

E-Ticket Ride

"That's a real 'E'-Ticket ride!"

- Shuttle astronaut Sally Ride, 1986 -

If life was not constrained by birth, time and death what would it be like? Probably boring.

Quite often the people in this world that are the most unhappy are those who seem to have everything and want for nothing. They are beautiful, handsome, wealthy, independent, powerful, and seem to have it all. These are the people who are envied by so many because they live an essentially unrestricted lifestyle. Then we read about their death by suicide, a drug overdose, or an accident while driving their car at 120 miles per hour while drunk at twice the legal limit. Then we wonder how can this be? They had it all. What would possess such a person to do something like this? In a word, boredom.

A life without needs, wants, and some struggle to overcome is simply a boring existence. There is no sense of accomplishment. There is no feeling of self worth based upon accomplishment if everything comes too easily.

At the same time you will see various video pieces of children living in the worst of slums, under fed, dirty, and with nothing more than a stick to play with yet running around clearly happy with an ear-to-ear grin on their faces. They have nothing. Simply surviving each day is an accomplishment. Finding something to eat to fill an otherwise empty stomach is almost a miracle. Even getting water may be a task requiring hours of backbreaking work.

Many people with differing spiritual backgrounds have come to the conclusion that there is some part of us that transcends this physical existence on earth. There are differences as to whether we pre-date our existence here or simply continue to exist in some realm after our death. However, in either case our existence is essentially forever on some spiritual level before-and-after or just after. Yet few consider what this would mean.

There are those who describe some idyllic heaven or paradise where everything is beautiful, everyone is singing, everyone is perpetually happy, and there are no needs or wants because everything is always available and perfect. Day two in this paradise is just as perfect as day one. Day one thousand nine hundred and seventy two is just as perfect as day two. Paradise never gets any better or any worse. There is nothing to overcome because everything has already been overcome. There is nothing to improve because everything is already perfect. There is nothing to learn because everything is known. There is nothing to fix because nothing breaks.

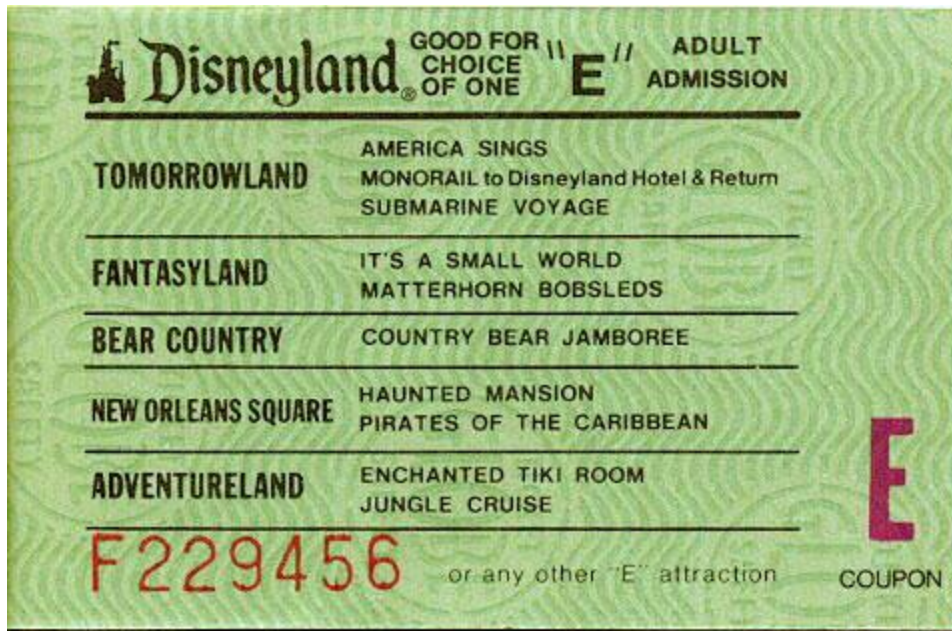
Wait a minute. Doesn't that sound like the kind of lifestyle that drives people to despair, depression, and suicide? Yet death is not an option because there is no death.

