

1           How would we know if aliens had souls and why would we care? Well, the  
2 second part has a basic logical answer to begin with. Until we have the technology to  
3 travel to where these aliens reside (be it in our solar system or more likely  
4 somewhere else) I don't think it is worth caring if aliens have souls. As soon as we  
5 have that technology we should care if they have souls or not based on what I say  
6 below.

7           The general belief is that souls are ghostly things that animate us and provide  
8 the essence of who we are individually. Regardless if they're ghostly or a material  
9 thing they seem to be what provides us with a sense of being something more. This  
10 something more is usually a connection to a greater being, normally referred to as a  
11 God (or Gods) and the entire heavenly host. As our souls don't require our bodies  
12 the general belief is in an afterlife.

13           So where does this take us in assessing if aliens have souls. Let's look at this  
14 point by point. Individuality can be assessed quite easily for any large group of  
15 aliens (or indeed any species, do ants have individuality, for example?). If the aliens  
16 operate of their own will their actions would appear similar to ours, but the  
17 countering example I'd use are the Borg from Star Trek who are functionally one.  
18 This unified whole would represent a lack of each alien having a soul, but if we look  
19 at God as being a soul then they still may have a God-soul that is animating all of  
20 them.

21           The other core feature of our souls is the notions of a God being and heavenly  
22 realm. In short this is the notion of being something more than just ourselves. If the  
23 aliens seem to believe in a God-like being (that, to return to the Borg, is not merely

24 the conglomeration of them all) then perhaps they have souls. In general acting as  
25 the average depiction of aliens in our culture (which to return to Star Trek only half  
26 the aliens represent) by being evil, mean, and so forth then maybe they have no  
27 sense of a God and thus no soul.

28         But you must realize that these two tests to see if aliens have souls are in part  
29 contradictory to one another. Following from the notion of ghostly souls this may  
30 not be that bad as we're not necessarily meant to ever fully understand the souls  
31 even of a different species much less our own souls. In part we must be wary of the  
32 reality that groups of beings may willfully choose to operate with no individuality  
33 (perhaps armies are the closest human equivalent to this), thus appearing like they  
34 lack souls when indeed they don't. We must also contend that while all we're  
35 discussing here are the souls of aliens, that especially if their souls (even if ours are  
36 different) are material things we need to first understand their bodies, and can only  
37 than work on understanding their souls.