SPRITISM

EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED



Introduction

This book presents information about Spiritism and how our lives are tethered to the spirit world and everyone else on this planet. I have divided my essays into three categories:

- What is Spiritism
- How the Spirit World Guides the Earth
- How the Spirit Realm Assists Us

All are interrelated. There are no hard dividing lines where our lives are unaffected by spirits around us. We literally walk in a sea of spirits. We hear and are unconsciously directed by suggestions from spirits. All types of spirits. Good, bad, indifferent, and foolish spirits.

The above paragraph sounds fantastic, does it not? It is as if a primitive native from the backwaters of the Amazon basin gave us a lecture on how spirits guide his tribe. For those of us, born and raised in the modern world, we are supposed to have left such aboriginal beliefs behind us.

And yet, there are many phenomena which are unexplainable, except through another universe intersecting with ours. On another level, modern scientists, via string theory, know there are multiple dimensions. Other physicists and computer scientists postulate that we do not actually live in a real world, but in a virtual world. Billionaires are paying for the investigation if the world is in fact a simulation. A false universe created for a purpose unknown.

The great revelation is that the tribal member, the doctorate student, the billionaire, and the scientist are all correct. Each one views our world and attempts to provide explanations for occurrences, findings, and results of research which do not fit neatly into the view that earth is a rock in space and we are living organisms on that rock, who are born, die, and melt back into the terrain.

Spiritism ties everything together. It reveals our purpose, our beginnings, our end goal, and the scope of the organization behind it all. Spiritism tells us there are no miracles ... only phenomena that we don't yet understand. That miraculous healing, vision of spirits, near death

experiences, and glimpses of the future are all entirely possible given our place in the spirit realm.

Spiritism isn't the result of a single prophet with a direct connection to a higher being or a communication with an alien civilization. Not that these types of revelations aren't interesting and for the most part they parallel with many of the Doctrines laid out by Spiritism. The differentiation is that Spiritism is meant to spread central tenets of our life and for religions and philosophies to embrace those tenets to allow the multitude of the earth to truly understand the effect of every action.

Spiritism is the Third Revelation; the first was from Moses and the second was from Jesus. Other wise men, such as Socrates, Confucius, Buddha, and Zoroaster were all messengers from the spirit realm – all arrived to reinforce or foreshadow the first two revelations. The Third Revelation, as promised in the New Testament, John 16:12, the Spirit of Truth will come and will tell us much more.

The Spirit of Truth did come and the revelations were captured by Allan Kardec, in the 1850s. He did not communicate directly with the Spirit of Truth, but he created a list of questions to ask spirits. Allan Kardec didn't take verbatim, and without verification, what he was told. He sent out his questions to multiple mediums, in various countries throughout Europe. Only when similar answers came back to the same question did he codify it in *The Spirits Book*. Allan Kardec posed 1019 questions from who is God, to what is the future of Earth.

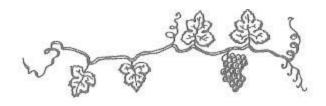
Since the 1850s, the spirit realm has not stopped supplying humankind information and facts about what is really out there. Communications never stopped after Allan Kardec passed away - from Leon Denis in the late 1800s to Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier in the 20th century (who psychographed more than 450 books – all dictated to him by spirits). New information is arriving at a constant pace.

I have written these chapters to bring to you what has been said. I have written books, which take the key points from Spiritist literature from the 1850s until now to lay out before you the true environment in which you live your life. What your ups and downs mean, what you should learn by living through the predetermined episodes which have and will occur in your life.

The spirit realm is dedicated to bring these vital messages to us, not via organized religion, which had the tendency to withhold knowledge for their own gain — but to each individual so he or she could determine what path in life they would follow. We must each determine for ourselves whether we continue on to be mere consumers or to learn to balance our spiritual and material needs, so someday we may ascend up and out of the sphere of continual incarnations and a harsh learning environment — to become a pure spirit and a contributor to the spirit universe.

This book is written as a teaser, to make you think about different aspects of your life and life around you - to see how Spiritism explains what has happened and will happen. If what you read entices you and you feel a connection, then please go on and start diving into Spiritism – you will be surprised how your life and outlook will be positively affected.

Spiritism – Everything is Connected



By

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http://www.nwspiritism.com/

1 st Edition

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Section 1 – What is Spiritism

The collections of the following essays aren't an exhaustive summary of Spiritism, but explore different aspects of Spiritism. I have written <u>Spiritism</u> <u>101 – The 3rd Revelation</u> to supply an introduction to the central tenets to the Doctrine of Spiritism.

To fully discover Spiritism, one should start with *The Spirits Book*, by Allan Kardec. Then read his other books, such as *The Gospel According to Spiritism*, *The Book of Mediums*, *Heaven and Hell*, and *Genesis*. All of his books can be found in pdf versions for free on the internet or can be purchased at Amazon or at the Spiritist Society book store online.

I have written many books on Spiritism, but the two main to start with are: The Case for Reincarnation — Your Path to Perfection and Explore Your Destiny — Since Your Life's Path is (mostly) Predetermined. In the first book I review all of the currently available information (in English) about how and why we reincarnate, and how we are often part of our life planning. In *Explore Your Destiny*, I survey what is known about how the spirit realm has guided our earth, the spheres around, on top, and under the earth, and the organization of the spirit world.

I also urge everyone to read Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier's book *Nosso Lar*. It is the first of a series of books by the spirit Andre Luiz, who dictated the book to Chico Xavier. Andre starts the book by recounting his time in the Lower Zone, a type of purgatory and how he was rescued by spirit guides and taken to the heavenly city Nosso Lar. His subsequent books are about different aspects of how the spirit realm helps and guides incarnates and discarnates around the lower spheres of the earth.

A movie was made of the first book and is available on Amazon. It is in Portuguese, with English subtitles. I highly recommend it. It is one of the few movies I enjoy seeing over and over again. The move title is "Nosso Lar", or you can find it under "Astral City".

In summary, the spirits told us that Spiritism can be summed up in one phrase – the Golden Rule. Do unto others what you would have them do unto you – take that concept and apply it over not just one lifetime but

many and you have the essence of Spiritism. Everything follows from the precept of love, kindness, charity, and honesty toward your fellow humans – no matter their race, creed, nationality, sexual orientation, or any other method to filter a person. All should be treated with respect.

<u>Chapter 1 – The Triple Aspect of Spiritism</u>

Spiritism does not ask you to possess blind faith. In fact it discourages it. According to Spiritism, miracles don't occur. All phenomena has an explanation.

Do we have absolute proof that God or spirits exist? As of yet no, but Spiritism tells us that one day it shall occur. For Spiritism is not meant to be a fossilized dogma but an ever-expanding pool of knowledge.

Knowledge that will be brought to us by our scientists and by the spirit world. As we grow morally and technically, more will be presented to us.

Spiritism is a dynamic doctrine. It has three aspects that work together to provide the scaffolding which encompass the ever-growing pool of knowledge.

First is philosophy. *The Spirits' Book* laid the foundation for the relationship between the spirit world and the physical world. The eternal questions of our creation, our creator, our destiny and our soul are all covered within Spiritism.

Second is science. This is the area which certainly would have the most doubters. Rightly so, for nothing has been proven to date. Modern society accepts people's belief in God, but only as a nod to those that need it.

What is not in question is the ground swell of studies about Near Death Experiences (NDE) and the retention of thought after all physical brain activity has ceased. The internet now allows people to compare their stories of premonition, talking with spirits and mediums who have knowledge about personal facts which would be improbable for them to know.

Many of us are aware of and comfortable that there is a world beyond our senses. While others scoff as nonsense any unexplainable event, we mark it down to one more data point that promotes our feeling that our knowledge is limited and there are many things that are still unfathomable by science.

For now, Spiritism leans on the information provided by mediums throughout the world. Books, such as the ones psychographed by Chico Xavier, are continually being created, with the help of the spirit world.

Books which little by little reveal more about the earth, our destiny and the complex workings of the spirit realm which looks over us.

Third is religion. To be clear, Spiritism does not consider itself to be a religion. Spiritism is a Doctrine. A way of life. There are no rites, no churches or temples, and no one who would function as a priest.

There is a moral code. A set of Divine Laws that is implanted into each us so we may instinctively sense the right path. Whereas, our desire for material goods often masks our good intentions, we do realize what we should or should not have done. And this is precisely the basis for our struggle on earth.

Once we are able to follow the road of love, charity, and selflessness we shall leave this period of our education and begin the next.

<u>Chapter 2 – Progression of Spirits – The Spirits</u> **Book**

To understand the beginnings of the Third Revelation, one should read the first book codified by <u>Allan Kardec</u>. I have written elsewhere about how Allan Kardec <u>created his books</u>. In this entry, I am merely reprinting his series of questions of the progress of spirits. The section is in Book Two and begins at Question 114.

Progression of Spirits

114. Are spirits good or bad by nature, or are they the same spirits made better through their own efforts?

"The same spirits made better through their own efforts. In growing better they pass from a lower to a higher order."

115. Are some spirits created good and others created bad?

"God has created all spirits in a state of simplicity and ignorance, that is to say, without knowledge. He has given to each of them a mission, with a view to enlighten them and to make them gradually arrive at perfection through the knowledge of the truth, and thus to bring them nearer and nearer to Himself. This perfection is, for them, the condition of eternal and unalloyed happiness. Spirits acquire knowledge by passing through the trials imposed on them by God. Some of them accept these trials with submission, and arrive more quickly at the aim of their destiny others undergo them with murmuring, and thus remain, through their own fault, at a distance from the perfection and the felicity promised to them."

-- According to this statement, it would appear that spirits, at their origin, are like children, ignorant and without experience, but acquiring, little by little, the knowledge which they lack, by passing through the different phases of human life?

"Yes; the comparison is correct. The child, if rebellious, remains ignorant and faulty; he profits more or less according to his docility. But the life of man has a term; whereas that of spirits stretches out into infinity."

116. Do any spirits remain forever in the lower ranks?

"No; all become perfect. They change in course of time, however long may be the process of amendment; for, as we have already said, a just and merciful parent cannot condemn his children to eternal banishment. Can you suppose that God, so great, so good, so just, is less kind than you are?"

117. Does it depend on the spirits themselves to hasten their progress towards perfection?

"Certainly; they reach the goal more or less quickly according to the strength of their desire and the degree of their submission to the will of God. Does not a docile child learn faster than one who is obstinate and idle?"

118. Can spirits degenerate?

"No; in proportion as they advance, they understand what has retarded their progress. When a spirit has finished with any given trial, he has learned the lesson of that trial, and never forgets it. He may remain stationary; but be never degenerates."

119. Could God exonerate spirits from the trials which they have to undergo in order to reach the highest rank?

"If they had been created perfect, they would not have merited the enjoyment of the benefits of that perfection. Where would be the merit without the struggle? Besides, the inequality which exists between spirits is necessary to the development of their personality; and, moreover, the mission which each spirit accomplishes at each step of his progress is an element of the providential plan for ensuring the harmony of the universe."

Since, in social life, all men may reach the highest posts, we might as well ask why the sovereign of a country does not make a general of each of his soldiers, why all subaltern functionaries are not made heads of departments, why all scholars are not schoolmasters. But there is this difference between the life of the social and the spirit worlds, namely, that the first is limited, and does not afford to every one the possibility of raising himself to the highest rank whereas the second is unlimited, and ensures to every one the possibility of attaining to supreme degree.

120. Do all spirits pass by the road of evil to arrive at good?

"Not by the road of evil, but by that of ignorance."

121. How is it that some spirits have followed the road of good, and others the road of evil?

"Have they not their free-will? God has not created any spirits bad; He has created them simple and ignorant, that is to say, possessing an equal aptitude for good and for evil. Those who become bad become so of their own free-will."

122. How can spirits, at their origin, when they have not yet acquired self-consciousness, possess freedom of choice between good and evil? Is there in them any principle, any tendency, which inclines them towards either road rather than towards the other?

"Free-will is developed in proportion as the spirit acquires the consciousness of himself. Freedom would not exist for the spirit if his choice were solicited by a cause independent of his will. The cause which determines his choice is not in him, but is exterior to him, in the influences to which he voluntarily yields in virtue of the freedom of his will. It is this choice that is represented under the grand figure of the fall of man and of original sin. Some spirits have yielded to temptation; others have withstood it."

-- Whence come the influences that act upon him?

"From the imperfect spirits, who seek to take possession of him and to dominate him, and who are happy to see him succumb. It is this temptation that is allegorically pictured as Satan."

-- Does this influence act upon a spirit only at its origin?

"It follows him through all the phases of his existence as a spirit, until he has acquired such thorough self-command that evil spirits renounce the attempt to obsess him."

There you have it, we start ignorant, without knowledge of good and bad. Unable to decipher the right road to follow, until through a series of incarnations, we learn, usually the hard way, between good and evil actions. We are told there are no short cuts, no hidden doors to advancement, except through grueling experiences in body after body.

It doesn't end until the last statement in Question 122 – "until he has acquired such thorough self-command that evil spirits renounce the attempt to obsess him". Only through strictly adhering to the dictates of our conscience, never wavering from the Golden Rule, in all circumstances will we finally be able to be free of trials. Therefore, if you wish to end your financial worries, solve all relationship conundrums, remove all traces of ill-health and aging, the answer is before you. Become a calm, upright, honorable port in rough seas. Don't allow your undesirable emotions to get the best of you. Be a friend to all, a mentor to all, and a beacon of light to all. Only thus, shall the entirety of your problems dissolve.

<u>Chapter 3 – Faith Must be Rational – Material</u> <u>Aspiration Replaced by Spiritual</u>

There is an interesting section in a translated communication titled <u>The Life of Jesus</u>. It was reportedly a series of messages from spirit Jesus to a medium in France in the 19 th century. The medium was only known as Medium X. The book was translated into Italian, then Spanish, and next into English. It was not completed until a second medium took up the work in the 20 th century.

While I don't know for certain if this work is really the communication of spirit messages from Jesus, the resulting prose does present intriguing concepts. It presents the idea that we need to cast aside all imbedded beliefs – the stories and cultural heritage of our youth – and look again. In chapter twelve this notion is introduced:

"The Soul's freedom is acquired by the Spirit's intellectual power. By intellectual abilities I do not imply the more or less prominent aptitudes for the study of the sciences, but the positive momentum of the idea to the solution of this or that problem placed in the field of the infinite; I care to determine the intellectual power of the Spirit, feeding it with a burning desire to discover the origins and giving it the stamp of an unalterable will to advance constantly, and even more.

Rejecting a belief that relies only on old prejudices and erroneous references to embrace a truly radiant faith in the midst of a Heaven with a fascinating and infinite light is a fact that cannot happen but with the collapse of all worldly aspirations; with the Spirit's absorption of the material principle effected by the spiritual principle of the same Spirit. It is then that the bonds of the soul break apart and now in the possession of its own freedom, it follows the Spirit that is in possession of its own power." [1]

The pursuit of knowledge must be the driving force of our life. Not just the accumulation of facts and figures, but in problem solving. We need to fill our tool box with heuristics ... every type of problem solving, discovery, or learning technique we can grasp. For as we ascend in the spirit world, we will be called upon to utilize each and every one of them.

This will not be easy and it's not intended to be. If it was, we wouldn't hold onto our knowledge, our victory – it would be forgotten like an old discarded toy. We must feed our intellectual curiosity and feel the excitement as we discover one more salient fact about how the universe actually operates.

We can only achieve this state if our focus is on accumulating spiritual knowledge instead of accumulating material goods. As long as our efforts are concentrated on the daily grind of making money and desiring to buy more goods, we won't have the stamina to explore spiritual phenomena. We have to balance the needs of our everyday life and devote time to our inner selves.

It will not be easy, or as simple as one prayer, but will require real effort. We won't be given immediate enlightenment – it is our responsibility to build our base of knowledge. The way won't be stress-free:

"God does not reveal himself to the soul, although loving, it is the slave of a Spirit that operates by request only and not by its own science and consciousness. God then, did not reveal himself but only halfway to the pious woman, but ignorant of the hardships that lead to the joys of faith, that faith without contradictions and without terrors, that looms over all dangers and smiles in the middle of torture, that receives the light from God to fulfill all duties, devour all humiliations, not shy away from all heroisms." [2]

We are being told that we must strive to learn about God and His creation, in the face of unrelenting pressure to deny all rational conclusions that our intellectual pursuits lead us to. Only by being certain, by logically following where evidence leads, can we stand our ground against those who would turn us away from true faith. We achieve this by not believing without doubt whatever we are told, but by analyzing and cementing the truth in our minds by the weight of evidence we have discovered.

This is the type of faith that Spiritism and the spirit realm wishes us to cultivate. While I realize it is difficult to fly in the face of an entire world culture dedicated to commercialism, relative morality, and utter faith in current scientific hypothesis, the uncovered facts are out there. Waiting for the truly open and inquisitive mind to parse.

<u>Chapter 4 – Highest Rank – First Order of Spirits</u>

What are the different levels of spirits? Yes, there are levels, because, like us, not all spirits are equal in intelligence, character, or spirituality. All of the answers are in Allan Kardec's *The Spirits Book*, but for those who like to pursue a subject at a time, I am reprinting the pertinent information here. Below is the broad summary:

"We may place in the first or highest rank those who have reached the degree of relative perfection which constitutes what may be called 'pure spirits.' We may place in the second rank those who have reached the middle of the ascensional ladder, those who have achieved the degree of purification in which aspiration after perfection has become the ruling desire. We may place in the third or lowest rank all those imperfect spirits who are still on the lower rungs of the ladder. They are characterized by ignorance, the love of evil, and all the low passions that retard their progress upwards." [3]

There are no set classes or levels, each individual must be judged against others to determine the relative level of a spirit. *The Spirit Book*, tells us the number of levels is unlimited, but for purposes of attempting to make the spirit realm comprehensible, we are given broad categories.

First Order

Keep in mind that even within orders, each spirit has their particular talents and attributes. To us, far down in the "unlimited" number of levels, all first level spirits must look-alike. We don't have the capability to gauge variations in their perfection. Here is what we are told about the highest class of spirits:

"113. First and only Class. --They have passed up through every degree of the scale of progress, and have freed themselves from all the impurities of materiality. Having attained the sum of perfection of which created beings are susceptible, they have no longer to undergo either trials or expiations. Being no longer subject to reincarnation in perishable bodies, they enter on the life of eternity in the immediate presence of God. They are in the enjoyment of a beatitude which is unalterable, because they are no longer subject to the wants or vicissitudes of material life; but this beatitude is not *the monotonous*

idleness of perpetual contemplation. They are the messengers and ministers of God, the executors of His orders in the maintenance of universal harmony. They exercise a sovereign command over all spirits inferior to themselves, aid them in accomplishing the work of their purification, and assign to each of them a mission proportioned to the progress already made by them. To assist men in their distresses, to excite them to the love of good or to the expiation of the faults which keep them back on the road to the supreme felicity, are for them congenial occupations. They are sometimes spoken of as angels, archangels, or seraphim." [4]

To reach this exalted stage takes an unknown amount of lives and time. Spirits or angels, as they may be called, have removed the blemishes within their being. Imperfections such as hate, jealousy, anger, any type of pettiness, and an assortment of lesser emotions are replaced with universal love, kindness, and fraternity for all beings.

They love the person of noble character and outlaw equally. This doesn't mean that high spirits approach each person identically; the good may only need a path opened up to make minor improvements, while the outlaw may require tough lessons to prod them onto the right road.

The primary example of a pure spirit is Jesus, who brought a message of love and forgiveness to us more than two thousand years ago. Jesus also sent other high spirits to earth to teach us; some of the messengers of peace were, Socrates, Buddha, Confucius, and Lao Tzu. All came to live in difficult circumstances to shine a light on what should be important to us.

What *The Spirits Book*, doesn't reveal is the immense training and ability a high spirit has in the spirit realm. They are far more than a being composed of perfect love. They are capable of movement by thought and of creation by thought. First order spirits are mainly comprised of spirit energy and a small or non-existent portion of matter.

Spirits at this level travel to a destination by thinking of it, and then they are on their way. If a house must be built, or a planet placed correctly in orbit, a group of high spirits congregates to use their minds to refashion the vital fluid of the universe to conform it to their objective. I dive deeper into how spirits are schooled for this in my article, <u>Faith – Not Just for Moving Mountains but to Create Them</u>.

When mediums talk to spirits, communication with a high order spirit are rare, mainly because the medium must also be a spiritually advanced person to be able to open a channel. These types of spirits will not speak about mundane matters but will give spiritual advice and guidance to those seeking help with a pure heart.

<u>Chapter 5 – Second Order - Good Spirits</u>

There is a complete description of the second order of spirits in Allan Kardec's, *The Spirits Book*, starting at question 107. Second order spirits, while in the spirit realm, are composed of more spirit energy than matter. They are less dense than the lower spirits. Lower spirits, just like us, can't see or feel their presence.

A general summary is covered in Question 107, of *The Spirits Book*:

"107. General Characteristics.--Predominance of spirit over matter; desire of excellence. Their qualities and their power for good are proportionate to the degree at which they have arrived. Some of them possess scientific knowledge, others have acquired wisdom and charity; the more advanced among them combine knowledge with moral excellence. Not being yet completely dematerialized, they preserve the traces of their corporeal existence, more or less strongly marked, according to their rank-traces which are seen either in their mode of expressing themselves, in their habits, or even, in some cases, in the characteristic eccentricities and hobbies still retained by them. But for these weaknesses and imperfections they would be able to pass into the category of spirits of the first order.

They have acquired the comprehension of the idea of God and of infinity, and already share the felicity of the higher spheres. They find their happiness both in the accomplishment of good and in the prevention of evil. The affection by which they are united affords them ineffable delight, troubled neither by envy, remorse nor any other of the evil passions which make the torment of spirits of lower degree; but they have still to undergo the discipline of trial until they have completed the work of their purification.

As spirits, they infuse good and noble thoughts into the minds of men, turn them from the path of evil, protect those whose course of life renders them worthy of their aid, and neutralize by their suggestions, the influence of lower spirits on the minds of those who do not willingly yield to the evil counsels of the latter.

The human beings in whom they are incarnated are upright and benevolent; they are actuated neither by pride, selfishness, nor ambition; they feel neither hatred, rancor, envy, nor jealousy, and do good for its own sake." [5]

Were you like me and a bit disappointed at the last paragraph? I was hoping I fit into that description, until I read that second order spirits who are incarnated weren't motivated by pride or selfishness and didn't feel rancor and performed good for its own sake. I had my expectations up until the end. Be that as it may, I will still strive to attain the second order distinction!

I am sure most readers behave in the manner described of second order spirits in their physical life, so I venture to guess that a large percentage of people who are interested in Spiritism and Spiritualism in general are the type who are unselfish and fundamentally good-natured. Unlike me in my earlier years.

Good spirits, while in the spirit realm, reside in heaven. As with spirits, there are many levels of heaven. Even the lower levels of heaven are wonderful places. All stages of heaven are full of colors, buildings, and kindred spirits that would bring warmth to our heart.

We, on earth, would live in very different world without the guidance given to us by second order spirits, under the direction of first order spirits. They are our guardian angels; they are there to whisper warnings in our ear when we start on the wrong path. Not only do they help us, but they assist lower order spirits as well. All of the spirits who haven't found their way to ascend to heaven, who are stuck close to the surface, are watched over and helped by these valiant second order souls.

The Spirits Book divides this order into sub-classes:

"In periods of ignorance and superstition, men have regarded them as beneficent divinities. They may be divided into four principal groups:-

108. Fifth Class--Benevolent Spirits. --Their dominant quality is kindness. They take pleasure in rendering service to men and in protecting them, but their knowledge is somewhat narrow. They have progressed in morality rather than in intelligence.

109. Fourth Class--Learned Spirits. --They are specially distinguished by the extent of their knowledge. They are less interested in moral questions than in scientific investigation, for which they have a greater aptitude; but their scientific studies are always prosecuted with a view to practical utility, and they are entirely free from the base passions common to spirits of the lower degrees of advancement.

110. Third Class--Wise Spirits. --The most elevated moral qualities form their distinctive characteristics. Without having arrived at the possession of unlimited knowledge, they have reached a development of intellectual capacity that enables them to judge correctly of men and of things.

111. Second Class--High Spirits. --They unite, in a very high degree, scientific knowledge, wisdom, and goodness. Their language, inspired only by the purest benevolence, is always noble and elevated, often sublime. Their superiority renders them more apt than any others to impart to us just and true ideas in relation to the incorporeal world, within the limits of the knowledge permitted to mankind. They willingly enter into communication with those who seek for truth in simplicity and sincerity, and who are sufficiently freed from the bonds of materiality to be capable of understanding it; but they turn from those whose inquiries are prompted only by curiosity, or who are drawn away from the path of rectitude by the attractions of materiality." [6]

This section illustrates the amount of work that awaits us when we ascend to heaven. When you relieve yourself of your cumbersome physical body, and you wake up in a celestial city, your work has just begun. As in life on earth, where continual education is required, so it is in heaven. While earth is more conducive to altering your basic character and helps to erase your basic faults, the spirit world is the perfect location for acquiring knowledge. Imagine the increase in your ability to learn without the worries of money, shelter, food, or "friends" attempting to distract you in a noble quest.

When we communicate with second order spirits, either via <u>Near Death</u> <u>Experiences</u>, visions, voices, a medium, or alternate methods, we should detect them by their concern for our spiritual well-being. Spirits in the second order, realize that life on earth is not meant to accumulate wealth,

but to accumulate spirituality. Hence, when we perform a wrongful act, they will be the ones whispering in our ear, telling us to follow our conscience, whereas lower spirits (third order) will be supplying reasons to ignore our violation of Divine Laws.

In summary, we depend on second order spirits to direct our plan of life on earth, more than we realize. They ensure our progress from one trial to the next, and send us needed semaphores to alert us when our direction is off course.

<u>Chapter 6 – Third Order - Imperfect Spirits</u>

Third Order spirits are the least advanced spirits around the sphere of earth. They exist close to the surface, a little above and below the crust. Many walk around us in everyday life; observing and participating. Third Order spirits are those of us who have left this life in either one or more in these conditions (I have created broad categories):

- 1. Lack of Spirituality There are many good people who don't believe in an afterlife. Hence, when they awaken and find themselves still on earth they are confused. These spirits are helped by second order spirits to realize where they are. The vast majority ascend fairly rapidly.
- 2. Rebellious Some spirits don't want to recognize the existence of a Supreme Being. Hence, they remain where their bodies decompose, on earth, until they determine the beauty of life is in serving. Strong-willed and usually intelligent, when they are ready, they have the capacity to rise quickly in the spirit hierarchy.
- 3. Materialist Lived life dedicated to the amassing of wealth. Most or everything else took a lower priority. Being miserly is an example. Spirits who worship their property above all else, find they are still tied to earth and can't leave it.
- 4. Selfish Never thought of others, their needs always came first. Like the materialist, life was about what could be done on earth.
- 5. Criminal A combination of materialism and selfishness, with a violent streak and a complete lack of respect for others. They are in the right place when they passed on. Eventually, they will tire of existing in a world full of souls similar to them and seek to improve.
- 6. Suicides —They left life on earth before their appointed time. Unfortunately for them, they will have to reside around the earth until they were fated to expire. The Spirituality frowns on people who cut classes. This includes "unconscious suicides"; a spirit term for those who killed themselves by dangerous behavior, such as drinking and drug addiction.

There is a complete description of the third order of spirits in Allan Kardec's, *The Spirits Book*, starting at question 101. Third order spirits, while in the spirit realm, are composed of more matter than spirit energy.

They are denser than higher spirits. Lower spirits are unable to detect the presence of higher spirits, unless the higher spirits consciously make themselves as dense as lower spirits.

"101. General Characteristics. -- Predominant influence of matter over spirit. Propensity to evil. Ignorance, pride, selfishness, and all the evil passions which result from these.

They have the intuition of the existence of God, but they have no comprehension of Him.

They are not all of them thoroughly bad; in many of them there is more of frivolity, want of reasoning power, and love of mischief, than of downright wickedness. Some of them do neither good nor evil; but the very fact that they do no good denotes their inferiority. Others, on the contrary, take pleasure in evil, and are gratified when they find an opportunity of doing wrong.

Among spirits of this order, a certain amount of intelligence is often allied with malice and the love of mischief; but, whatever may be their intellectual development, their ideas are wanting in elevation, and their sentiments are more or less abject.

Their knowledge of the things of the spirit-world is narrow, and the little they know about them is confused with the ideas and prejudices of the corporeal life. They can give only false and incomplete notions of the spirit-world; but the attentive observer may always find in their communications, however imperfect, the confirmation of the great truths proclaimed by spirits of the higher orders.

Their character is revealed by their language. Every spirit who, in his communications, betrays an evil intention, may be ranged in the third order; consequently every evil thought suggested to our mind comes to us from a spirit of that order.

They see the happiness enjoyed by good spirits, and this sight causes them perpetual torment; for they experience all the agonies produced by envy and jealousy.

They preserve the remembrance and the perception of the sufferings of corporeal life; and this impression is often more painful than the reality.

They suffer, in fact, both from the ills they have themselves endured, and from those which they have caused to be endured by others. And as these sufferings endure for a very long time, they believe themselves to be destined to suffer forever. God, for their punishment, wills that they should believe this." [2]

Third order spirits are the unseen souls that we come into contact the most. Our brains pick up, subconsciously, their thoughts. We are on earth to learn to filter out the suggestions made to us by these types of spirits. This is why we have a conscience, so we may use the full set of Divine Laws that God implants inside each one of us, to determine what is right and wrong.

When a person pays a medium for advice or a group of untrained people hold a séance, these are the types of spirits which are attracted. The level of the medium or group calling for spirits determines the level of the spirits who come. Hence, morally and spiritually advanced mediums will attract higher order spirits. While at the other end of the spectrum, the local fortune teller or the Ouija Board users will communicate with lower spirits. The information you receive from third order spirits should not be fully trusted.

Allan Kardec breaks down the third order spirits into more categories:

"103. Ninth Class--Frivolous Spirits. --They are ignorant, mischievous, unreasonable, and addicted to mockery. They meddle with everything, and reply to every question without paying any attention to truth. They delight in causing petty annoyances, in raising false hopes of petty joys, in misleading people by mystifications and trickery. The spirits vulgarly called hobgoblins, will-o'-the-wisps, gnomes, etc., belong to this class. They are under the orders of spirits of a higher category, who make use of them as we do of servants.

In their communications with men their language is often witty and facetious, but shallow. They are quick to seize the oddities and absurdities of men and things, on which they comment with sarcastic sharpness. If they borrow distinguished names, as they are fond of doing, it is rather for the fun of the thing than from any intention to deceive by so doing.

104. Eighth Class--Spirits who Pretend to more Science than they Possess. --Their knowledge is often considerable, but they imagine themselves to know a good deal more than they know in reality. Having made a certain amount of progress from various points of view, their language has an air of gravity that may easily give a false impression as to their capacities and enlightenment; but their ideas are generally nothing more than the reflection of the prejudices and false reasoning of their terrestrial life. Their statements contain a mixture of truths and absurdities, in the midst of which traces of presumption, pride, jealousy, and obstinacy, from which they have not yet freed themselves, are abundantly perceptible.

105. Seventh Class--Neutral Spirits. --They are not sufficiently advanced to take an active part in doing good, nor are they bad enough to be active in doing wrong. They incline sometimes to the one, sometimes to the other; and do not rise above the ordinary level of humanity, either in point of morality or of intelligence. They are strongly attached to the things of this world, whose gross satisfactions they regret.

106. Sixth Class--Noisy and Boisterous Spirits. --Spirits of this kind do not, strictly speaking, form a distinct class in virtue of their personal qualities; they may belong to all the classes of the third order. They often manifest their presence by the production of phenomena perceptible by the senses, such as raps, the movement and abnormal displacing of solid bodies, the agitation of the air, etc. They appear to be, more than any other class of spirits, attached to matter; they seem to be the principal agents in determining the vicissitudes of the elements of the globe, and to act upon the air, water, fire, and the various bodies in the entrails of the earth. Whenever these phenomena present a character of intention and intelligence, it is impossible to attribute them to a mere fortuitous and physical cause. All spirits are able to produce physical phenomena; but spirits of elevated degree usually leave them to those of a lower order, more apt for action upon matter than for the things of intelligence, and, when they judge it to be useful to produce physical manifestations, employ spirits of subaltern degree as their auxiliaries." [8]

For those who wish to learn more about different types of mediums and how to determine the level of the spirit you are communicating with, I highly recommend *The Mediums Book* , by Allan Kardec.

