

DIVALDO P. FRANCO

AFTER THE STORM

Dictated by the
Spirit
JOANNA DE ÂNGELIS

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It has been said that translation is sometimes a more difficult task than the writing of an original text.

Howbeit, we finally succeeded in presenting this work in its English language edition. This was made possible with the help of dedicated friends, interested in the satisfaction they experience from this type of voluntary service.

We are especially indebted, and would greatly praise, a co-worker who prefers to remain anonymous and who ably revised the translation, having at times to re-write entire paragraphs for added clarity. We know that she undertook to assist us despite her regular family duties and intensive studies for her Ph.D.

We also extend our gratitude to Mrs. Evelyn Morales who did a final reading and revision of the whole text.

I am also grateful to my wife Phyllis and daughter Edwina whose occasional reading and comments were most valuable.

To all of them, again, my sincere thanks.

S.J. Haddad

A Note About
Divaldo Franco

As we present this English edition, we feel the reader should become acquainted with Divaldo Franco and his work in Brazil and abroad.

Mr. Franco has been, to our knowledge, the most active and prolific Brazilian lecturer on the Spiritist Doctrine in modern times. He has lectured for 40 odd years, traveling extensively throughout Brazil and other South American countries, including repeated tours to North and Central America, Europe and America.

Besides automatic writing, he is known to have various types of mediumship, such as writing in languages he has never studied or spoken.

Mr. Franco is one of those souls who radiate the peace and tranquility of a solid faith.

In addition to writing and lecturing, he has founded and directed, for more than 40 years, an orphanage in Northern Brazil where the children call him "Uncle," and where they live in separate houses as independent families.

Biographical notes about this extraordinary citizen may be found in brochures that are sometimes distributed during his lecturing tours.

We are, therefore, justly gratified in being able to translate and help publish a work of so eminent a person.

Foreword

Books are written by people, of course. Spirits are living people minus their former material bodies, left behind by the liberating process we wrongly call death. It follows that spirits can also write, provided they can depend, literally, on a helping hand. This is such a book.

The spirit author is Joanna de Ângelis. Divaldo P. Franco, a Brazilian medium and lecturer, let Joanna use his hand to write this and several other books in addition to a large number of shorter texts.

Joanna de Ângelis is not a newcomer to cultural activities. While there is no record of important writings by her during her previous reincarnation as a Brazilian nun, she built herself a solid reputation as an authoress at the time she lived in the 17th century, also as a nun. She was then known as Juana Ines de la Cruz, bom Irtes de Asbaje in 1648, in San Miguel Nepantla, a small Mexican '~pueblo". At seventeen, living at the court of the Marquis of Mancera, the Viceroy in Mexico City, she decided to become a nun and to retire to monastic life. She died thirty years later, on April 17, 1695.

Most of her writing is poetry, which she used with great talent to convey many shades of thought, from delicate lyric verses, to substantial philosophical and religious essays, fiction and theater. You can see her beautiful face on a recent bill of 1,000 Mexican pesos, a well deserved historical tribute to a brilliant woman of her time.

On December 11, 1761 she was reborn in Brazil. Again she was baptized as Joanna and again she opted for the religious life as a nun, under the name of Joanna Angelica de Jesus. (Her signature shows the word Jesus always in capitals). She died on February 20, 1822. Brazilians were at the time fighting for the independence of their

country from Portugal. When soldiers attempted to i~e her convent in Salvador---she was the Abbess---soror Joanna Angdlica barred the entrance with her frail body. She was killed on the spot, by a soldier's bayonet.

By the middle of this century, Divaldo P. Franco began to notice Joanna's presence, now a spirit, guiding, instructing and consoling him at difficult moments, but also admonishing him whenever she felt it necessary, like a loving responsible mother would do. Soon she began to write with his hand the first messages that would in time spread throughout Brazil in leaflets, magazines, newspapers and books, originally in Portuguese and later translated into other languages for circulation abroad.

This book you are about to read is a typical collection of such writings.

A privileged observer of what is happening to the world and to us down here, she decided to offer her valuable contribution, not only for a better understanding of these tormented times of ours, but also by reading into the very turbulence in which we are immersed. She saw that the materialistic structures of thinking and living carry within them their own doom and begin to show fissures indicating unavoidable final implosion. It will then be time for reconstruction. Some of those to whom roles are assigned in this gigantic task are already among us, while others are still to come, after a most careful preparation in higher spiritual dimensions.

Joanna de Ângelis is well aware of the terminal condition in which lies our sick civilization. She spares no words and avoids no subject to describe the chaos, as she sees it through the awesome storm that is shaking the foundations of our society. But she is equally certain that after the hurricane dies down to a soft breeze, and the skies are turned again into their translucent blue, the time for peace and love will come

to stay---not as a flash of ominous phenomena but as a painstaking day-to-day stone-by-stone rebuilding. This will take place according to the unfaltering plans laid out a couple of millennia ago by Jesus, the Prince of Peace and Messenger of Love, whom she knew personally as still a Joanna (of Chuza), nominally mentioned in Luke 8:3.

Ilerndnio C. Miranda

Rio de Janeiro, Br.zil
April 1990

AFTER THE STORM....

Man has expected Science and Technology to bring him abundance and comfort; to skyrocket his sense of enjoyment and happiness.

Fascinated by the idea of power and objective results, and more concerned with the success of their achievements, technicians have been unaware of Humanity's need for spiritual values.

The conquests of space, with the plausible idea of exploring worlds, did not add a bit to man's inner realization

Likewise the advancement of Medicine and its success in resolving many health problems has ushered the discovery of new organic and psychic disorders for which there is no early solution in sight.

New and valid educational methods, backed by psychological studies and research, have only resulted in perplexity and frustrations. They failed to bring under control an unreasonable and disillusioned youth.

This has alarmed educators and caused psychologists to worry about future generations

Makeshift solutions have abounded only to result in failure due to the complexity of problems which upset nations and communities

Serious moral, economic and social upheavals keep showing up everywhere.

There is a storm brewing in the ocean of Humanity.

The Earth is like a huge boat overcome by the elements. The passengers are exasperated; they cry, scream, go into a rage, and... they pray.

Materialism is obviously failing. Being responsible for the present state of mankind and civilization, it only lulls the masses for a while then begins to weaken, fade away, and will soon disappear....

But after the storm has passed, the gift of peace comes.

Only the love as taught by Christ can solve the great problems that torment Humanity.

Love will make people realize that only by helping one another can they be saved, for there is individual suffering, and when one person suffers all are affected. Happiness cannot be self centered, and it is doubtful that anyone could rejoice while surrounded by those in tears. Hope, based on the concept of brotherhood, stimulates the young to go forward and to achieve what is noble.

This is the type of love that impelled Prince Siddhartha to renounce luxury and adopt meditation and brotherhood. The same love induced Francis of Assisi to embrace poverty and humility; Mahatma Gandhi to practice "nonviolence," and Albert Schweizer to dedicate himself to the sick in Lambarene.

This is the love which produced giants of renunciation, great ones of Science, Apostles of Charity, and self-giving Saints. It is this love that, while surrounded by corruption and evil, inspired the true philosophers of freedom, the giants of religious faith, and the heroes of brotherhood

Arising from the ruins of a materialistic culture, love restores peace to human ears in the Gospel's Beatitudes; a song of wisdom and beauty to those who hope for the joyful days to come, already being announced.

The Gospel -- which is the paramount of moral codes -- as viewed by the Lord's Spirits in all its purity, stands at the gate of a new era. It will at last find lodging in the souls of men to become the guiding principle of all nations.

* * *

In the pages of this book are discussed some of the more crucial issues of our times that have engendered a great deal of conflicting opinions and heated debates.

There is nothing exceptional in what we are offering. Nor do we adopt the attitude of those who arrogantly claim to be scholarly or wise. In them is the result of our studies from this side after listening to instructions by eminent ones recently arrived from Earth, and by others who are preparing to return to the Planet. Our studies are also based on the Gospel texts and the Spiritist Codification of Allan Kardec, a servant chosen by the Lord.

Our purpose is to contribute to a quicker change in the moral and spiritual condition of Mankind. Like a generous mother, the Earth gives shelter to those who are passing by it in quest of their ascension. On it dwell souls who seek our opinions and our answers to comfort them during these stormy days.

It is a series of essays that look into problems to analyze them in an easy and simple manner based on the eyes of love and the faith in God; a personal contribution, though small, that aims at the well being of Mankind which one day will unite us, as brothers, in the Supreme Good.

Joanna de Ângelis

Salvador, April 10, 1974

AFTER THE STORM...

1

DISASTERS

When a natural disaster strikes the Earth and leaves in its wake great losses, people desperately search to know the reason why. It is the natural working of the law of destruction. This law operates the renovation of forms and the evolution of beings. Because of their devastating force, disasters leave a strong effect on people.

Seismic cataclysms and geological upheavals explode producing earthquakes, tidal waves and volcanic eruptions. They come to operate needed readjustments to various aspects of the Planet in the earth's transition from an "expiation world" to a "world of regeneration."

Strong events like these are intended to call unwatchful people to the need of deep thinking and submission to the divine will. The result is moral transformation and the stimulation to a higher spiritual attainment.

Seen from a spiritual standpoint, such calamities have the function of a sanitary agent. They come to remove heavy psychic accumulations in the atmosphere that man continually expels and takes in, poisoning himself.

There is no doubt about the affliction and damage they leave behind. The loss of lives, in large groups, and the marks left are difficult to erase from the minds and bodies of people¹.

¹The day before this writing, on February 2, 1974, a fire in the Joelma building in São Paulo, Brazil killed 170 people revealing several acts of heroism. (A note by the spiritual author.)

Other calamities such as plagues, fires, or grave disasters are due to the backward moral and intellectual states of the Planet's inhabitants. Their effect, however, is useful in that they constitute a challenge to be dealt with. In the future, man will seek ways for protection against them or to eliminate them all together.

Endemic and epidemic disasters that used to sweep across the Earth in the past producing great losses, were common. However, today thanks to the efforts and sacrifices of dedicated scientists, in this "technical revolution," they are now a thing of the past. Many other phenomena, still causing real catastrophes, are on the way of being conquered through the ingenuity and perseverance of the human spirit.

There are also disasters resulting from neglect of unwatchfulness. Irresponsible man uses such phenomena to punish himself by means of the suffering that follows sudden and violent deaths.

On the surface, it looks as if such collective tragedies would be unnecessary since they descend on both the good and the bad alike. One should, however, consider the just operation of divine laws whose purpose is to purify and liberate. They are Laws no transgressors can deceive or evade.