The Jewish and Christian God is said to have existed since before the beginning and his existence will continue beyond the end of time. Could such a being become bored with eternal existence? Could every instant being just like the one before and forever afterward be more than

an immortal supreme being could stand?

When we get bored we often look for something to do as entertainment. We look for ways to pass the time in some kind of enjoyable or exciting manner. Sometimes this takes a self destructive bent, but for most people it does not. We look for a movie to go see, an amusement park to visit, some scenery to experience, a vacation trip to take, or just somewhere to forget a daily life where one day starts looking too much like every other day before it. We look for a way to experience a life that is somehow different from our daily routine. Might eternal spiritual beings do the same thing?

Until 1982 rides at Disneyland and other Disney theme parks required tickets. There were A, B, C, D, and E tickets, but the E tickets were the most valuable because they were for the really good rides. To this day a really good experience is still commonly referred to as an E ticket ride although there are probably many people born since 1982 that have no idea what this means.



What would constitute an E ticket ride for an immortal spirit?

What if an immortal spirit could take an E ticket ride where they temporarily repress infinite knowledge and could somehow have a beginning (birth), a middle (life), and an end (death)? Of course this would be no more permanent than a "Pirates of the Caribbean" ride, but it would be way more extensive and expansive. The ride would have obstacles to avoid, challenges to overcome, and rules to be followed. It would be somewhat open ended so that where the ride ends up is a matter of choices you make during the experience. Better yet, it could even be a multi-player game with a lot of interactions. It would be life on Earth.

Could our life here on Earth be an E-Ticket ride? If so what evidence might we see?

These days many people have experienced various flight simulator based amusement park rides such as Star Tours at Disneyland. Such rides and flight simulators so completely immerse the participants in an experience that seems so true to life as to feel like the real thing. Pilots using flight simulators are often stressed in the same way as they would have been if there had been an actual system failure that could have resulted in death. They are so tuned in to the simulation that it becomes real to them. Yet, if such a simulation continues long enough there are moments to reflect on it not being completely real, or recalling previous experiences in the simulator. If being on Earth is anything like an E-Ticket simulation would there be people who at times remember previous rides?

In fact there are a lot of people who remember previous experiences that are parts of prior lives on Earth. Also, contrary to popular belief, they don't all think they were Napoleon or Marie Antoinette. For the most part they recall being relatively unknown people, but the events they recall often have to do with particularly stressful and memorable events. Often the people who recall these prior experiences are children who don't seem to be quite "locked in" to their current life experience. Eventually they seem to get so tuned into the present events that the previous experiences fade away as no longer having any relevance.

It also seems that, for those who can recall multiple previous lives, the experiences here on Earth seem to provide a well rounded experience with life from all angles. People recall being both men and women. In one life they might be a soldier that fought in a war, and the next time a stay-at-home mother. They could be a native American one time and a Conquistador the next. They can also interact with other people in a variety of ways. Their sister in this life might have been their mother previously and before that they might have been husband and wife, or just co-workers.

Another aspect of a good E-Ticket ride would be that almost anything should be possible even if it at first appears to be in violation of the rules.

The speed of light at first seems to be an inviolable rule although we have long imagined that there must be a way around it. Then we postulate tachyons which deal with this speed limit in an opposite manner in that they cannot go slower than the speed of light. These days, Tachyonic fields arise in many versions of string theory. So now the impossible has become only the improbable and perhaps in the not too distant future only the unlikely followed by the proven. A good E-ticket ride needs to stay one step ahead of the riders.

Perhaps it is the character, Agent Smith, who best summed up why an E-ticket Earth ride would be the way it is when he said, "Did you know that the first Matrix was designed to be a perfect human world? Where none suffered, where everyone would be happy. It was a disaster. No one would accept the program. Entire crops were lost. Some believed we lacked the programming language to describe your perfect world. But I believe that, as a species, human beings define their reality through suffering and misery. The perfect world was a dream that your primitive cerebrum kept trying to wake up from. Which is why the Matrix was redesigned to this: the peak of your civilization." (The Matrix, 1999).

Let the ride continue.