

Systemism

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Introduction

Systemism is a spiritual belief centered on the idea of Souls and the Vessels that contain them. It maintains that Souls are part of a System, and that reincarnation pushes Souls through the Cycle of the System. It aims to supply a consistent, scientific explanation for life and consciousness, while still being open to spiritual ideas and not using science as a way to write them off. Systemism promotes that spiritual beliefs and science (particularly physics) can go hand-in-hand.

This is not a religion and does not promote practices or hard-line beliefs. Systemism is more a rough set of spiritual beliefs that anyone can believe in for any reason. It is my hope that you read this and it makes you think a little more about the universe and how the miracle of life works on a grand scale, and that maybe you choose to start believing in these ideas.

Systemism is a small set of beliefs, so this writing will not be very long.

Glossary

We'll start off by defining the set of terms that Systemism uses. These are brief descriptions that are each clarified in their own sections.

(Individual) Soul – The force put off that represents the traditional idea of a “soul” is known as *individual Soul*.

Soul is a force just like Gravity, and that means individual atoms have their own force of Soul.

(Combined) Soul – When individual atoms come together to form an object, such as a person or a rock, each atom’s Soul combines to form a *combined Soul*. Just like an entire planet comes together to have one force of gravity, an entire person comes together to have one Soul.

Vessel – Anything that puts off a force of combined Soul is a *Vessel*. A Vessel “contains” that Soul. Examples would be a person, a rock, or even an entire planet.

System – Just like atoms, Soul cannot be created or destroyed, it just takes different forms when the Vessel that contains it changes form. Therefore Souls are part of a closed system known simply as the *System*.

Consciousness – A Vessel that can experience the world through senses and that has the capability to process those senses is a *Consciousness*. Examples would be a living human, non-human animal, bacteria, single-celled organisms, etc. Something like a rock or something deceased is not a Consciousness.

Cycle – When Vessels break down into smaller molecules, each piece may become part of a new Vessel, such as dirt, and contribute to its Soul. The *Cycle* represents this broader type of reincarnation that applies to all Vessels, not just Consciousnesses.

Soul

Soul is not a tangible object or presence, but is instead a *force*, not unlike gravity or the other fundamental forces of nature. Like gravity, the force of soul is put off by individual atoms, but when those atoms are brought together they coalesce to represent as one combined force. Soul is either known as “individual” when referring to its presence in individual atoms, or “combined” when referring to its presence on a large scale, such as when referring to a person’s Soul.

Soul is a force that gives Vessels such as a body a, well, soul. If we didn’t have souls, we would be mindless husks that live just to survive and reproduce, but that is not the case. Not only do we have emotions, senses, and brains, but on top of all that we somehow get to *experience life*. That in and of itself is incredible, indescribable, and a mystery. Systemism does not attempt to explain where life comes from, it only attempts to explain what a Soul is. Some spiritual models or religions view the Soul as something that we are born with that we will bring back with us to the afterlife, but Systemism describes it as a force that everything, not just humans, has.

Vessel

A *Vessel* is a collective of atoms together that represent a complete object, like a person or a rock, that has a combined Soul. Anything that fits this definition can be a Vessel, therefore Systemism is an inherently animistic spiritual belief, suggesting that inanimate objects that

aren't alive have as much of a "soul" as living beings like animals do. A further set of examples for vessels include inanimate objects like rocks, clothing, and computers, and living objects like humans, non-human animals, and bacteria.

The more massive an object is, the more Soul it has, like with gravity. (Whether a Vessel has more Soul or not does not mean it is "worth more" than any other Vessel, this is not a reason to discriminate against Vessels with less Soul.)

Vessels can contain other Vessels. For instance, an entire planet is a type of Vessel, but it may take some of its Soul force from individual Vessels that inhabit the planet. For example, an individual rock has its own Soul, but it also (on a very miniscule scale) contributes to Earth's Soul. Smaller Vessels such as bacteria or single-celled organism may contribute to a larger Vessel such as humans as well.

As a rule of thumb, anything that puts off a combined force of gravity is, naturally, a Vessel.

