



## The Soul Continuum

*Simon West-Bulford*

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## **The Soul Continuum** Simon West-Bulford

There is an open wound in the heart of the Cosmos. A wound that tears at the flesh of reality, drawing powerful and malign aberrations from an unknowable realm. Salem Ben stopped the first, but more are coming, and now he must solve the riddle of their purpose if he is to prevent an all-out invasion. Only by living the digitally reproduced lives of three individuals will Salem find the solution: Diabolis Evomere, a tortured but enlightened prisoner in ancient Babylon; Clifford Arken-Bright, a twentieth-century physicist who has uncovered a terrible secret in the quantum world, and Silicant 5, a refugee of the Great AI seeking to understand its hatred of humanity.

## **The Soul Continuum Details**

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Author : Simon West-Bulford

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## From Reader Review The Soul Continuum for online ebook

### Edmur says

Soul Continuum is a fantastic reading, just as was the first volume of the Soul Archives series.

At the first pages I was kinda worried that there could be a continuity fault. Some things, some places and some attitudes don't seem to fit at the end of its predecessor book. And then the story started to gradually explain itself. It was like I was receiving a neural flush just like Salem Ben after getting off the WOOM. I was truly amazed with how the author could play with the character's life. Or lives.

I just hope the third book doesn't take so long to be released.

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### Nikki Wotherspoon says

#### Fantastic Brain-Bending Scifi

When you cannot put it down and your entire mind is immersed and engaged and you find yourself trying to both think ahead and think back in a continuous attempt to put all the pieces together, that is when you know you are reading literature at it's finest.

I loved the first book, The Soul Consortium, but never considered, based on its ending, that it would end up being only the first book in a series. I thought it was a fabulous stand alone novel and simply hoped the author would write another book of similar caliber. So, when I ran across The Soul Continuum and realized it was a continuation of the story, I was so intrigued and excited to read it, I bought it on the spot and immediately began reading. From that moment, I didn't put it down until I was finished. And the mystery of it still so perplexed me, that I had to pick it right back up and re-read the last few chapters and the Prologue again. (For me, that is a rare and wonderful thing!)

If you are someone that prefers to read books that are simple, this book series is not going to be for you. However, if, like me, you enjoy reading a story that truly makes you not just think, but really, truly ponder the mysteries and possibilities that surround our existence and what it even means to exist in the first place, then this will be one of the absolute best book series you will ever read.

A huge thank you to the author for sharing your wonderfully philosophical and beautifully creative imagination in such a fascinating, intellectual and well written work. I look forward to the next iteration. :)

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### OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/th...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Scott

I'll have to admit that reading a sequel to another book in a series, without losing a beat and being able to

follow the plot, is a rare treat. Soul Continuum sparkles like a gem in this regard having a learning curve that eases the reader into the evolving story. Shall I say four separate stories leading to a final climatic ending with the very fabric of space and time hanging in the balance?

Salem is the last human alive. Immortal, because of advanced sciences, he spends his lonely existence plying the Soul Consortium, the Collective archives of all human memories. Over the course of the novel, Salem must deal with his own existence, and live three separate entities lives: the life of a freak experiment, that left him with infinite knowledge, yet constantly metamorphosing into a creature that could no longer reason; a the life of a twentieth century scientist whose colleagues are dying around him, as he unravels a secret that costs him his life; and a sentient android, the first of its kind that have been cut off from the Collective A.I. and must raise a child whilst overcoming her irrational hatred of humans.

After a freak interruption in one of his routine lives, Salem develops an encrypted algorithm block in his mind. Decoding it lies in the three other lives he must go through. Placed there by an enigmatic woman (who I assume was introduced, in The Soul Consortium, the first book in the series) it leaves a breadcrumb trail through which each of the three lives he must inhabit are played out. It is through these lives that Salem discovers the true nature of his part to play into an oncoming invasion of unexplainable forces from a tear in the very core of the galaxy. In addition to his mission to save the universe, I personally found more about a mysterious figure who handles a strange stone with physically impossible properties intriguing.

Skillfully written, with a nod to Robert Heinlein, and Phillip K. Dick thrown in for good measure, The Soul Continuum is a solid, thought-provoking, science fiction novel. The book does what science fiction does best: explore the human condition. The questions of immortality, science we don't fully comprehend, the dangers and restructuring after war, the colonization of other worlds – all of these questions are invoked in the readers mind and thought provokingly placed. The pace is slow, granted, but there is a lot of bang for your buck if you savor every word.

For lovers of thought provoking, intellectually stimulating novels – even if they are science fiction – The Soul Continuum won't disappoint you. I can also see fans of the Matrix movie trilogy, or movies based off of Phillip K. Dick, such as Scanners, Total Recall, and Blade Runner enjoying it immensely. It's a powerful and mindful read that everyone should give a try.

\*OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Wesley Fox says**

Soul Continuum is the second book in an ambitious series that challenges the reader to contemplate several profound metaphysical questions. Well-written and with some great eureka moments, the novel is also pretty heavy with references to quantum physics, multiverse theory, time travel, respawning, and computer science.

Salem Ben has spent eons searching for the truth about the afterlife. He is the last of a civilization that rose from humanity to become omnipotent. His home is the soul consortium, a vast space station floating beyond the edge of the known universe, safe from the violence of the big crunch (the end of the universe) and the eventual big bang. The lives of every person who has ever lived is recorded and can be experienced directly in a simulator called the WOOM. Salem spends his time trying to learn about the afterlife, afraid to die, with only an AI named Qod to accompany him. Keitus Vieta, a mysterious specter threatened him and the

consortium, creating anomalies in the soul archives, something that should be impossible.

After overcoming the Keitus Vieta threat in the first novel, a new threat has appeared. An anomaly known as Jagannath has ripped through the fabric of space time and is now attempting to destroy the soul consortium. Salem Ben must rush once again through the archives, experiencing several lives to discover the source of the anomaly.

Overcoming the heavy science is by far the biggest issue with this book. It is essentially a mystery novel but as Salem learns more about the Jagannath, the explanations get more confusing. I could not figure it out until everything was revealed at the end. If you can follow the physics, Soul Continuum is a great metaphysical mystery. If not, it reads more like a series of short stories about life, death, and mysterious beings that seem able to break the laws of physics.

Taken as short stories, the prose is very strong and flows well, even as Salem inhabits four entirely different people from four entirely different eras. The author demonstrates impressive range and descriptive power. While the characters within each simulated life are compelling, the core protagonist Salem is not a particularly captivating character, more of a stoic rationalist. This makes for some pretty dry dialogue between him and Qod, but the topics of conversation are very fascinating. If the central conflict that linked all the stories together was a little clearer, this book would get 5 stars easily.

The overall theme in this book and the first one, is that there is a cost for cheating the laws of physics in this reality. Whether it is avoiding death or undermining causality, there are consequences. It seems reality has a way of correcting things that break the rules. The cyclical nature of reality, and the fact that the soul consortium knows everything that will happen throughout the universe, creates a sense of despair as you read.

Imagine you knew the future, all the way down to the atomic level. No imagine you cannot die. At the same time, you do not live or experience the physical universe, only simulations within the soul consortium. What would be the point of living? Salem's only real reason for still being alive is that he is terrified of death.

How is it that he is the only one afraid of death? Good question and probably something the author will need to address at some point.

The novel ends with what feels like a short-term fix to a long-term problem. Since I didn't fully understand the science, I could be wrong here. If the series continues I am eager for the third novel.

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