All of us need to be aware of the world around us and who is trying to influence us so we can learn how to guard against ruinous advice and onslaughts against holding our emotions in check.

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Chapter 7 – The Nature of God

God, the Spirituality, the Divine Intelligence, or whatever name you wish to call that which is the be all and end all of everything has always stood outside our comprehension. Many ask if God exists, then who created God? The answer comes back God is infinite, had no beginning and no end. God is the beginning and end state of everything. Who can really understand that concept?

What is God

The Book of Spirits, codified by <u>Allan Kardec</u>, tells us from the mouth of high spirits, who should know better than us, what is God:

"1. What is God?

God is the Supreme Intelligence--First Cause of all things.

2. What is to be understood by infinity?

That which has neither beginning nor end; the unknown: all that is unknown is infinite.

3. Can it be said that God is infinity?

An incomplete definition. Poverty of human speech incompetent to define what transcends human intelligence.

God is infinite in His perfections, but 'infinity' is an abstraction. To say that God is infinity is to substitute the attribute of a thing for the thing itself, and to define something unknown by reference to some other thing equally unknown." [9]

The question, to our minds, consistently returns to a circular answer, the nature of God is unknowable, because we are incapable of comprehension. Again, *The Spirits Book* confirms our limitations, but hints at a future state where we shall begin to realize the place of God within God's environment:

"10. Can man comprehend the essential nature of God?

No; he lacks the sense required for comprehending it.

11. Will man ever become able to comprehend the mystery of the Divinity?

When his mind shall no longer be obscured by matter, and when, by his perfection, he shall have brought himself nearer to God, we will see and comprehend Him.

The inferiority of the human faculties renders it impossible for man to comprehend the essential nature of God. In the infancy of the race, man often confounds the Creator with the creature, and attributes to the former the imperfections of the latter. But, in proportion as his moral sense becomes developed, man's thought penetrates more deeply into the nature of things, and he is able to form to himself a more just and more rational idea of the Divine Being, although his idea of that Being must always be imperfect and incomplete." [10]

I concede that I don't have the capacity, right at this moment in my immortal life, for understanding the concept of the Divine. But, we could infer, via the trajectory of the make-up of ever-increasing levels of spirits, a bit of the make-up of those close to God.

Spirit – What is Spirit?

The key is the phrase, "When his mind shall no longer be obscured by matter". From *The Book of Spirits*, and from subsequent books by Spiritist mediums channeling spirits, such as <u>Chico Xavier</u> and Yvonne Pereira, we are told lower spirits are made of a ratio of matter and spirit energy, while as spirits move up levels, the ratio of spirit energy over matter increases. Hence, as we ascend we become ever more spirit energy, to one day becoming pure spirit energy. The usual use is just the word "spirit", but I add "energy" to denote an unknown form, but which possesses power.

I use the word spirit energy as a broad term and not how we define energy, as in electrical charges, etc. I believe that, as yet, we don't understand the composition of a pure spirit. The only thing I can state with certainty, as per *The Spirits Book*, is that spirit energy is part of a composition of spirit, matter and universal fluid that make up the universe. We are told, in response to Question 25 in *The Spirits Book* that, in fact, matter is formed of universal fluid. That to give intelligence to matter takes spirit energy and matter together:

"25. Is spirit independent of matter, or is it only one of the properties of matter, as colors are a property of light, and as sound is a property of

the air?

Spirit and matter are distinct from one another; but the union of spirit and matter is necessary to give intelligent activity to matter." [11]

Spirit – Advances into Pure Thought

This leaves us with the conclusion, that as a spirit advances it becomes a being that is less and less associated with our conception of life and enters into the realm of pure thought. Thought, according to our earthly society is a concept of an idea generated by the physical operation of our brain. The idea of a thought living and existing outside of a sequence of electrical discharges in our brain is not considered a reality or a possibility by a vast majority of people.

Nevertheless, thought encapsulated in a system of spirit energy, independent of a living organism, as we know it, is the logical end result.

Hence, the reluctance of many to believe in a higher power, a Divinity which exists outside of our physical realm. But, this is precisely what many religions have presented to us for thousands of years. The concept of mankind, removing itself from the physical to the pure mental state, where physical limitations, such as aging and sickness, are no longer present, is a central theme. Spiritism is no different; it does supply us with more information and a rational basis, but no absolute proof.

Pure Thought – Comes in different forms as a spirit advances

There is one more data point to introduce. In the book, *Beyond the Veil*, by the Rev. G. Vale Owen, there is a mention of a relatively high spirit at a ceremony where Jesus, in his sublime form, walks down a line of high spirits and affects each spirit he passes differently. Problems which were hard to solve, were suddenly apparent, other such occurrences, happened to each soul in line. The spirit narrating the scene, mentioned that if he would actually touch Jesus, he would be destroyed, since his spirit and matter, could <u>not</u> directly interact with Jesus' makeup without drastic consequences.

I take from this story two points. First conjecture; while we are immortal, it may be possible for us to be obliterated, even in spirit form. Second conjecture; there are forms of spirit (or types of energy, dark matter,

or whatever) that are truly incomprehensible to us, down at our elementary level on earth. Therefore, if the form of Jesus is a mystery, for he is no mere angel (or a spirit of a high degree), but is on an even more exalted level than those spirits which have been mentioned in other literature. Imagine stages of spirits above Jesus and what they must be composed of.

I say stages above Jesus, for it is stated there are other spirits at Jesus's level and higher, who manage our part of the universe, as mentioned in Spiritist literature, such as *On the Road to the Light*, by the spirit Emmanuel.

As spirits ascend, their ability to focus thoughts to move and/or create matter is enhanced. Therefore, it is not just their intelligence that is increasing, but their very make-up. As a spirit rises, their form also undergoes a transformation of their being which is encased, or is, their intelligence, being, character, groups of thoughts, or will.

At some point in time, a spirit will rise enough to start to comprehend the Supreme Intelligence. To understand something, one must understand sufficiently basic concepts to grasp the whole. Therefore, they begin to see the reality (the building blocks) of no beginning and no end, eternity, and infinity.

Analogy of the Power of Pure Thought

Centuries past, the idea of thought causing action would be more along the lines of spells and witchcraft. Incantations that would transform matter or spirit in different material or actions. Rational thinkers rejected that as lacking proof, which makes sense given that whereas, we physical beings on earth, <u>do</u> send out thoughts, the ability to operate on matter to conform to our will is for all purposes non-existent.

Currently, we have daily, if not in increments of microseconds, substantiation of the power of thought. Not our own, but of the will of others upon our lives. This is called software, which depends on two foundations. First an environment, built upon hardware that allows the processing of electrical messages and has physical interfaces to other devices. Second, an Operating System, such as Apple's IOS, Microsoft Windows and Google's Android, which serve to regulate, monitor, and enable software code to perform the function that it was intended for.

Earth is but a poor mirror of the spirit realm, therefore, our development and conception of modern computers is but a foreshadowing of what is seemingly the omnipresence power of a high spirit, to send/receive messages, cause action by thought, ability to plug into unseen resources, access information from periods of time and space, and move by the speed of thought. Perhaps, by analyzing the working of our personal devices, our smart phones, laptops, the worldwide internet, we can begin to comprehend the superior environment of the spirit world.

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<u>Chapter 8 – The Importance of Family – According to Spiritism</u>

Spiritism reveals to us that we are imperfect souls on a quest to become pure spirits. What many considered bad spirits, demons, or manifestations of the devil are spirits who have not yet learned the true path to goodness. They are ignorant, immature, or rebellious spirits who rejected the hard road to the required perfection.

The importance of the family to facilitate our ascendance in the spirit world can't be overstated. Let's begin with three passages from Allan Kardec's *The Spirit's Book*:

695. Is marriage, that is to say, the permanent union of two beings, contrary to the law of nature?

"It is a progress arrived at by the human race."

696. What would be the effect, upon human society, of the abolition of marriage?

"A return to the life of the beast."

775. What would be the effect upon society of the relaxation of family ties?

"A relapse into selfishness"

Notice the short answers to the questions, as if they needed no further explanations and the truth was staring at you in the face. Only the first question requires a modifier. The question stated "the permanent union of two beings", which was the custom and laws of that day (1850's), whereby divorce was extremely rare. This situation led many couples into years of unhappiness. A further statement in *The Spirit's Book*, qualifies it:

940. Is not the lack of sympathy between persons destined to live together also a source of sorrow, and one that is all the more bitter because it poisons an entire existence?

"Very bitter it is, undoubtedly; but it is usually a misfortune of your own causing. In the first place, your laws are at fault; for how can you

suppose that those who dislike one another can be intended by God to live together?"

According to the spirit world, not all marriages are perfect unions, since they are the product of people's free will choices and may be one of the many lessons we must learn in our lifetimes. Therefore, people are allowed to withdraw from a bad marriage, but how and when that is accomplished might incur debt which may have to be repaid later.

A successful family is made up of two kindred spirits. According to Spiritism, when spirits reincarnate, they could return as male or female.

202. Does a spirit, when existing in the spirit-world prefer to be incarnated as a man or a woman?

"That point in regard to which a spirit is indifferent, and which is always decided in view of the trials which he has to undergo in his new corporeal life."

Therefore, the sexual combination of a couple is not important; what is vital is the affinity of the spirits and their love for each other. A partnership which allows souls that see in each other the possibility to improve themselves beyond what they could achieve alone and to assist their partner in the same journey. In the book *Missionaries of the Light*, a spirit instructor discusses marriage and love on earth:

"Love on those lower planes is like gold lost in a large quantity of ore, demanding great efforts and laborious processes to reveal itself to the experts. But among those humans, who do in fact are proceeding toward their elevation, the sexual union is much different. It entails the sublime exchange of perispiritual energies, symbolizing divine nourishment for the mind and heart, and creative power not only for children of the flesh but also for generous deeds and achievements of the soul for life eternal" [12]

Therefore, marriage, between two humans of any gender combination, isn't meant to be constant bliss. It is more like a two-person mountain climbing team. Both tied together, watching out for each other. When one falls, the other helps to pull them up. One's strengths serves to educate the other and one's weakness is slowly supplemented and erased with the help of the other.

Family is the core support group we have in our short lives. The spirit realm mainly places us with spirits who we have lived with before so we can assist each family member in their life plan to improve.

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<u>Chapter 9 – The Early Church - What Did the</u> <u>First Christians Believe?</u>

In the book, *Hail Christ!*, dictated by the spirit Emmanuel to Francisco C. Xavier, there are passages on what the early church believed for the first Christians. The book is set around 200 AD, the Emperor Caracalla had just died, in 217 AD. Christians were still being persecuted. There was, as yet, no organized Bible, only various writings by disciples and others.

In the book, an old Gaul, Corvinus, is talking to Quintus Varrus, about his experiences:

"I too suffered a great deal when I was still young and decided to work in the faith. I was repudiated by everyone and forced to leave Gaul, where I was born, and I lived for ten years in Alexandria, where I renewed my knowledge. The church there remains open to the broader considerations relating to destiny and being. The ideas of Pythagoras are kept there in a large study center to real advantage, and after listening attentively to distinguished priests and the most enlightened followers, I was convinced that we are reborn many times on earth and that the body is the fleeting garment of our imperishable soul. The tomb is the resurrection. We will return to the flesh as many times as necessary, until we have gotten rid of all of our inner impurities, like the noble metal which tolerates the purifying crucible until it casts off the dross that disfigures it." [13]

The early Christians knew about our immortal souls and our trials on earth. Pythagoras, was a Greek philosopher and mathematician, who lived 500 years before Christ. As with Socrates, he believed in the immortal spirit and in reincarnation. The Christians of the day, from the stories recorded from Jesus' disciples led them, like us today, to understand the meaning behind the many references to reincarnation. They incorporated the writings of the great Greek philosophers into their understanding of the message of Christ.

Corvinus explains further:

"Jesus did not just speak to the human being who passes away, but rather to the imperishable spirit. In one step of his sublime teachings, he warns, 'It is better to enter life maimed than, have two hands, to go into the lower regions.' [Mk 9:43] Christ is referring to the world as a school where we seek our own improvement. We come to the earth with the problems we need. Trials are a salutary remedy. Difficulties are steps upward on the great ascent. Our ancestors, the Druids, taught that we find ourselves in a world of travels or in a field of repeated experiences so that later on we can reach the stars of divine light to be one with God, our Father. We create suffering by defying the universal laws, and we endure it so we can return to harmonious communion with them. Justice is perfect. Nobody weeps unnecessarily. The stone bears the pressure of the tool that polishes it so that it can shine supremely. The beast is led to confinement to be tamed. Humankind suffers and struggles to learn and relearn in order to grow more and more. Earth is not the only theater of life. Did not the Lord himself -- whom we aspire to serve -- say 'There are many dwellings in my Father's house?' Toil is the ladder of light to other spheres, where we will meet again like birds, which, after losing each other in winter's gusts, regroup again in the blessed spring sunshine." [14]

Even the Druids knew about our struggles to purify ourselves by our passages here on earth. In fact, the pen name of Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail, who wrote *The Spirit's Book*, was Allan Kardec, his name from another life as a Druid priest.

In another section of the book, Corvinus tells of the early church's communication with spirits:

"Heed the Master's teaching and a new light will shine in your soul. In Lyon, many of our brothers and sisters communicate with the dead, who are simply those living in eternity. They communicate with us and support us every day in our duties... In many instances of martyrdom. I have seen companions who preceded us receiving those who were put to death... Consequently, I know that you and I will continue to be together. The church, for me is nothing but the Spirit of Christ in communion with men and women..." [15]

The early Christians knew how to communicate with spirits and to gain strength and faith through their discussions with the other side. Spiritism was brought to us, to reinvent the teaching of the church to where it began.

To purify its goal to spread the message, that we aren't here to accumulate wealth or gain power, but to learn from our trials. Trials individually customized for each of us, so we can learn the lessons we have failed to learn in the past. And, that any wrong we commit, we shall pay in this life or the next. There is no easy monetary payment to be made to absolve us of our errors. There is only our individual effort.

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<u>Chapter 10 – Love your Neighbor - What does</u> <u>this actually mean?</u>

According to Emanuel Swedenborg, author of *True Christianity*, published in the 18th century, love your neighbor goes beyond the common definition of one human helping another. He writes:

"Surely everyone understands that loving many people in a group involves more love for our neighbor than loving an individual member of the group. Therefore smaller and larger communities are also our neighbor, because they are a plurality of people. It follows that someone who loves a community loves the individuals who are part of that community; someone who wishes a community well and gives benefit to it cares for its individuals." [16]

Emanuel was allowed to visit the spirit world as a medium and write about his experiences, one hundred years before Allan Kardec codified the Spiritist doctrine. He wished to juxtapose the love of earthly leaders for their communities to the spirits in position of power in the spirit world. He contrasts the true love of a community versus the love of form and power.

"But in this day and age, leaders may be useful and care for a community and still not love their neighbor. They perform functions and show concern for the sake of the world or themselves in order to deserve, or look as if they deserve, promotion to higher positions. Although these people may not be identified as such in the world, they are identified as such in heaven." [17]

Swedenborg is saying that politicians may fool us, but they don't fool God. As one can see, the falsity of politicians hasn't changed in hundreds of years. We still get the same facade of caring, while pockets are being conveniently lined with our hard-earned money.

Whereas, in heaven, the story is altogether different:

"People who have performed useful services out of love for their neighbor are put in leadership positions over a heavenly community as well; there they have splendor and honor. Yet still they do not take that splendor or honor to heart, just the usefulness. The rest, however, who were useful because they loved the world or themselves, are rejected."

Here on earth, our leaders are still flawed humans, who have not yet learned the road to happiness is to serve. While we, must do what we can for our communities and country, to keep us on a path to assist the truly needy, give guidance to the lost, and continue to encourage honest government, which allows its citizens the freedoms we need to give and assist those more unfortunate than us without coercion.

<u>Chapter 11 – Faith Must Be Rooted in Reason</u>

Part of our trial, our struggle, here on this beautiful and often cruel planet is to find God and the Divine Laws He has created, by a path of our own devising. We are not allowed a shortcut - we are presented hints and signs and visions to move us along. Spiritist literature reveals the extent of the guidance and support we receive from the spirit realm. But, at the end, faith in God's plan is a mountain we must climb alone.

While we may have tethers to others close to us, it is up to our stamina, dedication, and courage to pull ourselves up to the summit. Because only through hard work and strenuous effort, by our surefooted reasoning can we build a solid base upon which to hold onto our faith while the winds of society tries to blow us off the side of the mountain.

In the chronicle <u>The life of Jesus</u>, in Chapter 13 (available on the internet) are words that ring true. While I can't vouch for the authenticity of the entire communication, I detect true wisdom and understanding of the state of our plight as humans on earth. This is what a spirit messenger from Jesus told the medium:

"In exercising its freedom the Spirit finds the necessary calm for its faith, the fervor for bold ideas and the decision to direct its own work. But, can this possibly be a complete and lasting freedom? Unfortunately not! – No, because the sad dependency of Spirits, on each other, must exist for the establishment of God's Justice in the worlds in which the destruction of the inferior species by other superior species indicates a progressive march that concludes with man, in the worlds in which the enormous disproportion between the Spirits themselves comes from causes painstakingly defined by the science we have established, a science that recognizes the immutability of the natural laws. Now, it is a fact that the Spirits' material dependency is a law of this world, ergo no one can avoid it, and the higher Spirit that is temporarily here conquers a provisional freedom or saddens on account of the oppression on its willpower. The weaknesses of faith are inherent in any belief held by concessions from reason itself. The weaknesses in the faith are sources of continuing efforts for all those who practice a religion without really understanding it. Fanaticism, which consists of an ardent faith without reason, must be considered as a disease of the

Spirit. True faith is never separated from reason. It points to a personality convinced of its divine attributes and this personality is forced to bow before the duties that result from it." [19]

The paragraph above is dense; there is a lot of information packed into it. In essence, we are told:

- 1. We have free will, but possessing free will doesn't mean we can make decisions in a vacuum. Our choices will always be limited by the world around us. We must make choices in the recognition of how our decision affects others and society at large.
- 2. We are bound by a set of Divine Laws. We can't escape the force of these laws. First, we reside on a planet of atonement, which means we live amongst a whole range of relatively immature spirits who are sent to this planet to pay for past wrongs. Our goal is to become a civilized spirit. To become one takes a walk through the fire of our trials and tribulations. Only by arduous effort, in multiple lives, will we remove our blemishes.
- 3. Those who are on this planet with more experiences and successes in previous lives are not given any special pass. They are subjected to the same waves of emotion and arrows of ill-feeling as the rest of us. Higher spirits are expected to perform better by being more focused ... drawing on their spiritual resources and history to withstand external forces.
- 4. Giving yourself to a religion, cult, or doctrine unquestioningly is a sign of weakness and poor judgement. Abnegation of personal responsibility to an earthly organization, demonstrates a desire to withdraw to a life without stress, without physical and intellectual struggle.
- 5. Faith is not blind trust. Faith is a belief in the extrapolation of what you know. For example, you work with a group of people. You know who is capable of performing well or poorly. You select a high performer to carry out a task; you have faith in that person's ability to be successful. Only because you have seen results before, not because that person promised they could do well. While, that person may falter, which would cause you to reevaluate your point

- of view, your original vote of confidence was built upon a foundation of reasoning.
- 6. Once we believe in the spiritual world and its set of Divine Laws, then we must follow that to its logical conclusion, which entails us to behave in a manner fitting with the Spiritist Doctrine.

Faith is not the end but the means to ascend in the spirit hierarchy. Only by acquiring faith can we begin to truly learn from the next level of experiences which will be assigned to us. The next paragraph notifies us this is so:

"Whatever the guideline cause of duty, it is the result of struggles, of claudicating, of previous faults of the Spirit whose future duties shall be shaped in the same way, based on those of the present. Only very slowly can the human nature get rid of its carnal tendencies, but only true faith can convey the thrust of courage, perseverance in all matters, contempt for all dangers and the study of the duties becomes easier and easier, the material life is exhausted when the Spirit conquers new positions, which rises from stage to stage until the complete annihilation of materiality. Brothers of mine, true faith honors the industrious intelligence who has traveled many paths, in which it has surrounded itself with protectors. True faith is the reward of all elderly Spirits, whose intellectual development is not disheartened by society's moral decay." [20]

The line of progression and the means to rise is clear and is consistent from other Spiritist literature I have read. But never have I seen the formula laid out so succinctly. I will lay it out in longer and ordered form so the reader may process it:

- 1. Over many lifetimes, through many different types of struggles, are we able to discharge the baser instincts and learn that love, charity, fraternity, and honor is the preferred path.
- 2. As we behave in a more civilized fashion, we are able to begin the intellectual leap to build a base of reasoning to attain rational faith.
- 3. Employing our new-found tool of certainty, even in a culture that rejects our ideals, we are given more complex trials. Trials which

- exercise our intellectual dexterity and readies us for even more responsibilities in the future.
- 4. As part of our climb, we accumulate methods to withstand assaults against our basic principles and at the same time, we establish relationships with other spirits to create a powerful support group, on earth and in the spirit realm.

This is the stark difference between success on earth and heaven. On earth, there are many roads to the top - honorable and dishonorable. In heaven, the only path is work, faith, and love. We begin as primitive, ignorant spirits, living life through trial and error. Unbeknownst to us, like a kindergartener, we are shepherded through a series of lessons, each making a faint impression upon our immortal spirit memory. Eventually, a realization occurs, a spark of insight that there may indeed be something above us; more important than our desire for luxury and immediate pleasure. This flash of discovery propels us to create a rational foundation for our faith, which then enables us to commence a new level of trials and missions on earth (or another planet).

Once one is able to look at life as a string of existences, culminating in an exciting discovery and reward in the spiritual world, the momentary depths, the bouts of disease and depression, are more tolerable. Tolerable because they had reason behind them and all were meant to produce a reaction to promote education. The British says it best, "Carry On"; that is what we must do, just carry on, just keep moving forward, with good humor (if possible) and never stop learning from mistakes and experiences.

Chapter 12 – The Affinity of Spirits

In Spiritist literature, one of the Divine Laws is the Law of Affinity. It is revealed in *The Spirits Book*. The book was <u>codified</u> by <u>Allan Kardec</u> in the 1850's. Allan Kardec didn't write the book, he posed questions to high spirits. He employed multiple mediums throughout Europe to ask the same question, without knowledge of other mediums, and he only used the answer if the medium reported a similar answer as other mediums obtained.

One of the main drivers for the happiness of being a spirit in the levels of heaven is that you are with others who share your characteristics. The opposite is true of the Lower Zone or Umbral as it is called in Portuguese. Hence, the good are grouped with the good, loving, calm, serene, and caring while the souls who left their earthly bodies behind, but who couldn't leave their earthly traits behind, such as envy, hatred, selfishness are also associated with their own kind.

The Law of Affinity is indirectly explained in multiple places in Kardec's books, although I don't recall seeing a succinct definition in one passage. The passage which illustrates best the benefit of the Law of Affinity is the following:

980. Is the sympathic link which unites spirits of the same order a source of felicity for them?

"The union of spirits who sympathize in the love of goodness is one of their highest enjoyments, for they have no fear of seeing that union disturbed by selfishness. In worlds altogether spiritual, they form families animated by the same sentiment, and this union constitutes the happiness of those worlds, as in your world you group yourselves into categories, and experience pleasure in being thus brought together. The pure and sincere affection felt by elevated spirits, and of which they are the object, is a source of felicity, for there are neither false friends nor hypocrites among them." [21]

Allan Kardec then wrote his impression of what the spirits communicated:

"Man enjoys the first-fruits of this felicity upon the earth when he meets with those with whom he can enter into cordial and noble union.

In a life of greater purity than that of the earth, this felicity becomes ineffable and unbounded, because their inhabitants meet only with sympathetic souls whose affection will not be chilled by selfishness. For love is life; it is selfishness that kills." [22]

When you are with true friends, their encouraging attitude and love increases your own feeling of contentment and functions as a generator to send your own feelings back to the group. Thereby, collectively creating a positive feedback loop, elevating the entire collective. Sounds like heaven? It is.

This is why Jesus said of the entrance to heaven, "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able." (Luke 13:24) Only those who have left behind their baser emotions and the quest for ill-gotten material wealth shall be allowed.

This makes sense because how would the dynamics of a close-knit group change with a selfish, power-hungry addition who thought of the others as sheep waiting to be fleeced. The answer is that the group would quickly dissipate or dissolve into a rancorous mob instead of a force for positive achievement. Therefore, to join the club (enter that narrow door) you have to grow your spiritual side and discard your quest to dominate and take from others just to satisfy your personal desires.

Therefore, if after you discard your physical body and yearn to live in a comfortable, loving, and warm environment, then you must demonstrate your ability to contribute. The proof of your worth lies within the life you lead. Your life, unbeknownst to you, isn't a series of happenstance and random events, but a carefully laid out plan, designed to educate and test you.

<u>Chapter 13 – Why Were Jesus' Sermons So</u> <u>Effective</u>

In the book, *Memoirs of a Suicide*, a spirit is introduced, who in one of his previous lives, was one of the children welcomed by Jesus when, he said, "Let the little children come to me, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs..."

The spirit Anibal is introduced with the following interesting piece of information:

"He says that when the Lord preached his gentle Doctrine of Love, marvelously precise, elucidating images appeared unexpectedly before the eyes of the listeners of goodwill, enlightening them in an unmistakable manner and imprinting never to be forgotten illustrations on the folds of their being! That is why the great Envoy, preaching in unshakeable serenity, could hold the attention of famished multitudes for hours on end, control turbulent mobs, enrapture listeners, and convince hearts that would either prostrate themselves, fearful and dazed, when he passed by, or adhere, faithful and enchanted, to His Doctrine. The impious, however, those whose rebellious minds were in discord with the divine vibrations, perceived nothing." [23]

This is why, reading the books inspired by spirits, is so interesting. You never know, when you turn a page, what wonderful nugget of new information you are going to learn.

Learn more about the spirit realm and how the Spirit of Truth, who Jesus promised us in the New Testament, has told us more about why we are here and who we are:

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Consoler to help you and be with you forever...the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you." New Testament John 14: 15-17

"But the Consoler, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." New Testament John 14: 26

The prophecy was fulfilled. In the 1850's The Spirit of Truth began to communicate with us. Opening doors to the life beyond our existence and its meaning which few of us suspected.

We were told, that we, as immortal spirits come to earth to improve. We are granted the opportunity to don a physical form in order to transform ourselves into loving, caring and honest individuals. That we are assigned to this school of earth for as many lifetimes as required to attain a pure state.

Chapter 14 - The Reason for Sex

"The control center of sex is not located in the dense body, but in the sublime organization of the soul" [24]

I read this and was intrigued. If there was anything about us that seemed to be rooted in our dense primitive and often brutish bodies it is sex!

But Andre Luiz's mentor tell us what sex means in the higher spiritual regions and how it molds us here on earth:

"Down on earth, men and women are distinguished according to specific organic features. As for us, in transit to higher spiritual regions, the remembrance of our earthly existence is still preponderant. We know, however, that in such higher regions femininity and masculinity are characteristics of souls that are highly passive or openly active." [25]

Hence sex is an attitude, or more succinctly an attribute. Attributes that we acquire throughout our many lives. He describes this process further:

"Consequently, we know that, in the variations of our experiences, we gradually acquire divine qualities such as determination and tenderness, strength and humility, power and gentleness, intelligence and sentiment, initiative and intuition, wisdom and love, until we attain our supreme balance in God." [26]

As we progress we learn to balance the active and passive sides of our nature. Every spirit is unique and all will have different degrees, but all who ascend into purity will achieve a balance.

The mentor tells us that the human race started out like animals, where the male possessed the female, but given millennia of slow evolution the combinations of woman-mother and man-father migrated to the concept of the tribe, the primitive shelter changed into the home and the quest for wild game transformed into the farm. From this, the spark of sex, civilization arose, the wooden club of the caveman became the gift of flowers to his love.

We all must travel this road to prefect balance. The mentor describes our journey:

"Sometimes, humans take years, centuries and many lifetimes to go from one level to the next. Few individuals are able to keep themselves above the fray with the equilibrium that is required. Very few have crossed the territory of ownership without battling cruelly with the monsters of selfishness and jealousy, to which they have completely surrendered. A small number travel the road of tenderness without shackling themselves for a long stretch to the many chains of exclusiveness. And sometimes, only after millennia of excruciating, purifying trials, can the soul reach the luminous zenith of sacrifice for its final deliverance en route to new cycles of unification with the Divinity." [27]

Therefore, we own no one, we direct no one, we merely love, cherish and help one another. Always providing feedback for the spiritual benefit of our partner. Each one of us learning to weigh our active and passive sides. Learning to know when one is better than the other in different circumstances.

<u>Chapter 15 - 8 Things to keep in Mind</u> <u>Concerning Spirits</u>

Allan Kardec wrote about spirits in one of the 1858 editions of his magazine, Spiritist Review. He wrote about a young medium who was fooled by a lesser spirit into performing nonsensical acts.

The United States Spiritist Council, published the entire editions of Kardec's magazine for the year 1858 and it makes fascinating reading. The title of the book is, *Spiritist Review - Journal of Psychological Studies - 1858*, published in 2015.

In the chapter about the young medium and how he was tricked, Allan Kardec lays out eight main points to remember when dealing with spirits. Each one is worth keeping in mind when dealing with the "Other World":

- "1.The spirits are not all equal nor in power, nor in knowledge or wisdom. As they are no more than human souls detached from their corporeal body, they present a variety even greater than that of people on Earth, because they come from all worlds and, among the globes. Earth is neither the most basic nor the most advanced. Thus, there are very superior spirits as there are very inferior ones; very good and bad; very wise and very ignorant; there are those of levity, malevolence, liars, astute, hypocrites, polished, sharp, jokers, etc.
- 2. We are incessantly surrounded by a cloud of spirits that occupy the space around us, despite the fact that we cannot see them, watching our acts, reading our thoughts, some to do us good, others to do us harm, whether good or bad spirits, accordingly.
- 3. From the physical and moral inferiority of our globe in the hierarchy of the worlds, the inferior spirits are more numerous here than the superior ones.
- 4. Among those spirits that surround us there are those that attach to us; that act more particularly over our thoughts, giving us

advice, and whose influence we follow unnoticeably. Good for us if we hear the voice of good spirits only.

- 5. The inferior spirits only bond to those that listen to them, that give them access and to whom they connect. If successful on dominating someone, they identify with their own spirit, fascinating them, obsessing them, subjugating them, and leading then as one does to a child.
- 6. Obsession can never happen but by inferior spirits. The good spirits don't produce any kind of coercion, combat the influence of the bad spirits and stay away when they are not listened to.
- 7. The degree of coercion and the nature of the effects it produces determine the difference between obsession, subjugation and fascination.

Obsession is the almost permanent action of a strange spirit that leads the person to be solicited by an incessant need to act by this way or the other and to do this or that.

Subjugation is a moral bond that paralyzes the free will of the one that suffers it, pushing the person to the most reckless attitudes, frequently most contrary to their own interest.

Fascination is a kind of illusion produced by the direct action of a strange spirit or by his cunning thoughts. Such as illusion produces an alteration in the comprehension of moral things, leading to misjudgment and to mistake evil for good.

8. Human beings can always disengage from the oppression of the imperfect spirits by their will power, by the choice between good and bad. If the coercion achieved the point of paralyzing the will and if the fascination is such that it obliterates reason, then the will of a third person may replace it." [28]

Therefore, for those in the process or just curious about communicating with the spirit world, one must be on guard and weary to whom you let into your house and mind.

<u>Chapter 16 - Law of Affinity – Enforcer of Good</u> Behavior

The spirits tell us that one could summarize the Doctrine of Spiritism as the Golden Rule. If you always follow the dictum, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you", you have achieved the lion's share of what the spirit realm, and Jesus himself, have been trying to teach us for the last two or three thousand years. The problem is the majority of people ask themselves, why should I follow the Golden Rule? It may make one's conscience feel serene, for a moment or two, but it sure as heck doesn't put food on the table. Ignoring it put lots of food on the proverbial table and other luxuries as well.

Everyone knows the fastest way to get rich is to take money from other people. Honest methods tend to be slow and sure, but nothing beats a dishonest or unscrupulous scheme for speeding up the process to drain capital from the hapless suckers into your own bucket. Sure, a pang of guilt may strike every now and then, but living the life of luxury more than makes up for the temporary discomfort.