Some Vessels are alive, while some are not. A Vessel is deemed alive if it is made up of living tissue (such as cells) that are currently living and functioning. When a vessel is living, it is known as a Consciousness. Examples of Consciousnesses would be a living animal or a living tree. A rock or a something dead is not a Consciousness. When a being with a Consciousness dies, it ceases to be conscious, and is no longer a Consciousness. This is why the distinction between Conscious and Unconscious exists.

The System

A system is an area where a type of thing (such as electricity) is contained, systems are either closed or open, the former meaning that nothing new can come in or go out, the latter meaning that things can come in and go out. You can think of the universe as being as system, as matter cannot be created or destroyed, it just changes form.

In the same way, Souls are part of a closed system. They cannot be created or destroyed, they only change form as the Vessels they inhabit change. This system that Souls are a part of is known simple as the System. Since Soul is a force and not a tangible thing, the System is more of a symbolic concept. It represents how all life is interconnected, and gives a medium for the Cycle.

The Cycle

Unlike most views of reincarnation, in Systemism one does not die and then come to life spontaneously as a new animal. The beliefs of reincarnation in Systemism are more consistent with its ideas, applying to all Vessels. In Systemism reincarnation is known as the *Cycle*. Think of the Cycle more like the water cycle, and less like traditional reincarnation.

The water cycle is one where a collective of water exists as a system, and that water is dispersed across the planet. Water forms a collective in the clouds, and when it rains it falls down to the earth in individual droplets. Those droplets eventually find their way back to the collective of

water (by going into the ocean and then eventually back into the sky), and they repeat that cycle forever.

Vessels are not much different. We belong to our own cycle, but it is one of Soul instead of water. There's a few key differences though, one being that Soul is not an element, it's a force, and the other being that the System is a closed one, where the water system is an open one. But as an overarching metaphor, when we inhabit Unconscious Vessels we are rain in the clouds. Once we inhabit Conscious Vessels we now become raindrops. Each raindrop is made up of many molecules of water from the collective that each have joined together to form one droplet, just like each Vessel is made up of many atoms from the collective that each have joined together to form one Vessel. When we die, we are raindrops hitting the ground, and that water will eventually find itself back to the collective, and maybe become a raindrop again someday.

Vessels are made up of their own elements and molecules and atoms. When someone dies their Vessel loses its Consciousness, but its Soul remains. If the body belonging to that Vessel decomposes, then that means each atom will return to the earth one way or another. These atoms still put off a force of Soul, but now that they are a part of the earth, they belong to the whole body of dirt's Vessel.

In essence, the Cycle describes that Soul put off by a Vessel will eventually become part of a new Vessel and contribute to a new combined Soul. In our example, it's possible that that dirt will be consumed by a worm, which

will eventually get eaten by a bird, which will eventually get eaten by a human. Each step of the way there is Soul transferring from one Vessel to the next, each becoming part of a new collective, and adding or removing individual Soul along the way. As a Vessel consuming other Vessels, you are gaining and losing Soul all the time, and are contributing to the Cycle. Some may choose to use the Cycle as a way to explain things like past lives, identity, or other complex mechanisms, but Systemism does not attempt to regulate how others apply these core beliefs.

Outro

That's all there is to Systemism. It's a basic set of beliefs that aim to combine explanation for life with physics, as both are observably, objective true aspects of the universe, and neither should attempt to reject the other. As a recap, it explains that Vessels, or objects, all "contain" a force known as Soul. Souls belong to a closed System, and move through this system through the Cycle. We are all Vessels, and we are a part of this System.

About the author

My name is Ally Kotetsu. I am many things, an amateur writer being one. I hope to publish more small readings like this in the future, and maybe write some zines. My area of expertise is radical queerness and activism, but I also like to write about spirituality, role-playing games, socialism, and sometimes fiction.

You can read this piece of literature on my website at <https://allykotetsu.com/literature/systemism>. I also have other literature, a blog, music, livestream archives, and more! You can check those out at <https://allykotetsu.com/>.

Thanks for reading!