

Spiritualist
Church of Canada
Magazine

Spiritualism is the Science, Philosophy, and Religion
of continuous life.



As the sunflower turns its face toward the light of the sun,
so Spiritualism turns the face of humanity
toward the light of truth.

SUMMER 2011

2011 SPIRITUALISM ON THE MOVE

Letter From Our President

REINCARNATION AND SPIRITUALISM

ARTICLE BY VICTOR ABBOTT

A QUESTION AND ITS ANSWER FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD BOOK 1 BY NEAL DONALD WALSCH

P.204

NEAL DONALD WALSCH:

"IS THERE SUCH A THING AS REINCARNATION? IS "KARMIC DEBT" A REALITY?"

GOD:

"... THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY REPORTS FROM THOROUGHLY RELIABLE SOURCES OF PAST LIFE EXPERIENCES. SOME OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE BROUGHT BACK STRIKINGLY DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EVENTS, AND SUCH COMPLETELY VERIFIABLE DATA AS TO ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WERE MAKING IT UP OR HAD CONTRIVED TO SOMEHOW DECEIVE RESEARCHERS AND LOVED ONES...

NO, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS "KARMIC DEBT"... A DEBT IS SOMETHING THAT MUST OR SHOULD BE REPAID.

YOU ARE NOT OBLIGED TO DO ANYTHING.

STILL, THERE ARE THOSE THINGS YOU WANT TO DO; CHOOSE TO EXPERIENCE. AND SOME OF THESE THINGS HINGE ON— THE DESIRE OF THEM HAS BEEN CREATED BY — WHAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED BEFORE.

IF KARMA IS THE INNATE DESIRE TO... EVOLVE AND TO GROW, AND TO LOOK AT PAST EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES AS A MEASURE OF THAT, YES KARMA DOES EXIST. BUT IT DOES NOT REQUIRE ANYTHING... YOU ARE A BEING OF FREE CHOICE."

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Today, with cell phones and e-mails I find that many people of all ages, never turn them off or fully disconnect.

When was the last time you heard a cell phone ring during a church service, even though it was announced that they be turned off? The last straw for me was when one rang during a meditation class. I wonder, how you can listen to your inner voice, or connect with spirit if you cannot take a few moments to disconnect from the material world? The answer is of course that you can't.

Technology is a wonderful thing and it is here to stay. You just need to set some parameters around it, just as you do with certain people in your life similarly, as you are working with spirit. One is always in full control.

I must say that Skype has been a boon for the SCC. We now have much better representation on the board than in the

past, and a greater sense of community among our Churches because of it.

At the Annual General Meeting in October some of your board members will be up for re-election while others will be stepping down and we will need new people to replace them.

Please consider putting your name forward for election. The more members, the more diverse a pool of knowledge we can draw upon.

Earlier this year your board implemented some money saving measures. We have also moved on to reviewing our by-laws. This is an important task that will be on going for some time.

And with the help of Reverend Wilma Trebell we are revising the educational courses to bring them in line with our new

Principles. The last of the level three courses is being finalized, as are dates for presentation of courses and workshops for next year.

Your board is comprised of all volunteers serving Spirit, by serving the Spiritualist community at large.

So I ask you to please; set some parameters, take time to meditate and listen to your inner voice, and if you feel so inclined put your name forward and help Spiritualism move further forward.

"May the Light within your heart grow brighter as the years advance. May it be to you a sacred trust, that you never let your light grow dim." White Eagle

Many Blessings,
Rev. Sharon Golsby

REINCARNATION

ARTICLE BY VICTOR ABBOTT

So often, we hear people talking about reincarnation. Some believe in it very strongly while others reject the idea totally.

I find the idea of reincarnation to be an interesting topic to look into. The topic reminds somewhat of the movie "Ground Hog Day" with Bill Murray. The character in the movie finally gets it right at the end.

As I was looking into the subject of reincarnation, I came across a variety of different sources. One of which is Seth Speaks, which is channeled material, by Jane Roberts.

In order to set the stage to some extent, I would like to read a couple of paragraphs from that book.

pp.46 & 47.

However, I need to be aware of the fact that it's truly invasive to try to push someone into believing something that s/he is neither ready nor willing to accept and for whatever reason.

