

## **Is There Life After Death?**

Suppose that someone were to ask you this: does the great expanse of the Earth go on forever or does it have an edge? We might conclude that the person asking it is ignorant or confused. They've presumed something—a flat Earth—that's not supported by actual experience.

So it is with this seemingly urgent question about life after death.

There were a number of questions the Buddha kept silent on, and this was one of them. He was not silent because he was perplexed by it, but because he knew the real need of the questioner was to get out of his or her confusion, rather than to grasp at an answer that would be unsupported by actual experience.

The vital question for us lies in how we live our lives *now*. When we fully attend to this, vain speculations about “life after death” lose their urgency.

—Steve Hagen  
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