Many are the collective transgressions, such as: groups of gangsters, the authors of fearful mass murders; bands of vandals who unite to plunder and spread disorder; habitual aggressors who gather to kill and destroy; delirious pirates interested only in killing and pillage; mercenary, insensitive soldiers taking brutal advantage of innocent victims; those whose job is to set fires to homes and grain silos; savage mobs who destroy everything wherever they go; groups of torturers who abuse defenseless victims; hardened researchers and scientists and their continuous morbid experiments; sadistic and unjust legislators who take revenge of, and crush the weak; arbitrary

conquerors who subjugate honorable cities butchering their inhabitants while feasting and reveling; minds that are linked together by the ties of hatred and jealousy that stir up many passions. All unite again in future lives after the grave in a process of collective readjustments. They have also collectively destroyed, ridiculed, robbed and have subdued those whom they saw as obstacles to their barbaric intentions. They must now become readjusted to the Cosmic order of life and to serve as an example to others who are, nevertheless, touched on seeing the plight that befell them. Yet, even then these others continue in their unfortunate behaviors missing those valuable lessons that could have led them to an inner transformation.

Further, there are the building constructors who become instruments of debts that must be paid as well as careless machinists and vehicle conductors who are instrumental in big road tragedies. Also those who trade their honor knowing that their hands and minds take a part in the cause of certain calamities. Although unknown to human justice, they will not be able to avoid the Divine Consciousness etched in their souls. It will require of them to return to the same stage where they had transgressed and now become heroes by saving others at the cost of their own sacrifice and thus earning their peace.

Catastrophes that shock some people and Surprise others are only the manifestation of perfect justice.

As long as men are egotistic and spread the seeds of arrogance, hatred, pride and are unmindful of their neighbor's suffering, Humanity will experience collective afflictions and tears that summon it to the ways of good and love, charity and self-sacrifice.

As mankind has been able, through technology, to overcome several factors that produce calamities, Humanity can, likewise,

through moral conquests, gradually avoid the need of such redemptive measures.

Whenever the just concessions for spiritual adjustment are not sufficient, calamities come to make men realize the indomitable presence of the higher powers. This will bring them back to the perception of their own smallness inducing them to strive towards new horizons of advancement.

When we are touched by the suffering of many, and share in the anguish that descends upon families in a catastrophe, let us help them and pray for them in a sanctified union of brotherhood. If we do so, we will be building even now a harmonious society, which, upon crossing the grave, carries peace, hope, and the happiness of a traveler who returns, with great joy, to his homeland.

2

THE CONTEMPT OF FAITH

After centuries of obscurity and preponderance of "blind faith," human behavior underwent dangerous transformations. These were based on the conquests of the intellect which were thought to solve all the serious problems of life.

The gigantic effort of modern technology to solve all evolutionary problems formerly regarded as supernatural, caused skepticism to emerge and gain ground. Soon unbelief became a dominant force producing negative consequences. Today, to check its advancement, ethical therapy has become a necessity. Treatment is needed to block the waves of cynicism and senselessness that are spreading unrestrained.

Unable to encourage the conquests of reason, and fearing the loss of supremacy, religious authorities thought it more effective to instill fear instead of love in the hearts of people.

They themselves were dubious about the truths they taught since their dogmas were devoid of genuine faith. By injecting apprehension in the minds, they thought that life could continue under their control like a rudderless ship tossed by the storm in unknown waters

With this viewpoint, they could not understand that God would, at the right time, send His messengers to liberate the Earth from an arbitrary domination. Instead, they indulged indefinitely in upholding the status quo of intellectual chaos

However, when they perceived their great mistake, already the light of reason and logic was shining. Scientific investigations were destroying "mysteries" while the scalpels of advanced surgery were cutting and removing organs for tests and transplants. In doing so, scientists searched for the soul, both in cadavers and in the living, an entity traditionally

enshrouded in fantasies invented by those who had supreme control over the masses

Man then shifted from the totalitarianism of faith to the bondage of unbelief; from the crafty snare of "blind acceptance" to the endless inquiries often resulting in non-acceptance. Reason overthrew ancestral faith but it saturated modern minds with excessive new demands. Believing it was only doing what was right, Reason tried to categorize things and laws by submitting them to a zealous reliance on its calculations, concepts, and whims--new in form but typically old in imposition. Consequently, man began to believe that through the instruments he created, every expression and nuance of life would be revealed to him. But he was unaware, in his shortsightedness, of the Universe's vast reality and multiplicity of its manifestations.

Having become skeptic, he was made a puppet of his own presumptions. Dethroning God from His creation, he erected a flimsy god whose smallness quickly fails when difficulties of the journey appear

The contempt of faith is not a real conquest of a supposedly superior intellect, but rather shows a lack of perception typical of a culture that is vain. It does not dry tears, nor quiet anxieties which only faith can mitigate and pacify.

To the Spiritist Doctrine belongs a great task; that of returning modern man to God; of instilling in him a rational, superior kind of faith. Through these resources, the Doctrine builds faith upon facts, and the logic that follows therefrom. It supplies him with a deeper understanding of the motives and objectives of life. At the same time, it stresses the duties of charity, of work, and of humility which are the consequences of transformation by faith. It does not impose on him a new method of believing, rather it helps him to live his belief based

on the abundant evidence of facts that are registered and proven everywhere on this planet.

In this upheaval of thought, Science will try to explain away modern spirit phenomena. Such conclusions are not, of course accurate. Man needs to submit to the Laws of Creation which are enforced by Evolved Spirits who reveal to us that the functions of life continue beyond bodily existence, invisible, yet pulsating and real.

Spiritual faith corrects both the dystrophy and hypertrophy of reason by placing it where it belongs.

After experiencing faith, a believer is free from sordid prejudices and hypocritical commands. He is transformed into his neighbor's brother and an uplifting member of the community, for he does not direct his aspirations towards the transitory function of the flesh but to the transcendental mandate of immortality.

He recognizes his own weaknesses and limitations, seeking to acquire the strength of progress and knowledge which make him great.

He does not brag, nor does he become arrogant.

Faith gives him abundant love and the power to rectify painful tests, thus liberating him from fear and making him happy.

Modern paranormal research is proving the power of thought--which is the exteriorization of faith--and is beginning to suspect the existence of Spirit whether incarnate or not. This will encourage deeper probings which bring forth outstanding and healthy results.

The contempt of faith soon will yield to the shining light of hope and acceptance of the gentle and comforting guidelines of Jesus' Gospel, "in spirit and in truth;" it will regenerate and gladden the Earth and its inhabitants. Man will then believe in

The Contempt of Faith

God and in Jesus and appoint himself as an heir who can accomplish a great deal as Christ Himself has declared.

There will be no war and no anathema, nor any hatred in the approaching days.

Faith will be man's guide, and man, after finding himself, will "inherit the Earth."



3

POLLUTION AND PSYCHOSPHERE

Ecologists all over the world are worried about how to cope with the increased disposal of pollutants in rivers, lakes, and landfills surrounding cities. This is the price man pays for technological progress. From the necessary commodities for human survival, to the manufacturing of armaments and certain quite dispensable practices of industrial explorations, all this is pouring millions of tons of trash, oils, and other residues everywhere.

In addition to this type of pollution, we should mention the continuous city noises and their damaging effect

To the more pessimistic observers, man runs the risk of destroying vegetation, animal life, and even the human race, as a result of this excessive disposal of waste which is the product of man's industrial activities that will soon smother him and throw the Earth into chaos.

According to experts, however, what is still of greater concern is the atmospheric pollution with poisonous substances expelled by industries, the ever increasing number of motor vehicles, and the insecticides used in farming

With man's insatiable appetite for profit, machines move blindly over forests and other resources, upsetting the natural balance and climate of the devastated regions

There is an ominous threat of calamity in many areas of the environment that have become barren

The figures show how much is being wasted everywhere—regardless of the high numbers of the extremely poor, who search through the garbage dumps for bits of food. This proves

that modern man, like Narcissus, is still looking at his own reflection in the waters of vanity and selfishness which may, in the end, drown him. Yet, he continues enslaving himself with unnecessary demands, complicating his life and that of the other inhabitants of Mother Earth.

In face of this depressing situation, and to solve some of the present and future evils that pollution will bring, world leaders have offered suggestions and programs. Some of these measures have been put into practice, such as reforestation, prohibition from using internal combustion engines one day a week in some cities; recycling of garbage to obtain energy, fertilizers, and other products; controlling the use of pesticides; producing non-polluting means to generate power, increasing vegetation inside the cities; providing more safety in areas of nuclear experiments to avoid contamination, and so on.

It has been said that wherever man and civilization tread, the signs of barrenness, devastation, and death follow.

Some nations of the world, great in material power, placed all their faith in the future wonders that the human genius and computers would do for them. They caused people to become presumptuous and vain. Soon, however, they were to face the results of their hasty concepts in the aftermath of the Middle Eastern War. Many of them had to stop and alter provisions in regard to the demands of petroleum, the god-like source of their frustrated power and glory

Some of these nations suffered economical crises and had to change their political stands, which shows how unsafe and precarious it is to rely on human power alone.

This resulted in a hurried activity of international diplomatic negotiations and the entering into political-economical pacts. But hunger prevailed in many regions, thus confirming the

failure of materialistic fantasies and calculations. Leaders tried their best to handle these social convulsions and bring back control of disturbed, if not entirely lost, governments

To have power for one day is a short-lived glory, for power always shifts to other hands and places, and alters the direction of interests and the so-called pacts of protection. This is undoubtedly due to a pollution thus far neglected, namely, that of a moral nature!

The power and greatness of some nations, until recently supreme on Earth, have now yielded to the ones really more powerful and which had not been taken seriously as yet. The threat of famine to many nations, due to lack of oil, has placed the supposedly weak among the truly powerful, for these nations are in great need of rice, wheat, corn and sorghum of which the world's surplus is almost non-existent.

Man, however, is creating an even more terrible pollution, which is as poisonous as it is uncontrollable due to the unfortunate attitudes in which he complacently dwells: we refer to mental pollution. It is an interference in the psychospheric ecology of intelligent life, intoxicating the minds from the inside outwardly and disrupting them from the outside inwardly.

The Earth is a theater of vibratory clashes; of minds in disarray. It is the product of lack of affection, unbridled ambitions, and hatred. The consequences are not limited to the waging of wars, but also to aggression in the home, at work, and in the streets. Dazed with anger, and overcome by despair, people turn to the lower pleasures. They seek, through them, a measure of relaxation, only to fall into greater doses of derangement and suffering.

Mental pollution thrives unhindered preparing the ground for the visible and frightening pollution of morals.

