimited awareness of the true nature of everything in this complex Universe, from the subatomic world to beyond the outer reaches of space, as well as find more fulfillment in our daily lives. It proposes certain principles that we can factor into our own awareness and thought processes to whatever extent we choose in order to achieve as high a level of spirituality as we are ready to attain. And it shows how using these principles, referred to collectively as The Numinous Factor, can dispel the personal fears and uncertainties about life and death that mankind has taken for granted up to now.

However, we have to clarify at the outset what this book is not. It is not a religious book. There will be no discussions of belief groups, with their different dogmas, creeds, standards, methods of worship, clothing, foods, and names for Deity, since one function of religion is to separate and compartmentalize rather than to unite everyone into one big whole as spirituality tends to do.

Also, this is not a scientific book. Generally-accepted scientific observations will be used as launching pads for discussions of their spiritual natures and components, but nothing will be proven or advocated logically. There is no math and there are no formulas except the famous one from Albert Einstein that everyone already knows. There is, therefore, no required knowledge of science. Everyone is on the same footing here.

Likewise, it is not a scholarly book filled with logical conclusions synthesized from extensive research. Indeed, it prefers to show how our limited human knowledge and narrow reasoning ability cannot fathom the reality of what is out there, or even grasp what most of the Universe is like without recognizing its essentially spiritual nature.

And, finally, it is not a philosophical book, with detailed discussions of various “-isms.” Of course, those familiar with such concepts as transcendence versus immanence, theism versus pantheism, monism versus dualism, and especially with the newer term panentheism, will see these in the discussion, but not in abstract. Instead, we will be taking a new tack, a practical one, incorporating (as would be expected) all such aspects of thought, experience, and spirituality into one. Again, the functions of both religion and philosophy are to separate and compartmentalize, much as how a prism breaks down light into a rainbow of colors. The display of individual hues is beautiful, pleasing, and interesting, but the greatest light comes when they are again fused into pure white. Fusing the material world together with the spiritual one within ourselves requires an effort beyond human separatist rationality.

So a mode of understanding beyond human senses and thinking abilities will be introduced and everything will be seen through this mode. Human thinking ability and human knowledge, great as they are, establish such limits to total understanding that we simply must get around these for proper expansion of consciousness. There comes a time when scholarship needs to rise to the point of recognizing its own inadequacy, and achieving this point is one of the first steps in escaping from our human limitations of thought and understanding.

This book, then, is not meant to prove anything, but rather to indicate a spiritual path that is worth a try, a path that could lead to a heightened ability to receive inspiration. Grasping and using the Numinous Factor is one way to rise to new realizations. This book shows methods and insights that we can use to see and appreciate the Spirituality that is actually the basis of all that exists. Using its guidance, we can embark on a voyage to higher consciousness, to greater understanding of ourselves and of everything around us, and to spiritual unity. It can be a glorious journey, leading to complete happiness and peace as we see what the Universe really is and who we ourselves really are.

# CHAPTER ONE



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## The Need and the Mode

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### The Problem

With all of the marvelous advances in knowledge of the Universe being made these days, it could be thought that scientists have finally figured out the essential nature of its functions and how it came into being, and that there is, then, no need for consideration of the role of a Divine Creator in all of it. After all, scientists have studied the Big Bang theory, have looked at the expanding universe, have analyzed black holes, have figured out the formation of carbon and other elements needed for life as we know it, and have learned much of how atomic theory works in outer space. They also have come to understand much about the quantum or subatomic world, such as what makes up atoms, what the energy fields are that seem to give rise to everything that exists, and what seems to be the fundamental basis of everything that we can observe and even what we cannot observe. They think that they are getting close to the Theory of Everything that will explain the totality of Creation. It even seems possible that, across the Universe, all energies can balance each other out, leaving no restrictions on the continuity of all of the above phenomena, which might suggest that

entities could actually spring into being spontaneously without any need for a spiritual Creator. This seems to solve the whole story of Creativity and to end all the religious speculation.

Yet, there still seem to be a few questions that science has not been able to answer so far:

Where did energy and matter come from in the first place? How and why did this Universe, with its enormous complexity, organization, and delicate balances of enormous forces, get assembled into this form? How did the forces that govern it come into being? What is gravity? What is life? What instigates universes to form? What is outside the Universe? And, more importantly for us personally: Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we going?

