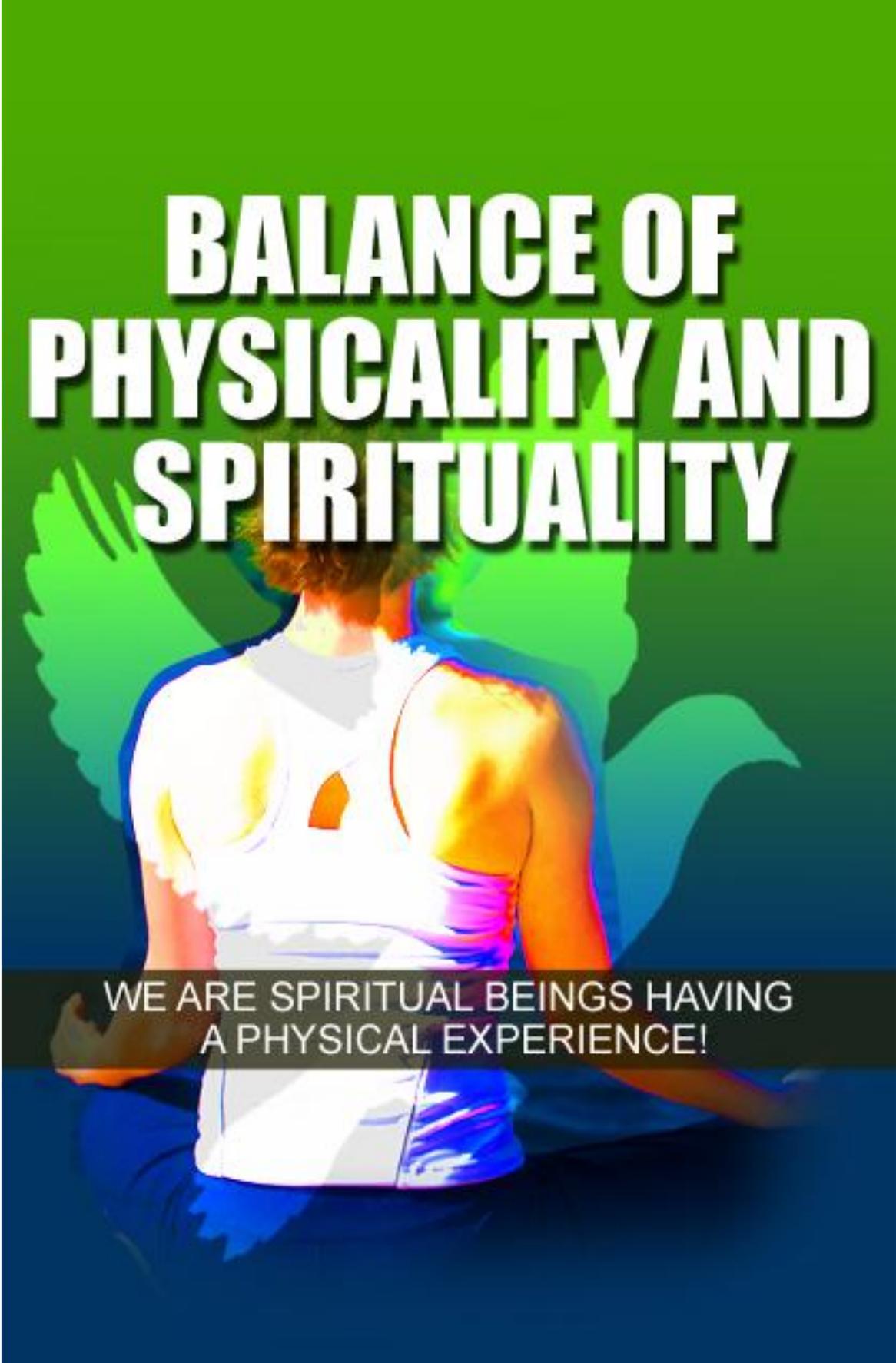


BALANCE OF PHYSICALITY AND SPIRITUALITY

A person is shown from the back, sitting in a meditative pose on a dark blue mat. They are wearing a white tank top with a cutout at the back and blue shorts. Large, white, feathered angel wings are superimposed on their back. The background is a gradient of green and blue. The text 'BALANCE OF PHYSICALITY AND SPIRITUALITY' is written in large, bold, white letters across the top. A dark blue horizontal bar at the bottom contains the text 'WE ARE SPIRITUAL BEINGS HAVING A PHYSICAL EXPERIENCE!' in white.

WE ARE SPIRITUAL BEINGS HAVING
A PHYSICAL EXPERIENCE!

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Introduction

Our spirituality and our physicality are the two components of which we are made. If we could strike the right balance between the concrete and the abstract parts of our being, we could definitely turn ourselves into better people.

This eBook takes you through striking this all-important balance.

Chapter 1:

The Right Balance

Summary

What is the right balance between our physicality and our spirituality?

When do we say that it has been struck?

The Right Balance

The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, not to worry about the future, or not to anticipate troubles, but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly.