The Law of Affinity is the answer. It provides the entire backstory, the complete process that controls your life on earth and in the spirit world. It remembers every deed, every slight, and every deceitful and insincere act that you have either thought of or committed. By your unique identifier; your baggage is tagged with your name on it. And the only way to relieve yourself of the paper trail of fines that are following you is to pay them.

The Law of Affinity is the enforcer. It tracks and categorizes your past actions and deposits you exactly where you belong. Oh the injustice! I am not sure about you, but I hate it when anyone says you get what you deserve. I always think that the other person should get theirs first and leave me alone long enough for my paperwork to get lost.

This Divine Law, this immutable law, associates us with others similar to us. In other words, to reverse paraphrase the Golden Rule, we are done to what we have done to others. Hence, if we were criminals, we are put on earth with some of our accomplices, so we may collectively figure out the

wisdom, or lack of, of accumulating enemies. If we were basically decent stock, we will be allowed to be raised and supported by others like us, thus helping us on our way to spiritual enlightenment.

There are many variations, a reprobate may be allotted to a good family, to give her or him a decent start in life, then will be presented with a harrowing set of trials to determine if she or he will make honorable free-will decisions. Or a decent fellow may be selected as the only son of a couple who robbed him of his rightful inheritance in a past life, so he may reclaim it when his parents die in a tragic accident. The bottom line, is that everything we did all comes back to us.

One may ask, if this is so how could we improve? Wouldn't it be tougher in such difficult circumstances? Could a poor soul, who has much to learn, in the spirit world amongst ill-intentioned spirits or on earth in a mafia-like family, actually rise above the muck and modify his or her behavior? The answer is yes, it is possible, it is challenging, but it can be done.

It is conceivable to improve in the worst of conditions because of the gift from God that we all have embedded within us. The gift of a conscience. Implanted in our spirit and in our physical brain is the entire set of Divine Laws and a detector when we violate one. When we start out as primitive beings, we gleefully ignore the warning bells and whistles. Gradually we notice that it is better to heed the signals we give ourselves than to ignore them.

As we accumulate experiences over thousands, if not tens of thousands of years, we build up a library of interpretations, so we may fully understand the nuances in every situation and select the truest course of action. At some point, for all of us have started from a deep hole we have dug ourselves by our intransigence; we grasp the concept that by following our inner detector a better life is possible. From that humble beginning we commence the climb upward and outward.

<u>Chapter 17 - There are no such things as eternal</u> <u>Demons or Satan – according to Spiritism</u>

Spiritism reveals to us that we are imperfect souls on a quest to become pure spirits. What many consider bad spirits, demons, or manifestations of the devil are spirits who have not yet learned the true path to goodness. They are ignorant, immature, or rebellious spirits who rejected the required hard road to perfection.

Allan Kardec's, *The Spirits Book*, tells us the answer in:

Question 131. Are there any demons in the usual acceptation of that term?

"Men have done in regard to devils what they have done in regard to angels. Just as they have imagined that there are beings who were created perfect from all eternity, so they have imagined that spirits of the lower degrees were beings essentially and eternally bad. The words demon, devil, ought, therefore, to be understood as indicating impure spirits who are often no better that the imaginary beings designated by those names, but with this difference, namely, that their state of impurity and inferiority is only transitory. They are the imperfect spirits who rebel against the discipline of trial to which they are subjected, and who, therefore, have to undergo that discipline for a longer period, but who will, nevertheless, reach the goal in time, when they shall have made up their minds to do so. The words demon, devil, might accordingly be employed in this sense; but as they have come to be understood exclusively as conveying the meaning now shown to be false, their employment might lead into error by seeming to recognize the existence of beings specially created for evil." [29]

Allan Kardec expands upon what was delivered to him by high spirits:

"As regards the term 'Satan,' it is evidently a personification of the principle of evil under an allegorical form for it is impossible to admit the existence of a being who fights against God as an independent and rival power, and whose sole business in life is to contravene His designs. As images and figures are necessary in order to strike the

human imagination, men have pictured to themselves the beings of the incorporeal world under a material form, with attributes indicative of their good or bad qualities. It is thus that the ancients, wishing to personify the idea of time, represented it under the figure of an old man with a scythe and an hour-glass. To have personified it under the figure of a youth would have been contrary to common sense. The same may be said of the allegories of Fortune, Truth, etc. The moderns have represented the angels or pure spirits under the form of radiant beings with white Wings-emblem of purity Satan, with horns, claws, and the attributes of bestiality-emblems of the lowest Passions; and the vulgar, prone to understand such representations literally, have taken these allegorical embodiments of abstract ideas for real personalities, as they formerly did in regard to the allegorical personifications of the old mythology." [30]

Hence, what are considered evil spirits in many religions and superstitions are actually poor unfortunate souls who haven't yet ascended. They are there to take advantage of people in their time of weakness or want. One day, with our help and assistance from the spirit world they shall learn that the path of love and kindness is superior to all others. From that point on they shall begin their climb up the ladder to heaven.

<u>Chapter 18 - Keeping the Same Gender Over</u> <u>Multiple Lives</u>

In *The Spirits Book*, we are told that a spirit can be reincarnated as either sex. But we aren't told if spirits alternate or stay the same sex in life after life. In the books by Francisco C. Xavier, we learned that families tend to reincarnate and spirits of one sex tend to remain in that gender.

Higher spirits, lose their gender, for after countless years of lives and experiences they have balanced the characteristics of both sexes.

Hence, it appears that changing gender is a slow evolving process for many spirits. In the book *Action and Reaction*, one of the Andre Luiz series of books, psychographed by Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier, we learn of other reasons why spirits are sent back to earth in a different gender than the one they had last time.

Silas, who is Andre's mentor talks about the alteration of gender for a spirit from one life to another:

"Considering that, in essence, sex is the sum of the passive and positive qualities of the person's mental field, it is natural for the predominantly female spirit to linger for centuries on the evolutionary pathway as woman; likewise, the predominately male spirit will tarry for a long time in the experiences of man. However, on many occasions, when the man tyrannizes the woman, denying her rights and committing abuses in the name of his supposed superiority, he distorts himself to the point that, unconscious and imbalanced, he is led by the agents of the Divine Law to a pain-filled reincarnation in a woman's body so that, in extreme inner discomfort, he may learn to venerate woman as his sister and companion, daughter and mother before God. The same applies to the offensive woman, who, after dragging the man into lust and criminality, creates for herself a terrible mental alienation that she takes with her after the grave, thereby requiring internment in man's body so that, in the webs of her unhappy emotions, she may construct within her the respect she owes to man before the Lord." [31]

Therefore, for those who take advantage of their sex to harm the other gender will spend time in the same type of body as their previous victims. It is the corollary of the Golden Rule that is used to teach us our wrongs, "Others will do unto you, as you have done unto them".

<u>Chapter 19 - Spirit Based Religion – Your Choices, Your Revelations</u>

In *The Urantia Book*, Jesus talks about the differences between a religion of the mind and a religion of the spirit. Whereas the religion of the mind compels one to accept precepts and ideas imposed on you by others — where eventually dogma becomes a tool to force everyone in compliance. Religion of the spirit is an individual exploration for Divine Truth … the search for God.

Religion of the Mind

Jesus, as represented in *The Urantia Book*, begins the discussion with the effect of the current (Jewish thinking at the time of Christ) dogma upon his apostles and the very people they are attempting to convert:

"You have come out from among those of your fellows who choose to remain satisfied with a religion of mind, who crave security and prefer conformity. You have elected to exchange your feelings of authoritative certainty for the assurances of the spirit of adventurous and progressive faith. You have dared to protest against the grueling bondage of institutional religion and to reject the authority of the traditions of record which are now regarded as the word of God. Our Father did indeed speak through Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Amos, and Hosea, but he did not cease to minister words of truth to the world when these prophets of old made an end of their utterances. My Father is no respecter of races or generations in that the word of truth is vouchsafed one age and withheld from another. Commit not the folly of calling that divine which is wholly human, and fail not to discern the words of truth which come not through the traditional oracles of supposed inspiration." [32]

Jesus is telling us the inherent danger in organized religion; it fossilizes thinking – no new ideas are allowed to disturb the old order. Even worse, for those who accept what is delivered to them by the priestly class, is a kind of intellectual stupor – you know what has been told to you and there is nothing more to learn. Any new data is labeled heresy.

The nature of the human tribe is to enforce conformity and to either shame, punish, or banish those who do not fall in line. Hence, we have static religions in which any new concept is met with absolute resistance. In the past, and even now, wars have been fought, and people have died, just because of a different approach to God.

Jesus acknowledges that there have been prophets, but we should not confuse their bringing information from the spirit world with categorizing the message as a Divine Commandment. The message from the spirit world to the prophet was pertinent to the prophet, given his or her culture and level of technological advancement at the time.

Spiritism tells us the same. Humans can only decipher what is given to them according to their base of knowledge. Hence, we are only told what is possible for us to comprehend. It is the same concept where an adult would not attempt to lecture about calculus to a first grader.

Spiritism states that we should not take the Bible literally. Only the messages of love, charity, and fraternity are eternal. The spirit realm has been gradually modifying communications to humans on earth as they progress.

Religion of the Spirit

Instead of religion of the mind, Jesus introduces the concept of religion of the spirit:

"I have called upon you to be born again, to be born of the spirit. I have called you out of the darkness of authority and the lethargy of tradition into the transcendent light of the realization of the possibility of making for yourselves the greatest discovery possible for the human soul to make – the supernal experience of finding God for yourself, in yourself, and of yourself, and of doing all this as a fact in your own personal experience. And so may you pass from death to life, from the authority of tradition to the experience of knowing God; thus will you pass from darkness to light, from a racial faith inherited to a personal faith achieved by actual experience; and thereby will you progress from a theology of mind handed down by your ancestors to a true religion of spirit which shall be built up in your souls as an eternal endowment.

Your religion shall change from the mere intellectual belief in traditional authority to the actual experience of that living faith which is able to grasp the reality of God and all that relates to the divine spirit of the Father. The religion of the mind ties you hopelessly to the past; the religion of the spirit consists in progressive revelation and ever beckons you on toward higher and holier achievements in spiritual ideals and eternal realities.

While the religion of authority may impart a present feeling of settled security, you pay for such a transient satisfaction the price of the loss of your spiritual freedom and religious liberty. My Father does not require of you as the price of entering the kingdom of heaven that you should force yourself to subscribe to a belief in things which are spiritually repugnant, unholy, and untruthful. It is not required of you that your own sense of mercy, justice, and truth should be outraged by submission to an outworn system of religious forms and ceremonies. The religion of the spirit leaves you forever free to follow the truth wherever the leadings of the spirit may take you. And who can judge – perhaps this spirit may have something to impart to this generation which other generations have refused to hear?" [33]

How refreshing! What Jesus was recorded as saying in *The Urantia Book*, "My Father does not require of you as the price of entering the kingdom of heaven that you should force yourself to subscribe to a belief in things which are spiritually repugnant, unholy, and untruthful." [34] - is exactly what Spiritism exhorts us to do.

As an example, in *The Spirits Book* we are told marriage is between two spirits (no mention of between a male and a female), and then in Question 202:

202. Does a spirit, when existing in the spirit-world prefer to be incarnated as a man or a woman?

"That point in regard to which a spirit is indifferent, and which is always decided in view of the trials which he has to undergo in his new corporeal life." [35]

Hence, a spirit may incarnate as a male or a female, depending on the trials that the spirit desired, or was assigned, to live through in their life on

earth. And, since marriage is between two spirits, a marriage is composed of two humans. *The Spirits Book* was codified, from communications from many spirits via mediums, in the 1850s, by <u>Allan Kardec</u>. This was a very advanced concept for that time.

In fact, there was more to offend the religious class of that day:

940. Is not the lack of sympathy between persons destined to live together also a source of sorrow, and one that is all the more bitter because it poisons an entire existence?

"Very bitter it is, undoubtedly; but it is usually a misfortune of your own causing. In the first place, your laws are at fault; for how can you suppose that those who dislike one another can be intended by God to live together?" [36]

Therefore, the rejection of any type of divorce in the 19 th century was called into question by a message from the Spirit of Truth. No wonder the Catholic Church burned *The Spirits Book*!

To Be Born Again

The quest for God, via religion of the spirit, is the true meaning of being born again. It is the metamorphosis of casting off the search for material pleasures and a false moral certitude to begin to experience the intellectual ecstasy of spiritual discovery. It is the repudiation of what you know to be wrong, incorrect, or against the dictates of your conscience.

Your conscience, that gift from God, is with you in life after life, it is always present and will signal to you when an act is wrong. Religion of the spirit entails learning to follow your conscience, to not rationalize a wrong deed, but do right in the face of pressure.

Jesus provides the outcome for the earth, when we learn to be truly born again:

"Human unity and mortal brotherhood can be achieved only by and through the super endowment of the religion of the spirit. Racial minds may differ, but all mankind is indwelt by the same divine and eternal spirit. The hope of human brotherhood can only be realized when, and as, the divergent mind religions of authority become impregnated with, and overshadowed by, the unifying and ennobling religion of the spirit – the religion of personal spiritual experience.

The religions of authority can only divide men and set them in conscientious array against each other; the religion of the spirit will progressively draw men together and cause them to become understandingly sympathetic with one another. The religions of authority require of men uniformity in belief, but this is impossible of realization in the present state of the world. The religion of the spirit requires only unity of experience — uniformity of destiny — making full allowance for diversity of belief. The religion of the spirit requires only uniformity of insight, not uniformity of viewpoint and outlook. The religion of the spirit does not demand uniformity of intellectual views, only unity of spirit feeling. The religions of authority crystallize into lifeless creeds; the religion of the spirit grows into the increasing joy and liberty of ennobling deeds of loving service and merciful ministration." [37]

As we each, individually, find our own path to believe in God and the spirit world, our discoveries will connect us to others who have glimpsed the universe of love. We shall learn to love, to understand the trials of others, and do our best to sympathize with difficult episodes of life.

Jesus lays out how we should approach the road to discovery:

"You must cease to seek for the word of God only on the pages of the olden records of theologic authority. Those who are born of the spirit of God shall henceforth discern the word of God regardless of whence it appears to take origin. Divine truth must not be discounted because the channel of its bestowal is apparently human. Many of your brethren have minds which accept the theory of God while they spiritually fail to realize the presence of God. And that is just the reason why I have so often taught you that the kingdom of heaven can best be realized by acquiring the spiritual attitude of a sincere child. It is not the mental immaturity of the child that I commend to you but rather the *spiritual simplicity* of such an easy-believing and fully-trusting little one. It is not so important that you should know about the fact of God as that you should increasingly grow in the ability to *feel the presence of God*.

When you once begin to find God in your soul, presently you will begin to discover him in other men's souls and eventually in all the creatures and creations of a mighty universe. But what chance does the Father have to appear as a God of supreme loyalties and divine ideals in the souls of men who give little or no time to the thoughtful contemplation of such eternal realities? While the mind is not the seat of the spiritual nature, it is indeed the gateway thereto.

But do not make the mistake of trying to prove to other men that you have found God; you cannot consciously produce such valid proof, albeit there are two positive and powerful demonstrations of the fact that you are God-knowing, and they are:

- 1. The fruits of the spirit of God showing forth in your daily routine life.
- 2. The fact that your entire life plan furnishes positive proof that you have unreservedly risked everything you are and have on the adventure of survival after death in the pursuit of the hope of finding the God of eternity, whose presence you have foretasted in time." [38]

I took my first step toward my own discovery with the realization that I did indeed have a life plan. Only when future events were identified in the most exact detail and they came true – against all of my expectations – was my whole outlook on life derailed and I was forced to search for a higher authority. Only then, did I commence my search.

I didn't have the presence of mind to follow the path of *spiritual simplicity*, instead I was presented with an impossibility that had to have an explanation ... a cause not based upon our physical universe.

Now, after feeling the presence of my spirit mentors, I am more capable of actually sensing the presence of God and the wonderments of their love and constant assistance.

I still question everything. Spiritism wishes our spiritual quotient to be based upon reason; our own accumulation of evidence. But the answer keeps returning to the fact that we are loved and guided by the spirit realm, and all of this is possible by the atmosphere of love emanating from God.

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<u>Chapter 20 – Suicide - Please Don't Even</u> <u>Consider It!! - You are an Immortal Spirit</u>

We Spiritists, are taught that we must pay in this life or the next for the wrongs we have committed. But for suicide, the payment is immediate. In Andre Luiz's first book, *Nosso Lar*, psychographed by Francisco C. Xavier, published in 1944, Andre dies and is sent to:

"Actually, I felt like a prisoner trapped behind dark bars of horror. With my hair on end, my heart pounding, and scared stiff, I often cried out like a madman. I begged for mercy and clamored against the painful despondency that had taken hold of my spirit. But when my loud cries didn't fall on an implacable silence, they were answered by lamenting voices even more pitiful than my own. At other times, sinister laughter rent the prevailing silence. I thought that some unknown companion out there was a prisoner of insanity. Diabolical forms, ghastly faces, animal-like countenances appeared from time to time, increasing my panic. When it wasn't pitch dark, the landscape seemed to be bathed in a lurid light as if shrouded in a thick mist that was warmed from afar by the rays of the sun." [39]

Sounds horrible. Andre told of people coming to him and calling out "Suicide!", but he knew he didn't commit suicide. It wasn't until he was rescued by the spirits from Nosso Lar, that he discovered that he was a suicide, an "unconscious suicide", which denotes that he drank and whored himself to death (or more explicitly, syphilis and liver damage killed him). Andre stayed in that location until he finally prostrated himself and begged for God's mercy and forgiveness.

In another book, *Memoirs of a Suicide*, by the Spirit Camilo Candido Botelho, published in 1955, psychographed by Yvonne A. Pereira, Camilo, who was a famous Portuguese author, committed suicide on June 1, 1890. He writes of the landscape where he found himself:

"Within its winding gorges and sinister caves, spirits that used to be men and women on the earth howled like hordes of infuriated demons, demented by the absolutely unconceivable intensity and strangeness of the sufferings that tormented them.

In that awful place that distraught eyes of the condemned were unable to discern even the slightest gentle outline of a tree that might bear witness to their hours of desperation; or any comforting scenery, for that matter, that might distract them from the wearisome contemplation of those gorges, where no other expression of life could enter other than that of supreme horror!

The ground, covered with fetid, dark soot-like matter was filthy, pasty, slippery and repugnant! The heavy air was asphyxiating, icy and darkened by threatening clouds, as if never-ending storms were roaring all around. When they inhaled, the spirits confined there would choke, as if the pulverized matter, more noxious than ash and lime, had invaded their respiratory tract, tormenting them with a torture unimaginable to a human mind used to the glorious light of the sun-that celestial gift that blesses the earth every day - and the life-giving currents of salutary breezes that invigorate the physical bodies of the planet's inhabitants." [40]

The absence of the sun, the presence of pitiful creatures, the filth, all in common with both experiences. Not a good place to be. The spirit world must have desired to create a place that would be worse than whatever drove you to the conclusion that death would be a better alternative.

Why does such pain await for suicides and for people who drink, drug, or smoke themselves to death? Because, when we are reincarnated, we are expected to live through our trials, our lessons. The act of dropping out of those classroom activities is not an allowed option.

We are told that when a person commits suicide, they will usually reside in this terrible place for the number of years that they would have normally lived. This is why, we have an obligation to live to our agreed upon lifespan. Since many of us are participants in mapping out the trials we shall experience while incarnated on earth.

We must remember, as said many times in books psychographed by Chico Xavier and in the books by Allan Kardec, we are not given trials that we don't have a way to be triumphant. While the road may seem impossible, there is always a method for a successful exit. And by the way, maintain a good attitude throughout the entire ordeal and you may get bonus points.

<u>Chapter 21 – Obsession – Example of How an</u> <u>Unkind Spirit Can Lead a Person to be Obsessed</u>

There must be many ways for a person to be obsessed, in the book, *Action and Reaction*, by Francisco C. Xavier, dictated by the spirit Andre Luiz, there is an example of one method used to cause an innocent person to become obsessed.

The Encounter

The definition of obsession is:

"The domination of one's thoughts or feelings by a persistent idea, image, desire, etc." [41]

In the book, *Action and Reaction*, Andre Luiz is studying in the Lower Zones when he encounters a woman who ask that he and his friends assist her to help her son. She tells them that her son, Luis, is being obsessed because of the wrongs of his father.

Luis is now grown into a man with a wife and children. His father murdered his two uncles so only he would be left with the inheritance. With the father dead and out of the uncles grasp in the spirit world, the two are concentrating on destroying their nephew's life. All out of revenge.

Andre Luiz journeys to the house where he finds it filled with miserly spirits. Spirits who are themselves obsessed with the material world and treasure. These poor spirits haven't been able to leave the lower zone because of their inability to free themselves of their desire for riches on earth. They haven't yet learned to look up and follow the path of love and service to others.

Andre and company wander around the house. They spot the son, freed from his physical body at night, admiring the stacks of money in his office, there they meet the two uncles. After a brief conversation with the two malefactors, Silas, Andre's team leader summarizes the situation:

"'What you've said leads us to believe that, besides his sickly attachment to precarious human wealth, this man,' and he pointed to

Luis, who continued to seem fascinated with the stacks of currency in the over-stuffed drawer, 'also suffers the pressure of other minds as delusional as his own in the illusions of material possessions. In this case, the sick desire that has seized him has increased to the maximum.'" [42]

One of the uncles, Leonel, proudly acknowledges what has just been said and like all criminals, he can't wait to describe exactly how the deed was accomplished:

"Yes, we learned in the schools for avengers that, besides our ordinary, immediate desires at every phase of life, we all possess a *central desire* or *basic theme* in our innermost interests. Therefore, besides the normal thoughts that bind us to our daily routines, we more frequently emit the thoughts that originate in the *central desire* that characterizes us. These thoughts eventually comprise the dominant reflection of our personality. This makes it easy to perceive anyone's nature on any plane just by analyzing their occupations and places of preference. Thus, cruelty is the reflection of the criminal, covetousness the reflection of the miser, defamation the reflection of the slanderer, sarcasm the reflection of the cynic, and anger the reflection of the disturbed person, just as moral elevation is the reflection of the saint."

What an easy mark most of us would be! I quickly recognized my dominate theme as a cynic, with sarcasm flowing from my thoughts and tongue. I have tried to improve, but a quick sarcastic remark is often the first impulse that comes to mind.

Clearly, I need to meditate and explore what exactly is my "central desire" and my "basic theme", so I may focus my energies on the good and not be influenced to exhibit undesirable behavior.

The Process

Next, Leonel, discusses the exact process to leverage what is already inside us:

"Once we discover the reflection of the individual we want to rectify or punish, it is very simple to overwhelm the person with unceasing stimuli, reinforcing the impulses and images already in his mind and creating new ones to superimpose over the old ones, thereby continually feeding his mental fixation. With this objective in mind, all we have to do is bring the pernicious individual we want to correct into contact with others that adapt to his manner of feeling and being, especially when we ourselves don't have the time to create all the appropriate mental screens through hypnotic procedures. Using such processes, we can easily create and maintain his *psychic delirium* or obsession, which is nothing more than an abnormal state of the mind that is dominated by the excess of its own creations pressing in on the sensorial field. This can be infinitely added to by the direct or indirect influence of other incarnate or discarnate minds that are attracted by their own reflections." [44]

Lastly Leonel tells the group:

"Everyone is tempted on the outside by the temptation they feel on the inside." [45]

Andre and his comrades are amazed at the succinct explanation. Take the mental state of the victim, use it, magnify it by planting even more of the same back into the thought generator and you have an effective ever increasing feedback loop.

Our brain picks up more than we know. Our mind also radiate thoughts to the world. We are a delicate instrument which must be kept in harmony at all times.

Modern stress opens us up and makes us vulnerable to outside influences upon our feelings. Guard against playing the same thoughts over and over again in your mind, they can be used against you.

If you find yourself pondering negative contemplations take a time out and slow down. Meditate and use your faith to forgive and forget, focus your energy on positive endeavors. Just like our physical body, which we must take an inventory at times to insure our good health, we should do the same mentally.

Take stock of what motivates you. Examine your desires and plans for the future. Moderate your aspirations and go forward with your plans using only honorable intentions and all shall be right.

<u>Chapter 22 - The Universal Cloud – Where all</u> <u>Information (Including Thoughts) is Stored</u>

Spirit Kathleen told this to the <u>Rev G. Vale Owen</u> in the book *Life Beyond the Veil* , in *The Ministry of Heaven* section:

"When we come to earth, friend, we say one to another by the way that we are going into the land of mist and twilight, that we may, in the interior world which we find there, shed abroad somewhat of our light and warmth, For, indeed, that these be much needed we are able to sense, even in those far spheres from which we come. You may wonder by what process of chemistry or dynamics this is made possible to us; and, in detail. But we are able to give you a somewhat epitomized account of this affair, and so we will, if it would be of interest to you, and those who shall come to read what we give you." [46]

Kathleen stated that the background to make communication possible is that we all live in the spirit universe. Our physical universe is a subset of the overall spirit domain. She tells us that we live in one ocean of spiritenergy. And there are no sharp boundaries, only graduations of ratios of energy versus matter, light and darkness, and so on. It is as if we all lived in the ocean, with certain species existing at great depths, with the entire weight of miles of water above them and little or no light bleeding down; and others living further up, with less weight upon them and more light. While communication between disparate species would be difficult, it would be possible.

This is just one of the great revelations brought to us by Spiritism. That we don't live in an encapsulated bubble, walled off from the afterlife. We live in the midst of spirit life, hence our transformation from physical to spirit life is not as traumatic as it would appear to us. It is the inadequacy of our senses which makes the transition seem so huge, so formidable. We are merely changing state, not being dissolved atom by atom. Our personality remains intact.

Kathleen then goes on to detail three methods which are employed to handle communications between spirits and incarnates.

Continuous Posting

"There is the method of continuous posting, wherein those workers nearest you hand on messages and reports to those in the sphere above, and they continue the operation until the message comes to its destination where it is to be appropriately dealt with. This is done swiftly – and yet in the flight of any message through the spheres it is sifted in each and that extracted which is proper to the workers of that particular sphere to undertake its answer. Also, messages from workers and prayers from the earth are filtered and made suitable for transmission into higher realms. Were this not done their earth grossness would weigh them down so heavily that what was in them of sublimity would not be competent to rise and come to the sphere where it is appropriate it should find destination." [47]

Hence, prayers, pleas, and overtly spoken requests for divine intervention are indeed noticed, taken, and sent upwards to be analyzed and answered. Like the Wells Fargo team of horses, that delivered mail from one outpost to another to eventually reach its destination, our appeals are loaded upon swift carriers to their journey's end.

Next, the spirit Kathleen describes the direct method of communication.

Direct Method of Communication

This method entails a high spirit talking directly to us. As an ambassador would speak for his country, a high spirit would be given the authority to perform whatever tasks are required to assist (or hinder from a foolish act) us in our physical life. Kathleen explains:

"There are those of you who have guides in the spheres for special work and guidance. Some of these guides are very high and bright angels, and their proper home is far above those spheres bordering on the earth. They may not ever be coming down to those of their charges, for, high as they be, they are not all powerful, and to descend to earth is expensive of energy, by reason of the necessity of conditioning themselves to the spheres through which they pass, and in each sphere there is a new condition for them to achieve until they come to earth. This is done from time to time, and, indeed, not seldom, when such work is afoot as to warrant such undertaking. But we are ever careful of

waste, who have so much to do for others' help, and do not spend lavishly, even of that which is infinite in its supply. We can do our work better, as a rule, by the method of direct communication." [48]

One is never sure the number of humans on earth who are on vital missions. These could range from helping a small town grow through new businesses or finally obtain a clean government, building a religious or healing center, to leading a country.

While all of us have a mission, to improve, some are called for an elevated purpose. One example of a person, where I am certain that a high spirit was assigned, is Francisco (Chico) Xavier. In his case we even know the name of the spirit mentor, Emmanuel. In fact, it is widely known in Brazil, that when Chico died in 2002, Emmanuel, who had previously left Chico's side a few years earlier, was incarnating in Brazil and Chico would be his spirit guide in the 21 st century. Hence, rotating responsibilities, where one friend is on earth and the other in the spirit realm, fully documents the closeness of how we are watched and guided by superior angels in heaven.

Kathleen expounds upon the method, she tells us how such a direct link is created and maintained:

"In order to establish this we devise a kind of telephone or telegraph — to use your own speech — a cord of vibrations and pulsations between us and you, and it is constructed of the blended vitality of the guide and the guided. I use here words I like not overmuch, but I cannot find other in your brain to use, so they must stand. I refer to such words as 'construct,' 'vitality,' and such as these. Sympathetic intercourse is by this means rendered continuous and sustained.

It is like the system of nerves between the body and the brain; it is always potentially operative, whenever need arises of help to be given. Whenever the charge turns to his far-away guide in thought or longing, that guide himself is at once aware and gives answer in the way he judges best." [49]

Kathleen uses the best words she could find in the mind of a non-scientific person in the 1910s. Imagine the spirit realm trying to deliver

these advanced concepts to the tribes of Israel thousands of years before Christ.

If Kathleen were attempting to convey this notion today, she could speak plainer and in concepts a normal person could comprehend. She could tell us that the link between the spirit and the person is like having a cell phone that is always on and dialed into each other. Their respective geographical locations would never be an impediment to communication. One merely needs to touch to activate and either speak or text a query.

The Universal Cloud – Holds Everything

"There is a third method, but more complicated than either of these I have summarized. It may, perhaps, be given such a name as universal, which is bad enough, but must serve. In the first process the stream of thought passing from earth to spheres more or less remote is handled and modified in each sphere as it travels on its way, like a continuous post across continents – only there is no change of horses nor pause on the way. In the next, the line is ever open and ever charged, like a telephone with electricity, and is direct in a line from the man on earth to the guide in his own proper sphere.

In the third the process is distinct from either of these. It is that by which every thought and action of man is reported in the heavens, and may, by those competent to do so, be read from time to time. These records are real and permanent, but the aspect of them and their method of constructure it is not possible for us to explain. Words have been very strained to serve in the first two descriptions. Here they fail in total. I will say but this, that every thought of every man has a universal application and effect. Call it ether, or what you will, the fluid which fills the spheres is of so sensitive and so compact and continuous a substance that if you touch it with a sigh at one end of the universe the effect is registered at the other end. Here, again, 'end' is not a proper word to use, for in the sense you use it there is no significance here. But that of which I now try so lamely to come at, so that I may show somewhat of its wonder to you, is that which the Savior Christ had in mind when, wiser than I, He did not name it with any name, but spoke of it only as it is found to be in operation thus: 'Not a hair of your head

is hurt, not a fledging falls from its nest, but the Father of All is notified." [50]

"Every thought and action of man is reported" – this was written in 1917. Kathleen could not begin to describe how this process could work, but in 1955, thirty-eight years later - more was revealed.

In the Realms of Mediumship, psychographed by the Brazilian Spiritist Chico Xavier, I noticed an unusual introduction by the spirit Emmanuel, who usually writes moral exhortations. He began the introduction, titled, "Rays, Waves, Mediums, Minds..." by surveying the history of science in what makes up our universe. He started with Leucippus, about 500 years before Christ, who theorized that everything was composed of atoms. Surveying others, including the Curies, who discovered radium. Finally mentioning Bohrs, Planck, and Einstein, whereupon he writes:

"The vehicle of flesh, the human body, is now nothing more than an electric vortex governed by consciousness.

Each tangible body is a bundle of concentrated energy. Matter is transformed into energy, and energy disappears to give way to matter.

Raised to the status of investigators of the truth, chemist and physicists, geometricians and mathematicians have become today's priest of the spirit without desiring it. Due to their ongoing studies, materialism and atheism will be compelled to vanish for lack of matter, the base that had ensured their negativistic speculations.

Laboratories are temples in which intelligence is driven to serve God; and even when intellectual activity is misguided, temporarily subordinated to the political hegemony that generates wars, the progress of science as a divine conquest continues to exalt the good and is bound for a glorious future.

That future belongs to the spirit!" [51]

I believe he is telling us, that no matter what a scientist believes as regards to a higher power, he or she is working toward the day, when the existence of the spirit world can't be doubted. Which, even *The Spirits Book*, by Allan Kardec, tells us will occur in the future. Now for the new

information which supplies the missing link to the spirit Kathleen's description what she calls "universal":

"Through the sentiments that characterize their inner life, all individuals emit specific rays and live within the spiritual wave with which they identify themselves.

Such truths cannot remain semi-hidden in our sanctuaries of faith; they will radiate from the temples of science like mathematical equations."