We can never get to the bottom of Creation rationally. There is always more to know. The fact is that there are parts of the physical sciences that cannot be seen rationally because that is the way they seem to be set up in relation to us. At the same time, we have yet to understand the Creation through religion since religions throughout human history have come up with a great variety of supposed explanations, usually based on limited knowledge and restricted views of the Supreme Deity.

Viewpoints of the Creation seem to fall into two general categories. In one, the Universe is seen as a strictly physical entity and its origins and operations can be understood rationally without any need for Deity. In the other, the Universe is seen as having been brought into existence by a Creator Who put the breath of life into it, and then either controls it still or has left it to run on its own. Both views, however, indicate that the physical Universe operates as a separate entity, whether created by Deity or not.

Actually, there is another possibility.

Maybe there is a Creative Power that really *is* the energy, *is* the gravity, *is* the rock, *and is* the fusion process in the stars. Maybe there is no separation between the Creator and the Created, between Spiritual and Physical. Maybe everything that we see or measure physically and everything that we might sense or feel spiritually is really One, a Unity. If this is so, then Spirituality, a human term referring to an awareness of the Presence of the Divine, cannot be left out of scientific reasoning. At the same time, science



can enhance an understanding of the concrete aspects of the spiritual. The combination of science and spirituality might give a more complete view, similar to how using two eyes gives a perspective that using one eye does not. It would also be reassuring to realize that Deity is not off somewhere doing something else after abandoning us here, but rather exists in, through, and as everything in the Universe, including us, so that there is no separation between man and spirit, a concept that could end the great angst that grips much of the religious world as it tries to find a way to live on after bodily death. It would seem that such a realization could bring us great peace and fulfillment, both in this life and in the next.

This book shows a way to achieve this realization of Divinity as the Essence, the Source, and the Totality of all that is, a viewpoint that leads us to a more complete understanding both of the physical and of the spiritual. The aim here is to present a method that can let us understand better the things around us—our physical world, the vastness of outer space, the tiny world of the atom, the existence of intelligent human beings here and possibly elsewhere, our unexpected and complex added dimensions—by seeing spirituality as the oneness of everything.

## Spirituality

Let us see how that can be. We start by remembering that the word “spiritual” (with its roots in “wind” or “breath”) refers to the active Divine essence that gives life and animation to physical things. It is generally thought of as being separate from the objects it animates, but for our purposes, we can ponder how spirituality might rather be seen as the totality of the objects. Possibly we can begin to realize that everything is completely spiritual, not just consisting of separate entities that are animated by a special breath. Spiritual and physical, we might decide, along with any other aspects, form a Oneness, a Unity. This book will suggest several steps that the reader might follow to increase awareness of the Presence of Spirituality in everything seen or known, and extending to things not yet seen or known. You may wish to select other such steps, because those listed here constitute just one way of opening the awareness. We will call the steps listed here “The Numinous Factor,” since the word “numinous” is not a religious name for Deity, but rather refers to an awareness of the spirituality inherent in everything. We will examine the full meaning of the word “numinous” later on.

Once we have pondered the principles of The Numinous Factor, we will take them first into the subatomic world, where we will see the wild and wonderful ways it carries on its role in life as the basis of everything around us, and then travel out through the cosmos, those vast reaches of outer space, where we will see in more dimensions than we thought we even possessed how all of it developed and why it is the way it is. After that, and actually throughout the discussion, we will develop a different view of the social world in which we now live and of ourselves, seeing a little more of whom we are and what we can become. We might then achieve a greater perspective, a more complete picture of Life Itself, than we have had so far, and thereby achieve peace, fulfillment, and joy as we realize that we are inseparable parts of the Divine Totality.

Awareness of all of this can be achieved through simple explanations along with thoughts for us to ponder, all enhanced by methods that will allow a free flow of intuition that can let enlightenment to blossom within us. There will be no math, no equations, and no complicated concepts. These are means that scientists use to create orderly, balanced, and complete representations of what they are learning. They use scientific methods with what they hope is complete objectivity, employing exact measurements, elimination of variables, logical deduction, and synthesis of accurate conclusions, all of which need to be done in ways that can be duplicated by others. In this book, however, we will be balancing spirituality and science using subjectivity, intuition, insight, and individual conclusions. All these might not be the same for others even if they use our exact methods because spirituality is an individual thing that generally cannot be proven while it is also a unity that sees all things as individual facets of the whole. We will look at why this must be so later on. For now, let us just say that the final awareness will be the same for everyone eventually, but the methods to achieve it will be individualized and subjective.