Now, with this in mind, here are the paragraphs:

"Your environment includes far more than you may have supposed. In fact, you are aware of very little of your larger, more extensive environment.

Consider your present self as an actor in a play, hardly a new analogy, but a suitable one. The scene is set in the 20th century. You create the props, the settings, the themes; in fact, you write, produce and act in the entire production. You and every other individual who takes part.

You are so focused in your roles, so intrigued by the reality that you have created, so entranced by the problems, challenges, hopes, and sorrows of your particular roles that you have forgotten – they are of your own creation.

This intensely moving drama, with all its joys and tragedies, can be compared with your present life, your present environment.

But there are other plays going on simultaneously, in which you also have a part to play.

These other plays also have their own scenery and their own props. But, they take place in different

periods of time.

One may be called "Life in the 12th century." Another "in the 18th century," or "in 500 B.C.," Or even in the year 3000."

You - also - create these plays and act in them.

Your entire personality is so focused within one drama, that you are not aware of the other dramas in which you also play a role.

These plays - seem to be taking place one before the other. And so, this perception intensifies the false idea that time is a series of moments, passing in a single line from some inconceivable beginning to some equally inconceivable end.

Now, these various plays, these creative pieces represent what you would call reincarnational lives. But, they all exist basically at one time.

Also, it's not correct to suppose that your actions in this life are caused by a previous existence or that you are being punished in this life for crimes in a another.

The lives are simultaneous. Each play is entirely different from any other. In each play, different problems are set up.

Your own multidimensional personality is so endowed that it can have these experiences and still retain its identity.

It's all part of the actualization process, part of experiencing, part of becoming that which you are."

End of passage

We all ask ourselves questions like: who are we, where do we come from and what happens to us after physical death?

Today, my perspective is that - prior to incarnating, we frequently choose our physical attributes as well as our parents. We also choose the lessons that we wish to learn - the people with whom we would like to interact - for a reason, a season or a lifetime.

Tomorrow, perhaps, with more information, I might have a different perspective to share.

But for now, I believe that prior to incarnating, we make some agreements with certain people in order to meet them in a particular circumstance or during a particular period of time in our life; so that together, we can share an experience, learn from it, and continue on with our progression and evolution. Very much, like choosing to attend a particular university, in a particular town, there is always a purpose in mind behind the choice.

So similarly, prior to incarnating, we also sign up for specific courses in Forgiveness, Love, Compassion, Generosity and so on...

Such courses are some of the experiences that help us continue with our process of actualization and our process of becoming that which we wish to become.

Those who are familiar with Star Trek, it's very much like going into the Hollow Deck and choosing a particular path with a particular level of difficulty and w/a definite purpose in mind.

Now, we outline the purpose of our incarnation from a soul perspective rather than an earthly one. As you know, the soul and the personality usually operate by different standards. They each have different motives and different agendas.

Now these agreements would naturally vary in size and in nature. We can also ask the question here; Is there such a thing, as having an agreement where one would have so much while another so little?

What is the difference from Heaven's point of view?

As far as I understand, agreements are neutral. There is no such thing as having a wonderful assignment or a horribly bad one. That would be playing favoritism.

The purpose of each assignment is to have a cluster of experiences full of challenges and rid-

dles and questions and answers and all of them unfold according to the way we direct them.

The assignments that we choose from a soul perspective may appear baffling in the sense that they are not earth logical. But, they're spiritually logical.

If that weren't the case, we would all want to incarnate as a rich person; enjoying a hassle free life and certainly w/o any health issues to contend with.

You know the saying:

I received nothing I wanted. I received everything I needed.

I remember reading once in Silver Birch:

"It's not in a bed of roses that we learn our best lessons... The more difficulties that the soul has to struggle against, the greater the soul can become..."

It is such a soul that understands the suffering of others."

A little further, he adds:

"To all, whether born in low or high estate, come opportunities for service. I see that nearly always the great souls of your world have been born of low estate. In my world, the true standard is the standard of the soul's motive."

Now, in relation to eternity, life in the physical is very short; like that of a dream.