[52]

Hence we all have a unique identification, the same as a RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) chip, which is used to track packages and even help you check out goods from a store. It is a chip with a low level energy transmitter that is attached to each individual good, so computer systems will instantly know the location, price, and description of the object.

Another example is the flow of information from our cell phones or laptops on the internet. Each packet of data has a unique identification in the header, so that nugget of data is tagged with who sent it, where it was sent from, the time it was sent, and the information contained in the message.

Think of each and every one of us as a cell phone, which is always on, always broadcasting our vital signs and thoughts. Our signals don't have a limit measured in feet, as our cells phones do, but are unlimited as they fly all around us, in all directions, to be picked up and stored in the Supreme Library.

Now turn your mind to the trillions (up to the power of infinity) packets of data that must emanate from every human or other creature from every planet in the universe(s). All captured and stored. All retrievable upon command. Never wiped clean or forgotten. Everything.

When the NSA (National Security Administration) was first presented with the mandate to pick out possible terrorist activity, they realized they required data from a myriad amount of sources; cell phones, social networks, internet message boards, electronic invoices, ATM transactions, and other avenues; they knew they were trying to find a needle in a haystack. But their brilliant first step was to realize that to find a needle in a haystack, one first must create a haystack. Hence, they built server farms

with immense storage capability, and routed data from every application that we use in our daily life into one of the largest databases in the world (I surmise, but I have no direct knowledge of this). From this mountain of data, they could query and search the world for what they were tracking.

Therefore, for the Supreme Intelligence, our life is an open book. Nothing is missing. Every thought and deed is recorded. One only needs to know our unique identifier and all is revealed. All of it in the Universal Cloud, the database of all databases.

From Jesus, two thousand years ago, to 1917 during World War I, to 1955 during the Cold War, we are being updated on what is actually happening in the spirit realm and how they track us.

When one begins to read Spiritist literature, the parables that Jesus told us become clear. When He told us that the Father of All is notified of everything, this just wasn't just a sentiment to make us think twice before we commit a wrong act, but a statement of fact.

Only within the last ten to twenty years could enough people visualize how this could occur. We are only told when we have the capacity to understand the concepts presented to us. This is why, no literature presented to the human race should be regarded as the final and absolute word of God, since at each major stage of understanding ... we shall be given more information. Spiritism tells us that only the messages of love, fraternity, and charity are universal, while all else is what was transmitted to people according to their level of sophistication at the time.

Therefore, understand well, there is no such thing as privacy. Nothing we do, say, or think is ever hidden or unexposed. We all live in glass houses. On one hand this is a frightening disclosure, but on the other, we all share the same circumstances. Spirits superior to us have all journeyed through their time of undisciplined thoughts – they all understand what we are going through – and they are all sympathetic to our plight. Just as we watch our young children make mistake after mistake, but ever-loving them, and spurring on their growth, the spirit realm benevolently looks down upon us too.

One More Hypothesis

Take all that you have read ... we are connected to the universal cloud ... we all live in the spirit ocean ... we all send messages that can travel throughout the universe ... we can communicate between different states of existences. What does this imply?

As a thought experiment, think of your definition of distance. For us on earth it is the space, measured in miles or kilometers, between two points. Now think of a video game or a movie, where the characters travel throughout the universe they live in. There are distances in these man-made places. In the video game world, your avatar may have to travel from one land to another, a real distance to them, as they cross rivers, mountains, and oceans. On the screen the scenes unfold, but all images are in fact driven by software – software programmed by a team of analysts, coders, and managers. An actor may take a plane from one city to another, but in reality all within the confines of one studio.

On screen all appears immense, expansive landscapes unfold – all created by teams of people who are in close association with each other. Commands are spoken and heard, while on the screen it may appear that different actors are continents apart. In the software domain, all the landscapes, characters, and dialog are orchestrated by layers of systems – all in constant communication. Whereupon a change of state in one aspect is immediately transmitted to all other sub-applications that need to know. A central database holds all static and dynamic data.

Everything runs according to certain rules. For actors, there are limits to green screen interactions, their voices and the ability of microphones to pick up sound is a constant. In the video world, the capability of the computer running the game, the screen resolutions, and the memory size must all be respected.

This is the true world we live in. God is the creator, the director of our universe. He lays down the rules. Rules that, try as we may to ignore, are impossible to isolate ourselves from for long. We are the actors and constructed characters in the world. A world real to us ... for we are within it ... but constructed – constructured as the spirit Kathleen would say; as a vehicle for us to learn what we have been assigned.

We wander from one movie set or software operating system platform to another – each with its own specifications. Always – and this is

important – taking with us our personality. This is the gift of God. We are given free-will to roam (as far as our capabilities will take us) in a land of many lands, in a mansion with many rooms.

<u>Chapter 23 – Spiritists: When You Sleep You are</u> <u>Being Assisted in Your Quest to Become a Better</u> <u>Spiritist</u>

Once a person discovers Spiritism, the breadth of its doctrines soon become clear. Instead of a casual relationship one has with going to a local place of worship, where you are able to meditate and recharge your spiritual batteries on a once a week basis, the knowledge that every action we take is judged, that we are surrounded by other spirits, that we have a duty to spread love and our knowledge, can make our discovery seem, at times, a heavy burden. The Spirit world recognizes the difficulties of balancing our spiritual lives while living in a materialistically dominated world. Andre Luiz, in the book, *In the Greater World*, is told about the assistance given to Spiritists:

"Through their diligent efforts in spiritualizing work, they are the future instruments for the endeavors that lie ahead. In spite of the clarity of the rules they live by, they still suffer disharmony and afflictions that threaten their incipient stability. Even so, they aren't left without the assistance they need. In our spheres of action, institutions for restoring their energies open their welcoming doors to them. Freedom from the body during sleep is the direct resource of our manifestations of fraternal support. At first, they receive our influence unconsciously; then their minds are slowly strengthened and they begin recording our concourse in their memory as we give them ideas, suggestions and opinions along with beneficial and redeeming inspirations by means of imprecise recollections." [53]

Andre Luiz is introduced to one such method of aid. His instructor takes him to a lecture given by the spirit Eusebio. Instructor Eusebio will give a lecture to those incarnated souls who have the desire for learning more and becoming active Spiritists, but are daily facing the obstacles we all encounter, while we still retain that element of doubt in the absolute reality of our immortal soul. Andre is told that every person who is able to promote Spiritism is vital. The importance of the training is explained by Andre's companion, "Chance doesn't perform miracles. Any undertaking requires

planning, execution and completion. The miracle of changing a physical person into a spiritual person requires a lot of collaboration on our part." [54]

The Lecture for Spiritists

Eusebio begins the lecture by clarifying how his talk will affect each individual at the meeting:

"Of course, because the deficiencies of the brain render it incapable of supporting the burden of two lives at the same time, you will not retain a full recollection of this hour upon reentering the corporeal envelope. Nevertheless, the memory of our meeting here will linger in the depths of your being, guiding your higher inclinations toward lofty purposes and opening your intuitive portal so that our fraternal thoughts may assist you." [55]

Eusebio explains to his audience how humanity has arrived at this precise moment. He recounts the sacred reading of the Old Testament by the Jews, who then would go out and fight the Philistines, the reverential praise of the writings of Marcus Aurelius, while at the same time his Roman government ordered the murder of innocents. He closes his point with, "In such a state we have reached the modern era, in which madness is widespread and men and women's mental stability is on the verge of disaster. With an evolved brain and an immature heart, we hone our art of wrecking our spiritual progress." [56]

Stressing the significance of maintaining our energy and increasing our self-enlightenment, Eusebio acknowledges the importance of such activities. But, as his warms to his subject, he notifies his listeners that individuals who strive to focus on themselves in their quest for purification is not good enough. He throws out the challenge, "If you wish to be pioneers of the living faith in the world, from now on, in spite of the difficulties, a complete demonstration of your convictions of divine spirituality will be required of you." [57]

At this point Eusebio reveals the mission, "Modern spiritualism cannot confine God within the walls of an earthly temple, for our essential mission is to change the whole earth into the majestic temple of God." [58]

Eusebio is telling us that adding a Spiritual center next to the local church or temple, for those select few that will take the time to drop in, is

totally inadequate. Our job is to change the world. Change from a materialistic centered society to a balanced one. Where, yes, scientific advancement is encouraged, new goods can be developed, but where our culture understands the importance of fraternal love and that all actions have a consequence. Where each individual understands they have past penalties to pay and they have mostly themselves to look toward to paying off their debts.

After the call to change the world, comes the command to organize ourselves for the task, "For our vanguard of determined and brave workers, the phase of futile experimentation, disorderly investigation and peripheral reasoning has passed." [59] We are being asked to actively evangelize the doctrine of Spiritism. Set up gatherings to bring people into the fold and to seek out ways to publicize our message to others so they may, at the least, have the option to be exposed to the truth.

The importance of this is stated in Allan Kardec's book *Genesis*, where the future of Spiritism and the transformation of the earth to a higher status is heralded by the gradual transition of more spirits which will be reincarnated with a propensity for the good. [60] For the good spirits amongst us, they need to hear our message, because these spirits will be, according to *Genesis*:

"Charged with the founding the age of moral progress, the new generation is distinguishable by an overall precocious intelligence and reason combined with an innate sentiment of the good and spiritual beliefs — an unmistakable sign of a certain degree of previous advancement." [61]

Focus on the word innate, meaning in this instance, "Coming directly from the mind". [62] An external trigger must exist for this feeling to come to the surface and be acted upon.

This task will not be without difficulty, pain or sacrifice. Eusebio puts our efforts in context, "Jesus did not reach the culmination of resurrection without climbing Calvary, and his lessons refer to the faith that moves mountains". [63] Next, to emphasize his point, Eusebio throws out a litany of advice to surmount the impediments:

"Do not go looking for miracles: yearning for them can become addictive and lead to your loss."

"Your burdens on the earthly landscape, however rough or displeasing, represent the Supreme Will."

"Do not jump over obstacles or try to go around them in a deliberate attempt to escape: conquer them using will and perseverance, providing an opportunity to develop your growth." [64]

As well as supplying the reason, the method and the hurdles of promoting Spiritism, Eusebio lays out the context of our struggle in today's environment:

"The powerful winds of the evolutionary wave are sweeping the earth. Every day we see the collapse of conventional principles held inviolable for centuries. The perplexed human mind is forced to make distressful changes. The subversion of values, the social experiment and the accelerated process of selection through collective suffering perturb the timid and inattentive, who represent the overwhelming majority everywhere." [65]

The lecture given by Eusebio was not a homily filled discourse on how we can grow as a Spiritist. This was a, "get out of your chair and do something about it", speech. A call to arms, where we are told the objective, the terrain, and the difficulties that we should expect on the way. If it wasn't clear before, it should be clear now, being a Spiritist is not an easy task.

The Lecture for Catholics and Protestants

Now, let's contrast the speech given to Spiritists with a lecture delivered to a group of incarnate Catholics and Protestants. Later in the book , *In the Greater World* , Andre Luiz is invited to hear a lecture, again by Eusebio, to a mixed group of Catholics and Protestant, albeit a less dogmatic and more likely to be persuaded type of persons. Andre Luiz was surprised that the lecture was being held, he was told, "It's important to understand that Divine Protection shows no privileges. Heavenly grace is like the fruit that always results from earthly effort: wherever there is human cooperation, there too will be Divine support." [66] This information leads us to believe

the tone and substance of the lecture will be similar. A call to action, a request to get with the program.

As in the first lecture, Eusebio opens with what it meant to be a Christian in ancient times and reviewed the sacrifices they underwent. Next, Eusebio offers a challenge, "However, as heir to those nameless heroes who lived in affliction, of minds built up in the promises of Christ, what have you done with transforming hope, with unwavering trust? What have you done with the living faith that your forbearers acquired at the price of blood and tears?" [67]

Eusebio then delves into his opinion of exactly what these institutions of faith have actually accomplished:

"You have erected barriers against each other that are difficult to cross. Dogmatism poisons you; schism corrupts you. Narrow interpretations of the divine plan darken your mental horizons."

"What delirium has taken you as you involve yourselves in a mutual competition for the imaginary obtainment of divine privileges?"

"In times of old, Christ's disciples competed for opportunities to serve, whereas today, you look for every little opportunity to be served." [68]

After a devastating review of their faults, Eusebio arrives at his request, "Therefore, do not limit your demonstration of trust in the Most High to the ceremonies of outward worship. Get rid of the indifference that chills your ornate cathedrals. Let us make ourselves each other's true brothers and sisters. Let us transform the church into the sweet home of the Christian family, whatever our interpretations might be." [69] This is it? A plea for a less bureaucratic and more involved practice of their religious principles, and an appeal for less infighting and more focus on the fraternal family under Christ?

Whereas, the goal for Spiritists is the change the world, the request for the souls at the lecture is to return to their Christian roots and stop fighting each other. The Spirit world is not expecting the audience to change the world, but to outwardly demonstrate the teaching of Christ as revealed in the New Testament. The Spirit world is first attempting to steer the ship of large religious organizations back onto a truly fraternal course. Without this

correction, the ability and the required openness to accept the Spiritist doctrine would be absent.

Time to Wake-up

As if you didn't need more work in your life, you now have your second (or third or fourth for some) job. But remember the reward, a happier planet, a place where strife and the constant jockeying for position in even the smallest things is unknown. Not a steep price to pay for an immortal soul with plenty of time to live the good and a contented productive life in the future.

Chapter 24 - Mind your own Business First

In the marvelous book, *Jesus in the Home*, psychographed by Chico Xavier and inspired by the spirit Neio Lucio, there is a parable that Jesus gave in the home of one of his disciples, which explains what should be our first order of business.

As an aside, my family reads passages out of this book during our weekly Christian Spiritist gathering. This parable got the most attention from the entire group (includes grandmother, parents, and children).

It deals with what we all love to do, concern ourselves with other people's business before our own. Similar to the plank in our own eye passage in the New Testament.

The story is in Chapter 36, "The Tough Problem", on page 137, in *Jesus in the Home*. There was a discussion on what was the most difficult problem to overcome in the quest for Divine Enlightenment. Upon hearing others give their opinions, Jesus then told his parable.

He opened the story, setting the stage with a wise man with three sons. All three were arguing about what was the most difficult hurdle to overcome in life. Hearing the commotion, the father told all three that he was going to send them to the palace on a mission. They were to bring gifts which would display their friendship to the king.

"The first would bear a costly vase made of precious clay.

The second would take a rare breed of deer.

The third would carry an exquisite cake made by the family." [70]

All three were excited to walk to the palace, which was only three miles away. Of course, as they walked together, each was more preoccupied with the conduct of the other than their own situation.

"The bearer of the vase didn't agree with the way the one brother was leading the delicate deer, and the one in charge of the animal told the one carrying the cake to be careful not to trip and ruin the delicacy. This last one warned the bearer of the valuable vase not to drop it." [71]

Of course we can all see where this is going to end!

"At one particular moment the brother who was leading the deer forgot about his own job in order to correct the position of the clay piece in his brother's arms, and jostled during their argument, the vase suddenly fell and broke to smithereens on the stony gravel.

When the vase broke, the distracted guide of the deer lost control of the animal, which escaped in fear into a nearby forest.

Trying to prevent the deer from fleeing, the one carrying the cake ran after it into the forest and the contents of the silver tray splattered on the ground." [72]

The wise father, upon hearing the recriminations from each brother onto the others, smiled as told his sons:

"Learn from the lesson of the road. If each of you had been minding your own business, you wouldn't have reaped the darkness of failure. The most complicated problem in the world, my sons, is that everyone should take care of their own business without meddling in the business of others. As long as we are thinking about other people's responsibilities, we forget about our own." [73]

The parable is so basic, all of us knew how the story would go at the mere mention of three brothers and their arguments. But how difficult it is to follow the advice. After all, the problems and follies of others are much more interesting than our own.

Chapter 25 – Staying In the Moment

I have been reading *The Urantia Book*. In it was one sentence that was uttered by Jesus as he talked to his disciples. It perfectly captured me and all that I have been trying to fight against, yet failing every day:

"You are hardly worthy of the kingdom when your service consists so largely in an attitude of regretting the past, whining over the present, and vainly hoping for the future." [74]

Nothing captures my attitude better than this one line. As I try to learn to love, show kindness to all, and to control my thoughts – my mind seems to continually return to either past mistakes, complaining about my present circumstances, or worrying about possible future events. All totally useless and wasteful expenditures of mental energy.

Whereas, I should compartmentalize the past – after reviewing and determining the lessons I should have learned. I should concentrate on improving myself in the present, by doing my job, helping my family, learning about Spiritism and the spirit world, or helping others.

And, lastly, continue on with my present duties, and worry about the future as little as possible, because the next lesson is coming up and I can do absolutely nothing about it. Whatever the spirit realm and I planned before my birth to help me pay for past debts or accumulate new experiences is going to happen. I can certainly try to save some money for possible events and continue to educate myself, but beyond that my scope of freedom is limited. The rest is merely building up nervous energy that would unbalance my Chakras (force centers is the word used in Spiritist literature).

Hence, to remain in harmony, like a grand piano that is played and sends out waves of beautiful music, stay in the moment. Remain working on edifying tasks. The past is past and the future is determined. We have only these seconds at our disposal to continue our spiritual ascendance.

Section 2 – How the Spirit World Guides the Earth

History is not only the accumulation of heroic or infamous figures, or the accumulation of wealth or the absence of it, or waves of plagues which washed over entire continents. It is all that, but there is more.

The creation of our Solar System, our planet, and all other planets in our little corner of our galaxy was guided by the will of pure spirits. In fact, in the book *On the Way to the Light*, dictated by the spirit Emmanuel to Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier in 1939, we are told that Jesus, as a member of The Community of Pure Spirits, help formed where we live today. Jesus personally oversaw the development of the earth. Throughout billions of years, from the earth starting out as a hot planet, to the cooling of the crust, to the appearance and growth of organic life – the spirit world has guided the evolution of our planet.

Jesus and the other members of The Community of Pure Spirits heed orders from God and are entrusted to implement His directives. Hence, the earth was formed and created as a place to train spirits. The sentence you just read, is really all you need to know, why you are here, where you have been, where you are going, why do we seem to live in chaos and cruelty – everything is explained by the fact that we on earth are still students, and not yet competent to wander the universe as productive souls.

First to understand how the spirit realm has guided history, you must think of yourself. You are not the product of one life, but of many. You have not only lived in just this age on the location and in the culture you are now, but in many areas of the globe, various cultures and races.

You can look at your life as just one year of education out of many. Each time you graduate from a series of courses, you start on another series. The earth is the campus and it is composed of many colleges and schools. The earth progresses, unevenly throughout the planet, to allow lessons to be applied to students as they are ready.

Hence, the spirit realm actively pushes the earth forward. Although a more apt description is moving our history in a spiral, we seem to progress,

then if the class collectively failed in comprehension, we may seem to take a step back, and then onto other challenges. Now you know why there was a Dark Age after the fall of Rome. It was all part of a plan.

In my book, *Explore Your Destiny*, I expose how the spirit realm has guided us from the very beginning, but in the section which follows I present other methods and examples of how the spirit world directs our fate.

I believe; I have no proof beyond what I have read into statements made by spirits that broad targets are set and the right players are incarnated and assisted in their life to move countries, organizations, businesses, and religions to certain states. One must first remember that we are immortal souls, hence when we die; we are merely taken off the chessboard, available for another game at another time.

As an example, Charlemagne was sent to earth to attempt to bring a bit more order to the unraveling states left over after the fall of the Roman Empire. He was, in a previous life, a very successful Roman Emperor. Or to allow France the territory it required, Joan of Arc was placed to lead the French armies to victory over the British encamped in French cities. Joan of Arc, in a previous life, was Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Jesus. One more example, the Emperor of Brazil, Dom Pedro II (from 1841 to 1889), was the most recent incarnation of Longinus, the Roman centurion who lanced Jesus to make sure He was dead. One can truly determine from the last two examples, that Jesus does indeed forgive and loves us!

Knowing the spirit realm is driving our collective humanity to a better condition is astonishing and bewildering at the same time. The effort to place the right people in the right places at the right time must be breathtakingly enormous and multifaceted. While simultaneously, why we must suffer through the corruption and mismanagement of our politicians and governments is puzzling when one attempts to figure out what exact lesson is this teaching us?

The one thing I only know for certain is that I don't know. There is a grand plan and the inner workings are too complex for a human, who only is able to see for a short span of less than one hundred years. But be consoled ... there is a plan and it is moving forward. We are along for the ride; there is no exit, not in this life or the next.

<u>Chapter 26 – Humans 40,000 years ago - The beginning of Reason</u>

When you read the books inspired by Andre Luiz, and psychographed by Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier, there are references to interesting information divulged to us during conversations or lectures recorded by the spirit Andre Luiz. In the book, *Liberation*, first published in Portuguese in 1949, Andre tells us of a lecture, about the need to assist spirits in the Lower Zones and the Abyss, in which the following statement is made:

"We know today that the human spirit, taken as a whole, has had the ability to reason for exactly forty thousand years ... Nonetheless, with the same furious impetus with which Neanderthals killed one another with hatchet blows, humans of modern times - regarded as the glorious era of world powers - exterminate their brothers and sisters with firearms." [75]

This didn't sound right, we have been told that humans have been on earth for around 350,000 to 400,000 years. But then I looked up modern humans in Wikipedia and this is what I found.

"Anatomically modern humans evolved from archaic *Homo sapiens* in the Middle <u>Paleolithic</u>, about 200,000 years ago. ^[15] The transition to <u>behavioral modernity</u> with the development of symbolic culture, language, and specialized <u>lithic technology</u> happened around 50,000 years ago according to many anthropologists ^[16] although some suggest a gradual change in behavior over a longer time span." ^[76]

Hence, our brains must have evolved to a state around 40,000 years ago to where the spirit realm determined was the minimum level of reason. Then I looked up more information:

"Loren Cordain contrasts the anatomical and behavioral perspectives on this question: 'for two million years until ... the agricultural revolution of roughly 10 000 years ago our ancestors were huntergatherers, so the adaptive pressures inherent in that environmental niche have exerted a defining influence on human genetic makeup. The portion of our genome that determines basic anatomy and physiology

has remained relatively unchanged over the past 40,000 years ... Although anatomically modern humans first appeared perhaps 100,000 years ago, modern human behavior first becomes recognizable in the fossil record of about 50,000 years ago ... between 50,000 and 40,000 years ago their creative and technological innovation increased dramatically ... During this period skeletal robusticity decreased somewhat suggesting that less muscular force was required for daily tasks." [77]

Here is the key sentence, "The portion of our genome that determines basic anatomy and physiology has remained relatively unchanged over the past 40,000 years." A book that was published in 1949, before carbon dating, before DNA sequencing, before computers were anything other than used by governments, pegged the beginning of our ascent into the world of reasoning and increased use of technology in the same time period as our modern science.

One more little piece of evidence that we are being guided along a path. The spirit realm created the conditions so that basic humans could evolve and then, most probably, subtlety modified our DNA to give us that next mental boost. A physical brain which could be powerful enough to connect to our perispirits (the connection between your spirit and your physical body) and could process the exchange of information between our spirit and our bodies.

Forty thousand years ago, one of us started our first reincarnation on earth. Beginning the long climb from primitive to civilized behavior. Even now we have a long way to travel.

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<u>Chapter 27 – St. Augustine - His comments about</u> <u>Rome could be about our present time</u>

In Saint Augustine's book, *City of God*, there are comments he made about Roman society, which are true about our own; he wrote the book after the Visigoths, under King Alaric, sacked Rome in the year 410. In many of the chapters he wrote about the complaints of the pagans against the Christians. A sense of the decline of the Roman Empire permeated the book. One chapter stood out, it described what St. Augustine felt the Roman citizens of the day really wanted. The type of culture and society, the leading Romans of that period desired to live in and wished to remain free to continue until their dying days.

The parallel with our current situation is uncanny. Rome, a once great Republic, had sunk into an Empire that cared only for its own luxuries, not for any notion of honor or fraternity. St. Augustine, in Chapter 20, titled, "Of the Kind of Happiness and Life Truly Delighted in by Those Who Inveigh Against the Christian Religion", writes of what the Romans of the time truly preferred:

"Only let it remain undefeated, they say, only let it flourish and abound in resources; let it be glorious by its victories, or still better, secure in peace; and what matters it to us? This is our concern, that every man be able to increase his wealth so as to supply his daily prodigalities, and so that the powerful may subject the weak for their own purposes. Let the poor court the rich for a living, and that under their protection they may enjoy a sluggish tranquility; and let the rich abuse the poor as their dependents, to minister to their pride. Let the people applaud not those who protect their interests, but those who provide them with pleasure. Let no severe duty be commanded, no impurity forbidden. Let kings estimate their prosperity, not by the righteousness, but by the servility of their subjects." [78]

I thought the line, "Let the poor court the rich for a living, and that under their protection they may enjoy a sluggish tranquility", was particularly true today. I equate that with the rich CEO's and billionaires who amassed wealth by exploiting others and have a ready army of eager

executives striving to outdo each other in how profit may be increased on the backs of their employees and customers. Rome in the 5 th century, as the majority of the world does in the 21 st century, is on a quest for material wealth at the expense of all else.

There is more, which speaks to our consumer society and the media which promotes unbridled political correctness, by attacking anyone who disagrees with the party line.

"Let there be erected houses of the largest and most ornate description: in these let there be provided the most sumptuous banquets, were everyone who please may, by day or night, play, drink, vomit, dissipate. Let there be everywhere heard the rustling of dancers, the loud, immodest laughter of the theatre; let a succession of the most cruel and the most voluptuous pleasures maintain a perpetual excitement. If such happiness is distasteful to any, let him be branded as a public enemy; and if any attempt to modify or put an end to it let him be silenced, banished, put an end to. Let these be reckoned the true gods, who procure for the people this condition of things, and preserve it when once possessed. Let them be worshipped as they wish; let them demand whatever games they please, from or with their own worshippers; only let them secure that such felicity be not imperiled by foe, plague, or disaster of any kind." [79]

I am not advocating we should return to the rampant discrimination of people because of different races, preferences, or other criteria, or to a religious atmosphere of intolerance and exclusion. Spiritism tells us that all should be respected. I am speaking of a culture gone too far in hedonistic pursuits, of which, I have played my part! Where wearing the latest tennis shoes is something that can get you killed. Where there are no rules in the game of accumulating more and more.

I am speaking of moral rules, guidelines that people voluntarily follow because they are the right thing to do. The usual answer to pile on more government regulations is a chimera; the rich and powerful will always find a way around any written code. Only when society shuns, instead of glorifies rapacious behavior will the pendulum start to swing back to a more normal position.

Hence, we all have to play our little part and contribute, via our own conduct, to illustrate the brighter path of love, caring, fraternity, and honest dealings with those around us.

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<u>Chapter 28 – The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth - What Jesus Really Meant</u>

In the book, *Jesus in the Home*, psychographed by Francisco C. Xavier and dictated to him by the spirit Neio Lucio, there is a discussion about what is meant by the meek shall inherit the earth.

In Peter's house, where many chapters of the book take place, the disciples are heatedly debating how this could be. After all, if only evil was strong and aggressive how could good ever emerge victorious?

Jesus let them all calm down and then answered:

"Of course, you are all mistaken. I didn't praise laziness, which hides behind the mask of humility, nor cowardliness, which dons the appearance of prudence in order to better accommodate itself to human conveniences. Individuals who become attached to such artifices will greatly suffer the spiritual measures that the world uses to reform torturous and indecisive characters. Actually, I was praising the courtesy that we all owe one another. Blessed are the mild mannered who are able to use their constructive energy in a gesture of kindness and a word of understanding! Blessed are the children of balance and kindness who learn how to deny evil without insulting ignorant neighbors who request it without knowing what they are asking for! Blessed are those who repeat the same lesson a thousand times over without boasting about it, so that their neighbor might feel the influence of their action! Blessed are those who know how to deal with the rich and the poor, the wise and the ignorant, the good and evil with the spirit of service and understanding, giving to each one in accordance with their merits and needs, while leaving traces of improvement, spiritual growth, well-being and contentment wherever they go! In truth I say to you that they will inherit the spiritual domain of the earth, because all those who welcome their neighbor within the guidelines of love and respect are owners of the hearts that are perfected in the world!" [80]

This corresponds with what is taught to us about the <u>difference between</u> <u>anger and indignation</u>, where when one must use positive energy to

accomplish a goal or to persuade others to get a job done - it is done with loving firmness.

I confess, the phrase the meek shall inherit the earth also confused me. I imagined that it meant just standing there taking whatever undue punishment was delivered to you. But now I see it is all about our approach. Keeping ourselves in check and remaining caring and positive, yet firm is the core of the message. All should be treated with respect and by doing so, the people we work with will be more open to learn from our example.

<u>Chapter 29 – Rome - The Spirit's World First</u> <u>Attempt of a Society to Enlighten the World</u>

Rome - "Compared with its forerunners and successors, the glorious tradition of the Roman family entailed the most sublime respect for the heroic virtues of the wife and a full understanding of the duties of the husband" [81]

Rome was founded at the urging of the Spirit world. Emmanuel describes the founding of Rome:

"Tormented and vexed by repeated battles with the Gauls, the Etruscans decided to take up a new life, and guided indirectly by messengers from the Invisible World, a large portion of them settled in the future Rome, which at that time was nothing but a village of simple unprotected hovels" [82]

During the republican era of Rome's history it became a great power. The dominating authority of the entire Mediterranean Sea. The Spirit world envisioned Rome growing by spreading its good practices and bringing a civilized aspect to their nearby nations.

As we all know, Rome became an aggressive empire. Intent on gaining territory, wealth, and domination of all around it. As with people, even for countries, all actions have re-actions.

Failure of Rome to act in a benign manner led to its downfall. The spirit realm desires nations to be helpful partners with other nations, not to dominate and exploit them.

One can detect the same forces in play, when after years of colonization, Europe was effectively destroyed as a power after two world wars.

As with people, nations too must pay for past wrongs.

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<u>Chapter 30 – Catastrophes</u>

Why are there Catastrophes? If the spirit world loves us, why do so many innocents perish in such tragic circumstances? The answer is - that it is all part of a bigger picture.

Why Do We Have Catastrophes

When people question the existence of God, they (and I in the past) have always asked how God could kill innocent people.

As an example, think of the tsunami in Japan. On March 11, 2011, a magnitude-9 earthquake hit northeastern Japan. A large tsunami, wiped the Fukushima Dalichi Nuclear Power Plant, which is still spewing small amounts of radiation today. It is estimated that more than 2,500 people are still missing or have died in the calamity. More than 250,000 people lost their homes. [83]

The answer to this question is in The Spirits Book:

738. Could not God employ other methods than destructive calamities for effecting the amelioration of mankind?

"Yes; and He employs them every day, for He has given to each of you the means of progressing through the knowledge of good and evil. It is because man profits so little by those other means, that it becomes necessary to chastise his pride, and to make him feel his weakness." [84]

Why exactly did the tsunami occur? I am not sure, one could speculate it was about using nuclear energy and investing enough to make it safe in all circumstances, or about not using it at all. Or, it could have been a required rearrangement of the tectonic plates.

I do know that in the book, *On the Way to the Light*, the spirit Emmanuel, tells us that Vesuvius, the volcano which buried the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 AD occurred as a warning to Rome, foreshadowing the decline of Roman Empire. Christianity was meant to modify the unbridled avarice and cruelty of the Roman elite. When its message was ignored and suppressed, a sign was delivered in unmistakable terms. [85]

Does this mean we return to bygone days when every event was a message from the gods and human sacrifices were made for appeasement? Not exactly. We do need to be cognizant that our earth, Mother Nature, will send us messages. The spirit realm won't stop this practice just because the majority of the planet doesn't believe it. The Spirituality is consistent and knows that at some time in the future we shall realize the interconnections between our conduct and major cataclysmic events.

In Spiritist literature there is a theme of the need to respect the planet and to put back what was taken. We are here to use the gifts presented to us (such as minerals, farm land, etc.), but we should repair what was damaged and clean up after ourselves. We are warned that our behavior toward our sphere is graded and currently the human race isn't passing.

Innocents

This still leaves us with the question of why must the good along with the bad be affected by these large events? Allan Kardec asked the same question and here is what he received:

-- But the good man succumbs under the action of these scourges, as does the wicked; is this just?