Actually, this blending of the subjective and objective is what science is all about anyway. For example, as we will see in our look at quantum physics, various observers of quantum phenomena can arrive at different conclusions, all of which are valid, and all of which are part of the system. There is a subjectivity built into our most fundamental area of physics. Even our system of mathematics itself, seemingly solid, dependable, and unchanging, is based on certain axioms that were chosen long ago, and

mathematicians have found that alternative systems based on other axioms will work just as well. So everything in science is just a little bit subjective as well as objective in the first place, and our look at it will just try to illuminate it all a little better.

To begin our study of the Numinous, the spirituality in everything, we need to develop an approach that will put us into the proper subjective mode just as the scientific method does for the objective mode. This can be one of the most exciting parts of this journey. Imagine a way of living and seeing life that will raise us above petty earthly viewpoints and squabbles to a higher consciousness wherein all is beauty and peace! And we can start developing it today, right now! To do so, we will enlist a guide whose name forms an acronym that will make the steps of our development easy to remember: EMILY.

## EMILY

The letters of EMILY stand for five principles that we can begin to use right now, not only to further our awareness of the Numinous, but to bring greater warmth and comfort to our present lives. The more we practice them, the more we will find ourselves released from the earthly dependencies, uncertainties, and fears that beset us daily. Even when practiced in simple ways, the principles can raise us to a new consciousness that will help us stand firm in spirituality while the rigors of the world buffet us. And the name of our guide, EMILY, will remind us constantly of these principles, which are: Enlightenment, Meditation, Intention, LOVE, and Yielding.

Before we look more closely at these principles, let us see a rationale for using such a guide. We may have seen a demonstration on communication wherein a speaker goes into the audience to show everyone a picture up close. He stands in the middle of the group and holds up a poster with the picture on both sides so all can see it clearly. He then goes back up front and puts up a large version on an easel and asks people to tell what they see. Some of the people start to comment that it is a picture of an ugly witch, where others contend that it is a beautiful girl. The discussion can get quite heated, with people even going up front to point out the features of what they discern, but it is to no avail as the others do not budge from

what they think that they discern. Gradually, it dawns on everyone that the people in front are seeing one thing, and the people in the back another, with a distinct dividing line between the two views. What the speaker did, of course, was to show two different pictures, one clearly of a young girl to the front of the audience, the other clearly of a witch to the back half, with the picture he put up front being a clever blending of the two. The point was that people could only see one image in the composite, namely the first one presented to them, despite the arguments given by the other group. We human beings tend to see what we have been programmed to see, so a change of mode will free us to experience higher vibrations and, thus, a heightened sense of the Numinous.

So for the study in this book, we need to let go of the normal human viewpoints that we now accept without question, and adopt different ones to get us into a new realm of visualization. In essence, we need to see all possible views of the composite picture. It is not always easy to make this change. The study of foreign languages, for instance, shows us that there are different ways to express the same thoughts equally well. In English, we may say: "I like it." In Spanish, the wording would be: "It pleases me." Which is correct? Each just has a distinct flavor. The English version puts me as the center of attention in the sentence; the Spanish puts the object in the center. English-speaking students, however, often have a very hard time seeing and using the different meaning and word order of the Spanish sentence even after years of study. In like manner, it might be difficult for some readers of this book to move into the subjective mode of understanding the Universe, but just as we do not have to give up our core language in order to see and maybe even appreciate and learn from another way of expressing something, we do not have to give up our core beliefs to use the Numinous Factor.

Instead, we can follow the steps shown to us by EMILY to see our world and the heavens from a new perspective. Probably each of us will do this in a slightly different way since we are all individuals. But it can be done. We remember that spirituality is a daily decision anyway. No one forces us to be spiritual rather than worldly in our daily outlook. So what we will do here is look at some possibilities, and then our personal decision-making processes can take us to something new. Our viewpoint is our viewpoint and that is how things are. We will just see how to use a new way of looking to develop a different perspective.