A program for correcting such a dangerous state of things, however, was already presented by Jesus, the Supreme Ecologist. He preserved and blessed Nature, and through it, demonstrated the methods by which to attain happiness. This He did in His incomparable teachings and examples, abundantly recorded in history. Through them, He established the foundation of the kingdom of love and endless harmony where there is no pain or fears

The Master never reacted--but always acted in wisdom. He never hurt anyone--but He let Himself be crucified.

No aggression ever came from Him--yet He let himself be attacked.

Wherever He walked He stimulated hope, brought consolation, tranquility and peace. His paths were adorned with happiness and blessed by the fruits of restored health.

A King in Heaven, He became the humble servant of all, unaffected by the environment where He was to build the new life of future centuries

Re-live His passage in your thoughts.

Seek Him!

Pause a little in your difficult days and remember Him.

For every ill, He has the right treatment; and for all present calamities, He has the solution.

Love and serve, therefore, as well as you can, as much as you can, and whenever you can.

The Earth will come out of the chaos in which it is involved; the pure air will return, and so will the clear water, the dormant grass, the singing birds, the shiny rays of the sun, the twinkling of the stars, in the name of the Heavenly Father and Jesus, the Ever present Savior of us all.

4

PASSIONS

The power of emotion, which propels man towards passion, proceeds from his inner, spiritual being. It is then transformed into physical reaction, either raising him to the pinnacles of nobility, or making him descend into the pits of vice and degradation.

When a lofty ideal is present, strong and overwhelming, it ignites the individual, and impels him to alter plans, remove obstacles, and overcome problems.

Galileo dreamed of the heliocentric system, and Columbus visualized land to the west, inspired by reminiscence of past lives and the mathematical calculations of his day. Both men, were fearlessly moved by passion, and persevered until they could finally expand the dimensions of the Earth.

Socrates, with his proposal of "know thyself," and John Huss, who fervently loved the liberating Gospel of Christ, chose to die rather than be dishonored before dull-minded men, with moral and religious misconceptions

And Jesus, in His passion for love in its highest degree, offered Himself so that men, through His teachings, could find themselves, and advance towards the "Kingdom of God."

But because of the deceitful ways of crime and dissolution in which the spirit takes pleasure, dazed by matter that clothes him, he delays the freedom he longs for; he gives up everything for the narrow moral prison in which he locks himself.

Debasing passions thrive more easily and find better ground in persons of wavering minds. Likewise passions thrive in those prone to indecision, whose experiences are still primitive and who weaken when faced by struggle. In them the animal nature is still dominant.

Nero and Comodus, who were drenched in all kinds of promiscuity and crime, differ very little from Hitler and Himmler, in the fury with which they sacrificed lives by reason of racial prejudice

Whenever emotion descends to primitive stages, it reaches the mind and drives it into a state of madness

When savagery and lasciviousness prevail, obsessions take place in the form of "vampiric" exploitation. This starts a process of delusions to some, and of depletion of vital forces to others, who completely surrender to this power.

Organized prostitution, sex offences, moral corruption, are all dark dungeons that can sap any expression of life. They are a painful process of disintegration, corrosion and poisoning of the mind

Lusterless eyes, a dull mind, lack of energy, are due to inner domination by lower spirits. These Spirits continue in their vices, after leaving the flesh. Such is the image of a person whose passion is depraved sex--a continuous process of animalization and degradation

Furthermore, we see hatred breeding revenge, jealousy causing pain, anger spreading destructive psychic forces, vanity benumbing the feelings, selfishness stifling ideals, waste destroying moderation; they are the fruits of passions that plague, persecute and victimize those who harbor them.

All these are the result of egotism that only values itself, aiming at its own profit, its own pleasures and opportunities, to the detriment of the victim that willingly surrenders to its domination.

But we are all destined to reach the unfading glory of Goodness despite the long presence of evil we brought to ourselves, and the suffering we go through by preference. No matter how long this period of negativity, it will cease in

obedience to the demands of evolutionary forces which cannot be stopped.

We must begin, even now, to use the powerful antidotes to passions that disturb mankind in this present time. We already have excellent proof of what the chemistry of love can do as well as the mechanics of charity of which Christ became the supreme exponent.

Tiny efforts add up to significant results.

Small crumbs together form a sizable volume.

As they aggregate, the atoms become living and dynamic forces.

Putting a little effort now against anger, then a small crumb of charity, followed by an atom of expanding love, we will have started a conditioning that enables us to mobilize our resistance against all the great and damaging passions.

A friendly thought, a courteous word, a gesture of care, and a shaking of the hand are the beginning of brotherhood and a better world. This better world is being built by the real followers of Christ, who are to be found everywhere on Earth, waiting for the cooperation of those of good-will among us.

5

UNGRATEFUL CHILDREN

Ingratitude, whose root is in selfishness, is a destructive trait that some day must disappear from the Earth. It is unfortunate that this, the lowest remnant of the animal nature, still persists in Humanity.

Ingratitude is a primitive spiritual state in any of its shapes and forms; and, wherever present, produces a strong sense of uneasiness.

An ungrateful person who returns evil for good, stinginess for generosity, meanness for friendliness, pride for kindness, is a disturbed creature. He breeds dissatisfaction around him, torturing those who accept him and want to help him.

The ungrateful son thinks he deserves everything while owing nothing. He wrongly believes that he is a creditor of those around him without owing them compensation on his part.

As a fool, he belittles the good he receives and, in his folly, demands new benefits. Due to the atrophy of his feelings, he is arrogant and petty, dwelling on a level of semiconsciousness and irresponsibility.

Because ingratitude, generally speaking, is a repulsive moral blemish, it is more so when it proceeds from children towards their parents, for it reaches the height of rebellion against God's Creation.

An ungrateful son tortures his parents' hearts. Like a merciless tyrant, he is not moved by his mother's tears nor by his father's tortured feelings.

In the general disintegration of the family observed today, the ingratitude of children brings to the social organism several moral cancers that are difficult to cure.

It is true that many parents, unprepared for the tasks of parenthood, make serious mistakes which greatly affect the behavior of the children. The offspring rebel against their parents as soon as they are able and cause them to suffer. They hurt their parents with the highest degree of ingratitude, rebellion and aggressiveness, often to the point of shameful physical violence.

There are also parents who are immature or permissive. They journey through life obsessed with the torments of continuous pleasures. This causes them to neglect their responsibilities towards their children, who are placed in the hands of paid caretakers. This neglectful group of parents will give account for the wrong ways of their children.

On the other hand, there are children whose parents give them abundant expressions of affection and sacrifice. Their sole aim is to prepare a climate of peace and sound morals, a good family life inspired by genuine love and selflessness; yet, their children from an early age, are cold, demanding, and ungrateful.

The ingratitude of children cannot be justified even when parents prove to be irresponsible. But when ingratitude is present, despite all the care received, can only be explained by relationship problems in past lives. Spirits who reunite on Earth in redeeming tasks, unconsciously revive old feelings of aversion and experience hatred and ingratitude.

The family is a blessed spiritual and moral school. It is a sacred workshop where characters are polished; a superior laboratory filtering sentiments, structuring aspirations, and refining ideals. Here, old blemishes are transformed into precious possibilities for the accomplishment of useful work.

The home, therefore, even when visited by the pain of transformation of its members, is a purifying furnace, where the firm bases of humanity are always forged.

Whenever the home weakens and the family disintegrates, Society becomes ill and ultimately perishes.

The nobility of a family structure is not only found among those who love one another because of blood ties. It is also found in the exercise of tolerance, solidarity and kindness towards its unstable members who are the elements of disturbance in the family group.

The most important duty of parents, reaching the point of self-sacrifice, is to love and care for the children assigned to them by the holy ways of reincarnation. They are to educate them, placing in their souls the seeds of faith and responsibility, and the need to seek to elevate themselves and be happy. The end result will depend on the moral state of each child, which is not for parents to predict, or fear, should the parents be suffering pessimistically in anticipation.

The duty of children is to love their parents even when neglectful or irresponsible, for it is a part of the Higher Code of Life to "Honor father and mother." This does not exclude those who function as parents merely in the physical sense, through whom the Higher Wisdom made possible the redemptive program, with its tests and distressing expiations.

When faced by an ungrateful child, no matter what the circumstances, have mercy on him and love him even more

Although depraved and rough, demanding and disrespectful, having transformed into an insensitive and hateful enemy, treat him with greater patience and greater love

Should people mention the repressed desires and memories brought from childhood; the complexes acquired at some particular instance; or should they refer to the disturbing libido, with which they seek to justify your child's behavior and incriminate you, just remember silently that the spirit pre-exists the body, bringing in its delicate structure both failures and

Ungrateful Children

triumphs, nobilities and degradations. In doing so, you will be able to better help him, forgive him, and stay by his side. You will continue your task with optimism, handling the family's problems and the ungrateful children. At the same time, you will be expiating, through suffering and love, your own mistakes, until the day you are liberated and ready to have the happy home of your dreams.

6

SEXUALITY

In its feverish search, this modern, unconscious "cybernetic civilization" after reaching hasty solutions, finds itself throwing the problems into the future. Meanwhile, the maddening anxiety to live only for the fleeting present goes on unabated

Such a situation has torn down old ethics to adopt a new morality, which has been changing with each new assault thus advancing it towards the facts of amorality. Finally the downward fall continues to sink deeper until it reaches the abysses of plain immorality.

In his uneasy struggle to attain happiness, the man of technology turned to pleasure. However, increasingly desperate and disturbed by a life of multiple and unbridled sensations, he steers his mind to the study of the stars, and his feelings towards his precarious instincts.

There is a marked difference between happiness and pleasure; between physical sensations and authentic emotions

In his passionate attacks against old hypocrisy, man has overlooked the need for moderation. He assailed taboos and prejudices but lacked the discernment to find a substitute which would serve as a foundation for the conquests that would raise him to true happiness. He has been destroying only for the sake of destruction.

Among these frantic attacks, sex was the element which suffered most from the impact of negative forces.

After the past misunderstanding to which sex was subjected, due to ignorance of its noble functions and purposes, it emerged to become an object of abuse, decadence, and repulsion,

Sexuality

whereby people seek expressions of pleasure that abase, distort, and disorganize it.

Formerly looked upon as "impure," it is now regarded as a pleasure machine, and man's only purpose in life is to enjoy it rather than regard it as a means to perpetuate the species.

Starting from Freud who liberated it, to Marcuse who abusively sanctioned it, one is bound to perceive a vast technical culture of moral chaos.

At first its natural functions were attacked. Today it is proclaimed as the source of life. Yet, untold suffering has resulted from debaucheries that threaten the ethical culture of Mankind. It has assailed the youth, placing them in a state of despair, if not irreversible madness

Undoubtedly, sex has profound effects on the physical, emotional, and spiritual lives of people. It is the sanctuary of procreation, the source of noble emulations, and an instrument of renewal through exchange of hormonal stimuli. Nevertheless, sexuality has endured the apocalyptic aggression in this period of spiritual regeneration of our Planet.