This idea is clearly shown in many movies. For example, "In the Bucket List" w/ Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson, They each make many statements like:

"I can still remember " or "As if it were yesterday"

In addition, we consistently read that when we cross over to the Spirit World we usually end up saying:

"Oh that was my life on earth!" Very much, like when we wake up from a dream, most often we end saying:

"Oh that was a dream! Thank goodness or that's too bad"

Now, the way I understand it, is that the purpose of our incarnation is twofold:

On the one hand, it's self-directed. In other words, how are we going to grow and evolve? And on the other, how are we going to be of help to humanity in some way shape and form.

I have also come to understand that from a spirit perspective, life here in the physical is very well organized and truly, there are no coincidences.

Saying it differently, this is a planet where destiny meets with choice an interesting combination, a paradox perhaps, even a contradiction. Or, so it may seem.

We are as much destined, as we are free to choose. It may appear that it doesn't make sense but it truly does.

As a recent example, we may remember that Air France flight 447 from Brazil to France crashed in the Atlantic ocean shortly after take off. One French couple had missed the flight that morning. A week later, after the couple had arrived on a different flight to France, the wife was driving all alone, had a fatal accident and passed to Spirit. Yet, the husband is still alive.

It's highly likely that the husband wouldn't have survived the airplane crash; since all passengers on that flight didn't — perhaps the reason for which he and his wife missed their flight out of Brazil. It simply wasn't his time yet.

So, how does this agreement begin to take place?

Prior to incarnating, the topic of discussion with our helpers & teachers in the Spirit World is focused around how we are going to be of service to self and to others in a lifetime.

The questions may be something like:

What is it that you want to become, to be, to learn, to experience in this evolutionary process? What would you like to discover about yourself? What would you like to investigate? What truth would you like to absorb?

Differently put, life is the experience of becoming.

What do you want to experience?

And most importantly — How would you like to work and deal with your polarities, your dual nature?

The answers might be something like:

I would like to investigate what forgiveness is all about. I would like to experience the creative power of forgiveness and the destructive power of lack of forgiveness.

Chances are that such an individual would be someone who is involved in the management of healing.

He/she might be someone who spends a lifetime in the healing process of themselves and / or of others — perhaps as a psychologist, a counselor, a massage therapist and so on.....

In other words, helping those who are struggling with pain — because they themselves might have had to deal with how they were hurt by life's experiences or may simply have a good intuitive understanding of pain and suffering.

How many people can this person touch in a lifetime? And, how many can the recipients touch because of the healing they received? We would also have to add the generations yet to come.

That's not a small agreement.

A few years ago, as I was doing cafeteria supervision, I read on a poster: "If you think you're too small to make a difference, you truly haven't had the experience of sleeping at night in a room in which there was a mosquito flying around."

Another example of a different agreement might be to get together with a person because they will awaken in us something; a talent which we didn't know we even had.

In the movie "As good as it gets." We have Jack Nicholson who says to Helen Hunt: "You make me want to be a better person."

We also find, in Dr. Phil's book, "Life Strategies" In the acknowledgement section, he says:

"I thank Oprah for awakening in me the desire and inspiring in me the commitment to reach out and share with others that which I believe with such clarity and passion.

He also adds:

“Without Oprah, there would be no Life Strategies...”

So, we may meet a particular person, because it's exactly that soul who has what it takes – to activate in us the desire to fulfill that part of our self which we never knew we had - or even existed.

Now, we recognize these specific individuals because of the chemistry or the electricity that exists when we first meet them. It is an agreement made.

We don't have agreements with everyone. Only with certain people; to be in certain places and accomplish certain goals.

Agreements are very specific and very selective.

If we look back into our own life, we will find moments that struck us as being completely unfair; situations that went completely out of our control. Yet, we had planned everything only the events took a totally different turn. And, we discover a month or a year later, that it was the best thing that ever happened to us.

So, we can meet someone who awakens in us or our dark side, our shadow or our competitive nature. On the other hand, we can also meet someone who can motivate in us the desire to dismantle an antiquated perception. Such as racism or equality of the sexes.

Among the many who accomplished such tasks: is Helen Keller. We find that she was part of dismantling the perception that if one can't see or one can't hear. It doesn't mean that one is a freak or that one can't learn. And, remember - - this was around the 1880's in Alabama when the life of most people and certainly most disabled people, was poorly dealt with by society's medical and social belief system. So, by Necessity, Helen was deaf and blind.