Seeds grow best in fertile ground and with proper care. Just as a candle flame cannot exist in an atmosphere devoid of the elements that support it, so a view of spirituality as the basis of the Universe does not exist in an atmosphere devoid of nutrients for it. So we need to establish a mode or a system of preparation before we jump into our study, much like how running a good race depends on steps taken beforehand, such as proper training, the building of endurance, good diet, correct stretching, and good mental conditioning. In the same vein, since schooling and preparation are needed to understand scientific concepts, such as learning the scientific method itself and acquiring basic background information through study and problem solving, there are certain steps that we can take to prepare ourselves for seeing Spirituality as the basis of everything, such as understanding the method itself and acquiring basic background information. The difference is that our spiritual enlightenment will depend on opening ourselves to the information and inspirations already operating in our inner spiritual selves. Our guide, EMILY, will remind us constantly of the five steps or procedures that we can use to uncover this. EMILY, then, will represent: Enlightenment, Meditation, Intention, LOVE, and Yielding. Let us look all of these in a little detail.

## Enlightenment

Enlightenment, the first step, establishes our goal and keeps it steadily before us. We can remember the story of the farmer teaching his son to plow. When the boy complained that he could not get the straight rows his dad did, the farmer explained that the boy had to fix his eye on something distant and keep going steadily toward it. However, the boy's rows the next day were more crooked than before. The farmer asked if the boy had followed his advice, and the boy replied that he had, but the cow kept moving. We might do well to fix ourselves on one goal that will not change and keep going steadily toward it.

So what is the goal here? The word "enlightenment" refers to having a light go on that allows us to see clearly. In its capitalized form, it often refers here on earth to an age in which mankind saw new ways of thinking philosophically and of governing. But the symbolism of the word can go much farther. It can denote the state of being aware of the Spirituality that exists and is the totality of everyone and everything. It can refer to feelings of unity and oneness for all the aspects of the Universe and beyond. It might include recognizing that

everyone and everything in the Universe is whole, complete, and perfect, regardless of seemingly different paths and states of being, since everything in the Universe is part of one complete Spiritual Whole. Enlightenment, then, is a vision of great peace because there is nothing to agitate or cause fear or anger or jealousy in this spiritual Oneness. It is realizing happiness in aspects of existence beyond the materialism of this world. It is the comprehension of Truth beyond what is rationally evident. It is being aware that our pathways definitely lead to a fruition of Oneness with the Divine, which puts everything else, including the material world, into perspective and makes us more calm, loving, and accepting. It is therefore all joy, for we see ourselves as part of the Presence, and nothing more can be wanted or needed as we recognize ourselves as part of the great Oneness in eternal peace and contentment.

## Meditation

Meditation sets the medium through which we achieve this Enlightenment. It opens the flow of inspiration from the Spiritual that is often blocked by the constant parade of worldly thoughts from our worldly egos. It allows us to enter our inner Selves (note the capital letter) that are in constant awareness of the Spiritual, as opposed to our outer selves (note the lack of the capital) that are limited to seeing just the material part of the world around us.

We should remember that we have very few original thoughts every day. Most of what runs through our minds consists of such things as: rehashes of previous thoughts and conversations; internal stories with ourselves as the central character; remembrances of past times, with their happy elements as well as their resentments and slights; positive or negative thoughts about other people or maybe even critical comments about them to make us feel better about ourselves; worries, fears, and other destructive feelings; and the like. Have not we all on occasion dwelt on angry or negative thoughts so much that we become irritable and cranky in our dealings with others? We can do without the constant rehash of most of these thoughts, especially during our peaceful time in isolation to set our spiritual medium. To achieve Enlightenment, we need to allow a new way of seeing and sensing the totality of what is around us. We cannot solve a problem by continuing to use the methods that caused it in the first place, and so to see spiritually, we cannot continue to use the methods that keep us locked into the limited view of life that we have had so far.

Meditation can be used by ourselves or with others to put ourselves into a quiet, contemplative state without all the usual mind chatter, and then open ourselves to the flow of intuition and inspiration from our spiritual realm that takes us beyond worldly rationale. This is not easy, because the brain does not want to shut off those worldly thoughts, having us believe that they are essential parts of our personalities. But this silent state is what meditation is all about: cultivating the peaceful, spiritual plane on a new, high level of consciousness. This should be done on a regular basis because its insights need to become the essence of us even during our operations in the material world.