Abnormalities and profanity, violence and lasciviousness, go hand in hand with disorder. They engender trouble and violence leaving behind them all sorts of suffering, frustrations and tears

The reason is that sex, if devoid of the dignity of love, becomes pointless and brutalized. It develops appetites that cannot be satisfied, always reappearing more violent and compulsive

From the unjust condemnation and persecution, sex came out to the public square of disrespect. It wanted to avenge the suffering it had endured, presuming that its abuse would correct the errors of old repression.

Such a disorder has reached extreme chaos, and debauchery has corroded the felling that dignify life. It has allowed that scenes of mental, emotional, and physical disturbances become socially accepted, in their scenario of pain and impropriety. As a consequence, extortions, persecutions, foolishness, crimes, obsessions keep proliferating.

Transsexuality, homosexuality, heterosexuality, bisexuality and asexuality, expressed physically or in the delicate tissues of the psyche, all proceed from the spirit.

The manifold ways sex is expressed today are ridiculed and mocked by our society. However, in the future, when examined through its spiritual aspect, they will receive serious consideration and treatment by legislators and psychologists, physicians and psychiatrists, educators and sociologists. They will correct the intricacies of such serious problems, favoring a better understanding of all the noble manifestations and purpose of this life.

Sexual problems are peculiarly connected to the spirit's preexistence. They must be handled with kindness, understanding, respect and a dignified attitude.

Originally created by Divine Providence for sublime ends, sex cannot be irreverently used. Every type of abuse will result in serious consequences; its disrespect will bring disorder and pain.

Should you find yourself in a state of sexual misconduct, against the sanctifying purposes ascribed by our Creator, do not degrade yourself, even if modern times favor or applaud you.

Preserve you moral energy and keep your balance.

Whenever your burning desires flare up, resort to the soothing and tasting comfort of prayer.

Do not yield to delusions nor drink the inviting nectar, poisoned with repulsive satisfaction.

Do not become an accomplice of sexual emotions, harboring thoughts that stir up passions. They result in anguish and imbalance

Do not become an agent of unhappiness to anyone.

If you are in a healthy state emotionally, consider those in extreme agony who suffer from frigidity or exasperation; those who carry abnormalities and those who are disturbed and persecuted within themselves

If you are now in a state of trials, experiencing some psychic or physical condition, look towards the days ahead. Do not be in a hurry.

The problem cannot be solved suddenly. Yet, if not properly cared for, it will get worse.

Life does not end in the grave, nor is it limited to the physical vehicle.

Turn your limitations into strength and love those ideals that ennoble Humanity. They will bring you the freedom of understanding, and you will find the happiness you are looking for.

Always love, no matter in what state you are. Spread your love wherever you go and scatter around you stars of hope. Tomorrow, they will be shining for you.

The problem of sex is a problem of the spirit and in the spirit alone is the solution.

Therefore, take care of your home and family, becoming a co-creator in the work of Our Father. Lend a hand to those who walk in pain, and uplift the minds by spreading the concept that sex was made for life and not life for sex.

CRIME, PERVERSION AND VIOLENCE

There is a wave of crime all over the world that is on the increase and reaching unpredictable, catastrophic proportions. It is a condition that requires deep and careful study by all honest and enlightened men. It explodes unexpectedly here and there as if an invasion of pestilence and madness descended upon the minds, especially the minds of inexperienced youth.

Many experts, among them sociologists, educators, psychologists and religious men, have shown their concern about the steady increase of crime, especially that involving cruelty and violence. They have researched to the best of their ability, only to come up with half solutions, improvisations, and suggestions; which work one day and fail the next. The situation continues unaltered, if not worse and of greater concern.

Thousands of years of culture and civilization do not seem to have improved man's behavior. Intoxicated by the desire for violence, he adopted strange philosophies of life; and seeking to assert himself through vandalism and obscenity, he is trying to move downward to his former "origins."

Some try to explain superficially this socio-moral situation of crime and violence as resulting from the battlefields of the dirty and cruel wars that were recently fought. They claim that modern technology, in the need to alleviate over-developed nations from the excess of armaments and outmoded military equipment, has created centers of conflict within the newly established nations. Some of these nations, still in early development, were sacrificed and utterly destroyed, becoming

victims of alien interests who arbitrarily dominated them, although only for a short time

Mankind, of course, will have to answer for its heavy debt; a debt to be recognized as the fruit of egotistic and unrepentant men and governments, generators of such disgrace and ills

He who is conditioned to the mad technology of killing and savage destruction, continually entertains fear and feelings of insecurity, urging him to kill first and examine later, so he can preserve himself. This puts him in a crucial situation, making him turn to drugs, which stimulate his sensations and debase his feelings. It is then very difficult for him to find himself again, even after leaving the battlefield and returning to peaceful and orderly communities.

The simple signing of a peace treaty, away from the war zones where people, ideals, and dignity are destroyed, cannot, all of a sudden, change a "veteran" into a peaceful citizen.

Besides this fact, experts also mention social injustices. They refer to the classes of underpaid manual labor, the unemployed, the undernourished, and the abandoned, who become dwellers of shanty towns and ghettos, and turn to adventure by operating in bands. Their painful economic condition results in a deplorable environment, which becomes the breeding ground of both physical and psychological diseases of difficult or unknown diagnosis. Hatred, brutality, and cruelty there abound. Sentiments are disrupted and replaced by emotional coldness, the offspring of paranoiac schizophrenia. All this is a symptom of rebellion against an indifferent society, that has abandoned them to a primitive, sub-human stage.

At times some descendants survive as victims of their environment. They bring over deep seated habits and vices of difficult treatment and of disturbing consequences, of which they

Crime, Perversion and Violence

cannot rid themselves and which will cause them to deteriorate further later on

Besides the views of specialists about this complex problem, we must consider the moral conditions of well-to-do families, for there is also a frightening surge of crime in an environment that is regarded as socially reformed. Here we find examples not always praiseworthy, where important duties are delegated to paid servants and educators. Parents disrespect each other, have little regard for laws and customs, and impose their whims and improprieties as acceptable and convenient norms, thus acting in a despicable way, under the cloak of respectability

Also contributing in large degree to criminality and violence are immature educators, morally unprepared for the proper formation of mind and character of youth.

Experiments carried out with mice have demonstrated that excessive crowding in a limited area causes them to become violent. Such symptoms appear after they have gone through periods of great voracity, and were sexually exhausted. They develop dangerous and aggressive dispositions becoming indifferent to any other faculties or instincts. Based on this test, experts believe that the problem is of similar nature with humans; that crime is much higher in congested urban environments, and worsening every day.

All this shows that the implications of moral and religious ethics of the past have failed. After the restrictive banning of all evolutionary processes, there came the need of modernization, for survival's sake. As a result, there was a leap from unjustified prohibitions to an accommodation to false new values, without proof of their quality. The total permissiveness allowed by some apprehensive religious leaders, as a temporary test, has concurred to increase the lack of decency. Thus the

Crime, Perversion and Violence

Gospel themes were adjusted to a vulgar level in inexcusable service to the demands of passions

However, a criminal sometimes suffers from inner or outer disturbances which drive or predispose him to violence that manifests alongside the other economic and environmental factors

There is no doubt that hereditary endocrine malfunctions, and psychic dissonance, become a strong factor of insanity and crime. Often traumas and repressions that belong to the spirit himself are destructive complexes of the personality. They drive their victim to the underground of emotional turmoil and on to systematic rebellion. The one afflicted by them tries to survive but often goes insane from the lack of renovation and from the poisoning effect of psychic and miasmatic fluids¹ that he cultivates.

Besides this, physical derangements, sundry illnesses, and the traumatic effects of past failures all contribute to a lack of discernment resulting in outbreaks of his violence and aggressiveness.

In the complex mechanism of rebirth and evolution, we should also consider the masses of primitive Spirits who are plunging into physical instruments in search of progress. However, not finding help and stimulation to noble aims, they are attracted to gross sensations, wherein they perambulate. They begin to demonstrate aggressiveness and violent instincts, by which they want to prevail and enjoy the pleasures that deplete and destroy them. Their philosophy is to live one day

¹*Fluids*, in Spiritist terminology, are the vibratory emanations that affect the invisible environment. (Translator's note.)

intensely, rather than make an effort towards the days ahead².

The mere concern of those interested in this problem--and this refers to all of us--is not by itself sufficient to solve it. Practical means are urgently needed, based on widespread educational effort, before an eruption of more serious and dangerous problems takes place. Otherwise, the cities will become large stages of ever increasing violence, crime and related problems.

The measures used so far to suppress crime did not aim at the causes that have nurtured its proliferation. It does seem easier to resort to suppressive means; but they are useless and may become another factor in producing more violence.

Treatment of such an urgent problem has to be of a preventive nature. Adults must seek to fill themselves with a great deal of love from the abundant fountain of Jesus' Doctrine. By mobilizing their resources, they will then be able to educate the new generations and give them a healthy atmosphere conducive to psychological recuperation and human progress.

Giving value to life and having respect for life will guide parents, teachers, educators, religious men, and psychologists to achieve reciprocal and brotherly understanding with harmonious and methodical objectives--which are examples that can touch the souls of youth and safely lead them to better ways.

²In the chapter "Mental Diseases and Possession," we will deal with the problem of possession and its part in crime, perversion and violence. (A note by the spiritual author.)

After man becomes spiritually renewed and educated, he begins his campaign against the blemishes of social injustice. He works for the removal of causes that breed poverty, depressive environments, pride, egotism, and indifference.

Those who are violent, or carry psychological problems, will then be loved and cared for by a more human Medical Practice; one that is not concerned with mere profit and recognition. As we know, many professionals do degrade themselves with the intent of obtaining fame and power

He who is illumined by the Christian flame becomes aware of the survival of his spirit. He understands his soul's existence before the cradle, in that he is the heir of himself. This will cause in him a change and he will cease to be affected by his community's trend of thinking who will then receive from him substantial benefits.

People are the expression of their deeds. Society is the result of the people that form it. Human life is made up of the Spirits that populate it. Jesus, the Unique Psychologist, whose views have challenged the centuries, said: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you," meaning that man must direct his heart to the Spiritual Homeland--the true land; that by doing so, all problems of real importance will be solved as a natural result of the greater spirituality he will have acquired.

We are all responsible for and should not turn our back to the problems of crime, perversion and violence; these remnants of animal nature in man who struggles to be good, to free himself from the shackles of primitiveness in order to attain his spiritual nature.

Crime, Perversion and Violence

Every gesture of love and patience; every gift of light and knowledge we give are valuable offerings to that future of peace ~and happiness we long to have.