"During his earthly sojourn, man measures everything by the standard of his bodily life; but, after death, he judges differently, and feels that the life of the body, as we have often told you, is a very small matter. A century in your world is but the length of a flash in eternity, and therefore the sufferings of what you call days, months, or years, are of no importance; let this be a lesson for your future use. Spirits are the real world, pre-existent to, and surviving, everything else; they are the children of God, and the object of all His solicitude; and bodies are only the disguises under which they make their appearances in the corporeal world. In the great calamities that decimate the human race, the sufferers are like an army that, in the course of a campaign, sees its clothing tattered, worn out, or lost. The general is more anxious about his soldiers than about their coats." [86]

The paragraph above not only explains the transitory nature of our physical body, but gets to the root of the question for our very existence. While life for each of us is composed of long periods of boredom and small

instances of excitement, we still see life as precious and we wish to hold onto it for as long as possible.

What the spirit world is telling us is that life is more like that old t-shirt you have stored away in your drawer. It served a purpose once, but if you throw it away, it won't be missed. In other words, it is completely unimportant.

What is vital is for our souls to continue their path to perfection and the accumulation of lessons, for us and the collective student body on earth at any one moment. The goal of the spirit world is to teach us to be civilized. We must be certain, in all circumstances, that following our conscience is the correct decision, no matter what the material sacrifice. We must be loving and supporting of all humans, not just our family and extended tribe. Putting some of us on the planet for a relatively short time, and having a few of us appear to prematurely expire as a demonstration of the primacy of our collective goal of perfection is just one of the teaching tools utilized by the spirit realm.

<u>Chapter 31 – Why the Freedom of Religion is</u> <u>Important to Spiritism</u>

Jesus has sent many emissaries to assist our growth on earth. Not all were associated with the Christian religion. China was blessed with the ancient teachings of Confucius, who lived five hundred years before Christ came to our world. Confucius, as Emmanuel explains:

"As a missionary of Christ, Confucius had to immerse himself in all the Chinese traditions and accept the imperious circumstances of the environment in order to benefit the country in its ability to fully comprehend." [87]

Moses was sent to the Hebrews and Socrates was given to the Greeks. Mohammed was sent to the Arabic tribes and centuries afterwards Allan Kardec came to France to codify the Spiritist Doctrine. All served to reinforce the central ideas of our Savior, as Emmanuel states after surveying different religions:

"The truth is that all the religious books and traditions of antiquity contain the same substantial unity. The revelations evolved in a graduated sphere of knowledge. All refer to the unpersonifiable God, who is the essence of all life in the universe, and in the traditionalism of all of them beats the sublimated vision of the Christ, who was awaited everywhere on the globe." [88]

An important part of the freedom of religion is the freedom from religious tyranny. The Spirit world does not intend to promote a one-world religion. They realize the urge by men is too great to abuse their power. With power comes corruption, with corruption the central purpose of a religion is not to stimulate our spiritual well-being, but to accumulate wealth and maintain position. Emmanuel describes the effects of an all-controlling church, he cited as an example the Catholic Church:

"Ensconced in immense riches and possessing all power and authority, the church rarely grasped the duty of love that its educational mission entailed." [89]

Neither do they wish that government promote a state religion. As an example, Emmanuel reports that in the year 756 AD:

"At that time, many sovereigns made use of the church according to their personal desires, granting ecclesiastical titles to the most corrupted consciences." [90]

Religion is meant for the benefit of the incarnated, to contribute to the education of the preferred path of life, not as another controlling institution alongside government agencies.

The spirit world wishes us to prepare humanity for the eventual rise of Spiritism. In support of this we must hold fast the right of people to choose their method of worship and spiritual enlightenment. Emmanuel maps out what must occur:

"On its mission as Consoler, Spiritism is the support of the world in this century of decline in its history. Only Spiritism, in its characteristic of renewed Christianity, can save the religions that are vanishing amid the collisions of power and ambition, of selfishness and domination, and point humankind toward its true path." [91]

<u>Chapter 32 – The Earth Will Not Always be Your</u> Home

As you progress up the spiritual ladder, learning to be more loving, selfless, and less materialistic, you may move out of the earth's sphere as your training arena. Spiritism has revealed to us that there is a progression of worlds. The earth is a planet of atonement, where a relatively immature spirit is sent to rid themselves of their rougher edges, such as the baser emotions of envy, hate, and a thirst for revenge. Once one has reached a spiritual plateau, or, more precisely, graduated from requiring a planet of atonement to remove baser characteristics; a different instructional campus is mandated.

<u>Allan Kardec</u>, in his <u>codification</u> of Spiritism, his gathering of answers to his posted questions to high spirits, in *The Spirits Book*, notifies us of the next step:

985. When a soul is reincarnated in a world less gross than the earth, is such a reincarnation a reward?

"It is a consequence of its higher degree of purification; for, in proportion as spirits become purified, they reincarnate themselves in worlds of progressively higher degrees, until, having divested themselves of all materiality and washed themselves clean of all stains, they enter on the eternal felicity of the fully purified spirits in the presence of God." [92]

In worlds in which the conditions of existence are less material than ours, the wants of their inhabitants are less gross, and their physical sufferings are less acute. The people of those worlds no longer possess the evil passions which, in lower worlds, make them each other's enemies. Having no motives for hatred or jealousy, they live in peace with one another, because they practice the law of justice, of love, and of charity and they therefore know nothing of the worries and anxieties that come of envy, pride, and selfishness, which causes the torment of our terrestrial existence.

Hence, as a student progresses from an elementary level to a middle school level, we too advance to different learning institutions. In our case the campus is an entire planet. As an added bonus our physical form will alter, ranging from slight alterations of the human form to more dramatic. In our new place of learning, we shall encounter a gentler atmosphere, an environment conducive to intellectual growth instead of targeting the transformation of our emotional and moral states.

<u>Chapter 33 – Rome - The Fall and Consequences</u>

The Romans had brought much advancement, the concept of the family, active citizen participation, the importance of education, honor in business dealing, and organizational structure of institutions and building infrastructure, to the ancient world. The spirit world wished to save these gifts; therefore they attempted to rectify the errors of Rome with the coming of Christ, during Augustus's reign. The advent of Christ and his followers could not right the ship, Emmanuel comments about the fall of Rome:

"The weakness and impenitence of human beings did not allow them to understand that Christianity had been called to the role of governance solely to educate the sentiments of those who governed, preparing them to take enlightenment and fraternity to the other people's of the earth, who, at the time were regarded as barbarians by the culture of the Empire" [93]

The Reason for the Dark Ages

"The spiritual authorities, under Christ's aegis, renewed the educational processes of the European world — at the time just starting today's civilization — by calling all human beings to life in the field so that, by tilling the soil and being in contact with nature, they could learn more effectively" [94]

As with people who commit wrongful deeds, the payment comes due at some future time. The Dark Ages was payback for the cruelty of the Roman Empire.

<u>Chapter 34 – Freedom of Speech and Thought is</u> <u>Important to the Spirit World</u>

The concept of personal freedom and independent thought is one the spirit world has emphasized since the dawn of man. Western Civilization is the beacon of freedom and democracy for the world precisely because we have been rigorously selected to attain this goal. Emmanuel writes of the Renaissance, which was planned by the spirit world:

"The invention of the printing press facilitated incredible progress in the world of ideas, leading to wonderful expressions of intellectual life. Literature took on new life and the arts reached heights unreachable by future generations. Numerous artisans of ancient Greece reincarnated in Italy to leave indelible vestiges of their passage in precious marble." [95]

In the 18th century arose the wave of Philosophy and Science, which came from high order spirits, "who reincarnated chiefly in France" [96], according to Emmanuel. The brilliant minds of Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau, D'Alembert, Diderot and Quesnay all influenced the forming nations of the New World. Emmanuel states:

"The America's, destined to receive the sacred experiences of Europe for the civilization of the future, sought to apply the grand principles of the French philosophers to their political life on their way to a more complete emancipation." [97]

One of those grand principles was the freedom of speech. Voltaire said, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" How more direct could you be? By that simple sentence, Voltaire set in stone our right to free discourse. We must be able to express ourselves without fear, as Montesquieu postulated, "Political liberty in a citizen is that peace of mind that comes from the opinion each person has of his safety, and to have this liberty, the government must be such that a citizen cannot afraid of another".

Freedom of speech; how many of us take it for granted? While on all sides, even those of us who live in "free" countries, are guarded in what we say and even attempt to mask our innermost thoughts. We must actively

protect our rights or what occurred during the times of the Catholic Inquisition could indeed happen again.

The Catholic Church wanted power over people's thoughts. The Inquisition was the method to accomplish this nefarious deed. The spirit world strongly condemned the Inquisition:

"The repression of the 'heresies' was the pretext for the Church's consolidation in Europe, becoming the punishment and misfortune of the entire world." [98]

Countless other examples may be found in modern times, Communist countries such as North Korea, Cuba and the extinct USSR, were and are all guilty of the severe repression of speech and thoughts. In North Korea, if you failed to show sufficient remorse during the funeral of Kim Jong-Il (deceased dictator of North Korea who died in 2011), you were hauled off to one of North Korea's many concentration camps.

Currently, we have seen the advent of "PC" (Political Correctness) so strict as to stifle debate and punish those with a legitimate point of view. *The Spirits Book* unambiguously condemns this type of behavior:

839. *Is it wrong to scandalize those whose belief is not the same as our own?*

"To do so is to fail in charity and to infringe on freedom of thought" [99]

As an example, many people are afraid to discuss religion publicly. Those that do are looked upon as simple or ignorant in our more sophisticated circles. We must resist the temptation to remain safe and silent. We must calmly and logically state our beliefs and allow dissent, with the knowledge that at least we are keeping the tradition of friendly debate open and alive.

<u>Chapter 35 – There will always be Managers and Workers - And all should be treated with Respect</u>

In the book, *Hail Christ!*, psychographed by Francisco C. Xavier, and inspired by the spirit Emmanuel, which takes place in the years 200-250 AD, a Christian is talking about the need for equal treatment of all people. The listener asks, "How can every person be equal?" The answer given is full of insights as to under what rules the spiritual realm operates and how the earth will eventually evolve:

"My son, I'm not referring to equality through violence. That would put the good and the bad, the just and the unjust on the same level. I am alluding to the need for fraternity and civility. I see life as a huge machine, whose living parts - us - should all function harmoniously. Some people are born for tasks that are very different from our own, just as there are those who see the common pathway differently than we see it. If we are aware of the fact that our spirits live on earth countless times, we change the course of our work from life to life, just as the primary school student of reading and writing ascends, little by little, to the highest degrees of education. Consequently, we cannot see how it would be possible to equalize the classes because it would be impractical. Personal effort and its consequent merit are natural boundaries between souls, here and in the hereafter. Hierarchy will always exist as the inevitable mainstay of order. Each tree produces according to its kind, and each one deserves more or less appreciation according to the quality of its production. We can perhaps achieve the necessary balance in our understanding by replacing the words 'master' and 'slaves' with 'overseers' and 'workers'''. [100]

Hence, all souls are on the path to ascend, but all are not on the same level at any one point in time. Therefore, those who have superior experience and knowledge have the duty to lead those who have not yet attained the required degree. Nevertheless, all should be treated with love and respect.

Notice how the explanation includes the thought that personal merit exists here and in the hereafter. This telegraphs what we already know

about spiritual society; that it is led by a meritocracy.

Spirits who are in power, are in those positions because they deserve to be. The spirit world is guided by a fraternal socialist order, where all goods are provided by God and directed by his chosen servants for the benefit of all.

Which is unlike here on earth, where there is not a flawless entity in charge, but merely humans who are the politicians that run the governments which proclaim their love for the workers, but merely use their constituents' ignorance to grasp onto power and wealth.

Or even worse, the leaders are woefully lacking in the knowledge of how to effectively govern and thereby assist to destroy society by squandering hard built resources on impossible dreams. All the while effectively limiting the very classes they profess to love, causing them to miss the opportunity to accumulate valuable lessons, those appointed as "workers', were put here on earth to learn.

<u>Chapter 36 – St. Louis Discussing Predestination</u>

In the book, *Spiritist Review - Journal of Psychological Studies - 1858*, by the United States Spiritist Council, which is the compilation of all of Allan Kardec's Spiritist Review magazines for the year 1858, there is a series of questions for the spirit of the French King, known as St. Louis. He was Louis IX, who reigned as King of France from 1226 until 1270. There are also passages from him in some of Allan Kardec's books.

On this occasion, a mediums group wished to understand how some people could die in a tragic accident, such as a ship sinking, while others live; the answer is intriguing and demonstrates the extent of how we are guided by our unseen mentors:

- "1. When there is an imminent danger threatening someone, it is a spirit who guides the danger and, when avoided, is it another spirit who deviates them?
- On incarnating, the spirit chooses a trial; once chosen, a kind of destiny is created which cannot be conjured, once the spirit is submitted to that. I speak about the physical trials. The spirit, keeping his free will regarding good and bad, is always free to withstand or reject the trial. When seeing someone abating, a good spirit may come to help but cannot influence so as to dominate their will. A malevolent spirit, that is inferior, showing and exaggerating about the physical dangers, may shock and scare but yet the will of the incarnated spirit is not less free of any hurdle.
- 2. When a person is faced by an imminent accident it seems to me that the free will is worth nothing. I then ask if it is an evil spirit who provokes such an accident, to which he is some sort of cause and, in case the danger is avoided, if a good spirit came to help him.
- Good or bad thoughts, according to their nature. The accident is marked on the individual's destiny. When your life is endangered it is a sign that you desired that, so that you can deviate from bad and become better. When you escape from danger, still under its influence, you think more or less strongly, pending on the more or less strong action of

the good spirits about becoming a better person. Under the influence of bad spirits (I say bad referring to the wickedness which still exists in them) you equally think that you will escape other dangers and again you will give in to the unstoppable passions." [101]

How many times have we seen this phenomena, whereby a person escapes a potentially harmful situation, yet learns nothing? We all have had friends like this. Let this be an important marker for you, when you have a close call, don't minimize the lesson, take it to heart and fully absorb the intended message.

The other information provided by St. Louis is the inability to avoid our physical trials. Only our conduct and attitude throughout the trial is cordoned-off for our free-will. All else will happen, because we signed up for it before we began our current life.

Therefore, enjoy the ride during these times, you bought the ticket, stood in line and now you have to stay on until the end!

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<u>Chapter 37 – Prophecy by Chico Xavier - Aliens in our Future? Or Complete Destruction?</u>

There is a program, unfortunately in Portuguese, but it has English subtitles, detailing one of the prophecies for earth by Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier. You can see it here. (Only if you wish to view the original Portuguese version).

I will summarize:

1969

In 1969 when astronaut's first landed on the moon. The coming meeting of "The Community of Pure Spirits" as promised by Emmanuel, in the book, *On the Way to the Light*, in 1939 [102], occurred. This was the third meeting, the first was at the formation of the solar system and the second when Jesus came to earth.

They met because they were worried about men possessing the technology to travel to the moon, while our spiritual growth was so lacking. At a time when the world was on the constant brink of a nuclear war, the Community of Pure Spirits wanted to take the earth back to another dark age to allow time for our collective spiritual maturity to take hold.

Jesus interceded and asked for time. It was decided to give the earth fifty years. Hence, if the earth didn't have any nuclear war for fifty years we would be allowed to continue to progress. The end date is July, 2019.

Dark Age

If nuclear war occurred during this time period, the devastation would be immense. Besides the nuclear fallout, the earth itself would rise up and pay back for all of the harm done to it over the centuries. The Northern Hemisphere would be devastated. Most land would be uninhabitable and the military of the surviving countries would invade the Southern Hemisphere in order to have arable land. For instance, the US would invade Latin America, as would China and Europe. Brazil itself would be broken up into parts, shared by the occupying powers.

New Age

If the world manages to reach 2019 without nuclear conflict then wonderful events will unfold. Aliens, the about one meter tall variety (the two meter tall variety are not to be trusted), will come to earth and help promote dramatic improvements in medicine and technology. These aliens have been nervously watching earth for some time. They have the capability to transport themselves through great distances.

What has not been known to us is that conflict on our planet sends out destructive negative waves which affect the entire galaxy. Hence, more advanced races are watching our progress.

The aliens are cognizant of the power of the spirit world and they work with the spirit realm in their endeavors. After all, just like us, the aliens are immortal souls, who reincarnate, perish, and reincarnate again. In fact, some of the aliens may have had a life on earth in human form in the distant past.

Conclusion

So there you have it. Either we learn to work together and solve our problems by compromise and negotiation or as already happened to Europe once before, we shall descend into a new dark age. This time encompassing the entire planet.

I am somewhat hopeful. After all, the threat of a giant nuclear confrontation between the Western World and Russia is now minimal, on the other hand, the probability of a small nuclear conflict in the Middle East or from North Korea is greater than ever.

We shall see and in not too great a time.

<u>Chapter 38 – Prophecies - Why Does the Spirit</u> World Send Us Visions of the Future

We all want to know the future. If we had our way we would get a display of the events that will occur to us every day and be secure in our knowledge of the oncoming possibilities. But what would happen if on that screen it says at three p.m. you will die today? Your first act would be to change all of your plans, some may lie in bed waiting, and others flee to the farthest ends of the earth.

Whatever the case, your normal routine and trajectory would be altered and the sequence of events that would have led to your death would have to change in order to come to the same conclusion or it could result in a different end. Which would have made the certainty of your destiny fallible.

This is why we aren't allowed intimate knowledge of our future. With certainty, people would opt out of the difficult lesson. For example, if I was told the stock I was planning to buy wasn't going to go up by 100% like I hoped, but in fact would drop by 50%, I wouldn't buy it. But I would miss the hard experience of learning how to handle monetary loss with dignity that was assigned to me. Not walking into financial disaster would actually be worse than participating in it and deriving the valuable wisdom that I would attain. Wisdom which would assist me in my quest to become a better spirit.

To learn, to improve our character is what earth is all about. We are periodically sent to this rigorous campus, this planet of atonement, where we pay for our past wrongs and are educated in the process. If the spirit world told us the answers to the tests before we started the class, we would learn nothing.

But, like good teachers everywhere, the broad concepts and the consequences of not performing are presented up front. Desired end states are telegraphed, as well as alerting which subjects and assignments are critical.

Prophecies sent by the spirit world are no different. Some are meant to spur us on in search of the promised reward while others are meant as a

warning. Each one serves a distinct purpose, which may not be apparent at first.

From the first utterings of medicine men or women in primitive tribes to various religious figures, the spirit realm has been in constant communication with the human race. Many messages may be difficult to analyze but all will leave some little nugget of truth. Either as a caution or a carrot to motivate us to work harder. More importantly there is no rule that what is said must occur. It is up to us to either stir ourselves to action or wait passively for the outcome.

Keep in mind; future events previously planned by the spirit world are malleable. While the overall target, such as moving the earth from a planet of atonement to a planet of regeneration is set, the exact method to achieve it is dynamic.

For instance, the great Brazilian medium, Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier was originally tasked with producing fifty books of Spiritist literature, written by communications from spirits, that number increased as the spirit world gauged the impact and reach of Chico's books. Chico was also told to lessen his workload in some areas to concentrate on psychographing books. Hence, as factors change the plan is modified. Just like in our world.

Regard prophecies as possibilities given the current trajectory of events at the present time. Heed the warnings and take constructive action to alleviate what may have been done wrong in the past and in no circumstances violate your conscience even if you think it is for the greater good. Don't worry about apocalyptic predictions, if you have led a good life, you will be fine as you pass over to the other side, no matter what the circumstances are when you died.

You are immortal, leaving the earth is nothing more than packing your bags to go home. All you have to worry about while on earth is to stay focused on improving your spiritual side and helping others. Anything which detracts from that goal is extra luggage that should be discarded.

Section 3 – How the Spirit Realm Assists Us

In the previous section you read how the spirit world charts the progress of earth – in this section you will read how the spirit realm guides and helps us on an individual basis. While we are intertwined with the overall plan for the earth, we are, at the same time, being guided on our own way to perfection.

Think of us being on two tracks – the macro level, the broader picture, nations and culture will follow a prescribed path. Not a narrow road, but a broad highway, which still takes into account the collective free will decisions of humanity. The end state is fixed, but the exact route may be shorter or longer, depending on the maturity level of the citizens of earth.

The second track – the micro level; each individual has a destiny. Their destiny may play a small or large part in the destiny of the earth. Again, the life plan for each person may not go exactly according to plan – based on their free will decisions – nevertheless, they will be exposed to the lessons they were required to take.

Each of us are guided and assisted by spirit mentors (also called guardian angels) and other spirits as circumstances dictate. Their actions and ours combined enable the macro plan for humanity to be realized.

Hence, everything we do is important, not only for ourselves but for our future lives and the future lives of countless other spirits. The human race is connected. You are connected not only to your immediate family, but to your city, your nation, your hemisphere, your world. For the earth to progress, you must progress.

In summary, you are not alone, you are never alone, you are guided with love, and your actions have consequences – not only for yourself, but for the entire world (yes, your contribution could be very infinitesimal, but it still exists). No pressure!

<u>Chapter 39 – Why Do Perfect Spirits Come to</u> <u>Earth to Help Us?</u>

Who are the higher spirits that come to earth to help our planet progress? Why would they consent to live through pain and suffering to assist so many ungrateful souls? Leon Denis in his book, *Life and Destiny*, tells us who are these selfless spirits and the reason for their voluntary descent into our environment of pain and atonement.

Leon recounts what these superior spirits withstood on their climb toward perfection:

"To construct an individuality, through thousands of lives, accomplished in hundreds of worlds, and under the direction of our older brothers and our friends in space, to climb the paths to Heaven, to the divine drama, one of the agents of God in the eternal work; to work for the universe as the universe works for us, behold the secret of destiny! So the soul mounts from sphere to sphere, from circle to circle. United to the beings it has loved, it goes on its pilgrimage, seeking divine perfection. Arriving at the supreme region, it is freed from the law of rebirth. Reincarnation is no more an obligation for it, but an act of will, and a work of sacrifice when it has a mission to accomplish. Reaching the supreme height, the spirit says: 'I am free! I have broken forever the fetters which has chained me to material worlds; I have acquired science, energy, love. But that which I have acquired I want to share with my brothers, and for that purpose I will go and live among them, and I will offer them the best that is in me. I will take a body of flesh, I will descend again among those who suffer in ignorance, to console, enlighten and aid." [103]

The thorny path to perfection is long and arduous. We who are here now are just beginning our education. Imagine what we will learn in the future. The span of humanity and the vast discoveries to be witnessed. Would we have the love to return to the abyss and help others? I would think that after we truly learn to rid ourselves of our ego, our desire for material possessions, that anyone of us could someday be what Leon Denis says are

high spirits that have lowered themselves to aid us, "And then we have Laotse, Buddha, Socrates, Christ." $^{[104]}$

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<u>Chapter 40 – Spiritism - Predetermination is like</u> <u>being a Blind Pilot</u>

Spiritism, the Third Revelation, brought to us by The Spirit of Truth, as promised by Jesus in the New Testament, tells us that we are born on earth to live through a series of trials. Trials determined by ourselves, in concert with our spirit mentors, to atone for past wrongs and to remove blemishes from our spirit personality on our way to become a pure spirit.

While our attitudes and choices within trials are up to us, as dictated by the promise of free-will for all souls, the formation of the obstacles placed in front of us is for the most part static. In rare instances, the details of trials may be altered, but overall, what was written will occur.

If we were like young children, the events of each day would come and be a cause for enjoyment or tears, depending on the situation. In the absence of all future planning, worrying about what could happen next week, month, year, or decade is a non-issue. But, we are not young and complacent, ready to let an adult guide our every move. We are mature and we have our own plans.

We have plans which cover various timelines, such as saving to buy a car, a house, or for retirement. We have anticipations that our goals will be met, if we stick to the tactics we determined beforehand. We attempt to create strategies to attain our long-term goals. All without knowing exactly what events will explode in front of us in the future.

Imagine living in Poland in the 1930's. You and your spouse are working hard toward retirement and making a comfortable life for your family. Suddenly, World War II breaks out and your priorities swiftly change to just staying alive.

Or the story one hears more often, a couple sacrifices to construct a sound financial foundation for their retirement, only to have one of them expire, just before or right after their retirement target date. If they had had a chance to interrogate their predetermined life plans, they may have focused more on other activities throughout their life.

Does this mean to give up, spend every day like it was your last? No, although given the character of most of us, we couldn't keep up a carefree existence for long; maybe a week or so, then our compulsive need to plan would break through.

The overall fact of our lives is that upon reentering the earth life, we have promised to embark on a collection of required courses. We need to keep ourselves and our family ready to encounter any obstacle. Hence, we are required to maintain our health, by limiting our bad habits, our financial situation, by saving for contingencies, so we do not become a burden on others, if possible, given present circumstances.

Beyond the above, other than striving for our spiritual growth, nothing else has to be set in stone. We don't need to figure out how to make our first million, or billion. We don't need to plan how to buy that second house or to accumulate a big enough pile of cash to ensure our children never have to work.

This still leaves us with the basic plans that most of us are working toward in our daily life. My advice for calculating the reliability of accomplishing these plans is to look for the signals given to us by the spirit world. Like a blind person navigating intersections, who listens for the beeps emitted by the pedestrian signs, we too must become proficient in deriving the direction we should travel by weak and subtle clues.

We are all pilots, who are blind to the front, but can see out of the sides and to the rear. Only a fool would keep moving forward, but we know no other direction, since we live in a universe dominated by time. Hours pass by and we are dragged along with the outgoing tide. We know we can never swim against it and never return to a starting point.

Our environment has been created with the utmost efficient methods to take us on the ride to atonement and perfection. We can only look at where we have been and attempt to discern where we could be going. Always keeping an eye out for any hints from the spirit world.

This is the difficult part and there is no easy answer. In my book, <u>7</u> <u>Tenets of Spiritism – How They Impact Your Daily Life</u>, I talk about the clues I have received. As an example, during High School, I wanted to become an Air Force pilot, but during my senior year, I discovered I needed

glasses. Without a doubt, my life plan did not entail me entering the armed forces.

Others receive rather abrupt signals, such as a Near Death Experience (NDE), which I cover what the spirit world is communicating to us in my book, The Spirit World Talks to Us. Or a life changing event, such as when Dr. Gary Schwartz, who was waiting in traffic, when a voice told him to fasten his and his wife's seat belts; minutes afterwards, they were rear ended by a car. From that, he embarked upon a career of trying to prove the existence of the spirit world.

Some signs seem like just part of the landscape, such as a couple deciding to sell their house, but one thing after another comes up to delay putting it on the market. Then the housing market collapses. Could they have been predestined to stay in the house? To not buy that more expensive mansion, just when millions were losing their jobs? These types of course corrections happen all of the time, we just think that it is called "life happens", when in fact we are following a blueprint, that is invisible to us.

Therefore, life does happen, but in a less chaotic and random method than we suppose. We are part of a plan. A plan, a series of marching orders, designed for our improvement. What we encounter during our trek is all meant for our benefit. Even though, it may not seem so at the time.

<u>Chapter 41 – Communications from the Spirit</u> <u>World – Are They Real?</u>

Throughout the ages people have reported messages from the spirit world; the "other side", as the Druids called it. Are all of these communications just a manifestation of our collective imagination or is there something really out there? I believe there is and there is a growing mound of research that points in that direction.

Messages from the Other Side

Why is it important to know if messages sent from the spirit world to us are real or not? After all, it doesn't affect our daily lives. If our smart phones stopped functioning, then the world would truly end for many of us. Whereas, if communications suddenly ceased from on high, the world would still turn; we would still have our religious texts that have formed the basis of many cultures on the planet.

Spiritual guidance built the foundation for many religions:

- Judaism Moses and other prophets in direct communication from God and other high spirits filled in major portions of the Old Testament.
- Christianity The Holy Spirit figured in many passages in the New Testament. Revelations is a spirit communication direct to John.
- Islam Mohamed's Koran is the recording of his conversations with spirits.
- Hinduism Many Gurus' received inspiration from representatives from the other side.

All are based on inspiration, or a report of an inspiration, that did not come from our physical world. Only a few religions, such Scientology, have not allegedly been based upon divine guidance.

My thesis is that this process has not abated and in fact will continue. It is never-ending because as society and technology evolves, the guidance delivered to us will be modified to suit our level of sophistication and increased in breadth.

As an example, the directions from God to Moses, while wonderful in laying out a set of Divine Commandants, also include many cruelties. Such as orders to kill everyone in a city or other commands, that today, we would consider horrendous, seem to be commonplace in the Old Testament. This is because the cultural level and the primitive state of technological advancement made direct threats imperative in modifying human behavior.

As we progress to the New Testament, the message is more about fraternity and love. Yes, prejudices still abound in the text, but the tone was altered, all within the boundaries of what people at that time could absorb.

For this is the central tenet to keep in mind, the information supplied to us is based upon our ability to understand the content. Hence, a group of primitive souls, who just escaped from slavery in Egypt wasn't fed a philosophy based entirely on love and forgiveness, for if they were, the Jewish faith would have been removed from the history of the world long ago by more aggressive tribes.

Inspiration from the Spirit Realm hasn't stopped:

- Mormons John Smith and his book of Mormon
- Jehovah Witnesses Messages from spirits to the Governing Body of Jehovah Witnesses.
- Edgar Cayce Revealed many visions, he said he received from a Higher Intelligence.
- Emanuel Swedenborg Wrote books about his insight in the other side as he was personally escorted to many areas of the spirit world.
- Internet Full of missives from people who are relating what they think are Divinely Inspired Thoughts.

Therefore, communications didn't come to a halt once we considered the texts for the major world religions were composed and completed. They are still being delivered.

Delivered How?

The spirit realm is communicating to us in the present day via many channels:

- Near Death Experiences
- Premonitions
- Psychics
- Mediums
- Synchronicities

And there is much more phenomena we experience which can't be explained by today's science. First, remember, and any scientist will tell you, the sum total of our discoveries is miniscule compared to what lies ahead. Meaning, there is so much more out there to learn about our universe. Science is not settled, it is a continuing endeavor.

Scientists are interested in new discoveries and some are fascinated by the lure of the spirit world. Early in the 20 th century we had pioneers of modern science attempt to unravel the mystery of the spirit realm. Many great intellects from the time of the Renaissance to our current century were and are believers in a world created by a Supreme Intelligence. The pioneers of modern science, such as Kepler, Galileo, Pascal, and Newton all adhered to the theory that the hand of God was integral to nature.

According to the book, *Science Discovers God*, by Ariel A. Roth, four out of ten scientists believe in a God that answers their prayers. This is in the face of an enclosed conformist society which penalizes anyone who professes anything else than a strict adherence to a natural system created out of chaos.

Men and women, who have scientific educations and backgrounds, are seeking an answer for variables and occurrences which can't be satisfied by applying our current methods. They are actively attempting to conduct experiments and research to supply answers to questions we have all been asking since the dawn of human reasoning.

Thomas Edison

One of the most iconic inventors in American History believed in Spiritism; Thomas Edison. He actively sought ways to communicate with the spirit world. There was an article in the October 1933 edition of Modern Mechanix:

"This article purports to have been written about a secret meeting in 1920 in Edison's lab where he tried to communicate with the dead. Complete with illustrations describing how Edison set up a beam projector and photoelectric receiver with delicate instruments that would register anything (including smoke) that would cross the beam's path. This group of scientists sat there for hours and nothing happened." [105]

Thomas Edison worked on various devices to speak to the spirit world until his death in 1931. When he was on his deathbed, the following was purported to have occurred; Before dying, Edison briefly came out of his coma and said to his wife, Mina, who was keeping vigil at his bedside, and to his doctor, "It is very beautiful over there!" [106]

My Discovery

First, why have I pursued drawing together the different threads of spirit communication? My background and inclination when I was growing up was not spiritual at all. In fact, my spiritual quotient was quite low. I remember my mother being embarrassed when I was about twelve, and announcing in a loud voice, upon seeing our Reverend walking toward the pulpit, that God was coming. For some reason after that incident, I didn't have to attend church on Sundays any longer and was given the gift of maneuvering my toy soldiers at home in complete isolation.

I went on to graduate from the University of California at Irvine with a Bachelor in Science in Computer Science. I also, during my years of working received a Masters of Business Administration from City University in Bellevue, Washington. I have been active in the Technology field for over thirty years.

I wasn't religious. I had a vague belief in God, but a sense of a distant God, Who really wasn't concerned about a tiny planet in a small spiral of a distant galaxy, called the Milky Way. My life, like many others, seemed a series of random events, which brought me good and bad times. Again, like

most, I didn't appreciate the highs and I whined and complained the entire time during the lows.

Until an episode occurred which I could not rationally explain. That event started me on my journey of discovery. The mystery could not be solved unless there was a higher power involved that was manipulating and pulling levers unseen on earth.

I found out that others, superior to me in their ability were working on the same basic questions.