There are many, many methods of doing meditation. Generally, though, they entail sitting or standing comfortably in a quiet atmosphere; focusing our intentions on awareness of a higher level of consciousness than that of the material world; turning our thoughts continually to greater peace, thankfulness, and openness to the flow of spiritual inspirations that are already within us; and generally picturing ourselves as moving toward greater spiritual realizations that are actually already present within us. Some people hum or play a chant or mantra to keep the mind in focus. Others concentrate on a circle of red or gold light to do the same thing. Others drum on a small drum or listen to the sounds of drumming to set their internal rhythms. Some focus on their breathing, and picture themselves as bringing in energy from the outside with each intake, circulating it through the body, and then breathing out the spent energy on the exhale. Some relax so completely that their minds enter into an Alpha state, similar to a self-induced hypnosis, and are turned so far inward that they accept autosuggestions that allow spiritual aspects to take charge of their lives.

Regardless of the methods used, the most important thing to achieve is extending this meditative state onto our acting state, keeping the same outlook, which is now called contemplation, as we resume our daily lives. With practice, we can allow the spiritual realizations and intentions achieved in our quiet time to guide our reactions in the material world and help us actually live the lives of peace and happiness that we visualized when we were alone.

## Intention

Intention sets and maintains the way we think, act, and treat ourselves, especially in enlisting spirituality to be with us in our journey of discovery. It is putting into action our decision-making and our willpower to trust, to seek, and to acquire. It is setting the course and providing the motive power to our journey toward greater and greater Enlightenment. It is an actual power in the Universe that opens the way to all accomplishment because when we open our intent to act, the elements of the Universe (which are all really one) join us in a unity of effort. Through intention, we make commitments to pursue our goals, thereby allowing spirituality and inspiration to be our constant companions. Intention also keeps us on track, helping us go right through obstacles that might arise.

As an example, if a student in a martial arts class is to break a board with bare feet, the worst way to approach this is tentatively or timidly, with the intention of not getting hurt, because the mind does not recognize a negative and will easily focus on the idea of “hurt” as the essence of the thought, which means that “hurt” may well come to pass. And by setting intention too low, there will not be enough effort made and the board will probably not even break, resulting in a damaged foot and an unbroken board. Instead, there needs to be a firm intention made to kick *through* the board to a place *behind* it in a single-minded focus, much as how a needle pierces cloth better than a finger does because all the force is concentrated on a tiny point. Our intention then guides and allows the action to take place. The foot will drive its way through the obstacle of the board to land on the intended target behind it. The board will split on the way, and there will be no injury. As we will see later, our intention does not actually *cause* the board to break, but rather allows us the power and momentum to set the stage for this to happen, which might not otherwise occur.

It is our decision, then, to set our intention either to succeed or to fail, since where we set our thoughts is where our body tends to go. Therefore, we have to be careful about where our thoughts are. We cannot waste our time in negative or critical thinking, for example, because spirituality is only positive and our negative thoughts just allow us to block it out temporarily. Intention actually aligns us with the forces of the Universe, as we shall see later, and allows us either our full fruition or our continually-blocked



frustration, depending on where we choose to set it. As we look at the Higgs Field later, we will see that floating along spiritually with no action or intention to accomplish does not lead to advancement, whereas putting out intention and effort allows growth. So intention is a key attribute.

## LOVE

We are constantly told that we should love each other, and that love is considered the highest attribute of a heavenly existence. But the word “love” covers such a bewildering variety of emotions that it is difficult to define it properly. Types can include: the bucolic love from afar of shepherds and shepherdesses; teenage infatuation; casual relations on a date; the development of intense caring between an engaged pair; inflamed passions of lust; the quiet, accepting love of a long-married elderly couple; the selfless, giving love of the altruist; the spiritual love referred to in the Greek word *Agape*; and so forth. It should be added that the passions of love can be so unstable that they can change almost instantly to hatred or something else devastating. So using the word “love” can give rise to all sorts of misunderstandings from varying definitions.

So let us use the word in capital letters as an acronym meaning: Level Of Veritable Enlightenment. The word “veritable,” of course, means real or genuine. By doing the things pointed out by EMILY, we will be behaving as if we were enlightened already in this earthly existence, and therefore we will live a life of warmth, acceptance, unity, appreciation, and a cherishing of all around us. We will then realize that these are some of the attributes of an intensely spiritual life. Since we have to be sincere in order to develop spiritual insight, we will not be faking anything, but will be letting our growing spiritual insight be our true guide.