HALLUCINOGENICS, DRUG ADDICTION AND INSANITY

Among the most unfortunate obstacles that disorganize the social and moral economy in the world today are the hallucinogenic drugs. They occupy a conspicuous place in society, for they easily dominate the new generations and stifle human hopes for the future.

The sad and somber picture of those overcome by drug addiction, with the miasmatic poison they pour around them, attests to the failure of those commissioned to educate. This includes parents, teachers, sociologists, or the exponents of ethics, philosophy or religion.

Narcotics first existed among the less developed peoples. Afterwards the drug habit found its way to Western Civilizations, due to their technological successes. However, this did not fill the vacuum of human aspirations--man's broader and deeper integration into the noble objectives of life.

Concerned more with his body than with his spirit, modern man indulged in comfort and pleasure. But these conquests were of secondary value and they could only offer him disillusionment and emptiness.

Accustomed to strong sensations as he was, it became difficult for him to tune in to the finer psychic perceptions that would provide him with valuable spiritual gain and satisfy his inner life.

Educators concentrated their objectives on external values, giving little attention to the factors within. Had they done so, they would have discovered that the source of unrest lies in the immortal spirit, and would have treated those symptoms of anguish and despair.

Halucinogenics, Drug Addiction and Insanity

Fearing difficulties, or motivated by a curiosity stemming from emotional immaturity, man turned to stimulants--the effects of which are always toxic--surrendering himself to them in total passivity and letting himself be overcome in utter wretchedness.

In addition to the complex task of dealing with the imprudence and immoderation of most addicted victims, there is also the problem of throngs of unfortunate pushers, always recruiting as many victims as they can.

Bad journalism, often directed by disturbed personnel, is the cause of great concern. While its function is to clarify a problem, it has rather contributed to showing its naturalness than to liberating its victims.

Movies, television and periodicals unnecessarily highlight tragedies, which increases the impact of the news on weaker minds. This causes confusion rather than comfort, driving sensitive minds to the byways of drug addiction and other dissolute means now in vogue

Famous actors, artists, scholars and athletes do not make a secret of their use of stimulants to sustain their position of fame. When they succumb--and the scene of their self-destruction is known--they are looked upon as a model to be emulated and a prototype of their time

When unable to proceed, many of these victims just turn off the lights of their glory, ending their lives in prisons, insane asylums, or in the gutters. In a state of hallucination, they expiate the folly to which they had surrendered themselves

Young minds, unprepared for the reality of wars that are fought everywhere, even within the homes, where violence and disrespect abound, turn to insatiable sensuality. "Better surrender to fleeting pleasure" they say, "rather than to wait for a happiness that may never come "

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When narcotics infiltrate the sensitive perispiritual structure, they disintegrate the personality. Memories of previous lives are freed from the subconscious and become known to the present consciousness.

Sordid and destructive images from previous lives emerge, which had been made dormant through the benefit of reincarnation

Thus, after such repeated incursions into the disturbed world within, the orders given by the conscious mind are disrupted. The addicted is then thrown into the traps of insanity and his centers of mental order are torn apart. So are his health and will, with hardly any possibility at all of reversing the process due to a dependency from which body and mind suffer helplessly

It has been argued, in defense of certain drugs, that some primitive peoples and their descendants today have used and are using vegetable stimulants to obtain paranormal forays into the spiritual world. They overlook the fact, however, that by conscious concentration, deep meditation, and prayer, great results are possible without the harmful effects of hallucinatory means.

The near majority of those who develop an extraordinary perception through drugs uncover in themselves the substratum of their spiritual past. It then transforms itself into phantasmagoric visions, that come to the surface and persist even when the experience is over. These visions gradually impose themselves leading to the mental disruption of the

The "perispirit" is a term coined by Allan Kardec, denoting the etheric body that surrounds the spirit and serves as a link between spirit and matter. (Translator's note.)

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irresponsible novice. It should also be pointed out that discarnate adversaries are always watching their victims in order to take advantage of their dreams and trips. They appear in the mind of the addicted victim with their wicked semblance, causing him to be horrified. This establishes fixations in his psychic structure, preparing the ground for future possessive conditions and increasing his woes.

We need effective and powerful antidotes to attack the problem of narcotics, such as: a plain, straightforward education in the Gospel; spiritual awareness; freedom and guidance based on responsibility; early moral discipline; the loving watchfulness of careful parents and teachers; social and medical assistance rendered in a brotherly spirit. The problems resulting from the use of narcotics are the self-inflicted punishment that humanity is suffering for exchanging the real values of love for a senseless behavior.

The solution to the problem, therefore, is one of education in the Christianized family, in schools of noble principles, in upright communities; and not by police repression

If you are a young man or girl, do not deceive yourself by thinking that if contaminated by this illness, you can be easily cured.

If you are an adult, do not go about dreaming a way of life that belongs to bygone infancy, or looking for pleasures that end with the ephemeral life of the body.

If you are a teacher, be noble in your guidance, treating all subjects seriously, without preconceived ideas.

If you are a father or mother, do not think that your home is immune. Carefully watch the behavior of your children. Take care of them before they indulge in the lures of hallucinatory drugs. If, however, the problem is already inside your home, do not run away from it by ignoring its existence, nor be

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self-deceiving, rebellious or hostile. Discuss, explain, guide, and help the victims. Seek the means available in the medical field as well as in the Spiritist Doctrine. By doing so, you will be contributing with the re-education and happiness of those entrusted you by Divine Law, for the sake of your and their great joy.

ALCOHOLISM

All addiction under any form is vice--a pernicious conditioning that claims to be a "second nature"-- and that must be fought whenever detected and wherever it takes a foothold.

Many who have an addiction, lightly classify it as of a lesser or greater consequence. Addiction usually enters in the guise of a "social custom," which then gains a foothold and prepares for a long stay. The result is a deterioration of society's moral reserves; reasoning powers become dulled and give way to a vigorous emergence of primitive instincts that man is expected to leave behind.

Addiction subtly begins by affecting the novices and arouses in the weak a need for repetition. They then embark in search of deceitful pleasures or new emotions proclaiming their inability to resist such dependency.

Accepted in society with brazen tolerance, the destructive influence of addiction exceeds the most deadly of epidemics. It destroys more lives than cancer, tuberculosis, and heart disease combined And even among these tragic health statistics, we can find the preponderant causes of many addictions in their being regarded as adding a social status and refinement

The systematic victims of addiction refuse to abandon them, claiming theirs as merely a habit, that they can terminate at any time, while that of others is much more serious than theirs. Those "others," in turn, give the same classification of insignificance to their own addictions.

Many inveterate victims claim their addiction to be of minor consequence, and that there are "many things worse than this..." and argue, "I'd rather have this vice than another"--as if

advantages of one evil against another could be weighed and the results discussed

Men, without the compulsions of an addiction, possess the power and resources to achieve the higher objectives in life, for these objectives will not be engulfed by vain delusions.

Addiction to alcohol, for example, enslaves and disorganizes the mind and poisons and deteriorates the body. It may begin as an innocent, although unnecessary cocktail, that is repeated among smiles. Later, it becomes a necessity. With the ground consolidated, domination becomes complete, for it increases in direct ratio to its consumption.

Justifications for drinking thus begin: happiness, frustration, sadness, hope, rebellion, sorrow, vengeance, forgetfulness To some, it represents courage; to others, enthusiasm; yet, it invariably becomes a tyrant. Leading to acts repulsive to reason, alcoholism claims to strengthen the weak, when in reality it entraps and debilitates them, ruining their lives.

Many social problems derive from addiction to alcohol. It transforms solid citizens into outcasts, young people into precociously old, skillful professionals into moral wrecks, girls and matrons into shadows of human beings. If economically able, they are placed in comfortable hospitals; otherwise, their lives end in the gutter, and in both cases, are haunted by hellish alienations. Another consequence is the tragic self-destruction by which an alcoholic seeks to find impossible solutions to problems he himself created When suicide does not occur, it takes place indirectly, through destructive overdoses with which he burdens his body. After departing from the flesh, which is also a painful experience, his urges do not cease. On the other side of the grave, his irresponsible Spirit discovers that death did not solve the problem, nor did it end life

In this regard, we may also point out that the desperate addiction to alcohol--or other substances that disrupt the personality--may sometimes be caused by obsessive psychic influences. Such conditions always end in painful obsessive states of unpredictable consequences.

Do not use special occasions such as celebrations, festivities, or parties, etc. as a pretext to initiate yourself into a vice.

The ocean is made up of drops of water, and the broad beaches of individual grains of sand.

Immunize yourself against this idea that says: "It is for today only." When Led to make a detrimental commitment, do not rationalize by saying, "just a little," for one venomous bite, although a tiny dose, is enough to produce instantaneous death. If happiness is your lot, enjoy it by keeping a sound mind. If visited by suffering, face it in abstinence and strength.

In every commitment that requires decision making, courage, balance, definition, heroism, humility, stoicism or resignation, you can turn to prayer. Meditate deeply and you will absorb precious resources to overcome any situation, no matter what its nature might be.

Never let yourself enter into an addiction in the assumption that you can rid yourself of it at will, for if the addicted could exert their will, they would not have been under such terrible domination.

CONTRACEPTIVES AND FAMILY PLANNING

Many significant assertions have been presented to justify family planning through various methods of contraception. The arguments for these measures are sociological, ecological, economical, and demographic.

One point that is commonly stressed is the nutrition factor and the insufficient resources of the Earth for a population that multiplies geometrically

The more enthusiastic propose drastic measures to stop procreation by sterilizing all couples with two children, without any concern for the future. This would render the procreative function into a mere machine, whose only purpose would be pleasure, that cannot always produce harmony and well-being.

We are no doubt facing a problem of extensive proportions. However, it should be studied by the light of the Gospel not by the cold and complex calculations of materialism.

Man may and should plan the family he wants to have, such as the number of children and the right period for maternity. But he can never evade the compelling expiations that are his to fulfill in relation to previous lives.

Yet, it is preferable to use contraceptives than resort to abortion

Children, however, are not the product of mere chance, resulting from random events in life. They come according to pledges accepted before reincarnation by both future parents, in order to build the family needed for everyone's progress.

Parents have the choice to postpone receiving the Spirits with whom they had previous links. They can even totally refuse

their incarnation through them. But how foolish an act this would be; for the Supreme Laws of life will see to it that the rejected ones knock at the door of their debtors and creditors under different and possibly very painful, circumstances. Add to this the complication caused by the irresponsibility of a couple who would have acted in open disregard of the divine laws.