Recent Research

Exciting investigations are underway within the last few years. The internet has lent credibility to phenomena that would have been dismissed a decade ago.

Take NDEs (Near Death Experiences) as an example. Before the creation of a worldwide bulletin board to post individual near death experiences, people probably spoke to a select group of close acquaintances. Some may have believed the story or not, more importantly, they had just one data point to consider. There wasn't an accumulation of evidence to convince anyone that they should listen attentively to what occurred. It was merely accepting a personal story from a friend, then filing that memory away under the title of "strange episodes".

With the advent of the internet, organizations like NDERF.org, Near Death Experience Research Foundation, which serves as a location to post NDE stories, from all languages, countries, and cultures throughout the world, patterns can be detected. Patterns that are intriguing, since while one or two people reporting visiting past relatives and receiving information that they could not possibly know is an anomaly, thousands living through similar circumstances is a singularity that must be investigated.

Therefore, various research projects have been reported and are in progress today. All are finding anomalies which can't be explained with current science. They all point to an unseen force. A power that is sometimes associated with our bodies, as in the results from the NDE and an outside force that can show up in a vacuum chamber and emit photons exactly at the requested hour.

Could this be the beginning of the discovery of our soul, our spirit force and the existence of a spirit realm where our spirits travel to when they leave their bodies behind? Let's look at some of the exciting discoveries being made.

The Findings of a Neurosurgeon

Dr. Eben Alexander, a Harvard trained neurosurgeon, who never professed any belief in the afterlife or of a soul. He held fast, like many others that near death experiences were mainly hallucinations.

In an article by Steven Bancarz, titled, "Harvard Neurosurgeon Confirms The Afterlife Exists", Bancarz writes about the metamorphosis of a doctor trained in the absence of any non-spiritual influence upon our lives:

"Dr. Alexander changed his mind after he was in a coma for seven days caused by severe bacterial meningitis. During his coma he experienced a vivid journey into what he knew to be the afterlife, visiting both heavenly and not so heavenly realms.

After returning to his body and experiencing a miraculous healing against all odds, and went on to write the NY Times #1 best selling book "Proof of Heaven." What Dr. Alexander confirms is that our life here is just a test help our souls evolve and grow, and that the way we succeed in doing so is to proceed with love and compassion. Here are just a few other notable points he made:

- The experience of the afterlife was so "real" and expansive that the experience of living as a human on Earth seemed like an artificial dream by comparison.
- **The fabric of the afterlife was pure LOVE** . Love dominated the afterlife to such a huge degree that the overall presence of evil was infinitesimally small. If you wish to know the Universe, know Love.
- In the afterlife, **all communication was telepathic. There was no need for spoken words**, nor even any separation between the self and everything else happening around you. All the questions you asked in your mind were immediately answered to you telepathically as well."

This, of itself, would just be one more NDE added to the towering pile of other accounts. For all that he revealed from his journey, there is nothing that wasn't said before by many near death experiencers.

What makes his journey distinct is his review of the current theories of denying the reality of any near death experiences. Dr. Alexander reviews five theories and refutes each one:

- **"1.** A primitive brainstem program to ease terminal pain and suffering ('evolutionary argument' possibly as a remnant of feigned-death strategies from lower mammals?). This did not explain the robust, richly interactive nature of the recollections.
- **2.** The distorted recall of memories from deeper parts of the limbic system (for example, the lateral amygdala) that have enough overlying brain to be relatively protected from the meningitic inflammation, which occurs mainly at the brain's surface. This did not explain the robust, richly interactive nature of the recollections.
- **3.** DMT dump. DMT, a naturally occurring serotonin agonist causes vivid hallucinations and a dream-like state. I am personally familiar with drug experiences related to serotonin agonist/antagonists (LSD) from my teen years in the early 70s. I have had no personal experience with DMT but have seen patients under its influence. The rich ultrareality would still require fairly intact auditory and visual neocortex as target regions in which to generate such a rich audiovisual experience as I had in a coma. Prolonged coma due to bacterial meningitis had badly damaged my neocortex, which is where all of the serotonin from the raphe nuclei in my brainstem (or DMT, a serotonin agonist) would have had effects on visual/auditory experiences. But my cortex was off, and the DMT would have no place in the brain to act.
- **4.** A reboot phenomenon a random dump of bizarre dis-jointed memories due to old memories in the damaged neocortex, which might occur on restarting the cortex into consciousness after a prolonged system-wide failure, as in my diffuse meningitis. Especially given the intricacies of my elaborate recollections, this seems most unlikely.
- **5.** Unusual memory generation through an archaic visual pathway through the midbrain, prominently used in birds but only rarely

identifiable in humans. It can be demonstrated in humans who are cortically blind, due to occipital cortex. It provided no clue as to the ultra-reality I witnessed and failed to explain the auditory-visual interleaving." [108]

One can immediately detect why Dr. Alexander was chosen by the spirit world. His life threatening episode had a purpose. It was to force those who persist in a belief of absolute nothing after death to return to the drawing board and re-examine their body of knowledge which so strongly ties them to the material world.

NDE research

There is one recent research that is supplying that proof. In a 2014, article in the British newspaper, The Daily Mail, we are told of a study, which spanned four years, with more than two thousand patients, all who experienced cardiac arrests. Meaning their hearts stopped and no blood was flowing through the brain, bringing oxygen and nourishment to cells anywhere in the body. Fifteen hospitals took part. The result is that almost forty percent of patients who survived told researchers about some kind of "awareness" at precisely the period when they would have been declared clinically dead.

"Scientists at the University of Southampton conducted a four-year study of more than 2,000 patients who had suffered cardiac arrests.

The research spanned cases at 15 hospitals in the UK, U.S. and Austria.

The findings revealed nearly 40 per cent of those who survived described some kind of 'awareness' during the time when they were clinically dead before their hearts were restarted." [109]

Doctor Sam Parnia, who was in charge of the study tells us:

'The evidence thus far suggests that in the first few minutes after death, consciousness is not annihilated.

'Whether it fades away afterwards, we do not know, but right after death, consciousness is not lost.'

The scientists heard one man recall leaving his body entirely, watching his resuscitation from the corner of the room.

The 57-year-old social worker from Southampton was 'dead' for three minutes yet managed to recount detailed actions of the nursing staff and the sound of the machines." [110]

Why is this important? Primarily, because previous studies have demonstrated the inability of the brain to fulfill its role when the flow of blood ceases. Hence, the theory of hallucinations occurring while the brain shuts down is negated. The article has Dr. Parnia's explanation:

"Dr Parnia said: 'We know the brain can't function when the heart has stopped beating.

'But in this case conscious awareness appears to have continued for up to three minutes into the period when the heart wasn't beating, even though the brain typically shuts down within 20-30 seconds after the heart has stopped.

This is significant, since it has often been assumed that experiences in relation to death are likely hallucinations or illusions, occurring either before the heart stops or after the heart has been successfully restarted, but not an experience corresponding with 'real' events when the heart isn't beating.

'Furthermore, the detailed recollections of visual awareness in this case were consistent with verified events.'" [111]

Out of the 2,060 patients, 330 survived. Dr. Parnia reports the categories of people's experiences:

"Thirty-nine per cent of patients who survived cardiac arrest and were able to undergo interviews described a perception of awareness, but did not have any explicit memory of events.

This suggests more people may have mental activity initially but then lose their memories after recovery, either due to the effects of brain injury or sedative drugs on memory recall,' said Dr Parnia.

Among the study participants who recalled awareness, and completed further interviews, 46 per cent experienced a wide range of mental recollections, which were not compatible with the commonly used term, near death experiences.

They included feelings of fear and persecution.

Only nine per cent had experiences commonly linked to a near death experiences, while two per cent showed full awareness or out of body experiences.

They explicitly recalled 'seeing' and 'hearing' events after their hearts had stopped.

In many of the cases, several similar trends emerged.

One in five described a feeling of peacefulness in the moment after death.

A third said time had either moved more quickly or slowed down. An out-of-body experience was felt by 13 per cent of those asked.

The bright light or golden flash image often used in Hollywood films was also described by some patients.

Others experienced a more unpleasant sensation of fears of drowning or being dragged through deep water." [112]

Dr Parnia expressed his opinion, "that the number of people having experiences when close to death would be higher were it not for drugs and sedatives given to patients." [113]

Let's look at the reported results; nine percent of the 330 had what Dr. Parnia's team would consider a NDE, while thirty-nine percent had an awareness.

I would contest the throwing out of the people included in the NDE category the people who had feelings of fear and persecution, since there are many cases reported where the NDE wasn't pleasant. Hard truths are often exposed to those who need it. Emanuel Swedenborg, the 17th century medium who wrote books about the spirit world, was allowed to be present at judgments after death and not all were visions of heaven, but of the opposite direction.

Still with the exclusion of all any flawed experience toward the NDE tally, the percentage is higher than I would have thought. The spirit world

doesn't make just any near death event an occasion to communicate with us. Only those persons, who have been targeted, by reasons unexplained, are given the opportunity to converse with the other side. There is always a purpose, which may not be readily apparent for some time. This is one of the main objectives of my quest; to provide the Spiritist interpretation of the event and supply the underlying objective of the spirit realm in contacting the incarnate.

The bottom line is facts have been revealed that would have any reasonable person questioning the thesis, so loved by the illuminati of our culture today, that we are just organic animals, destined to rot away, without a soul, without a purpose in life, other than to consume.

Spirit communication research

There is another series of experiments being conducted. Along similar lines that Thomas Edison performed. While Edison had the mere beginnings of detectors, we now possess advanced and sensitive methods to detect energy. This work is being conducted by Dr. Gary Schwartz.

Wikipedia provides the following information about him:

"Dr. Schwartz received his PhD from Harvard University and was a professor of psychiatry and psychology at Yale University as well as Director of the Yale Psychophysiology Center and co-director of the Yale Behavioral Medicine Clinic from 1976-1988. He is the Director of the Laboratory for Advances in Consciousness and Health (LACH, formerly the Human Energy Systems Laboratory) in the Department of Psychology at the University of Arizona." [114]

I first noticed Dr. Schwartz when I came across a YouTube video, where he gave a presentation to the 7 th Annual Spiritist Society in Dallas, Texas. The lecture was on his research into the existence of spirits. Using equipment to detect photons, he invited spirits to go into dark chambers. He showed pre, during, and post measurements. The data clearly illustrated a dramatic rise of photons during the time spirits were inside the dark chamber. [115]

He arranged with a medium to set up a fixed hour for the spirit to enter the chamber. He showed the absence of any photons until the time appointed, then photons were detected. To disprove his colleagues' suggestions that his positive thinking or the thoughts of his assistants influenced the test, he arranged to have the medium determine the hour of the visitation. He demonstrated that even in this manner the instrument would detect the presence of photons at the time determined by the medium, who did not know the location of the chamber.

What was his motivation to begin his studies? Like others, the spirit world set up a sequence of events to propel him onto his current course. His story can be found at Wikipedia:

"Schwartz claims that his initial interest in psychic ability stemmed from a car accident he had with his then wife while driving on the FDR highway in Manhattan. The car was reportedly stopped on the roadway when he "heard a voice" tell him to "put his seat belt on." He told his wife to do so, and moments later, said they were rear ended by a car going 50 MPH. It was having his life saved by a mysterious voice that prompted the young Harvard PhD to begin his research into where that voice might have come from." [116]

What occurred to Dr. Schwartz and Dr. Alexander weren't random events but planned actions that were meant to spur intellectual curiosity. All designed to move our society one inch closer to the time when the fact that a spirit realm does exist at our very door step becomes an accepted reality.

Double-Blind Medium Tests

Dr. Schwartz also conducted rigorous experiments on the accuracy of information presented by mediums. The set-up of the tests is described as follows:

They were "sitter-silent double-blind" experimental paradigms.

For these demonstration readings, the sitters were not allowed to speak with the medium. The medium could only speak with the experimenter. Hence the term "sitter-silent."

Moreover, the experimenter was purposely blind to details regarding the sitter's deceased loved ones. Since the experimenter was blind to this information, the experimenter could not provide unintentional cues to the medium.

And in some demonstrations, the experimenter was not told the identity of the sitter until she or he arrived at the laboratory (i.e. the sitter was selected by the media). [117]

His findings confirm that responsible mediums, without any knowledge or physical clues from the inquiring persons, are able to expose information about past and present lives that can't be explained by current science.

Below is a report on one of his examinations done for a camera crew for ABC:

"On August 11, 2011 I conducted two sitter-silent double blind demonstration readings for Nightline. I selected one of the sitters; a person I had met only once, and I knew virtually nothing about his deceased loved ones. ABC selected the second sitter; hence I was blind to both the identity of this person as well as any information about her deceased loved ones.

The first reading, which happened to be the sitter I had selected, was witnessed only by the cameraman; the producer's connecting flight had been delayed and she was only able to witness the second reading.

As you can probably imagine, sitter-silent double-blind demonstration readings are typically stressful for everyone concerned - especially the mediums and the sitters. However, the second reading was even more stressful because the producer had less than an hour to set up her two extra cameras, record a brief reading, allow us to go through the specific information item by item, and then record quick debriefings with the sitter, medium, and experimenter.

It always amazes me when genuine mediums can obtain accurate information under these conditions. I will briefly highlight the primary pieces of information which the medium - Nancy Matz - received regarding a deceased person named Connie for the ABC selected sitter.

It was only as we reviewed the information, item by item, that the sitter realized that the profile strikingly fit her deceased loved one.

1. The medium saw a house with a large property which had many trees and greenery. This is not a typical home in the desert. The sitter

later explained that Connie was not fond of the desert; Connie had a large backyard where she had planted many trees and other greenery.

- 2. The medium mentioned money was important right at the outset. We later learned that Connie's family had been feuding over her estate and this had caused breaks in the family. Money is sometimes a problem in families after someone dies.
- 3. The medium said that Connie had died from a long standing illness. This turned out to be true. People can die from many causes, including accidents, murder, suicide, old age, and illnesses.
- 4. The medium said that she experienced a "smell" associated with the deceased. This initially meant nothing to the sitter; we presumed it was an error. However, later we discovered that this was a surprising and important piece of confirmatory evidence (described below).
- 5. The medium described what Connie looked like. The information generally matched Connie (e.g. it did not fit my mother or grandmothers, for example).
- 6. The medium described Connie's personality as especially nice and caring. The sitter later confirmed this. Not everyone who dies fits this description.
- 7. The medium claimed that the deceased felt "cheated" in life. The sitter said this applied to Connie in potentially two ways: (1) financially and (2) personally (the sitter claimed that Connie was not ready to leave her family).

None of this information, by itself, is especially unique. However, it is the pattern or profile of this information, taken as a whole - what statistician's term the "conditional probability" - which reveals the apparent accuracy of this brief reading.

As the medium was reporting this information, since I was blind to the details, and the sitter was silent, I had no idea which, if any, of this information fit Connie. Out of curiosity, I decided to do something novel. I invited the sitter to write a question she would like me to ask of the medium.

The question was, and I paraphrase slightly "Connie - have you been hanging around the house with us?"

I assumed, as it turned out mistakenly, that such a question would be non-evidential. In other words, if the medium said yes, how could we potentially verify this in the brief span of the reading?

However, when I asked the medium where in the house Connie was, the medium said, and again I paraphrase, "In the North-East, on the East side of the house."

Since I had never asked such a question before, I asked the medium how she came to this conclusion. She pointed her hands and said she saw Connie over there (pointing toward the right), and said that was her East direction.

To everyone's surprise, we later learned from the sitter that Connie spent most of her last days on the East side of the house, in her room and family room.

Of course, Nancy had a one in four chance of getting this right by guessing.

However, when I subsequently asked the sitter how she inferred that Connie's spirit was still present in the house, she replied that sometimes she smelled her! When I reminded the sitter that this was something that Nancy had mentioned early in the reading, the sitter realized that she had not made this potentially important connection.

Of course, we cannot determine if this was simply the imagination of the sitter or a vertical perception of the presence of Connie's spirit. What matters here is that the information fit and adds to the pattern / profile of information.

After this informal scoring was completed, the medium and the sitter had a chance to chat. The medium soon began speaking with the sitter about her three daughters, providing substantial details, all of which could have been wrong. According to the sitter, the medium had described each of her daughters surprisingly accurately." [118]

In essence, the medium knew or at the worst accurately guessed with zero clues about the state of the person who was seeking comfort about a deceased loved one. Either the medium was able to read minds, from a person they couldn't identify, or there is an unseen space or dimension where information is stored and can be retrieved.

You can read about other experiments and see the books he has written on his <u>website</u>.

Conclusion

What do these studies tell us in absolute terms?

- 1. People, not all, who experience a NDE retain memories of a different place, even after they are considered clinically brain dead.
 - a. All of the main stream hypothesis for NDEs was that hallucinations occurred as the brain was shutting down or other reasons, were refuted.
- 2. Some are able to record events in the physical world that they had no possibility to detect, because they were unconscious or clinically dead.
- 3. There is an unexplained source of energy that appears upon request (by a medium) in an enclosed dark vacuum chamber.
- 4. Some people, mediums, are able to extract detailed information about past lives and current lives in a manner that is currently unexplainable.

Is this proof that a spirit world, guided by a Supreme Intelligence exists? No, it doesn't. But it does negate previously popular held theories:

- 1. We already know all of the laws of the universe. It's just getting them into a nice neat mathematical formula that is the part that is left. Granted, I am being a bit disingenuous, I strongly believe no real scientist holds this belief, but many laymen do. So I put this into the list first to remind us all, that we don't know everything, or even close to everything.
- 2. Near Death Experiences could be explained by the chemistry of the brain. This has been disproven. Although I fully expect the definition of brain dead to be altered to try and use this as an argument once again.

- 3. There is no such thing as a soul; we don't live on after death. Something happened to people who were clinically dead or unconscious and therefore should not be able to detect events around them. Hence, one can't say with certitude that humans are only composed of their physically identifiable parts.
- 4. There is no unseen intelligence that is within our midst. We are on a planet by chance, alone and abandoned. If this is the case, how could energy appear in an enclosed space upon demand? How could mediums derive facts from thin air? Currently, I don't believe you can prove the existence of a Supreme Intelligence and on the other hand you can't disprove it.

If what we have surveyed is true, that we do have a spirit and there is something unseen amongst us, then it stands to reason that some sort of communication is possible and has already been tried.

If there is rational exchanges of messages, then it follows there must be a sentient being or beings which are connected to us in a currently undefinable manner. Heretofore, these communications have been the basis for our religions. The means whereby prophecies are revealed, the method in which psychics tell us of past family history of which they have no previous knowledge, in short the spirit world has been talking to us for thousands of years.

Many of you have had similar experiences, from Dr. Schwartz hearing a voice for him to put on a seatbelt, to a friend of mine, who soon after his father died, heard his father tell him to slow down on a curve, which he did, so he missed hitting a large deer. These common phenomena, which in the past were accepted as warnings from God or from other spirits, are now suppressed and explained as mere coincidences by people who do not wish to acknowledge a power greater than themselves.

There is nothing wrong in their belief, which is their freewill. But it is counter-productive to actively ridicule others about their beliefs in a higher power. Or to aggressively attempt to persuade a person convinced of their having only one material existence on earth. In the afterlife, when they find themselves on another plane, they shall begin to understand that we are more than temporary creatures.

Unbeknownst by the doubters, the very science they use to squash debate is pushing the boundaries, will, as foreseen by Spiritism, prove the existence of a spirit realm and of a Supreme Divinity who guides us all.

We are on the verge of a new era. With the use of the internet and the ability to collect information from a multitude of people who have witnessed paranormal occurrences, the mystery of a connection to the other side is being revealed. Yes, there will be hucksters and fakers, but these will be filtered and exposed by people with the ability to detect the truth.

I am certain the spirit world talks to us, in a variety of manners and for numerous reasons. As Jesus said, "let them who have ears to hear, hear", what I believe he meant is the ability to not only listen to the physical voice, but the voices, sounds, warnings, and signals from the spirits surrounding us. To listen with our spiritual side, our conscience and instincts to discern what we should be accomplishing while on earth and preparing for when we go back to the "real" world, the universe of unseen energy, where our immortal soul calls home.

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<u>Chapter 42 – Reincarnation's Main Objective -</u> For us to become Omniscient

The Apostle Paul, in a series of messages, presents to us what is the primary goal of reincarnation. It is to create a high spirit; <u>one who works with God</u> in the process of creation. High spirits take direction from the Supreme Intelligence, to carry out broad directives.

Paul, reiterates this point:

"Reincarnation's main objective is to allow spiritual beings to become self-conscious to such a point that they will become omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent gods, just as the true God we worship. And they inevitably will. In order to reach such elevated level, men and women should think that they already possess the moral qualities that are necessary for them to attain spiritual consciousness. They should begin to mentally practice at once that, since they are perfect creatures in the Divine Mind, they already possess all that they need to attain spiritual consciousness in their own time.

By thinking that they do not need anything from the outside to become their absolute masters, they will develop cells which will give them such a power. This way, they will soon begin to feel a remarkable change in their habits and thoughts. When feelings of consciousness instinctively correct some of their old habits, their spirits will then begin to screen habits which they previously did not consider inconvenient. To keep away inconvenient or detrimental habits is the same as to remove obstacles from the path that leads to spiritual consciousness." [119]

Paul is notifying us of our future responsibilities. We, at some point in the future, shall be responsible for great works and for possibly millions of souls. Hence, we should start acting the part of a truly benevolent being.

<u>Chapter 43 – We are Inherently Dependent on</u> Each Other

We aren't just placed on earth in isolation, but to interact with other spirits and incarnates. We have no choice. Even if we lived on a deserted island, there would still be spirits around us, reading our thoughts and supplying us with inspiration. It is meant to be this way; for in this stage of our education we are expected to live amongst the influence of good, bad, and indifferent spirits and other humans.

This concept is discussed in a translated communication titled <u>The Life of Jesus</u>. It was reportedly a communication from spirit Jesus to a medium in France in the 19 th century. The medium was only known as Medium X. The book was translated into Italian, then Spanish, then into English. It was not completed until a second medium took up the work in the 20 th century. We are told in the "About" section:

"The original book was written in French and was later translated to Italian, and that version translated into Spanish. The Spanish translator was also a medium who received the dictation of the second part in the 20 th Century. His name was Ovidio Rebaudi, born in Paraguay, but lived in Buenos Aires. At first he was reluctant to translate this book into Spanish, because he himself had lost faith in Jesus, believing him to be a myth. But a series of apparently unconnected occurrences happened which made him change his mind and he set forth on the difficult task of translating the book. It seems he was a very special person and highly spiritual indeed as he was then used by the Light Forces to transmit the second part Jesus had in mind. He is referred to in the book as Medium XX." [120]

I am not sure about the authenticity of the work, for usually I attempt to find some cross-reference with other Spiritist literature that vouches for the communication. I haven't found any other references to this material, although the central tenets of the messages conform to the Spiritist Doctrine.

One passage spoke about our dependency on others and its relation to the stage of the planet we live on. I found it fascinating and revealing. Here it is, from Chapter 12:

"The dependence of the Spirits increases relative to the inferiority of the world they inhabit, and I add that, despite the spiritual lights and intellectual strength of a Spirit, it has to suffer more or less deplorably for the shadows cast on its ideal and for the assaults on its convictions in a world in which all religious beliefs are understood only through demonstrations relating to the past, future, present and the honor of the Spirit.

The family of man consists of alliances without homogeneity and without enough collective strength to achieve its objective. These alliances become miserable tests for Spirits honored with a previously achieved elevation in the moral and intellectual hierarchy." [121]

The concept that as we start out as ignorant spirits on a primitive planet, and then are promoted up to a planet of atonement, where we must pay for our past wrongs from past lives in order to learn the lessons we require (where we live now), that we are more dependent on outside factors; such as other incarnates and discarnates, cultures, societies, schools, friends, and family is reasonable. I had just not thought about this aspect of the growth of a spirit before.

It makes sense, for we easily detect the inordinate influence that children have on each other. When one child executes a new action, then the rest follow, what children see and hear around them, causes them to act in a similar manner. As adulthood approaches the effect of external stimuli lessens. Therefore, it must be the same for a young and immature spirit.

In the second paragraph above, the difficulties of a spirit who has been sent to a planet like ours, who has lived with civilized souls, in a community which follows the Divine Laws and adheres to the rules of love, peace, charity, and fraternity – are revealed. Imagine taking your adult self all the way back to first grade and being forced to interact with taunting, constant physical horse-play, and other infantile games. This is where we live.

Elevated spirits must descend to our world and wonder what the heck they have gotten themselves into. Sane alone in an insane crowd, they must experience momentary bouts of self-doubt and thoughts of escape.

Seek out those who are trying to teach sanity to a crazy world and listen. Hear the messages of love. Embrace the knowledge that we are on earth for a short time. We are living but one life in a sequence of many. That we are on earth for a reason; to help ourselves and others. Add your light to the dim flame of sanity and civilization, so more can be drawn to it. One day, when enough of us understand that we are immortal spirits with a plan, the world will become a better place.

<u>Chapter 44 – The Life of an Errant Spirit</u> <u>Wandering Amongst Us</u>

In the book, *The Spiritist Review, Journal of Psychological Studies*, 1859, which contains all of the monthly articles in the 12 issues of Allan Kardec's magazine for the year 1859, there is an account of a spirit which came unannounced to a mediums' meeting. The chapter, "Scenes of the Spirit's Private Life", which starts at page 201, discusses the life of a spirit who wanders the earth.

The spirit, who was a bit of a rough neck, died at the young age of twenty. He was neither evil nor good. When he passed away he wasn't exiled to the worse sections of the <u>Lower Zones</u>, he was sentenced to stay on the surface with us.

On page 205, he was asked:

- "20. How do you spend your time?
- I have no other concern but to have fun and to be informed about the events which may have influence over my fate. I see many things. I spend part of the time at my friends' houses, in the theater... Sometimes I find funny things... If the persons only know that they have company when they think to be alone! Finally, I go in such a way as to make the passage of time as light as possible... I wouldn't know how long this is going to last, however, I have been like that for a while... Have you seen many cases like that?
- 21. In short, are you happier now than when you were alive?
- No.
- 22. What is it that you are missing? You need nothing else; you no longer suffer; you are not afraid of being bankrupt; you go everywhere and see everything; you are not afraid of the human concerns or diseases, or the ailments of age. Wouldn't that be a happy life?
- I lack the reality of the pleasures. I am not sufficiently elevated to enjoy moral happiness. I desire everything that I see and this is my very

punishment; I get bored and try to kill time the way I can! And how this lasts... I experience an indefinable qualm. I would rather feel the miseries of life than this anxiety that tortures me.

- 23. You said you would go visiting your friends. Isn't that a real distraction?
- My friends cannot feel my presence. Besides, they no longer even remember me. That hurts.
- 24. Don't you have friends among the spirits?
- Senseless and useless like me; that get bored like me. Their company is not very nice. Those who think and are happy stay away from me."

 [122]

A perfect example of suffering by a person who became a spirit, who did not possess any moral compass. The poor soul is sentenced to live in the spirit world as aimlessly as he lived in the physical world.

Imagine the number of spirits around us, men and women, who died without a higher goal in mind. Without the ambition to spiritually better themselves. Hopefully, they will discover how to ascend while in the spirit world.

In fact, in a later communication, the young soul is given a task to prove himself worthy and he reports a spirit that follows him, guiding him to perform good deeds instead of wasting his time.

Spirits similar to the wandering young man are one of the reasons while care must be taken while attempting to communicate with the other side. Spiritism, through the books of Allan Kardec, such as *The Mediums Book*, teaches us to discern between the serious and the frivolous spirit.

There are many spirits who wander the Lower Zone, unaware that they only need to peer upwards and they will be given help. Spiritist groups, such as the one I visit when I am in Rio de Janeiro, hold special meetings with mediums sitting around a table, whose sole purpose is to assist errant spirits.

As in the example above, higher spirits will purposefully bring wandering spirits to these meetings so they can see incarnates communicating with other spirits, helping them solve their problems so they

can open their hearts to the guiding spirits around them waiting to help those who are ready for it.

<u>Chapter 45 – The Doctrine of Guardian Angels - A Spirit Communication from St. Augustine and St. Louis</u>

In the book, *The Spiritist Review, Journal of Psychological Studies of 1859*, published in 2015 by the US Spiritist Council, there is a communication regarding guardian angels from spirits who signed themselves St. Augustine and St. Louis.

Allan Kardec put the communication into one of his monthly periodicals in 1859, therefore I will take his word that even if the spirits weren't who they said they were, the sentiment is correct. Also, the tone of the message and the wording is similar to communications from high spirits I have listened to while at medium meetings.

By the way, for those diving deeper into the available Spiritist literature in English, the two books released in 2015, *The Spiritist Review of 1858* and the next book, *The Spiritist Review of 1859* are fascinating. You can find both books on Amazon or at the <u>United States Spiritist Council</u>.

In the Chapter titled, "The Guardian Angels" on page 35, the message is revealed:

"There is a doctrine that should convert the most incredulous for its enchantment and kindness. This is related to the subject concerning guardian angels. Just think about the fact that you have near you beings who are your superiors, who are there to counsel you, to sustain you, to help you to escalate the difficult mountain of righteousness; who are more certain and dedicated friends than the most intimate relationships that you can establish on Earth; isn't that a consoling idea? Those beings are following God's orders. It was God who placed them by your side. They are there out of love for God, thus accomplishing a beautiful and tough mission. Yes, they will be with you wherever you go. The dungeons, the hospitals, the places of mockery, the solitude, nothing separates you from those friends that you don't see but whose kind impulse your soul feels, hearing their wise advices.

Had you known this reality better, how many times would that help you at moments of crises! How many times would that save you from the hands of bad spirits! However, on the great day this angel of goodness may tell you: 'Haven't I told you? And you did not do it. Haven't I shown you the abyss? And you fell into that. Haven't I made you hear the voice of truth in your conscience? Nevertheless, you followed the advices of lie.' Ah! Interrogate your guardian angels; establish with them this fond intimacy that reigns among the best of friends. Think not of hiding anything from them since theirs is God's eyes and you cannot deceive them. Think of the future and endeavor to advance in this life. Thus your trials will be shorter and your existences happier. Go people, courage! Cast away your prejudices and hidden thoughts, once for all. Take the new path that opens up before you. March on; march on, since you have guides that you must follow. The target cannot frustrate you for the target is God Himself.

To those who think it is impossible for elevated spirits to attach themselves to such a laborious and constant task, we say that we influence your souls even by being millions of miles away from you. To us, space is nothing and even living in another world, our spirits keep the bonds with yours. We enjoy faculties that you cannot understand but be assured that God has not imposed on us a burden beyond our strength and that God did not abandon you without friends and support on Earth. Each guardian angel has his own protégé who it watches like a father over the son. It is happy when sees the child following the good path and suffers when its advices are neglected.

Don't be afraid of bothering us with your questions. On the contrary, be always in touch with us, since you will then be stronger and happier. What makes all people mediums are these communications between each person with their familiar spirit - mediums who are ignored today but who will manifest later, spreading like a boundless ocean to keep incredulity and ignorance away. You don't know the work that you accomplish by doing so. It is the works of Christ which God imposes on you. Why would God have given you intelligence and Science but to share with your brothers and sisters and make them advance in the path of the eternal venture and happiness?" [123]

I hope this helps you feel comforted and loved. When you are at your loneliest or at the very bottom in the middle of a hard trial, think of your guardian angel and pray for strength and guidance. Demonstrate your sense of purpose and your willingness to learn and I guarantee you events will start breaking your way.

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<u>Chapter 46 – Work and Evolution - A Spirit Tell</u> <u>Us We Must Strive to Improve Ourselves</u>

At the end of the day we all know there is no giving up, there is no abandoning ship, no disappearing from our responsibilities. Emmanuel, the spirit guide to Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier tells us that we need to work in order to evolve. Without growth and change we stagnate.

"On every occasion that we feel compelled to desert from serving, alleging failures and imperfections, it is convenient to observe the logical lessons from Nature, which finds in work its own path to evolution and improvement.

If the seed gave up its germination because of its confinement in the cloister of clay, it would not produce the fruit that feeds the human being. After all, the attention it receives from the fruit grower is in direct proportion to how much it produces.

If the rose-bush decided to prevent its own flowers from blooming because of the thorns transfixed along its stems, it would not produce the roses that embellish the world so much. Again, it gathers only as much care from the gardener as it produces in flowers.

If the spring denied the soil its beneficence on the grounds that it would have to run through mud and stones on the riverbed...

If the metal decided to betray its own utility in supporting the boiling crucible...