Basically, then, this LOVE consists of treating everyone and everything, including ourselves, with constant kindness, forgiveness, compassion, acceptance, appreciation, honesty, generosity, tolerance, patience, peacefulness, thoughtfulness, unselfishness, and all the other traits of a high-level consciousness. This should be done all the time, regardless of the people or things involved or the circumstances. If the ego seems to suffer when we do this, it is time to eschew those parts of the ego that protest. We will be the better for it.

Now, if that list is too long, we can concentrate on just the first two: Kindness and Forgiveness. Kindness consists of constantly regarding people and situations in pleasant, positive ways; of accepting and supporting others; of feeling empathy with others; of putting their well-being ahead of our own; of cherishing them; of being aware of any pressures or egoisms that might give us an excuse to treat them poorly; and of spreading warmth and goodwill wherever we go.

Forgiveness just takes care of the times when we slip a bit. It means releasing any damaging feelings we have against another and getting rid of them completely, developing warm feelings instead. It does not mean to pardon, for that would mean that there was a breach in the first place. We must remember that if we have something against another person, it is solely our doing, our decision, and really has nothing to do with them at all. It exists because we feel the need to criticize and judge others based on our own standards, believing that our standards are better than theirs. It is really up to us to take care of the problem inside of us that has resulted in the bad feelings, and to improve our own health and well-being by not carrying around grudges.

In other words, true LOVE consists of accepting and caring about each person, plant, rock, animal, and earthly feature exactly as each is by seeing its inherent spiritual essence. It offers help in any appropriate form when requested. It puts its intention on an overall high level of consciousness, of spirituality, and of understanding so that a positive aura can be established in which beneficial changes are allowed to take place. By facilitating an increase in spiritual flow and an elevation of consciousness through greater awareness and empathy, LOVE can give birth to spiritual peace and fulfillment, allowing whatever exists now to just be, both for the other person and for ourselves. Thus we behave as if we were enlightened beings already, which is, again, what LOVE really represents: Level Of Veritable Enlightenment.

## Yielding

Yielding carries forgiveness even farther and is really the culminating step in facilitating our rise to the highest levels of consciousness because it rids us of all the baggage weighing us down.

*John L. Walker, PhD*

The elements of EMILY cannot be attained in their fullness instantly. We will work on developing them side by side with our development of the elements of the Numinous Factor, so that we will evolve our cognitive awareness of the true nature of the Universe and our spiritual awareness of it at the same time, giving us a good multi-dimensional realization of what is really there.

the Universe a little differently from everyone else. For us to understand more of the Universe around us, we need to influence our present thinking with spiritual factors that give a more complete understanding than purely logical science or star pictures can. Also, other factors might bring each of us to answers more appropriate for use in our different journeys in life than we now have.

This book is entitled *The Numinous Factor*. Although the word “numinous” is probably not familiar to most readers, it carries the idea of relating to the Spiritual Essence of things in non-rational ways. The word comes from the Latin “numen,” thought of as a creative force, a spiritual nature that inhabits, or even is, every material entity and is part of the Creative Force. It refers to a sense of the Presence of Divinity in everything, a Presence that exists in, as, and through everything that is manifest, including what is not known to us yet. The term sees all things as being made up of a Divinity that can be felt but not logically grasped by our human thinking at the present time. Any attempt of ours to define Divinity any further leads to limiting It because our logic is weak and incapable when compared to that of Divinity. So without the Numinous, we miss the fullest understanding and interpretation of the physical things we see and measure and use. It is a concept that is very close to the idea of seeing Deity (whatever It may be named) in everything and knowing that everything is of this Deity. The Numinous thus refers to a strong, sacred, living, creative force that is the Essence of all that exists. The word is not a name, but rather a description. Giving some steps toward developing what awareness we can presently achieve of this great Spiritual Presence is the goal of this book.

## LUCIE

Since we have EMILY as our guide to appreciating the Numinous spiritually, it would be good to meet a guide to approaching the Numinous in a more thinking way. This guide’s name, LUCIE, is an acronym just as EMILY is, this time with her letters standing for five areas in which we can start from an accepted term in human thinking and then factor in as much or as little of a spiritual aspect as we choose to do. Here are the areas:

## Dimensions

Here is an illustration of this problem of the limitations in dimensions. Sometimes in class, I will put six pencils of the same length on the table and challenge the students to make four equilateral triangles with them. Well, they usually lay out one triangle with three of the pencils, then put two more to make a second triangle using one side of the first, and are then perplexed on how to make the remaining two triangles with only one pencil. When they are stumped, I point out that they are visualizing in only two dimensions, and that they need to free themselves from that limitation. I make the first triangle, and then lay the other pencils across it in a three-dimensional way, producing four triangles. They are of different sizes, of course, since the bottom pencils are at different distances from the apex, but are all equilateral, meaning that the sides of each are all the same length. The students find themselves jolted from the two-dimensional limit that they created for themselves automatically. But the illustration does not stop there.