This is what I mean when I say that agreements are made from a soul perspective.

Helen Keller was also going to need a teacher, Annie Sullivan.

In order for Annie to serve Helen, she was going to have to deal with blindness herself. She was going to have to experience what it felt like to be blind.

Otherwise, she may not have been able to feel the pain of another and may not have been able to mo-

tivate Helen as much. Through perseverance, Annie Sullivan was instrumental in helping Helen Keller become a leading figure who campaigned on behalf of civil rights, human dignity, women suffrage, and world peace.

It's not surprising that some of her friends were Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison. And – was it also a coincidence that both of these men dealt with communication?

There are also agreements that can challenge our need to want to control the outside world, rather than cooperate w/it or work w/ it; even surrender to it and go with the flow; so to speak.

But, it's not as easy as it sounds. Especially when we take a look at Christopher Reeves.

He is also the perfect example of someone who was a source of inspiration to millions across the world. He was known as Superman. Ironically, that was the strength he needed in order to spiritually overcome the result of his accident on the horse. It literally required a superhuman effort to endure it.

At the beginning of the process, when he found out how he had to live, he just wanted to die.

But, with his wife's support, he finally found the resources and strength within himself and surrendered to the fact that:

“I have to live according to Natural Law, which is – I'm more than my physical body.”

And, once again, he becomes an inspiration to many.

It appears that Seth, Silver Birch, Ramadahn, just to mention some of those from whom we have channeled material; they seem to be of the same opinion regarding the concept of incarnation and reincarnation.

They maintain that, it is our understanding of such concepts that needs to be re-examined and realigned with Natural Law.

These groups of souls, in the World of Spirit compare the individuality and not the personality to a diamond with many facets. They say that the same facet of that diamond doesn't reincarnate

in order to have the same experiences. On the contrary, each facet incarnates separately at so called different periods of time, in order to gain experience and help the soul which is the diamond evolve towards perfection. And, it takes eternity to achieve such perfection.

These groups of souls also state that:

“There are plenty of worlds inhabited by those who seek perfection...

The purpose of the individual is to find experience on all planes of expression...

Our planet is but one of many planets in the vast universe available for such opportunities and learning experiences...”

Carl Sagan once said in an interview that we would have to be awfully arrogant to think that we are the only inhabited planet in this vast unending universe.

Actually, in the movie “Contact”, Jody Foster repeats these same words.

On a final note

THE SOUL IN THE CAVERN

Author unknown

There was a soul whose time had come to take a human birth and so it went to the great cavern, where all such souls went.

In the cavern were hundreds of thousands of souls, each manifesting a small blue flame.

When its turn came, the soul stood up and said:

“My time has come to take human incarnation, for I have work to do and many lessons to learn. In my life as a human, I shall need a family and loving friends to help me, to love me and to nurture me.

Who will be my family on earth?”

A ripple flickered across the thousands of flames, and shortly thereafter, a few stood forward and said:

“We do not know you, we have not met before and we are strangers, but being kind and giving love –

is a pleasant and easy task. We will be your friends and family on earth.”

The Soul spoke out again and said:

“And on earth I shall need teachers, people to guide me, to correct me and to discipline me.

Who will be my teachers?”

Again, a ripple went out around the assembled flames and a group came forward and said:

“We have known you in other circumstances and we have grown to respect you and like you. We will take on the task of being your teachers in life.”

And, for the third time and final time the soul spoke out and said:

“On earth if I am to learn the greatest lesson of all; the lesson of humility, tolerance under provocation and to love those who hate me, I shall need people to hate me. Who will do this for me? Who will be my enemies?”

There was a long pause in the cavern until at last a small group came forward and said:

“We are your soul group, we have known you over eons of time and your growth and your learning are as dear to us as our own.

This is the most delicate and difficult task and if you are to hurt, it would be better done by loving friends. We will be your enemies on earth.”

End of passage

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

You will notice that in the past two SCC magazines, we have presented arguments dealing with the topic of reincarnation. The first one was written by Reverend Ken Jackson, the second by Albert Batten and this third one by myself.

This is the beauty of Spiritualism. We are not confined by any creed or dogma that can dictate to us the one and only way to think.

Life is not a black or white experience.

Victor Abbott

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