If the animal persisted indefinitely in its refusal to be tamed, alleging the extreme aggressiveness still persistent in its behavior...

And on it goes... All of us, incarnate and discarnate spirits alike, in evolution here on Earth, are at the moment far from the angelical condition, much in the same way that other elements in nature are still infinitely distant from the human condition.

Indubitably, due to our ability to reason, we have a duty to improve ourselves on a constant basis, but it will not be licit for us to allege defects and insipience in order to flee from collaborating in the construction of goodness for the benefit of all, since we are observed and appraised towards the superior life by the extent we seize the opportunities to assist in our lives.

Therefore, in our work, let us love the dispellent of all shadows that are still attached to us in the domains of the soul. Let us be convinced that in all districts of the universe, perfection is the final aim for all creatures and all things. Nevertheless, for the adequate execution of such perfection, work in an inexorable process." [124]

Hence, whatever smooth or rocky path has been selected for you in your career, it is the road which leads you to your perfection by the most optimal route. While this concept may seem fantastical to many, it is the plan. You may shake your head in desperation or amusement at the twist and turns you have lived through thus far, but, more importantly is for you to never give up and use each hurdle as a platform, instead of an obstacle, to advance your quest to become a pure spirit.

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<u>Chapter 47 – Someday there will be Psychic</u> <u>Surgery</u>

In the book, *Between Heaven and Earth*, a team of spirits is helping a confused spirit, who is tied to the household of his granddaughter. One member of the team applies magnetic passes to assist the old spirit to regain his memory. The object of the passes is to reestablish his memory connections so the team may determine what is keeping him in the house in a stupor like state.

One of the team members ask how can the old spirit begin to spontaneously regain his ability to retrieve his memory. The team leader answers:

"Yes, of course. The memory may be compared to a sensitive plate, which, when struck by light, stores forever the images collected by the spirit during the course of its innumerable learning experiences. Each one of our soul's particular lifetimes is an added experience that is preserved in the prodigious archive of images, which, even though superimposed on one another, never become jumbled up. During endeavors of assistance like this one, we need to search the mental archives in order to produce certain types of vibrations, not only to attract the presence of spirits that are connected to this suffering brother but also to unveil the hidden fibers of his mind that keep him bound to his afflictions and unseen wounds." [125]

I am going off on a little tangent here, before I get to Psychic surgery. Bear in mind this book was published in Portuguese in 1954. Computers had core memory which was basically magnetic cores wired to be either on or off. Memory was very expensive. Personal computers weren't even a twinkle in anyone's eye at the time.

Now, how does an optical disk work, there is a single layer, but there is also a dual layer optical disk that stores data superimposed on the top of one another. Dual layer discs have two reflective layers sandwiched between the label side and plastic side instead of one. The first of these layers is semi-

transparent, so the laser can change its focal length and read through it to the next layer.

When the concept of light storing information to a plate is described in the book that is exactly how data is written to an optical disk.

Now back to Psychic surgery; the team leader further explains:

"The mind, just like any other part of the body, can and must endure interventions in order to become rebalanced. Someday, human science will develop *psychic surgery*, just as today it is developing its surgical techniques with the needs of the physical body in mind. In the grand future, doctors will unravel a *mental labyrinth* with the same ease with which they can now remove an inflamed appendix." [126]

Therefore, hopefully one day, relief may be coming to mentally disturbed individuals. Although I also hope this is never used for nefarious purposes.

Spiritism promises a better life, a life in the pursuit of spirituality instead of material goods. A balancing of living here on earth within the constraints and being free to think above the fray.

Chapter 48 – What Happens When a Child Dies?

Many Spiritist' believe that when a child dies, the spirit returns to an adult form, so they may start over. In some of the books by Andre Luiz, there are mentions of places where spirits care for children. One would think this would be a rare occurrence, after all newly formed spirits are first reincarnated upon primitive worlds.

There is an explanation to this mystery in the book *Between Heaven and Earth*, by Francisco C. Xavier, inspired by the spirit Andre Luiz. Andre Luiz is talking to his companions when they are visiting a center for spirit children and as usual, Andre is curious about such centers, he records the following conversation:

"According to the old, classical theology, newborns remained in limbo after death, without the glory of heaven or the torment of hell, whereas of late, with the new concepts of spiritualism, such discarnates have been thought to immediately resume their adult personage.

'A lot of times that is what actually happens.' Explains Blandina. 'When the spirit has reached an elevated evolutionary level and has assumed mental command of itself, it acquires the ability to easily disengage itself from the imposition of the physical form, overcoming the difficulties of pre-adult discarnation. We know of great souls who were reborn for a very short time, simply with the objective of awakening beloved hearts to the acquisition of moral values. Then, right afterwards, they recover their former appearance. However, the same does not apply for most children that discarnate. Souls that are still prisoners of unconscious automatism are relatively a long way from self-governance. They rest and are led by nature, like babies in their mothers' laps. They are unable to undo the ties that bind them to the rigid principles that guide the world of forms: thus, they need time in order to be renewed. That is why we cannot do without the recovery time needed for someone who has left the physical vehicle in infancy, because after the biological struggle of reincarnation or discarnation for those who are in the early stages of acquiring mental power, time has to function as an indispensable element for restoration. The length of that

time depends on how the learner applies him or herself to acquire inner light through his or her own moral growth." [127]

Hence, once again, our ability to free ourselves from the materialistic world and concentrate on love and helping others, does make a difference in subsequent lives. With a superior pool of knowledge we are able to recover our spiritual form, while those who have been reincarnated to begin another trial without first attaining a taste of the wonderfulness of spiritual life are at a disadvantage. We truly are creatures of our own mind. We should invest as much energy in the development of our inner bodies as we do in our outward appearance.

<u>Chapter 49 – Sleep - Frees the Soul from the Body</u>

In the book *Spiritist Review - Journal of Psychological Studies of 1858*, published in 2015, by the United States Spiritist Council, there is a dissertation from an unknown spirit about sleep.

It supplies a complete survey of what sleep means to souls at different levels and why our dormant state is vital for us.

The Chapter, "Dissertations From Beyond the Grave: Sleep" starts at page 557.

"Poor human beings! How little you know about the most ordinary phenomena that exist in your life! You think highly of yourselves; you think that you have a vast knowledge and remain speechless before these simple questions framed by all children: 'What do we do when we are asleep? What is the meaning of dreams?' I don't have the pretension of making you understand what I want to explain, since there are things that your spirit cannot submit to, because one can only admit what one can comprehend.

Sleep entirely frees the soul from the body. When we are asleep we are momentarily in the same state that we shall definitely be after death. The spirits that have quickly detached from matter, on the occasion of their death, had intelligent dreams; those, when sleeping, meet again with the society of other beings that are superior to them; that travel, talk to them and are enlightened by them. They even work on tasks that they find finalized when they die. This, once more, must teach us that we should not fear death, as we die every day as once stated by a Saint.

All this was said with respect to the superior spirits. The large majority of people, however, who may remain in that perturbation for long hours, in that uncertainty that you were told about, those individuals go to worlds that are inferior to Earth, attracted by old affections, or to look for pleasures that are even of a lower level than those found here. They will then learn doctrines that are even more vile, ignoble and harmful than those that they profess among you. What establishes the sympathy on Earth is nothing else but the fact that we feel attracted by

the heart, as we wake up, to those with whom we have spent eight or nine hours of pleasure or happiness. What also establishes the irresistible antipathy is that, deep there in the heart, we know that those creatures have a different conscience, with respect to us; hence we know them not having ever setting our eyes on them. It is this that also explains the indifference, since we don't seek to make friends when we know that we have others that love us and wish us well. In one word, sleep influences your lives more than you think.

Through sleep, the incarnated spirits are always in contact with the spiritual world, allowing then that the superior spirits, without much repulse, do agree to come to incarnate in your environment. God wanted that during the contact with vices they could reinforce their virtues in the source of goodness, so as not to fail, as they come to instruct others. Sleep is the door that God opened to them to meet their friends from heaven; it is the break after the work, waiting for the great liberation, the final liberation that should reintegrate them back to their real world.

A dream is the memory of what your spirit saw during the sleep. Notice, however, that you do not always dream since you do not always remember some of what you have seen or everything that you have seen. It is not your soul in its full detachment; often it is nothing more than the memory of the perturbation that follows our departure or arrival, added to the memory of what you have done or what worries you during the waking state. Without that, how can we explain those absurd dreams, of the scholars as well as of the simplest person? The evil spirits also use the dream to torment the weak and pusillanimous souls.

As a matter of fact you will soon see the development of a new kind of dream. It is as old as the one you know but ignored by you. It is the dream of Joan of Arc, of Jacob, of the Jewish prophets and of some Indian fore-tellers. Such a dream represents the memory of the soul, entirely separated from the body; the memory of that second life that I was telling you about some time ago.

For the dreams that you retain the memory try to distinguish well between those two kinds, as without it you shall fall into contradictions and cause dismal mistakes to your faith." [128]

At the end of the spirit's communication we are being told that some dreams can hold valuable information for us. It is our responsibility to separate the important and relevant dream from the vast majority of nonsense dreams we all have.

I talk about my dreams and how they have helped guide my life in my book, <u>7 Tenets of Spiritism - How They Impact Your Daily Life</u>. There are definitely dreams that are meant to supply us with vital information, either to warn us of a possible event or to gently push us onto another path.

Lastly, I believe what the spirit revealed to us illustrates the limitation and uses of our physical body. Our souls live in a temporary spacesuit which require periodic communication with the mother ship. It is as if when we don't have enough sleep we run out of oxygen and our body begins to shut down, without the resupply of air from the surface. We are submerged here on the surface of earth and we need to ascend periodically to refresh ourselves in the rarefied atmosphere of a higher plane.

<u>Chapter 50 – How the Spirit World</u> <u>Communicates to Us</u>

There is constant communication from the spirit realm to our physical world. We are, for the most part, unaware, but there are people, who have been given certain talents, who have the ability to receive messages from a different dimension. These individuals have been amongst us throughout history, they are called by various names; witches, psychics, medicine women and men, priests, nuns, we shall call them by the name given to them by Spiritism; mediums.

Mediums have been Brought to Us for a Purpose

The spirit realm has given our present time the gift of mediumship for a purpose. In the book, *In the Realms of Mediumship*, psychographed by Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier, a spirit tells us why more souls on earth are being given the gift of communication with the other side:

"The mediumistic phenomenon is not new. Only the way it manifests is new because the priesthood of various creeds has been stagnated for many centuries in the displays of outward worship. Most notably, Christianity, which should be the largest and simplest of the schools of faith, has long been crystallized in the superficiality of its churches. Thus, it was necessary to free its principles for benefits of the world, which nowadays, from a scientific point of view, is bathed in the light of a new era. That is why the planet's unseen Government decided that mediumship should be brought from the clergy into the public square so that the notion of eternity, through the survival of the soul, would awaken the anesthetized mind of the populace." [129]

Hence, the spirit world wishes to send us the information that we are immortal souls who are on a path to perfection. The realization that karma is real, means that no one escapes the damages they have done or doesn't benefit from the good they have accomplished is the major lever that will be used to bring back in balance people's materialistic tendencies with their spiritual needs.

What are the Different Types of Mediums

Everyone is a medium of some sort. All of us receive thoughts from the spirit world. While we may not be conscious of these metal telegrams passing through our body, they are there. When a close guardian spirit wishes to convey a message to us, they speak directly to our brain. When they speak, we don't hear words, but thoughts, and we interpret these ideas as our own.

Inspirational Mediums

According to Allan Kardec's book, *The Book on Mediums*, we are all "Inspirational Mediums" [130]. All of us are influenced by the good and bad spirits around us. Allan Kardec explains:

"Inspiration comes to us all, from Spirits who influence, for good or evil, in every circumstance of our lives, and in every resolution we make, and it may therefore be truly said that, in this respect, every-one is a medium, for there is no one who has not about him his familiar spirits, who do their utmost to suggest salutary or pernicious counsels to those with whom they are connected; a truth which, were we duly penetrated with its reality and importance, would frequently lead us to oppose a more effectual resistance to the suggestions of evil, by seeking the inspiration of our guardian-angel in our moments of uncertainty as to what we should say or do. At such times, we should invoke that watchful guardian with fervor and confidence, as a Providentially-appointed friend; and, if we did so, we should often be astonished at the new ideas which would arise in our minds, as though by enchantment, whether for the taking of an important decision, or for the accomplishing of our special work." [131]

We all have had moments of inspiration, flashes of brilliance, which provides some key piece of knowledge that we have been searching for; these sparks are caused by spirits, who chose to influence us. Use the gems given to us, but first filter the idea through your conscience and instinct (see how your conscience and instinct are the accumulation of your past lives) to determine the validity of the suggestion.

Allan Kardec goes on to say that people of genius are mediums without being aware of it. These people have the innate sense to call superior spirits to provide the assistance they seek. Allan Kardec completes the section on inspirational mediums with this communication from the spirit world:

"What is the primal cause of inspiration?

'The communication of his thoughts by a spirit'

Is inspiration confined to the revelation of great things?

'No; it often has reference to the most commonplace circumstances of your daily life. For instance, you may have thought of going somewhere, but a secret voice tells you not to go, because there is danger in the way; or it tells you to do something which you have not thought of doing; this is inspiration. There are very few people who are not more or less 'inspired' in this way, at certain moments.'" [132]

Hence, we are all touched, we are all subtlety guided by the unseen hand of the spirit realm.

The Communication Portal

Rene Descartes, the French 17 th century philosopher, who has been called the founder of modern philosophy, believed the pineal gland, located in the center of the brain, was our conduit to the spirit world. [133] Rene was the man who said. "I think therefore I am". [134]

Others seconded his theory, in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, we are told:

"Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Madame Blavatsky, the founder of theosophy, identified the 'third eye' discovered by the comparative anatomists of her time with the 'eye of Shiva' of the 'Hindu mystics' and concluded that the pineal body of modern man is an atrophied vestige of this 'organ of spiritual vision' (Blavatsky 1888, vol. 2, pp. 289–306). This theory is still immensely popular today." [135]

While modern science and current philosophy regulates the pineal gland to a mass which produces the melatonin hormone, literature produced by Spiritist mediums psychographing from knowledgeable spirits place the pineal gland at the apex in determining if a person has the ability to transfer messages from the spirit realm to us.

There are many detailed classifications of mediums, but I will cover the major areas only. Please look upon this list as an introduction only, for within each category there may exist different types and modifications of abilities.

- 1. Sensitive or Impressionable Mediums Ability to feel the presence of spirits. Other categories require this ability. [136]
- 2. Clairaudient Mediums These mediums hear the voice of spirits.
- 3. Trance Mediums Only transmit what is said to them by spirits. [138]
- 4. Clairvoyant Mediums The ability to see spirits. [139]
- 5. Healing Mediums Ability to heal by the laying on of hands. [140]
- 6. Automatic Writing Mediums The ability to obtain direct writing from a spirit. [141]
- 7. Inspirational Mediums This was discussed in the previous section. We are all inspirational mediums.
- 8. Presentiment Mediums Ability to intuit the future. [142]

I am sure other more knowledgeable people have better inclusive and exhaustive lists, but I believe the above is a fair introduction to the broad types of persons who have the ability to transmit thoughts and actions from the spirit world to us. Many mediums have more than one of the above talents. The great Brazilian medium Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier had all of the above capabilities.

Sensitive or Impressionable Mediums

Have you ever talked or thought about someone who had passed away and then felt goosebumps or a tingly sensation in your arms and shoulders? You may have felt the presence of a spirit.

Be careful of what you say and your thoughts. They leave our minds and can draw in unwanted guests. Andre Luiz gives an example of this, in his book, *Workers of the Life Eternal*, where during a funeral, a group of people were talking about the deceased. One man started to reveal that the deceased knew of a man who committed murder, but never revealed the

name, due to the high position of the murderer. Andre Luiz describes what happened next:

"At that moment, a horrendous figure followed by others no less monstrous, appeared unexpectedly. The figure approached the thoughtless commentator, and upon hearing his last words, shook him, crying out;

'I'm the murderer! What do you want from me? Why have you called me? Are you a judge?'

The narrator was unable to see what I could, but his body was shaken by an involuntary shudder, which drew muffled laughter from all those present." [143]

Examples, such as this one, are a constant theme in literature inspired by Andre Luiz. Our thoughts are radio waves, indiscriminately radiated in all directions. You never know what person or spirit will tune at what time.

I always tell everyone I have absolutely no mediumistic ability, but of course I am an inspirational medium, like all of us. But, I believe I have the ability to feel, sometimes, not always, the presence of good spirits.

When I first started going to Spiritist meetings, I wondered what that tingly feeling was in my arms, shoulders, and neck. At first I thought it was just how I was sitting, but when I left the meeting the feelings would disappear too. At home or at other places, I wasn't able to replicate that sensation.

When I learned how to give passes, the transfer of energy from a spirit to a recipient, I felt again a wave of power flowing through my arms and hands. I soon learned to recognize that sensation. I have it during Spiritist meetings and sometimes when I speak about Spiritism.

I have also felt it in other circumstances. In my job, I was invited to hear a talk given by Tony Blair, who was once the Prime Minister of Great Britain. As he was being introduced, I felt normal, but when he walked on the stage, I felt a surge of power, as if there were many spirits around him. The impression left when he left the platform.

Clairaudient Mediums

According to *The Book on Mediums* , by Allan Kardec, the definition of a clairaudient mediums is:

"These mediums hear the voice of spirits: some times ... it is an inner voice that speaks to the interior consciousness; sometimes it is an exterior voice, clear and distinct as that of a person in the flesh. Clairaudient mediums are thus enabled to enter into conversation with the spirits." [144]

One of the most famous clairaudient mediums in history is Joan of Arc. When she was about thirteen, she heard from Saint Michael, Saint Catherine, and Saint Margaret, who told her to drive out the English and bring the Dauphin to Reims for his coronation. [145]

Trance Medium

I have seen Trance mediums at work. They are Clairaudient mediums who only transmit what is said to them by spirits, they often hear nothing, while the spirit controls their voice. [146]

I was at a meeting to help discarnated spirits. The process is to help spirits living in a state of unbalance. This is not a type of medium meeting where spirits from deceased family members, etc. are communicated with to ease the pain of still living family.

The meetings are all done by volunteers who mostly work during the day and then they meet at night to help our discarnated brothers and sisters, who need assistance to regain their facilities so they are able to get back on the path to improve themselves.

For those of you that have read Andre Luiz's books, such as *The Messengers* or *Workers of the Life Eternal*, what I witnessed at the meeting followed the pattern of disobsession medium meetings in the books quite closely.

The meeting started with one of the persons saying a prayer to start the meeting. Next, the mediums talked about their experiences since the last meeting. After the previous information was digested, one of the mediums read passages from one of the Spiritist books. They kept their discussions and readings to a strict timetable.

At the appointed hour, the lights were dimmed and the mediums, heads bowed in silence, awaited the first contact. There were papers and pens ready at the table to receive any written messages. There are two types of mediums at the meeting. A trance medium, is the one the spirit connects with and speaks through their voice. The other type of medium is the counselor medium, who engages in conversation with the spirit.

A male trance medium started talking, all conversations were in Portuguese, in which I am not totally competent, and therefore I may misrepresent some situations.

The trance medium started shaking and then he said, "Untie me! Untie me! Why am I restrained?"

A counselor medium came over to sit by the trance medium and put his hand on the trance medium's arm and said," Please calm down, calm down, everything will be fine."

The spirit kept yelling to be free, finally the counselor medium told the spirit to go back to sleep and try to contact the group another day when he was able to communicate.

Another episode was when a women spirit talking through a female trance medium. Immediately she began complaining about her life in general.

"How could someone study, go to school, be educated, and wishing to be a good wife and yet spend a long time locked in her own house by her husband. And if that is not enough, her husband then marked her face with a red-hot iron. He burned all of my face."

Then she cried and said she was sad. She seemed to believe her face was still disfigured, even though she has left her physical body.

Next her husband possessed another trance medium and he said, "I feel very terrible I did this, but you know during those times the husband totally owned his wife."

I immediately thought; this must be a couple from many years ago, when women had no rights.

The counselor medium told him, "I understand your regret."

The husband responded, "Yes, you are right. All I want is her forgiveness. I am very regretful."

This is a very tragic situation, the wife lives in constant anger of what was done to her and the husband cannot move on due to his realization of his horrible behavior. Her absolute anger is understandable, but it reached a point that her negative thoughts are detrimental to her own health. Who knows how many decades both have been merely existing in this twilight zone. They seemed locked in the lower regions, unable to progress through forgiveness and love.

The last case I will try to summarize is a male spirit who came and told everyone at the meeting how hypocritical and stupid we all are. Then he said, "All of you are fools, you think you are superior to us?"

"No, we don't think that, we just want to give you help and love", the counselor medium replied.

"Who are you to give love? Only Jesus reached the high level of love, no one else." he said in a loud voice.

"We are here in empathy to learn, how about you?" said the counselor medium, trying to find the key to start a constructive dialog.

He thought for a while and said, "Do you think we also don't have empathy. I have love within my group"

"Are you happy with your life?" asked the medium.

"I accept my life the way it is.", he replied

The counselor medium, sensing he was not open to any type of positive conversation, told him, "OK, so why are you here? If you don't want to listen, then I will have to ask you to let others come."

Then he laughed and left.

The meeting was like this for the entire two hours, short dialogs with spirits who required assistance. Some spirits, we were told, would come back many times. All spirits were directed to the meeting by spirits from the higher regions attempting to help those trapped by negative emotions or many other causes. Meetings such as these are just one way lost souls are comforted and guided to get back to the path of improvement.

Clairvoyant Mediums

I know a clairvoyant medium. He is a member of a Spiritist center in Rio de Janeiro. He can see spirits. He told of what he saw when passes are given after a Spiritist meeting.

In the Spiritist center in Rio de Janeiro, there is an hour long talk on Spiritism, the subject of the speech changes, but always on teaching others more about the Spiritist Doctrine. After the discussion, people are led in groups of eight to ten to a room, where there are chairs for each person. Standing next to each chair is a person ready to give passes to the one who waited to receive a pass after the speech.

During a <u>pass</u>, a spirit stands behind the person giving the pass, the spirit transmits Universal Fluid to the person standing giving the pass; their body is used to modified the Universal Fluid to the intended recipient's own vital fluid. This transfer is intended to revitalize the balance and energy centers of the person receiving the passes.

My acquaintance told me that during this process spirits appear to move like robots, with very fast and precise movements. As the line of people come into the room a spirit leads each person to the correct chair.

I can tell you that when I walked in the room, I had no conscious feeling of being told to walk to a certain chair. In fact, after I was told of this, the next time, I deliberately went to my second choice chair, just to see if I could be difficult! Of course, I probably ended up in the seat that was assigned to me.

I was also told a story of a clairvoyant medium who works at a government office in Brazil. He is one of those people who assists individuals waiting in line for answers to different questions, forms, or other inquiries into complex bureaucracy. Sometimes when a person comes up to him and starting asking questions, he responds to what he sees. His fellow co-workers, upon detecting him speaking to thin air, will gently remind him that he must be speaking with a spirit.

Healing Mediums

These are mediums that can actually help heal or assist in the processing of healing. They don't perform this by themselves, but with the guidance of

a spirit or spirits.

One of the most famous healing mediums is John of God. He is a medium who has been shown on ABC, CNN, 60 Minutes, and the Oprah show. He tells no one to stop taking their medicine, or to refrain from going to a licensed physician. He says that all healing is from God and the spirits and not from him. He doesn't guarantee that everyone will be cured.

I have not traveled to John of God in Brazil, but I have been to a different healing medium, in the city of Rio Novo, in the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil. It is a state that is next to the state of Rio de Janeiro, and is about a three hour drive from the city of Rio de Janeiro.

The center is called, the Para-scientific Organization of Adolfo Fritz. Para-scientific; it means an accessory to science, hence not yet a science but hopes to be one someday. The medium who applies, or channels the energy of Dr. Fritz is Chico Monteiro.

I arrived at an old industrial building. There was an efficient check-in line staffed by volunteers. I gave my name and a sheet of paper with my ailments and basic data was printed out. I was directed to wait on some wooden benches to sit until my name was called.

The building was aged but clean. Inside was spacious and full of places to sit. Outside, people were selling snacks and other small items. There must have been around two hundred people in attendance and around fifteen volunteers.

Periodically, people would be called by an attendant, who by the way was very professional. He had the perfect balance of directing people while simultaneously appearing extremely caring. I waited my turn. The people around me were a various group, old, young, male, and female. Most simply dressed. Talking to some, I found out they were here to help with a pregnancy, vision problems, assist in healing various wounds, which did not seem to want to repair themselves, even with modern medical methods. All of the problems that people have.

Suddenly I was called. I walked into a room, constructed as a standalone hall inside the old warehouse building. In the hall, there were many hospital-like gurneys, no wheels, lined up two in each row, with about six to eight rows. On each gurney sat two people. We sat sitting up facing a desk where volunteers were working. There were probably thirty people on the gurneys. Older people who had trouble walking sat in chairs along the side of the walls. The hall was filled with blue light. It had a very calming atmosphere. Everything was perfectly clean.

In front of us, for everyone was facing the same direction, were Chico Monteiro and his staff of volunteers. First they collected the pieces of paper that we carried with us. Next, I saw them look at the pieces of papers one by one, and then a volunteer would staple something to each paper. On and on it went as they discussed each form. After the stapling noise subsided, Chico looked at us and he proceeded directly to the back of the room.

As I was facing forward, I could hear muffled talking, but nothing that I could understand. Finally, Chico appeared in front of me. He looked at me and then held my hand with one of his hands and with his other hand touched his fingers to the inside of my elbow. I felt a small electrical shock. Next, he waved his hands over my entire head and made, what seemed a sign of the cross directly in front of my face. He then moved his hands over my head and around my chest. All the while, another assistant, standing behind me, slightly pulled down my collar.

Suddenly, he put his hand on my chest and I felt a small bit of pressure. He squeezed my arm and said, "Be with God." Then he moved on to the next person. Not performing the same motions, but always working fast and seemingly he concentrated on the areas where people had described their aliments.

When he finished with the entire group, the volunteers handed out our original pieces of paper with the names of suggested medicine we should consider purchasing from any pharmacy, or talk with our doctor about the suggestions, to help with our complaints. Also stapled to the paper was the name of a book Essencia Vibracional, translated to Vibrational Essence, which we could buy on the premise. Sales of the book and the donation box that I saw close to the check-in were the only visible means of supporting the work of the center.

The entire process took about 30-40 minutes to complete. When I left the room, the people who exited with me, noticed small scratch marks on their skin. A person next to me pointed at my chest and said I had blood on my chest. I looked down and I had a small circle of congealed blood exactly

where Chico placed his hands on my chest. I had not felt any pain whatsoever.

And yes, I felt better. I went in hoping for relief from back pain and it lasted for about nine months, until I did something stupid in the yard, like trying to shovel dirt without my back brace. Before I went to the healing center, I would experience pain in more frequent episodes.

Was it psychosomatic or actual improvement? I believe that my faith, the power of my mind, helped my body heal, with added assistance from spirits who directed energy to where it would be useful.

Automatic Writing Mediums

Automatic writing is also described as psychographing, whereby, a medium either writes down the words the spirit transmits to her or his mind or allows a spirit to control the muscles in their hand to let the spirit actually write the words.

The most famous and prolific psychographing medium was Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier. He was born in 1910 in Brazil and started automatic writing at the age of twenty-one.

Wikipedia describes the beginning of his early writing:

"In 1931, In Pedro Leopoldo, (Francisco's hometown) he started to psychograph the book Parnaso de Além-Túmulo. That year was marked by the medium's "adulthood", it was the year the medium met his spiritual mentor Emmanuel, "Under a tree, near a water reservoir..." (SOUTO MAIOR, 1995:31). His mentor informs him on his mission to psychograph a sequence of thirty books and the spirit explains to him that, to achieve such a task, it would be demanded three very important conditions: 'discipline, discipline and discipline'.

Severe and demanding, the mentor instructed him to be loyal to Jesus and Kardec, even if it was against his religious basis. Later on, the medium found out that Emmanuel had been the Roman senator Publius Lentulus, further reborn as a slave who sympathized with Christianity, still in another reincarnation, had been a Jesuit priest Manuel da Nóbrega, involved with the evangelization of Brazil." [147]

Chico was attacked by many as being one of a large legion of imposters, whose only aim was to increase his personal wealth. Chico said that he could never fall down, since he never stood up, meaning that he couldn't be charged as a money seeking person because he never took money. All proceeds from his books were donated to charity. As a Spiritist, he knew that selling his services that he received as a gift from God is immoral.

The range of books written by Chico was enormous. From books by deceased poets, suicides, a young man describing learning at a school in heaven, to books by Emmanuel, which were past lives of people he knew while he was on earth. Including, Emmanuel's first encounter with Jesus Christ, in which he at first completely rejected Jesus.

An interesting string of books, were by the physician Dr. Andre Luiz, who wrote about his own death and experiences in the lower zones and his entrance into Nosso Lar (the Spirit City above Rio de Janeiro) and subsequently his experiences with assisting various departments and their work in heaven, on the earth, and below the earth.

Chico was the first person to tell the world, that he never wrote anything, he only wrote what was communicated to him by the spirit realm. He wrote a total of 469 books before he died, on June 30, 2002. His death occurred right after Brazil won the World Cup. He has wished that he would die on day that wouldn't make the Brazilian too unhappy.

Presentiment Mediums

Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier wasn't only a medium who psychographed, he possessed every type of talent that a medium could possibly contain.

Chico was able to know the future. As an example, there was a time in the mid-1980's when Chico told a group that Brazil would be a major oil exporter and that the oil would be found over 5000 meters under the sea. Everyone silently laughed, they had had plenty of experience of the Brazilian government trying to find oil and nothing ever was successful. [148] Now, of course, Brazil is a major oil producer from fields of oil found out in the deep ocean.

Everyone wants to know the future, except when they realize what will really happen. Starting from one of the earliest mentions of a presentiment medium, Cassandra during the time of the Trojan War, when she

prophesized the destruction of Troy, the life of an individual who actually foresees events is not an easy one.

A medium is only able to tell the future based on the information given to them by their familiar spirit. According to the Doctrine of Spiritism, the higher the spirit the greater the distance in the future they will be able to see. Lower spirits are only able to detect a limited range and lower spirits will often tell untruths just to play games.

High spirits won't give you any information that does not assist you in your quest to become a better spirit. <u>Prophecies</u> are usually given to us to provide motivation to achieve a goal or a warning that we are not on the right path.

Mediumship is Important to Spiritism

Mediumship plays a vital part in Spiritism. Mediums are our communication link to the spirit realm. They are used to help solve mental issues, promote physical health, teach, and even instruct discarnate spirits who come to the meetings. Whereas, in past times, the human race would be delivered instructions through prophecy, the domain of a select few, the proliferation of mediums in Brazil is a harbinger for the world at large.

Andre Luiz touches on this in the book he inspired, psychographed by Francisco C. Xavier, *In the Domain of Mediumship* , where he talks with his instructor Aulus;

"I considered: 'Mediumship today is similar to the prophecies of the past.'

'Yes.' agreed Aulus quickly, 'with the difference being that mediumship today is a concession of God to humanity that reflects the maturity of human understanding. Mediumistic phenomenon is not new, only the form in which it is disseminated. Different creeds existing for centuries were paralyzed with the spectacle of exterior demonstrations making celestial revelations incomprehensible.'" [149]

We are being told, the same message for the timing of Allan Kardec's *The Spirits Book* in the 1850s; that we are ready to listen.

Spiritism, through the messages of mediums, such as those who worked with Allan Kardec or the great Brazilian medium Francisco (Chico) Xavier,

are causing us to see Jesus and the spirit world in a more complete light. The shadows that existed when reading the New Testament, are being removed by the knowledge that is brought to us via mediumship.

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<u>Chapter 51 – Feeling Overwhelmed – Listen to</u> <u>what the Spirit World tells us</u>

All of us have felt ready to give up the battle. In the book, *Spiritual Wisdom: Missives of Hope*, Chico Xavier writes of a young man who told others in the mediums meeting that he felt overwhelmed. His trials were too difficult, he could not find the inner strength to continue. He believed that he had signed up for an impossible task and could not decipher how he could surmount his problems.