Buddha

Man is a complex compound. He is made up of one part mind and one part matter. When the two parts are harmoniously joined, he sparkles like a diamond with the joy of life. But when the two parts conflict or are unbalanced, the result is a dismal lump of coal.

We tend to forget that we are not physical beings having a spiritual experience, but spiritual beings undergoing a physical experience. The spiritual being needs the human body to explore life to the fullest and to propagate life on earth. And the material body seeks the spirit to motivate it higher, beyond the baser instincts of animals.

A balance has to be struck between our physicality and our spirituality. There are many ways and aspects to this quest. In the following chapters, we will explore the techniques of Yoga, Qigong, Zen Buddhism and other forms of meditation to quell the mind and harmonies it with the body.

The search for three vital qualities that act as the cornerstones of our lives are also explored in *The Three Pillars of Life*. Spiritual nourishment is outlined in *Feeding Your Soul* and laughter, the best medicine is administered in yet another chapter.

Disturbing influences on the Phi-Psi balance are discussed and the role that money plays in our lives is also investigated. No discussion on body and spirit can be complete without evaluating healthy sexual relationships. Towards a Spiritual

Sexuality ponders on Sex & the Spirit. And finally we close with a few reflections on the power of prayer.

Welcome to a journey of self exploration, where we travel at the interface of mind and matter!

Chapter 2:

The Three Pillars of Life

Summary

We may not realize their significance but this is what life stands on.

The Three Pillars of Life

"We are not physical beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings undergoing a physical experience."

Gurus and holy books have reminded us of this message since the beginning of civilization. We tend to focus on the needs of our bodies all the time. And when we feel empty and desperate, we turn towards spiritual fulfillment. You may be a fine, healthy young man or woman, but if your spirit is depressed, your body will soon begin to suffer.

In the words of the Buddha *"The mind is everything. What you think you become."*

To achieve a balanced mind and in turn to live a balanced physical existence, three qualities have to be in perfect equilibrium – Wisdom, Benevolence and Courage. A balance of these 3 qualities ensures that you achieve your goals in life with zest and discipline while also being compassionate to your fellow beings, guided by wisdom.

If you only have passion without wisdom and compassion, you may become a cruel and foolish person. Benevolence alone without willpower and wisdom will make you a useless romantic idealist. And wisdom alone without action and kindness will turn you into a reclusive hermit. Theosophy teaches that when these three virtues are kept in equilibrium, Man can become fully effective and happy in the world.

Just try it out. Make a list of your friends and tick away in 3 columns against their names. You will be able to see one or two of the above

qualities missing in them. And you will find that he or she who has all the three virtues in balance is the best human being among them all.

Similarly, the Kaballah teaches that Life has 3 Pillars – Judgment, Mercy and Compassion. When the opposing instincts of Judgment and Mercy are tempered by Compassion, a balance is struck in our spirituality and this in turn brings equilibrium to our physical world.

Chapter 3:

What Disturbs the Balance?

Summary

We don't want these but we need them. These are the temptations that our physicality may crave for but our spirituality abhors

What Disturbs the Balance?

*"**Drugs** are a waste of time. They destroy your memory and your self-respect and everything that goes along with your self esteem"*

- Kurt Cobain, singer of grunge band Nirvana

The fact that the man who said this line succumbed to a drug overdose is a sobering thought. It reflects the deadly power that narcotics, alcohol, tobacco and other addictions have over their victim's mind.

The most important thing to remember in the quest for a physical-spiritual balance is that your body is a Temple in which your Mind is the High Priest. Allowing destructive forces like addictions and bad habits to occupy the temple is to weaken and finally kill the High Priest.

Some drugs induce an elevated state of altered consciousness. Unfortunately, the fantastic perceptions that a drug user experiences do not last very long. What lasts long is the terrible addiction to the vice. A very heavy price – that of loss of control – is paid for an illusion of power and enlightenment.

Food determines our spiritual outlook too. We say – he is like a tiger, she is like a sheep, they behave like vultures – all these archetypes emerge from food habits and their implications for our spiritual nature. Red meats, alcohol, tobacco, fermented and stale foods weaken the Temple of the Body. These foods stress the digestive, circulatory and

breathing systems. Vegetarian food that has a balance of carbohydrates, proteins, fats and vitamins is easily digested, assimilated and excreted. Certain foods affect the neuro-transmitters (chemicals in the brain) and affect our daily functions like memory, muscle coordination and sleep. Bad food can also change your moods and the way you perceive the world around you.

Hence the maxim – *You are what you eat*. Eating a balanced meal with plenty of water and exercise and staying away from toxic habits can keep the Temple of the Body clean and shining. Search within your mind, you can achieve an altered consciousness just by meditation, where is the need for drugs and alcohol?

Fasting periodically and correctly can cleanse the body of undesirable toxins and free radicals that cause ageing. Consuming minimal or no food at all for a few days can give your body a chance to excrete the accumulated waste products and rebuild the stressed out body. Fasting combined with meditation is an excellent way to give your body a break and to allow it to reacquaint itself with its Spiritual High Priest!