



Societies in the Grand Human

FaithBuilder 4 | Lesson 8 | Eternal Life

Lesson Overview

1. Brain Builder

Reflect on your hand.

2. Read

Different parts of heaven make up different parts of the body of the Grand Human, pp. 1-2.

3. Choose an Activity

Label a diagram of the grand man, or do further research into the parts of the Grand Human online through suggested websites (see p.1).

New Church Concept Grand Human

Heaven in its whole complex resembles one human being. Since the angels know that all the heavens with their societies resemble one person they therefore call heaven the Grand and Divine Human. *Heaven and Hell* 59

Brain Builder—Heaven in Human Form

Hold out your hand. Feel your hand and take a closer look at it.

1. What is inside your hand?
2. What are the functions of the bones, tendons, blood vessels, nerves, muscles?
3. How does your hand serve you?
4. How would losing a finger, thumb, or dominant hand change your life?

Read

Heaven is in the human form and like the human body is made up of specialized societies of angels working together just like the parts of the body work together.

In general, the highest or third heaven forms the head down to the neck, the middle or second heaven forms the breast down to the loins and knees, the lowest or first heaven forms the feet down to the soles and also the arms down to the fingers, for the arms and hands are the ultimates of a person, although at the sides. *Heaven and Hell* 65

Each angelic community functions as a whole, in a similar way to the organs of the human body, which function together as a whole person. Each angel in a community performs a specific useful service that is similar to the way to each cell in a bodily organ has a specific function.

The Writings give an overview of the angelic societies that make up the various organs of the Grand Human or heaven. On the next page there is a table showing passages about the heavenly societies that have a relationship with different parts of the Grand Human, and with the organs and parts of our own bodies, which resemble the Grand Human.

As you read the table, reflect on the functions of the various parts of the body and how the functions relate to the societies that are associated with them in heaven.

Choose an Activity

Use the table to label the diagram of the body on p. 3, or choose one organ or part of the body and do more research at http://www.swedenborgstudy.com/books/W.L.Worcester_Language-Parable/.

Angelic Societies in the Grand Human

Arms	Those in the arms and hands (in the Grand Human) are in the power of truth from good (<i>Heaven and Hell</i> 96).
Breast	Angels that are in the breast are in the good of charity and of faith, and these flow into the breast of a person and correspond to it (<i>Heaven and Hell</i> 96).
Ears	<p>People who are obedient and in faith from their obedience belong to the province of the ear (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 3869).</p> <p>The spirits who correspond to hearing, or who constitute the province of the ear, are people who are in simple obedience. They do not reason whether it is so, but believe it to be so because it is said to be so by others (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 4653).</p>
Eyes	People who are at the eyes are people who are intelligent and wise (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 4523).
Feet	<p>People who correspond to the feet, soles and heels in the Grand Human are people who are natural. Therefore ‘feet’ in the Word correspond to natural things, ‘the soles,’ lower natural things, and ‘the heels,’ the lowest natural things. For the celestial things in the Grand Human constitute the head, the spiritual things the body, and the natural things the feet (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 4938).</p> <p>Those in the feet are in the lowest good of heaven, which is called spiritual natural good (<i>Heaven and Hell</i> 96).</p>
Head	<p>The inmost heaven relates to the head (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 5328).</p> <p>The universal heaven before the Lord is as One Human, in which they who are in the Divine celestial of the Lord make the head (<i>Apocalypse Revealed</i> 49:2).</p>
Hand	They who are in the arms and hands are in the power of truth from good (<i>Heaven and Hell</i> 96:2).
Heart	People who are in love to the Lord, and are called the celestial, in the Grand Human or Heaven constitute the province of the heart (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 9050:2).
Kidneys	People in the kidneys are in truths searching, separating, and correcting (<i>Heaven and Hell</i> 96).
Loins	In the Greatest Human, or heaven, those that are in the loins and the organs devoted to generation are in marriage love (<i>Heaven and Hell</i> 96).
Lungs	<p>The societies in heaven which belong to the lungs are spiritual ones, and are round about, and are in the exteriors (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 3890).</p> <p>People who are in faith in the Lord, and from that in charity towards the neighbor, constitute the providence of the lungs in heaven (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 9050:2).</p>
Neck	The neck, from correspondence, is the medium which unites the inmost and the middle heaven (<i>Arcana Coelestia</i> 10005:4).
Nose	People in the nostrils are in perception (<i>Heaven and Hell</i> 96).

New Church Concept The Human Body

There is a correspondence of everything in heaven with everything in the human being. *Heaven and Hell* 87

Correspondence

The whole natural world is responsive to the spiritual world—the natural world not just in general, but in detail. So whatever arises in the natural world out of the spiritual one is called "something that corresponds." It needs to be realized that the natural world arises from and is sustained in being by the spiritual world, exactly the way an effect relates to its efficient cause. *Heaven and Hell* 89

Since a human being is a heaven and a world in least form in the image of the greatest there is a spiritual world and a natural world within each of us. The deeper elements, which belong to our minds and relate to our intelligence and volition, constitute our spiritual world, while the outer elements, which belong to our bodies and relate to our senses and actions, constitute our natural world. Anything that occurs in our natural world (that is, in our bodies and their senses and actions) because of our spiritual world (that is, because of our minds and their intelligence and volition) is called something that corresponds. *Heaven and Hell* 90

Things that occur in the body, whether in our faces or in our speech or in our behavior, are called correspondences. *Heaven and Hell* 91

Angelic Societies in The Grand Human

Use information from the table on p. 2 to label this diagram of the Grand Human.

