

1 What is a soul? I think that revisiting the claims about the mind and body
2 under dualism is useful here. Those who claimed dualism is true (which was only
3 one person in truth), and in our discussions, would talk of the mind as a ghostly
4 thing. Mind and soul aren't the same, but I'd say that a soul must be associated with
5 a mind, especially if you look (as I in part did) at dualism being at least somewhat
6 true. We consider our souls to be what makes us up, so that goes along with the
7 mind, but it also tends to lead us to equate souls to spirits in order to place their
8 shape and purpose as being part of us.

9 So where do we distinguish spirits from ghostly things? Spirits have a more
10 substantial existence that we can equate to one's whole self. This is counter the
11 mind potentially being a ghostly thing that is more of a cloudy substance for thought
12 processing. One may also look at ghostly things as having the inclination of bad
13 behavior. Looking at spirits through a religious lens at any rate would place them as
14 in the good category.

15 Maybe it is helpful to think of us as a three-part object to fully understand
16 what a soul is. First we have the body, this is merely the case in which the other two
17 parts reside while we're alive in this universe, but isn't much more than that (and
18 the sensory inputs and outputs it provides). As discussed earlier the mind, the
19 second part, is the cloudy/ghostly thing that processes and creates sensory stimuli
20 and manages what is stored in our brains. The mind, therefore, is effectively the
21 interface between our souls and our bodies (as well as the universe that lies beyond
22 our bodies), but unlike what we may have concluded earlier the mind nor the body

23 are actually fully us. The soul is this third, spirit-like, part of us. Here rests what
24 actually defines who we are.

25 I guess I ought to go into more detail on that last sentence above. Where the
26 body and mind together create the backbone of rational and environment-based
27 aspects (the reason) of our experience, our soul provides us with those irrational
28 emotions and opinions that we can define as will. The question in every moment of
29 life is which will we follow when they disagree. The soul is what makes us up, and
30 further evidence of this comes at death when you realize you're telling your children
31 that grandma is going to heaven yet being buried. How could a body's rest in dirt
32 render who inhabited that body up in heaven if they weren't more essentially their
33 soul? We don't consider those who may be paralyzed less human than the average
34 human, right, so that is further evidence to this end.

35 Being human, thus, is essentially having a soul with a functioning mind. The
36 body itself being in tip-top shape isn't actually necessary, save one can argue the
37 brain being necessary. Therefore taking a good look into what souls are and how
38 they define us helps to further our working definitions of what it is like to be human.
39 Of the three parts the soul is the most unique human to human, as both body and
40 mind could be, and in many ways are, relatively universal amongst the human
41 species. Though, as has been in the back of my mind this whole time, what is to say
42 that other species aren't designed in an equally separated notion and we just can't
43 empirically/scientifically define them as such? What havoc might that play with our
44 established notions of our universe?