The side of the planet on which you are located always faces the sun. Since you are always facing the sun, the dim light that filters through remains constant; and there are no sunrises, high noons, sunsets, or nights. Nothing grows on your planet; your gray, rocky surroundings are barren of any living thing. Nothing moves around you, and all is completely still and quiet

Image that you are sitting in a relaxed position with your arms resting on the arms of the chair. You are unable to move your body, your limbs, your head, your lips, your eyes. You cannot blink. You are conscious (and cannot sleep!), but can detect no pulse or respiration in your body. In fact, you cannot even feel your body. Yet, curiously, you are alive (even though you can't prove it!).

You can think, but have absolutely no recollection of how you got to this planet or into your "philosopher's chair"!

In such a situation of complete sensory deprivation, you lose all sense of the passage of time. Since nothing changes physically, you lose the concept of <u>duration</u>. You lose all track of seconds, minutes, hours, days, even weeks. You cannot tell how long you have been sitting there. And since nothing is moving, you lose any sense of <u>sequence based on physical events occurring in succession</u>.

Under such conditions, is any sense of time left to you? Is there a concept of time that is independent of physics time, and yet significant?

What about a conception of time that is tied to <u>nonphysical self-experience</u>? If you can still think while sitting motionless in the armchair, could you experience a <u>succession</u> in your own <u>thoughts</u>? Could you experience a succession in your <u>feelings</u>?

If this is a meaningful conception of the most basic idea of time, can we frame this conception in some useful definition? Let us adopt the following:

> In its most basic sense time is a unidirectional continuum of experience, involving before and after relationships in sequential order

(a continuum is something marked by absolute, uninterrupted
    extension in space or time)