The man was answered by a message from Andre Luiz. Here is what he was told:

"Let us ponder on the list below in the interim:

- ... you do not experience organic obstacles;
- ... you do not face inner conflicts;
- ... you live exempt from temptations;
- ... you experience an environment of immutable peace;
- ... you do not have troubling members in the family;
- ... you do not face obstacles at home;
- ... you do not encounter disagreements within your social group;
- ... you do not enter into conflict with demanding friends;
- ... you have never experienced loneliness;
- ... you travel the world without a worry;
- ... you have not handled crises of a personal nature;
- ... you have never felt the presence of despondency or affliction next to you;
- ... you do not have to make an effort to keep your friends;
- ... you do not meet with adversaries in the tasks that life has reserved for you;

... you work without the criticism of others who might issue remarks and expose your spirit to discussions and disharmony at your heart towards needed renovation now and again.

If any item on this list of trials is unfamiliar to you, you are elsewhere from your path to evolution.

These events happen because it is precisely through problems and struggles that we accomplish the victories of the soul here on earth.

Remember that human beings would not actually understand the voice of a luminous high-order spirit alone. Therefore, without listening to the words from individuals who share their experiences with us, and receiving their cooperation, it would not be possible for any of us to make an effort towards our evolution." [150]

We are being told that our problem is the solution. The distressing events in our life are meant as teaching moments. From each episode there is another nugget to be found. As gold miners swirl around the pan to find small gold flakes amongst the sand and dirt, we too must analyze our trials. We need to separate our emotional responses, discarding our feelings of victimhood and let the actual proceedings guide us to decipher what lesson was presented and how we should improve.

<u>Chapter 52 – Death Bed Agony - It may not be</u> what it seems

We have all witnessed, in movies at least, the scenes of an agonizing death, one that we wished could be cut short for the poor person experiencing horrible last minutes on earth. But we are told, this is the absolute wrong course to take. The last minutes are important and should not be curtailed.

In the book, *Sex and Destiny*, by the Spirit Andre Luiz, psychographed by Francisco C. Xavier, there is a story about two families and their complicated relationships between themselves and discarnate spirits. There is one scene, where a young lady who in the despair of a bad love affair, ran out in traffic and was severely injured. She was dying a slow death in a hospital bed. During the end of her suffering, which went on for days, this passage was in the book. It was not part of the story, but a message to all of us:

"***

Fortunate inhabitants of earth! When you pass by the beds of those who are going through a prolonged death, banish from your mind the idea of hastening it!

Around those mangled bodies and behind those sealed lips, benefactors from the spirit plane are taking measures, performing noble tasks, saying prayers or holding our friendly arms.

Until now, you have not known the value of a few minutes of reconsideration for earthly travelers who, before returning to the shelter of the home, aspire to evaluate the paths they have trod.

If you do not feel capable of offering them a word of consolation or the support of a prayer, just let them be! ... Their tears are pearls of hope with which the lights of other dawns moisten their faces! ... Those groans coming from their chests and reaching their lips, as if they were sobs imprisoned inside the heart, are nearly always songs of joy before the immortality that shines on them from the Beyond!

Comrades of the world - you whose sight is still limited by the cage of flesh - in the name of your dearest sentiments offer consolation and silence, sympathy and veneration to those who are approaching the grave! They are not the tormented mummies that your eyes see, destined for the tombstone that will decay into dust ... They are children of heaven, preparing to return to their homeland, about to cross the river of Truth, whose banks you, too shall reach one day!...

***" [<u>151</u>]

A very explicit message from the Spirit world, one that we should analyze and take to heart. I have never seen a message like that before in a book written by Andre Luiz, although I have not read all of his books, since there are still some that have not been translated into English.

However, a recurring theme in his books is the amount of work the spirit world does for us, not only in our daily life, but the extra care during our last days. Andre Luiz emphasizes our obligation, during these times, if we are present, to think clear, positive thoughts, do not dwell on past wrongs by the person in need and to silently pray for the person's transition into heaven.

<u>Chapter 53 – Dreams and How the Spirit World</u> Assist Us

Dreams can play an important part in our lives. According to Spiritism, when we sleep we are able to roam in our spirit form to talk with other spirits. These can be other incarnates who are also sleeping, or spirits currently free of a physical body.

Often, the spirit world attempts to help us through our trials by taking our spirit while asleep and giving us information and feelings about pertinent episodes in our life.

I was struck by the amount of support the spirit world gave a woman I corresponded with who had experienced the tragic loss of her baby boy. She was very distraught and couldn't understand why her precious son was taken from her.

She found my Spiritist blog and was looking for answers. She could not reconcile the loss of her infant son with her beliefs. We texted back and forth. I learned that her son had died at a very early age and that she had two other children. As we were discussing Spiritism, I suddenly had the feeling to ask her if her son had any serious birth defects.

I asked that question, because in many instances in Spiritist literature, souls who have had traumatic previous lives, meaning a death by suicide or other causes require special help to recover. A spirit can damage their perispirit (that which connects their spirit to their physical body) so severely that they require a short rebirth to correct it. A limited stay in a physical body will allow them to recover and then incarnate again in a healthy manner.

She was taken back by my question and asked me why did I ask it. I told her about the need to repair a perispirit. She told me that her son had been born with a heart defect, but it was undetected at first. When they found out about it, he had an operation. He seemed to be recovering, but he died suddenly. She felt great regret that she didn't find the flaw sooner.

I told her, it was my belief that her little soul most probably required an abbreviated stay and then he may come back to her later. Since, I had read about this occurring before. As an example, a man who killed himself with poison, because he was in love with a woman, who spurned him and went with another man. The spirit world, trying to reconcile past entanglements, sent him as her son in another life. He was born very sickly and only lived a few years. She was heartbroken. Happily, a year after his death, she had another son, who was in actuality, the same soul, but this time he was very healthy.

When she heard this, she told me of a dream she had. She was on a beach and she met a teenage boy, about seventeen years old. She knew it was her lost son. She felt that it was a vision to let her know he was fine and would still have a future. I told her, that she should seriously consider that the dream was arranged by the spirit world to give her hope and to not allow herself to fall into depression.

Then, she told me her father-in-law dreamt that he had talked to her recently passed son. Her father-in-law said the boy talked to him and told him the universe was all about love. The father-in-law asked what could they have done to keep him on earth, and he replied that it was all part of a plan. The boy told him, all would be fine.

I told the woman, this was another sign from the spirit world to give you comfort. That you are very lucky to have such support and care surrounding you. Still, she was uncertain, if these dreams meant anything.

Then she told me her mother had a dream in which her son would be reborn to her. I was amazed, I had never heard of such a constellation of dreams all for the purpose to supply love and comfort for a deeply sorrowful mother. Again, I expressed my belief that you have been given a wonderful gift, that you must be a very kind and loving person to have so much support from the spirit world.

I told her to keep thinking positive and learn to love all around her. She replied, that she does love all of her family, and I said, "You need to learn to love all humanity with the same intensity as you loved your little son. For that is the message that the spirit world has sent us again and again. And that is what your son told your father-in-law."

At the end I urged her to remain faithful and that all would be right, that she was part of a plan to help her, her family, and her son.

Reading this one could ask, how could she doubt with so many signs? But of course, in our culture, dreams and feelings aren't proof. I perfectly understand her wish to know with certainty. At some time in the future of our planet, we shall know with absolute proof that the spirit world is real.

For now, on our current earth, which is a planet of atonement, where we travel through many lives to pay for our past debts and to learn, we are like students, learning to be civilized. The spirit realm is actively teaching us. Planning trials and classes for us to sit through. Like good teachers everywhere, they aren't going to give us the answers, we must decipher them for ourselves. We need to gather what evidence we detect and build our faith upon a foundation of reasoning. Will we be able to communicate our findings to others with absolute certainty? No, but within ourselves, as we observe the phenomena around us, we know there is more than just our short and often brutal existence.

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Chapter 54 – The Meaning of Suffering

In the book, *In the Greater World*, inspired by Andre Luiz and psychographed by Chico Xavier, there is a scene where a very high spirit comes to the aid of a discarnated spirit who was murdered. He had been persecuting his murderer for over twenty years. The high spirit, a woman, tried to reason with him to drop his useless obsession and forgive. When the man told of the injustice and suffering, she responded:

"Who among us, my friend, can understand the whole meaning of suffering? You have asked why the Lord has allowed you to undergo such a hard trial ... Isn't that the same as asking a potter what compelled him to set the form of a delicate piece in scorching heat, or asking an artist when led to the hammering of a raw stone to turn it into a magnificent sculpture? Camilo, pain enlarges life and sacrifice sets it free. Afflictions are a problem of divine origin. In trying to solve them, the spirit can rise to a resplendent peak or plunge into a frightful abyss, for many draw suffering the patience with which they kindle the light to defeat their own darkness, whereas others draw from it the rocks and thorns of rebelliousness, with which they fall into the darkness of the chasm." [152]

What better explanation could you desire? Consider us raw clay who must be molded and hardened by fire to emerge a pure spirit. The process can be painful and difficult, but the results are magnificent. The rewards of attaining the status of a high spirit will be worth every obstacle and hurdle we will have to surmount. For then, we shall know true love for all. There is no greater goal.

Don't lose hope and consider you are alone on earth to suffer, for the spirit realm supplies us with all of the required support for us to survive and even prosper through our pre-planned trials.

<u>Chapter 55 – The Difficulties of a High Spirit on</u> <u>Earth</u>

There is an interesting section in a translated communication titled <u>The life of Jesus</u>. It was reportedly a communication from spirit Jesus to a medium in France in the 19 th century. The medium was only known as Medium X. The book was translated into Italian, then Spanish, then into English. It was not completed until a second medium took up the work in the 20 th century. We are told in the "About" section:

"The Spanish translator was also a medium who received the dictation of the second part in the 20 th Century. His name was Ovidio Rebaudi, born in Paraguay, but lived in Buenos Aires. At first he was reluctant to translate this book into Spanish, because he himself had lost faith in Jesus, believing him to be a myth. But a series of apparently unconnected occurrences happened which made him change his mind and he set forth on the difficult task of translating the book. It seems he was a very special person and highly spiritual indeed as he was then used by the Light Forces to transmit the second part Jesus had in mind. He is referred to in the book as Medium XX." [153]

One must always be careful with purported communications, especially from famous names, since many spirits will use a false title to bring more weight to their message. Interestingly, in the communication itself is a warning that we should tread carefully because one should verify messages from the spirit word. But, of course, this could be a false flag.

Still, *The Life of Jesus* is an interesting document and explores aspects of Jesus' life that haven't been exposed anywhere else. But since, I am not sure about the authenticity, I have chosen not to write about that; I suggest the reader look at the message and decide for oneself. But, I did find an intriguing section which spoke about the difficulties of a spirit in the flesh, which echoed and provided greater detail than what Socrates said about the thousand distractions of life in a body. In summary he told us that wisdom is unattainable as long as we live in a physical body ... only after leaving our flesh will we be able to think without waves of emotional distractions handicapping our ability to focus our thoughts.

I have often thought (unfocused of course) about this statement and believed it to be true and deliberate by the spirit realm. It is part of our training, to withstand any emotion washing over us while maintaining our equilibrium. I am reminded of a television film, presented by a Public Broadcasting Station, inspired by a series of Kurt Vonnegut stories, *Between Time and Timbuktu*, where in the future, everyone would be equal. The government enforced equality; intelligent people had to wear headphones that interrupted their thoughts every thirty seconds, talented ballerinas were force to have sandbags attached to their limbs so they couldn't dance better than anyone else. Kurt Vonnegut and the other contributors of the film adroitly exposed the true dream of many socialists, where equality is forcefed to the unwashed masses. This may account for the reason I never saw it again on any PBS station.

In essence, *Between Time and Timbuktu* regulated all people to live a handicapped existence ... where any attempts to rise above normality proved almost insurmountable. We on earth are in the same boat when it comes to placing our spirituality above our material and emotional desires. As we attempt to swim against the tide of our culture we are met with sharp reefs that impede our progress. Luxuries and sensual pleasures are so much more satisfying than attempts of self-restraint. Those who are successful may sometimes seem fanatical and frankly unpleasant to associate with for long. Be that as it may, there are many wonderful people who pull it off.

Growing up, my parents went to the local Episcopal Church in Anaheim, California; the Reverend John Kimball Saville Jr. was a family friend. We would rent a house at the beach together for a couple of weeks during the summer. He was the nicest and most non-judgmental person I had ever met. Unlike the stories of so many other Pastors, his children were also lovely. I remember my mother telling me, that his parents were atheists and wouldn't hear any talk of God or Church, so he would sneak out to attend church services. I also remember - I may have been around twelve at the time, when his children painted flowers all over his car. To me it was ghastly, in my twelve year-old mind, I would have thrashed them. The Rev. Saville drove that car around without the least bit of embarrassment.

The Rev. Saville, by his manner, by the love I felt emanating from him, made a great impression on me. In fact, in my child-like way, I thought he was God. Which I would announce to my mother whenever we were in

church and I saw him walking to the podium, I would nudge her and say, "Mom, God is coming." She would just look at me and then stare straight ahead. Looking back, I think she tried to keep the damage to a minimum. She told me much later, that women would come up to her and tell her how sorry that her son was "special". Hence, she was smart and didn't engage in any dialogue with me within the hearing of others, since it would have cemented their opinion of me.

I digress, but it was for a purpose; to prove that a person could be highly spiritual, kind, loving, and wonderful to be with. It's not impossible, nor improbable, it is just not easy. Now to the point, why it's not easy to be a high spirit, is explored in what was disclosed in Chapter 11. This is what we were told:

"The Spirit oppressed by a science that exceeds the power of comprehension of those who surround him, often diverts his eyes from the bright horizons and lets combinations of a material order invade his thoughts to associate different forces towards a specified goal, if not glorious immediately, at least usable for a future glory. The Spirit honored in the past by productive partnerships, with visions and realities full of promises in the present hour, walks with sure steps, especially in the midst of difficulties, deceits and revolts that are set up against him by the ignorant and the wicked. Then the Spirit weakens and does not recover his courage but convulsively, and throws himself into the vagaries of the ideas in accordance with the views of men and transforms the torchlight that he possesses into an incendiary torch. So did the Spirit of Jesus proceed in the last years of his life as Messiah."

The insight above that stands out is the innate knowledge of a more perfect world by a mature spirit and the effect of the obstacles (and maybe the dawning realization of the impossibility) which stand in the way from achieving that goal. The plain truth of the general frailness of humanity weakens that resolve, and then an incarnate of a more mature spirit rebels against the hopelessness with a force that is not attuned to the circumstances.

There is an example of that in the same chapter, when Jesus was experiencing his last days in Jerusalem, he reportedly said, "All men are

equal and must divide the goods of the earth between them." While this has not been passed down to us from the Bible or history books, the spirit Jesus points out that this message was at the wrong time, it was a vision of life in the spirit world or life in an advanced world, but not one possible on earth. Not two thousand years ago, not today ... due to the state of maturity of mankind.

We have seen this in purported leaders who wished to achieve a new world, but ended up eliminating anyone who didn't conform. From Lenin, to Mao, to Castro; all saw a world of equality, but finished with a corrupt regime, killing, in some cases, millions of innocents, due to their crime of being a normal human, who had desires. This same blindness as to what spirit-vision policies can lead to plagues us today. Politicians and pundits spout unrealistic goals and then condemn everyone but themselves when basic human nature corrupts the process.

To believe in the fraternal and equality driven future is noble ... but to miss the un-readiness of society to respond is negligent. After the volcanic eruption in response to the fruitless act of trying to improve life for everyone on the planet, the more mature spirit may spiral off into a misguided need for direct action. Action that can't possibly work, except to make the person feel like they have done something, anything to move the dial forward.

Hence, for those toiling toward justice in the world, I urge restraint. It is a fine thing to push for a better world, but we must acknowledge that we work with the tools we have and the truth is we have immature spirits about and amongst us. Invariably, they will work out the best path to please themselves. We must follow the Divine Law and allow free will. Humans must be free to choose selfishness, even though it seems so wrong. But only by letting mistakes be made, can many learn the true path, the path of light and love. Therefore, a less than perfect world is perfect for our planet of atonement. There is greed, chaos, and danger — all important items to supply the lessons we need to learn.

This state will not last forever. The spirit realm is guiding us to a better world. We shall evolve to be planet where good spirits dominate, where selfishness, envy, and hate are seldom encountered. We should all do our

part, but only with love and respect, not with yelling, name-calling, or violence.

Chapter 56 – The Plan of Everything

The title of the book is "Spiritism - Everything is Connected" ... it's not meant as a metaphor, but as a fact. We live in a universe that we perceive as being anything but connected. We feel isolated, alone, and abandoned — frequently.

This is by design, because we actually live the vast majority of our immortality in a world where love, fraternity, and connection to our friends is ever present – for those of us coming from a previous stay in one of the heavenly levels. It's a wonderful place to live and learn, but not a location to rip out defects and to make one critically examine your inner beliefs and character. No, the atmosphere is too comforting and inclusive for that. Hence, we come to earth – or a like planet – to experience a character altering boot camp. An abrupt change from whence we came. But a necessary one.

If and when you can recognize this, your life is free. Not free from stress or worry; for those come with the earthly territory, but from the uncertainty of your goal in life. Your goal — although you may not recognize your travels as a path to reach that goal — has been well thought out and planned — by beings superior to you — in every way.

While meditating, I received this message:

"Everything is planned. Love is the fulcrum around which all revolves. Spirals upon spirals weave a tapestry in which all is interconnected. This interconnectedness spreads out to the multi-universe, in which there are never loose ends. All is orchestrated, all follows a predefined pattern. It is the process of understanding the pattern that lies to true spiritual understanding.

We all have our roads to follow, in as much we can and have the ability to do so. It is within us to solve the puzzle, but it is not a simple task and takes much effort. Work and dedication is the key. Faith is the forward motion, it is the driver of all. Without it one can't move forward. But it must be strong and rational."

Our spiral, our complicated path, is dictated by two factors. One is the process of reincarnation — a succession of lives. Whereby, we return, time and time again, to a physical existence. The other is karma, as we reap we sow. Karma is like the tiller of a boat. As the tiller is moved, the boat responds, sometimes slowly, sometimes abruptly, depending upon the degree of the change of the tiller.

Karma acts in the same method. As our actions in one life are summed, the plan for the next is already laying itself out. Unbeknownst to us, metrics are being gathered, thoughts intercepted, and our travels analyzed. All will be used to carefully layout our next sojourn to a life in a dense body.

What looks to us to be random events, acts of cruelty, good luck and bad luck – aren't that at all. The puzzle seems unimaginably complicated, but it isn't ... for we created it. Once we realize that we, using our free will to make decisions, materially command our future – our life can change.

But first, we must make the leap to understand the type of universe we live in and why we are here. We must fully understand, that the Supreme Intelligence of the universe is irrevocably in charge and our protestations against it has no effect.

We must strive to comprehend the rules by which we live. Not manmade rules, but the set of Divine Laws which take precedence over all. Once we take our blinders off and actually see the truth, the arc of our life makes sense. Only then can we begin to act in such a manner to step carefully through the labyrinth to reach the goal of becoming a pure spirit.

The first step is to learn and study Spiritism, the Third Revelation. The facts of our existence, the spirit realm, and the path to create a wonderful life (maybe not this one, but the next) are all there. All in plain sight.

By adding to our knowledge and then examining our lives and the lives of those around us differently, we can begin to build a solid base of faith. A faith that can withstand temporary setbacks, disappointments, and the pressure of well-meaning friends.

With hard work and dedication, reading and actively modifying some behaviors, the first steps can be taken. After that, each step becomes easier, for the spirit realm, once they notice your effort, will come to help. You may not see it, or discern the signs immediately, but as you progress you shall.

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Glossary

Term	Description
Abyss or Dark Abyss	The Abyss begins just below the surface of the earth and extends downwards for an unspecified distance. This is the term for a type of Purgatory or Hell for spirits who are unrepentant and still intent on staying attached to worldly goods, baser emotions (such as hate, envy, and revenge), or other criminal intentions. There is no concept of eternal damnation in Spiritism; all spirits are able to leave when they change their character and beliefs. All will eventually rise to heaven, but it may take multiple lifetimes.
Allan Kardec	Known as the codifier of Spiritism. Many Brazilians believe he later reincarnated as Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier to carry on the presentation of Spiritism. His first book is <i>The Spirits Book</i> . He presented Spiritism to the word in the 1850s.
Andre Luiz	Spirit Author of a series of books, starting with Nosso Lar. All books were psychographed by Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier. Highly recommended reading for anyone interested in learning about Spiritism.

Term	Description
Camilo Branco	Camilo Castelo Branco wasn't just an ordinary suicide. He was a commanding figure in Portugal's literary scene in the late 1800's. He was known as the Portuguese Balzac and was awarded the title of Viscount of Correia Botelho. In despair over his son's insanity and his own ailments that would certainly lead to blindness, he ended his life in 1890.
Discarnate	A spirit in the spirit world, they do not possess a physical body.
Emmanuel	Emmanuel was the spirit mentor of Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier. Emmanuel has since incarnated in Brazil in the year 2001 or 2002. It is said by some Spiritist mediums that Chico Xavier, will be the spirit mentor for Emmanuel.
Errant spirit	I have seen two slightly different uses of "errant spirit", the most used one is a spirit who is wandering in the Lower Zone, between heaven and the Abyss. The other usage is when a spirit is not assigned a region, and is free to wander onto different spirit worlds (where there is no physical life).
Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier	A Brazilian medium, who psychographed more than 450 books, dictated to him by spirits. His spirit guide was Emmanuel. Chico Xavier was a Spiritist and did much to spread Spiritism throughout Brazil.
Heaven	Heaven, in Spiritist books, including mine, usually refers to the higher regions above the earth. There are different heavens around other planets for those souls who live there. Heaven is where people in physical bodies return to, if they have demonstrated love, kindness, fraternity, charity, and honesty toward their fellow humans. Being a member of any one type of religion or even a belief in God is not a requirement to ascend to heaven, according to Spiritism.

Term	Description
Hell	Called the "Abyss" or the "Dark Abyss" in the books by the spirit Andre Luiz
Incarnate	An incarnate is a spirit who is inhabits a physical body. The spirit can still roam in the spirit world during time of sleep.
Jesus	According to Spiritism - Jesus is the governor of Earth. It has been reported by Brazilian Spiritist that Jesus is also in charge of four other planets, one in the forming stage, one primitive, one a planet of atonement (Earth), one a planet of regeneration, and one a happy planet.
Levels of Heaven	As Jesus said in the New Testament, "My mansion has many rooms", there are many levels of heaven. As one increases their spiritual and intellectual ability one graduates from a lower level to the next higher level. In the book, <i>Beyond the Veil</i> , a numbering system is used. Level 1 being the lowest. Spirits have said they are using that system just for convenience sake, as a tool to explain the demarcations of heaven for us here on earth.
Lower Zone	Also called the Umbral in Portuguese, which you may find in some of the English translations of Chico Xavier's book. The Lower Zone is the area at the surface of the earth and slightly above it where spirits who haven't yet released their ties to material goods on earth and/or have not yet accepted the need for love and fraternity toward all humans. All will eventually rise to heaven, but it may take multiple lifetimes.
NDE	Near Death Experience – People who have had NDEs are those whose were close to or in an actual death state.

Term	Description
Nosso Lar	The first book dictated to Francisco (Chico) C. Xavier by the spirit Andre Luiz. A movie was made using the first book (of the same name) by the spirit author Andre Luiz. It is called Nosso Lar, or Celestial City. The movie is in Portuguese with English subtitles. I highly recommend this movie, excellent production values and true to the Doctrine of Spiritism.
OBE	Out of Body Experience – This includes people who were not classified as being in a near or at a state of death, but still were transported into another plane.
Perispirit	Connects the spirit to the physical body. You are composed to three key items — Your spirit (which is immortal), perispirit (which is the link between the spirit and the physical body), and your physical body (which is mortal and will be destroyed after each life).
Reincarnation	Reincarnation is the concept whereby a spirit, the entire personality and character, is deposited into a physical body. According to Spiritism, when a spirit is place inside a physical body, they retain their basic character (which gets revealed around the age of 15 to 18), but they do not have any memories of past lives. This is for the purpose of allowing that spirit to learn the lessons assigned to them. Incarnates (spirits in physical bodies) do retain their conscience – the mechanism to determine right from wrong – and their instinct. Once a spirit sheds their physical body, at the proper time their memories return.
Rev. G. Vale Owen	An English Rev. in the Anglican Church. He received messages from the spirit realm in the 1910s and 20s. Four of his books are in the compilation book, <i>Beyond the Veil</i>

Term	Description
Spirit / Soul	I use the word interchangeably — but I do realize that many do not. For simplicity sake I use spirit to denote all of us, we all have or are spirits and we all have a soul. For those not on a physical plane I will put either their name or put "spirit" before their name to denote they currently reside in the spirit world.
Spirit World, Spirit Realm	The spirit world was created before our physical universe. We come from and shall return to the spirit realm. The world of spirits is where we shall spend the vast majority of our eternal life.
Spiritism, Christian Spiritism	A Doctrine codified by Allan Kardec in the 1850s, revealed to the world by the Spirit of Truth, as promised in the New Testament (John 14:15-17, 26). Spiritism follows the precepts of Christianity and updates them with new revelations from the spirit world.
Umbral	Also called the Lower Zone in English. The Lower Zone is the area at the surface of the earth and slightly above it where spirits who haven't yet released their ties to material goods on earth and/or have not yet accepted the need for love and fraternity toward all humans. All will eventually rise to heaven, but it may take multiple lifetimes.
Universal Fluid	From this, flows all forms of matter. It is the basis for everything in the spirit and physical universes.
Yvonne Perreira	A Brazilian medium who psychographed books from spirits. She has many books published in Portuguese. Presently there are two books translated in English

Your Exploration Continues...

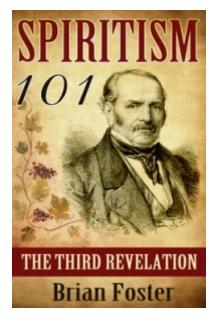
Learn more about Spiritism in my blog at: http://www.nwspiritism.com.

To assist you in understanding more about Spiritism, I have eight other books to support you in your spiritual exploration:

- Spiritism 101 The Third Revelation
- The Spirit World Talks to Us
- 7 Tenets of Spiritism How They Impact Your Daily Life
- Explore Your Destiny Since Your Life's Path is (mostly) Predetermined
- The Case for Reincarnation Your Path to Perfection
- 51 Disclosures from Spiritism The 3 rd Revelation
- What Really Happens During Near Death Experiences According to Spiritism 12 NDEs Explained and Explored
- The Problem is the Solution

Below are the introductions to all my books concerning Spiritism.

Spiritism 101 – The Third Revelation



Something wonderful has happened. It occurred in the middle of the 1800's and it caught the attention of the world. It grew quickly in popularity, so fast that many in positions of power went on a crusade to stamp it out.

Why? Because it provided answers to questions that we all have been searching for. Questions that have been posed by philosophers since the beginning of time were asked and the results fully described.

Like other messages of love, charity and fraternity before; this one was met with strong opposition. Ideas are hard to stamp out and this one is growing again. The world is re-awakening to Spiritism.

Learn what Spiritism is and how it can positively shape your life and happiness. Available at Amazon Kindle for \$0.99, and in paperback - *Spiritism 101* – *The Third Revelation*

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The Spirit World Talks to Us



The spirit world is talking to us ... each and every one of us. Most of us are unaware of the subtle signals and soft voices that draw us to listen to our conscience. But they are there, ever hopeful that we may discover the truth about our sojourn on this blue planet.

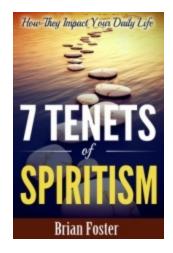
The experiences reviewed in this book layout exciting disclosures about the spirit world and ours. We are told about heaven, the different spiritual zones around the earth; how karma is real and why we need multiple lives to learn to become a person who radiates love in all circumstances. We learn that the concept of time is different in the spirit universe and about the basic building blocks of all matter.

In essence, the inquiries that you have had since you began questioning your place in this universe are answered by spirits interacting with the chosen few.

Learn what the spirit world is telling us. – The Spirit World Talks to Us

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7 Tenets of Spiritism – How They Impact Your Daily Life



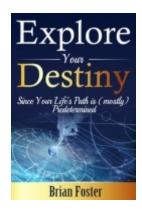
I explore each of the seven tenets and how they have personally affected me and those around me. Giving yourself the seven tenets could be the best present of your life.

The 7 Tenets of Spiritism:

- 1. We are Immortal Souls
- 2. God and Jesus Love Us
- 3. We have Multiple Lives
- 4. During our Lives We Pay for Past Debts and Accumulate New Experiences
- 5. We Live and Learn in Close Family Groups
- 6. Our Destiny is Mostly Predetermined
- 7. We are Assisted in our Lives by Unseen Spirit Forces

Available at Amazon Kindle and in paperback, at <u>7 Tenets of Spiritism</u> <u>– How They Impact Your Daily Life</u>.

Explore Your Destiny – Since Your Life's Path is (mostly)
Predetermined



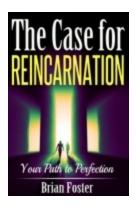
Explore Your Destiny is divided into four sections. Each section supplies one more piece of the puzzle for you to place, so you can look at your life's arc with new insights.

- 1. Why Why are we here and why must we live what we are living through right now?
- 2. When In what period along your souls timeline is all of this happening? Knowing your relative position in the path to perfection will guide you to understanding your current life.
- 3. How How does all of this occur? How does the entire process affect your destiny and actions? What are the rules of the game?
- 4. Where Where is this world that plans our destiny? Are there good places to be and are there bad?

<u>Explore Your Destiny – Since Your Life's Path is (mostly)</u> Predetermined .

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The Case for Reincarnation – Your Path to Perfection



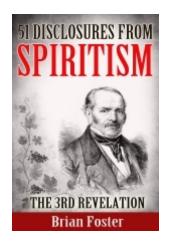
There is a realm, a universe greater than ours and it is filled with intelligences that we can only wonder at. There are spirits around the earth who are actively helping and guiding us in our planning and during our actual incarnations.

This book is here to answer your questions;

- 1. Why do we reincarnate?
- 2. How does the process work?
- 3. How many reincarnations must we have?
- 4. What memories do we retain from our previous lives?
- 5. Do we have control over our reincarnations?
- 6. Why must we suffer?
- 7. How may I insure my next life is better?
- 8. How may I progress to being a perfected spirit?

The Case for Reincarnation – Your Path to Perfection

51 Disclosures from Spiritism – The 3 rd Revelation



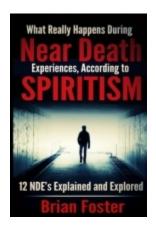
Spiritism has been presented to humankind for one reason, to enlighten us. To let us know the answers to questions that everyone has had since we started thinking about our place on earth, our destiny, why we are here, and is there life after death.

This book is divided into four sections, each categorizing a theme for the type of discoveries that you will make as you read:

- 1. Ourselves What are we, why are we here, what do we have to do, what is our goal?
- 2. Spirit Realm What is it, where is it, how does it work?
- 3. How to Ascend What is the path to ascension, what is important to learn, why we must grow?
- 4. Prophecies What do some past prophecies actually mean, what will happen to the world, how will it happen?

Learn what has been presented to the world, read the book, 51 Disclosures from Spiritism – The 3 $\frac{\text{rd}}{\text{Nevelation}}$.

What Really Happens During Near Death Experiences, According to Spiritism



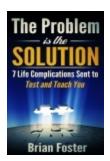
Why are we interested in Near Death Experiences (NDE)? With the advent of the internet, social media allows masses of people to more efficiently pool together shared experiences than at any other time in history.

Recollections from every country, culture, language and age group now reside in the great internet cloud. A mountain of data, which can no longer be wished away or ignored. The parallels and common themes from all corners of the world preclude everyone's account to be merely mass hysteria.

Spiritism explains why each person was chosen for their experience and what was presented to them. Find out what they were expected to learn from their life changing event.

<u>What Really Happens During Near Death Experiences – 12 NDEs Explained and Explored is available at Amazon</u>.

The Problem is the Solution



This book is different. Not that the others are bad or useless. Just that this book is different. It rests on an altered premise; life is a planned series of trials.

In this book your will learn to analyze why are you experiencing, or have been through, the following types of events:

- 1. Financial problems
- 2. Failed relationship(s) / marriage(s)
- 3. Family problems
- 4. Illnesses physical and mental
- 5. Career setbacks
- 6. Addiction
- 7. Stress

And in doing so, you shall be able to make the first step in analyzing what you should have learned and how it will make you a better person.

<u>The Problem is the Solution – 7 Life Complications Sent to Test and Teach</u>
You

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Author

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