The students then usually protest that they thought I meant that all the sides of all the triangles had to be the same length. I promptly agree to that, and challenge them to do it that way. Again, they fail, even though they are trying three-dimensional ways to do it, such as piling up three pencils along one side. I then show them that they are not thinking far enough out into the three dimensions. Again, I lay out the base triangle. I then take the other three pencils and stand them up, placing the eraser of each at one of the angles of the first triangle while holding all the points together over the center. Thus we have one triangle lying flat, and three others standing up, each using one side of the flat one, and all having their sides the same length. The students quickly get the idea of ridding themselves of dimensional limitations. In like manner, the more we rid ourselves of any concept of limits, the more able we are to see the Numinous in everything.

We remember that this is why we use the term “Numinous” in the first place, rather than one of the religious names for Deity. As soon as we say one of those names, the reader will automatically apply the limitations of past thinking or teachings to that name, thereby installing a limited view spiritually. We do not use the Numinous out of disrespect to any of

that humans do not, as yet, comprehend at all. And it means knowing all thoughts and mental images that have ever been had by any and all living, thinking beings on this planet or on any other, which is a staggering complexity in itself.

But Omniscience goes even farther than this enormous view. It can be sensed that there can be no thought that is not actually of the Numinous. Each thought can be seen as part and parcel of the Infinite. When people are trying to find their Supreme Being, they miss the point that the very thoughts with which they are searching are of the Spiritual Realm Itself. And since every action starts in a thought, all actions are therefore of the Numinous. Thus there is nothing that we do or say or experience that is not spiritual. This can be a new and extraordinary concept for some people, but it will become more clear and evident when we discuss Omnipresence, wherein the Numinous may be sensed as being everywhere and in everything. A fish does not ask what water is because he is in it. It is the medium through which he moves and lives and receives life-giving elements. He cannot conceive of life outside of it, and actually does not even know it is there. (Given the five-second attention span of a fish, he would forget it anyway.) Likewise, we humans live mentally in a medium, an atmosphere, a life-giving source that is Numinous, but we do not see or sense it but, instead, go around looking for it as being separate from us when we are in it all the time. The Numinous is all there is, and all of our thinking, sensing, and perceiving is a part of It.

This brings us to the question of how the Numinous could be the author of thoughts considered to be evil or wicked. Well, these last two words have been defined in many different ways by many different peoples and sects without a universal consensus. The concept of “evil” is, therefore, a product of human judgment, and is actually a religious term, to be defined by each religious group. Since there is no universally-accepted definition of the term, what is considered evil by one group is perfectly acceptable to another. What lists of definitions do exist seem to be vague and have many interpretations, so their use is up to each individual. A thermometer does not measure whether something is too hot or too cold, but just shows temperatures on a sliding scale. Anything else is a human judgment. Spirituality just is, and deals with things that just are.

occur, are they evil? It could be said that our job as intelligent beings is to improve these situations, but sometimes our meddling makes things worse, such as the overuse or incomplete use of antibiotics that has resulted in the creation of Golden Staph strains that cannot be stopped by any known medication. We think about peoples who lived long ago and suffered and died from things that we cure routinely today and ask ourselves: Were they any less in the Numinous? What is the true function of a healing consciousness? We will get further into such questions later, but suffice it to say now that simple, pat answers from our established thought patterns do not always resolve problems, and we need to be sensitive to thoughts and ideas and concepts that may seem strange to us presently, but which are still a part of the Numinous since the Numinous is all knowledge.