It is claimed that having children and not being able to educate them, simply to increase the world population, would mean poverty for them, and a bleak future for society

Even this argument bears a materialistic sophistry, which also inspired the unfortunate views of Malthus and later the neo-Malthusianism

No one can have a perfect vision of Humanity's future. Those who attempted it were confused with their own predictions on observing the succession of events during their own lifetime

Each day a new method and a new solution are presented for the problems of humanity.

However, the scarcity of love in the hearts of people, the lack of affection and mercy, cause a hunger for brotherly feelings and are responsible for widespread misery.

We won't take into account the great wars which man has devised and which Divine Providence utilizes to keep the demographic balance. Nor do we refer to the seismic catastrophes that bring ravaging destruction every day, thus inviting man to constructive reflections

When a child is born into a home, it brings the elements needed for this child's inner and outer progress.

Some parents act very cautiously, awaiting until they are financially able to start having children. This is not always a valid argument. There are circumstances in life that lead some

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to economical ruin, and others to abundance and prosperity, after their children are born.

Family planning cannot be based on the general opinion of frightened demographers. It should be the product of a frank and sensible dialogue between the parents-to-be, who bear the responsibility of the decisions they make.

The application of contraceptives such as uterine implants, even when considered legal and hygienically safe, needs to have a moral justification to avoid negative ethical consequences.

The so-called need for "free love" has required the inordinate use of contraceptive pills, thus encouraging licentiousness, the dissolution of customs, and the moral and social disruption of man. These members of society will then become prone to delinquency, violence and the frustration that lead to unhappiness, drug abuse, mental instability, insanity and suicide

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Laboratory experiments with animals, allowing them to procreate continually, have demonstrated that overcrowding in limited spaces causes them to hallucinate and weaken

Hence the hurry to conclude that the same situation is happening to mankind so as to justify the failure of ethical values. They use these observations as a basis to encourage the need to avoid spontaneous procreation The facts, however, demonstrate that the phenomenon is not the same with man.

When the principles of the Gospel are truly applied, peace and harmony will reign in the hearts of Humanity

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Before any final decisions are made as to the validity of one or another means to contraception with the idea of helping the

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so called over-population problem, go to the Gospel, pray, and meditate.

God provides everything, using man to accomplish His ends.

Everywhere in creation prevail the laws of balance, and especially of biological balance.

You will agree if you look around.

Animals multiply and species appear and disappear by natural, evolutionary processes.

Many extinct species were victims of man's violence. However, divine order has always programmed, in wisdom, spontaneous reproduction as well as extinction.

As to the specter of hunger, let's remember that it was spoken of even before the Earth was over-populated, when plagues and wars decimated cities and whole countries.

Keep the moral codes etched in your spirit and plan your family with confidence, surrendering your affairs to God and trusting in all things good, for ultimately everything proceeds from Him, the watchful Father of us all.

MISFORTUNES

Misfortune, or adversity, from a human standpoint, is anything that disturbs a person's comfort; anything that goes against the immediate ambitions in which he takes pleasure.

Man has been educated and conditioned to achieve utilitarian results. In spite of some religious links that he maintains, his haste for success often takes him to materialistic achievements which bring him worry, unhappiness and affliction

Seen from a spiritual standpoint, however, a misfortune that would cause a great deal of sorrow to the morally weak, becomes to those who surrender to God, a spiritual gain for their immortal life--the real life.

All suffering, or any imposition of circumstances, such as the so-called incurable diseases, material poverty, or ingratitude of loved ones are signs alerting guilty spirits to their needed renewal and moral progress.

The tests and expiations we undergo are actually engineered by ourselves for the reparation of our past faults. The suffering which we encounter and overcome provides the means of our liberation from guilt, and the attainment of a peaceful conscience.

The so-called misfortunes are not really the calamities judged by man's immediate and utilitarian interests.

Real misfortune is the lack of faith in God while living in pain and desperation without the blessed support of belief and hope.

Those who have deceived themselves and their conscience, and are indifferent to it, despite their intellect and its desire to overcome instinct, are the truly unfortunate.

It is a cruel misfortune to be faced by the need for redemption, while unable to do so, and to be continuously dominated by pernicious attachments. This dulls their spirit and

obliterates all hope of the future. The result is a lack of stamina and the necessary strength to acquire joy which is the offspring of submission.

On the other hand, there are those who experience misfortune but keep their confidence even while in the midst of pain and anguish. They await the help of Divine Mercy; they do not rebel nor blame anyone, and may even glorify love and give thanks for the suffering they endure

Through misfortunes, an awakened Spirit can always extract the blessings of consolation and balance if he remains faithful to himself and to the Creator who created him to be happy.

Many unwarily consider "the loss of loved ones" a true misfortune when in reality death is not destruction but liberation.

Also countless is the number of people who complain because their loved ones are immobilized with paralysis. They even wish them the blessings of death, forgetting that the paralysis of today is the result of the bad direction they had given to their steps in the past.

There are parents who believe themselves most miserable for receiving in their arms a deformed, retarded, or feeble and ugly child. They prefer not to believe that Divine Justice is returning to them the one they had harmed in the past; that now he is with them showing the unfortunate marks in a body to suit his expiation and redemption.

There are also those who become penniless and believe themselves victims of adversity. They writhe in feelings of utter despair when they could resort to the treasures of prayer and patience and then continually work in order to be worthy, and prepare for another phase of prominence.

Pain is a warning and a lesson that no one should neglect to heed.

Yes, there are misfortunes that elevate people and misfortunes that ruin them.

It is a real disgrace to cowardly abandon the struggle through suicide which is an act of rebellion against God and life. By doing such an insane act, man cuts short his commitments for rehabilitation, hurling himself into bottomless pits of unimaginable fears and unending remorse

There is also a comfortless torment for those who take away the life of a brother in humanity. It does not matter whether this killing was motivated by hatred, jealousy, suspicion, or greed; by rebellion or even for sake of compassion

The saint and the apostle, the angel and the good messenger all are forged and purified in the fire of suffering to which they acquiesce and which they overcome.

The task of the Spiritist Doctrine is to immediately prepare man for these circumstances that are not always easy which he has to face on his way to redemption.

It teaches that each person is the architect of his own destiny, and will receive what he himself had produced; it provides him with a needed maturity to make him aware of the responsibilities of his deeds.

Therefore, pain, grievances, anguish, or despair are the treatments by which life helps the sick and obstinate soul to achieve true recovery. This will cause the soul to return to the high objectives of the Greater Life in whose direction it is even now walking. It will arrive there, at the shedding of the temporary body in which it was trying to build its happiness. A happiness which is only reached later on by a soul that has made restitutions of all its overdue commitments.

CRIMINAL ABORTION

Nothing can justify it.

An abominable crime, criminal abortion is a cowardly means used by weaker spirits to flee responsibility, incurring a grave and not easily erasable state of guilt.

Nevertheless, some countries have legalized all cases of abortion with and without a fair reason-and we consider fair reason all those cases of therapeutic abortion, medically approved to save the mother's life.

Statistics in such countries show an unexpectedly high index of offense against the laws of nature. Yet it continues to be a criminal attempt against the life of a defenseless creature. That is why it should be considered one of the most hideous aggressions against a human being

Senseless advocates of criminal abortion come up with the allegation that in the first few months there is no existence. Yet, they fail to recognize that human life, in process of development, is deserving of high respect. With the passing of days, the fetus will be transformed into a man or woman who deserves the opportunity of a bodily life, by divine decree.

No one has the authority of cutting short the phenomenon of life without incurring in painful debt from which he will not be absolved without paying a heavy price

No process of reemodiment happens at random, nor is the fertilization of sexual cells the work of chance. If this were the case, it would be permissible for man to accept or reject the situation.

It is also claimed that the legalization of abortion is a healthy measure, considering the great number of criminal practices that endanger women's lives.

A crime does not, in any way, justify its legalization to make its illicit practice disappear.

Life is divine property and cannot be lightly squandered.

Since people consent in bodily communion, it is expected that they accept the responsibility of their act.

Every action generates natural reactions, which gravitate around their author.

In considering further the problem of legal abortion, the laws are indulgent whenever the fertilization occurs through rape But even in such cases, to expel the fetus by means of abortion does not, in any way, correct the damage that is already there

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Many times the Spirit that arrives under such painful circumstances becomes a great blessing to the mother's agony and oppressed heart.

Self-denial with the purpose of saving another precious life brings excellent ground for redemption to the victim of such tragic destiny

The truth, however, is that the victim is expiating a debt and advancing on the trail of abnegation and sacrifice to the pinnacles of happiness.

There are no incidents of injustice in the framework of Divine Law, reaching some and excluding others

Abortion, therefore, even when accepted by human standards and legalized, goes violently against divine laws. It continues to be a crime for the person who practices it or submits to it. If legalized, it becomes accepted yet continues to be immoral. A Spirit whose return to Earth was blocked, will try again.

A reencounter will take place in the future between the would-be-mother and the one whom she tried to avoid.

The previous commitments between them, requiring adjustment without delay, magnetically attracts them towards each other. If there is lack of love, a process of mental illness

will take place, accompanied by other disorders of a complex nature and difficult diagnosis.

Thus you must favor life, no matter under what aspect it manifests itself.

Consider the liberating door of reincarnation. Advance to higher levels of spiritual progress by offering the opportunity to Spirits who seek your help, and trust in God. The Author of Creation, Who watches over the birds of the air and the flowers of the fields, will also watch over you, who are more valuable than they. You are not forsaken or deprived of divine assistance.

There is no excuse whatsoever for a person who practices criminal abortion, notwithstanding the moral chaos that is sweeping the Earth today.

Every child is trusted to parents, who should love him and prize this sacred opportunity to help him progress spiritually. In due time, this being should be ready to return to his Celestial Father.

The criminal act of abortion should not become a stumbling block in your spiritual progress. It should be avoided, even when it results in difficulties and afflictions

Every spiritual ascension demands a sacrificial task. But at the summit's height there are promises of peace and beauty, as a compensation for all your struggles. You will be honored with peace after liberating your conscience from debts and guilt. To kill, never!

SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

As a general rule, marriage is a laboratory for emotional readjustments, and a shop for moral reparations. Spirits that are in debt to one another, meet in a family set-up to fulfill important commitments.

The meeting of congenial Spirits will, of course, produce a harmonious conjugal relationship. The family climate is, in this case, one of continuous joy. It is the union of Spirits on a mission of knowledge and good will, desirous to apply all their strength in the performance of noble tasks.

In other cases they meet to work out an important project that will affect their own future. A marital union gives them the opportunity to jointly make restitution to past adversaries and defenseless victims who are in dire need of help and upliftment.

It is of fundamental importance, however, in such unions, that both overcome selfishness, and acquire the means to strengthen their steps for the joint experience.

Generally, moral virtues are better developed in marital relationships. Such virtues must be worked upon for the sake of the home and the mutual enlightenment of both spouses, in order to rightly fulfill their commitment. Their offspring, who are usually bad relationships with ties from the past, are also called upon to become polished in the home workshop. From this family gathering, several commitments will result, affecting the future of each member of the family clan, as well as of the group itself as a whole.

Attracted to one another by redemptive needs, but unprepared for the task, not rarely, the members of this program of affection soon find out they cannot continue living together.

In a way, the problem is due to rash decisions and a desire for immediate gratification that blur people's perceptions. 'It is often a problem of inordinate sexual behavior that becomes the cause of suffering in matrimonial life; a problem of difficult adjustment, almost always ending in hatred and unfortunate tragedy.

It is important in marriage not to confuse passion with love, or sexual interest with genuine affection.

One of the causes of maladjustment in marriage is selfishness; a trait that ascribes to itself special values at the expense of the marriage partner to whom it is committed.

Rather fascinated by coarser sensations than by the finer emotions, the unwary couple begin to retreat from each other, first in thought, then by attitude. They cease being tolerant and understanding, and soon develop animosity to be followed by frustrations, which in turn degenerate into serious and disturbing diseases.

Had they really decided to help each other and to take the Gospel lessons as their guide; had they accepted, as a fact, the temporary nature of the body and the great value of tests and experiences, they would have avoided many a tragedy that split families today and bring unhappiness to society.

Marriage is an agreement of reciprocal duties which the spouses must strive to fulfill, in order to succeed. The present materialistic society, although disguised as religious, favors the breaking up of marriage vows for minor reasons. This causes the majority of divorced couples to embark in pursuit of new sensations. The result is often a development of hallucinations produced by mild or strong obsessions resulting from their past behavior and an irresponsible present.

Divorce as well as separation are legal solutions to what had already been morally consummated.

Clearly, such a resolution is always commendable to avoid a much greater harm and the worsening of conduct between the couple as they undergo a process of readjustment, which they will not be able to evade.

They, of course, will have to meet again eventually, perhaps under less favorable circumstances.

It is essential that, before any final decision for separation or divorce, all efforts for reconciliation be made. This is more so in consideration of the children who are entitled to a respectable parental union. Their happiness greatly depends on every effort made by the parents to preserve this union.

Difficulties exist in every human endeavor. Parents will be accountable for whatever suffering is imposed on their offspring. Had both doubled their efforts in personal renunciations, they would have contributed to the well being of their children.

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Should you find yourself in a difficult situation that results in problems for your children, stop and think. They need you, but they also need the other founding-partner of the family.

You should not rush into solutions that sometimes can only complicate things.

Give time for the other party to awaken, and a sufficient period for readjustment.

As far as you are concerned, remain at your post.

Let it not be you who makes a decision in that wrong direction.

Humility and perseverance in one's duty can change a behavior and rekindle the flame of understanding and love.

Do not, however, stay together until there is such a build-up that can result in tragedy.

Separation and Divorce

If someone does not, of his own free will, desire to remain with you, do not become a shackle or a prison to him.

Each person takes the road he prefers, and lives the life that is pleasing to him. Yet, wherever he may go, he will experience the conditions under which he deserves to be. Have patience and trust in God.

When a certain circumstance is altered, or a situation is changed, do not imagine that life and happiness are gone forever.

Keep cheerfully in the expectation that whatever you do not possess today, will be your life's fortune later on.

If you are alone and your strength is failing, give yourself another opportunity in noble and devoted love.

Should you have a difficult spouse to deal with, love him or her just the same. Do not abandon the struggle, but make of your spouse a friendly soul with whom you have commitments from the past. You are to build a joyful future that will give peace to both, offering other spirits who come to the flesh an excellent opportunity for their redemption.

EUTHANASIA

A subject frequently debated, defended by some and condemned by others, euthanasia (the principle which seeks to painlessly end the life of the terminally ill) is back in the news. This is due to its repeated practice by respectable medical authorities. They have used euthanasia on physically or mentally disabled children at the moment of their birth, in pediatric hospitals. Their claim is that there is no scientific hope for their recovery or survival

Such atrocious practices attest to a materialistic view of life which can see only matter and its immediate implications. By disregarding spiritual realities, it also shows the predominance of primitive, animalistic influences in man's emotional make-up.

In old Greece, Spartan hegemony--always ready for war and destruction--legalized eugenic euthanasia. It meant the extermination of the sick, the mutilated and those with mental disorders considered a burden to the economy of the State. Led by egotism and tyranny, despite the capricious drives of an exaggerated national pride, they became the victims of their own belligerent impulsiveness

Other peoples, from very remote ages, have also practiced. this "compassion motivated homicide "

Man does not have the right, by any reason, to determine and deliberate on the life or death of his fellowman.

Even the most criminal, or the worst homicide or genocide, should not have his life destroyed. Rather, he should be isolated from social life within cells, doing regenerating work. By this means, and with the help of time, he would be able to expiate and erase his faults. Even dealing with derelicts suffering from mental derangement, there are judicial

institutions designed to give them the necessary help without releasing them from their culpability If their health is recovered, which is rare but not impossible, although handicapped by the possibility of psychotic relapse, they may contribute in some form to society, paying back the damage they caused.

As to the so-called incurable diseases, it is well to note that they are no longer a problem today, thanks to the success of Medical Science and the dedication of its exponents. There is, therefore, the possibility of success in controlling a disease previously considered irreversible. Every day entities descend from the spirit realm with the mission of furthering the march of progress. They contribute to life with important discoveries, bringing, in the name of the Father, abundant hope and comfort to those who suffer.

In dealing with such human aberrations, instead of false pity to rid them of suffering, we must consider the process of divine therapy. The body-prison and mental shackles are tools which the heavenly therapy uses as a means of justice to those who on Earth had escaped notice and punishment. As they could not avoid the condemnation of their guilty conscience, nor that of the Higher Legislation, they begged the opportunity to make amends and acquire the spiritual recovery so as to attain their inner peace.

The unfortunate ones who in their hatred for life, commit suicide--a rebellious act against Providence--by smashing their brains, reincarnate as profoundly retarded, deaf-mute, hydrocephalic, or with Down's Syndrome depending on the part they destroyed. Those who hang themselves reappear with the symptoms of infantile paralysis; those who drowned suffer from emphysema; those who shot themselves through their heart return with painful, congenital heart problems; the ones who

used poison come back tormented by congenital deformities, respiratory deficiencies, gastric ulcers or corrosive duodenal cancers; those who dilacerated their bodies in dramatic escapes begin again as victims of deformities and great limitations, through which they learn to value the greatness of life.

Aggressors, exploiters of mankind, and those who delighted in plundering and all kinds of arbitrary and abusive acts, return to the same field of their ill deeds. Caught by the Higher Laws of order and harmony, they now return to the places where they spread corruption and unhappiness, retracing their wrong steps. Here they learn the ways of patience, understanding, respect for themselves and their neighbor, humility and resignation, thus strengthening themselves with blessings for future, happy enterprises.

Who has the right to interrupt their precious existence? Those who become their parents, spouses, brothers, or friends are also a part of their life stories and past tragedies. They are either directly or unconsciously responsible, now in the process of rehabilitation. They must give them total support, brotherly assistance, or at least a little love.

No one should exert destructive or "liberating" interference through euthanasia, disturbing such redemptive processes. When touched by the suffering of family members, people say they want to relieve them of their agony. Most often, however, the real reason is selfishness, a hurry to rid themselves of their duty and responsibility of helping and loving them more.

There are several medical and surgical means to ease pain which are perfectly in line with Christian charity and compassion.

No one has the right to determine whether the life of a patient should be terminated or extended. Human

prognostications are as questionable in this matter as in any other! How often patients who were deemed incurable regain their health without any apparent explanation or logic? And how many others, who enjoy excellent health and are in perfect shape, suddenly fall victims of an organic disorder and die unexpectedly?!

Reincarnation sheds light over the most intricate problems of life. It clarifies misconceptions and doubts in regard to health and sickness, unhappiness and happiness. It helps the assimilation of those regenerative principles, so well exemplified by Jesus Christ and by the Spiritist Doctrine, the Comforter, responsible for revealing them in these stormy and distressing times.

Utilitarian minds argue, however, that the fortunes spent with incurable patients could be used for valuable medical research to protect healthy people from becoming sick, or to help those patients who are curable Such is the reasoning of utopians and dreamers. However, they forget that great fortunes are being squandered on noisy, sensuous entertainments, exaggerated luxuries and dissipation. It does not occur to them to invest such resources in good methods of prevention, or assistance to hungry people, who abound everywhere and die in want of nourishment, or a ray of light or a little compassion.

Every single minute in someone's life is, therefore, of great redemptive value to the Spirit. How many noble resolutions, constructive decisions, or negative attitudes can take place in one instant of time?

He who is aware of his responsibility, who is charitable and enlightened by religious faith, a faith based on the facts of immortality, of spirit communication and reincarnation will totally abhor euthanasia. He will help his brother work out his

just restitution, a right given him by Divine Justice to achieve inner peace and advancement.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Due to an increasing incidence of lawlessness in the world, where crime is rampant and seems to gain the upper hand, legislators everywhere begin to consider the death penalty as just response in cases where man's rights, life and freedom are violated.

The problem, however, despite its gravity, cannot be solved with similar means of violence, even if made legal by the State.

Lactantius, also called the Christian Cicero, back in the third century, declared that "the taking away of a man's life is always a dishonor to God."

Life is a very precious thing to be cut short by anybody. No one, be it an individual or representative of the State, is endowed with the right to kill a human being, even when he commits the most hideous or vile of crimes. By so doing, the State becomes guilty of the same crime committed by the criminal.

Every criminal has a form of insanity that needs specialized therapy, so he can reorganize his inner world and become a useful citizen, both to himself and to his community.

The government's role is to do away with crime and the causes leading to it, not the criminal.

A criminal's death does not restore life to his victim.

Instead of the death approach, we must explore means to promote life.

To educate and re-educate is the real, pressing need; not to punish.

Let us think!

There is not one single verse in the Gospel that supports capital punishment.

Capital Punishment

Whenever a person is caught in the snares of crime, destroying peoples' lives or using violence to attain his ends, he should be denied social freedom. In his confinement, he should undergo treatment and self-correction and have the opportunity to make restitution for the faults committed; all of this by methods compatible with the advancement of modern civilization.

Capital punishment does not decrease the incidence of crime. On the contrary, crime becomes even more violent and barbaric. The aggressor, knowing the fate that awaits him, goes all out into a spree of destructive passion.

The State's duty is to always leave a door open for the restoration of the heartless assassin or the human scourge who became a foolish vandal.

If the State takes away the life of a citizen, it cannot expect society to respect it.