## Omnipotence

This term means that the Numinous must be all-powerful. We are talking about having *all* of the power, not just some of it. Probably, it would be easier to think of the Numinous as *being* all of the power. This is in opposition to some writings that picture the Supreme Being as needing the help of other beings in the fight against the powers of Evil, or being limited in the ability to create or to control the objects created. Well, we already saw the problems inherent in defining Evil, but maybe it would make things easier if we saw the Power of the Numinous as being a field of strength that is quiet, self-sustaining, insurmountable, and everlasting, not needing to do anything because its strength is absolute and its presence is everywhere. With Power, nothing really happens. Everything just exists within its field. Gravity just is and things operate within it. As we grow to see Limitlessness, then, we grow to realize that what we call good or evil or health or sickness are just relative terms on a sliding scale and are all part of the Numinous, the only Power in the Universe. There is a limitation built into the idea that sickness and poverty are errors that need to be corrected, and in the idea that our healing actions are always necessary to restore a condition to where we think it ought to be. Such a definition is merely an outgrowth of our imperfect human judgment. Since everything is the Numinous, everything is just as it should be already because the Numinous is all there is. It is our human outlooks that seem to see problems and lacks.

which shows us that death of this earthly body is really no great thing in the overall, multi-dimensional existences we have as part of the Numinous. These make interesting points to ponder.

By the way, Unity, Limitlessness, and Energy remind us that everything is energy, so that dark matter is really energy just like dark energy is, and the Numinous is the Source of all of it, maybe by being the Source of the vibrations of the superstrings that form the basis of all that is. So the Numinous is both visible matter with its related invisible energy, as well as dark matter with its related dark energy, and this means that there is even more to understanding the Numinous than the complexities of the lighted forms. The Numinous is so far beyond us that pure science cannot answer all the questions, and we need Intuition to keep us aligned spiritually. After all, as great as it is to know how a star functions, it is far more important to recognize that the Numinous is at the center of it, for our spiritual lives are the most important aspects of our existence here, which we will see in the final chapter, both of our lives and of this book.



## CHAPTER ELEVEN



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# Earthly Applications of the Factor

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### The Three Original Questions

Now let us return to our earthly lives and the three big questions that began this book: “Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we going?” Basically the composite answer to all three is that we are multi-dimensional, multi-universal facets of the Continuity of the Numinous who have always existed and will continue to exist as aspects of the Eternal Spirituality. Our true identities are not so much as individual human beings or even as individual spiritual beings, but as part of the Oneness of the Numinous where we achieve our fullness. We still do not know why we are here, but one basic purpose could be to participate in the growth of the creative aspects of the Numinous as we achieve Enlightenment by functioning at increasingly higher levels of consciousness, and to help others in accomplishing the same thing.

So our purpose in this book is not to understand scientific theories that will constantly change and adapt, but to see the great Truth of the Oneness of the Universe, adopt the Unity of Everything in the Numinous as part of our experience here, and dedicate ourselves to assist those around us in the growth philosophy. Through this spiritual view, we will arrive at seeing

the Universe as a living, pulsating thing, expanding and contracting just as plants germinate, grow, flower, and die, their physical constituents then used to create more physical plants or even animals that feed on the plants. We will see the overview of stars continually being born, growing, then waxing old and passing on, their materials to be used in other stars elsewhere. We will see that all is in motion, all is growing, all is energy, and nothing is lost. When we see Spirituality as the moving force of all of this, much as how the black matter in space that we cannot see has a role in moving and interacting with the matter that we can see, we will have Enlightenment.

## Human Applications

This means that, if we look at a human being, we can see the outer physical form, but we know that there is much more beneath the surface. We sense a multi-dimensional, extremely complex entity that is bewildering even in the physical part that we can observe. For example, the human body is made up of cells and they all have complex ways of multiplying, of burning food for energy, of eliminating waste, of protecting themselves from attack, and the like, many of which operate independently from the brain that we generally regard as the seat of intelligence in the person. We cannot see all this going on just as we cannot see the latent power of a rock, but we know that cells work in those ways because we have been able to study their actions. However, we still do not know what the breath of life is that animates them and gets them to function. We do not know from where the intelligence comes that lets them function as they do. And we do not even know why all of this is so. Therefore, we certainly do not know what the breath of life is that makes the whole Universe function, no matter how much we may learn about how it all seems to work physically.

We do remember that the most important thing about dealing with a person is seeing him as a whole, complete spiritual being because this is seeing the Numinous in him. Seeing him as needy and requiring our assistance to correct some supposedly erroneous condition denies his fullness as a facet of the spiritual and puts too much strength in our pitifully limited powers to understand and judge others. Considering him as an enemy or a person who deserves no respect denies the spiritual nature he has even though we may not approve of his actions or thoughts. It is our level of spirituality that is on the line, not his.