Death does not destroy life. When the criminal leaves his physical body, the hatred experienced in his last minutes makes him furious. He goes and psychically attaches himself to those who punished him by starting a mental exchange of rebellious feelings. This will result in things becoming more somber and repugnant in the human scene

Capital punishment is a barbarous process and primitive in nature. By setting the execution date, all possibility of rehabilitation is destroyed. Such a law must disappear from the Earth.

A criminal cannot escape the condemnation of his conscience, nor the reparation that the Supreme Laws of Life demand. It is only just, therefore, to give the guilty person a chance to recompose himself and make all possible amends for the harm caused.

To this end, Penology has devised good programs to rehabilitate transgressors' of law and order, namely, our tormented brothers of the evolutionary path who fail to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

Obviously, the question relates to the pre-existence of the soul and the cleansing process

There is an urgent need to implant on Earth the healthy, moral conditions taught in the Gospel. This will enable us to help those sickly Spirits to make the necessary amendments, facing contenders and enemies from past lives and turning them into brothers and friends.

There is no doubt that social conditions that foment crime and breed criminals require greater attention from man. Those who live in social ghettos and poverty should be helped and shown the ways of dignity.

Aristotle, in his Politics, taught the precept that for a man to be successful, he needs to have some spiritual, physical and external assets. Without such possessions, he continued, contamination by crime could lead him to a state of imbalance.

The present technological era, more concerned with concrete values and the production of superfluous and useless things, has overlooked man's real needs, his spiritual inclinations, his ethical accomplishments, his dreams, and his noble ideals.

By desiring material acquisitions and by indulging in comfort and momentary pleasures, man annuls happiness in its deeper sense; a happiness that does not depend on fleeting acquisitions, but on the understanding of the lasting achievements of his being

Those who are truly Christians must tirelessly persist in goodness, honesty, and patience.

Perseverance in love, which may perhaps have delayed results, can change the external aspect of things and turn the human heart towards noble achievements. But to kill, never!

A crime cannot be solved by another, no matter what name or legal interpretation people may give it; it will never acquire moral sanction.

Therefore, if faced by aggression, counter it with tolerance. If challenged by anger, respond with kindness. If met with hatred, give love.

If persecuted by continuous hostility, offer unconditional forgiveness.

If accused without a reason, demonstrate that gentle patience, that portrays your innocence.

Only good has real and permanent existence. It always wins the final victory, even when evil seems to have the upper hand.

Do not add to the number of the violent who adopt the idea of elimination

When outraged, they may commit the same crimes for which they now demand the death penalty.

You are unaware of your own powers.

You do not know how you would behave in the position of those who are now passing judgment.

Yes, spread the seeds of love, thereby creating a state of joy and happiness for all. Offer your valuable contribution--even a small one--in order to improve the present condition of the world. Crime will vanish and become only a sad shadow of the past, as Jesus once predicted.

ADVERSARIES

No one, on Earth, is exempt from having to cope with adversaries in his lifetime.

They cross the paths of every person, scrutinizing imperfections and making demands. Possessed by villainous feelings, they crave faultfinding and are never satisfied.

Some of them disguise with a smile the feelings of animosity which torment them. When taking a part in recreational gatherings or other activities, they are annoyed and depressed, which keeps them busy devising well-planned schemes, or impulsive acts in sudden retaliations of an idiosyncrasy they cannot control

Most of them do not even know the reason why they become adversaries--if a reason could ever justify unfriendly attitudes.

They are simply victims of lower feelings, intoxicated by the vapors of sickly mental fixations in which they presume to be emotionally accomplished.

When someone else attains certain goals that were denied to them, they adopt the insensible attitude of envy and dislike, transforming themselves in heartless tormentors.

Paralyzed by inner problems of negative complexes, they imagine themselves betrayed and belittled. This turns them into angry, rebellious and ruthless opponents.

Unwilling to offer the fair and valuable share of sacrifices that others do in their daily struggle, they proceed from jealousy to aversion, thus becoming true censors and persecutors.

When individuals nurture a deep and lasting hurt, their sense of judgment is dulled by arrogance, and they become a problem to their fellowman. In doing so, they kindle ignoble feelings

thereby transforming themselves into a singular type of adversaries

One can always find reasons to antagonize other people. Moral weakness uses false arguments to justify its own imperfections and to transfer them onto someone else. Moral weakness lacks the courage to face and correct itself, to acquire values and rise spiritually, thus changing its outlook and 'seeing things as they are.

The view from a valley is limited by the narrow horizon. Similarly, people's opinions of others take on the colors of the observer's lenses

Idealists of all ranks have suffered the assaults of their adversaries.

Heroes of every noble cause have endured their sharp spears and profusion of darts.

Saints and Apostles of all times have been afflicted by their floggings and insults.

The heralds of science and knowledge did not escape the aim of their weapons. Many had to endure their shameful tortures.

Whether you rise to the lights of redemption through love, or whether you go to the underworld zone to alleviate suffering, they are always after you. The reason is they prefer to dwell in that useless parasitic way of life.

Good deeds irritate them, for in man are still traces of the primitive stages from where he emerged

They deem it easier to persecute and disturb than to bring peace and upliftment.

They do not know what they are doing, or prefer not to know, at least temporarily.

They abound everywhere. You run into them on the Earth in their physical form, as well as beyond it, in spirit, always surrendering to those wicked and ridiculous attitudes. Everyone feels their assaults.

However, if you make good use of them, they turn out to be indirectly beneficial.

Unknowingly, they will help you discover the moral weaknesses in yourself which you must correct; they will call your attention to faults that mar your conduct; they will point out character flaws in your behavior of which you had been unaware; they will tell you bluntly and in detail the mistakes you made which had gone unnoticed; they will train you in patience and detachment by showing you unimportant errors and minor mistakes; they will demand austerity in your examples and optimism in your attitude, thus instigating you to humility.

They will exaggerate their negative reports, giving you no rest or truce...which, at the same time, will help to liberate you from them.

What is important is that you do not become the enemy or persecutor of any one. Turn to the world within, removing the real enemies of peace, deep seated in every person, for that is where they thrive and multiply. You must face their opposition and resist their many assaults until you attain victory

Whenever someone reacts to an aggressor, he establishes attunement with him, giving origin to an interdependence of a psychic nature, a sort of mental commerce of hatred. The result of such an exchange is the detrimental subjugation of both parties involved.

Doubtless, the effort and resistance needed have to be continuous, for adversaries are born and reborn, and easily multiply in the lower levels of the soul.

This is why the Lord has advised prayer and watchfulness, so that man may overcome temptation.

In such a continuous struggle, there will be many heartaches, which will ultimately bring total health, joy and peace. In order to enjoy these, make an effort to discipline your character by acquiring healthy habits and performing noble acts.

By being an example of faith, love, and charity you will gradually transform those enemies who gave you trouble into helpers of your progress, and perhaps real brothers and fellow workers. This will you do if you will decide not to return evil for evil, either in deeds or in thought; by loving them and seeing in them friends who are actually sick in need of your help, for your happiness and theirs.

MENTAL DISORDERS AND POSSESSION

The problem of psychic disorders, produced by the physiological, mental or obsessive factors, requires accurate study and continuous investigation.

In every mental condition there is a predominant cause, accompanied by other complexities. Such complexities may be overlooked by the less attentive observer who lacks sufficient training in matters of the spirit.

Only when man understands that he is an incarnate spirit in process of evolution is he able to successfully treat the conditions that befall him in his transit through the flesh

Each mental illness has its seat in the intricate tissues of the patient's perispirit¹ and it results from his own wrongdoings.

The Supreme Laws of Divine Justice always follow their transgressor, no matter where he might be.

Man, through his deeds, thoughts and attitudes, deposits in the centers of his intelligent life the seeds of his own disorders. These produce a multitude of mental conditions which surface as self-punishment through psychoses, psychopathic conditions, psychoneuroses, traumas, and various obsessions

Simple neuroses as well as the more complex manifestations of hydro, micro, and macrocephalic conditions, Down's Syndrome mental retardation and schizophrenia all have their actual causes in the past lives of the alienated spirit.

¹The perispirit is a term coined by Allan Kardec referring to the intermediary, semi-material body that links the spirit to matter, also known as the ether/c body (Translator's note.)

Suicide caused by an act of violence against the skull and the brain produces physiological anomaly or malfunction of the mental instrument. Man, in his utter desperation and rebellion, became responsible for such a state, when he caused the bullets to tear through his brains

No one can run away from life without later having to face it again

No one can escape responsibility and avoid coming face to face with the problems that were created.

Criminals who escaped punishment will reincarnate in states of depressive psychosis, as if attempting to carry out justice against themselves for the crime stored in their memory.

People who deceived others, regardless of the respectable positions they held, will hide behind various forms of insanity. They are likened to those who run away from commitments, lacking the courage to face them

In the spectrum of mental disorders, obsession also occupies an important place.

When hatred, caused by wrongs, is persistently nourished, it will link those who remain in the spirit world to those who reincarnate on Earth. This will produce a deplorable' mental interchange of unpredictable consequences.

Hideous plots that were kept in the shadow, causing great harm, become forces of psychic interdependence, degenerating into painful obsessions

Violent loves that were satisfied through bloodshed, or crushed by treason, silenced by wicked means, or preserved by evil schemes in order to remove all obstacles, will eventually regroup aggressors and victims. The result is a long distressful spiritual linkage and subjugation

Death does not erase memory. Rather, it sharpens it. Some will experience exaggerated lucidity, while others will fall into a

long state of torpor. The latter are automatically attracted, as by a magnet, to those in the physical body having the same criminal and irresponsible character. An interdependency develops between them, a sort of etheric vampirism, which saps the strength of their earthly victims.

Death is always the great and unequivocal unveiler of mysteries, enigmas and hidden causes Physical life molds itself after the effects left by past deeds, which are then either transformed into imprisonment and suffering or the pleasant vista of freedom. At the same time, a lifespan in the flesh offers incomparable treasures. It affords opportunities for us to accomplish deeds leading to peace and happiness, which one day all people will enjoy upon their purification and enlightenment.

Knowledge of spiritual life is very beneficial to the preservation of the mental health of human beings.

The Spiritist Doctrine, or modern Christianity, has valuable therapeutic means to deal with the mental problems of today, as it demonstrates the indestructibility and communicability of man's spiritual principle. It proclaims the need of successive reincarnations, thus removing the fear of death and suffering. Consequently, it contains the best antidote for the causes of traumas, hallucinations, and mental disorders

By fostering optimism, it vitalizes the centers of psychological balance. As a result, the mental electromagnetic functions receive an adequate flow of energy, strengthening those weaker points which generate life-maintaining forces.

The weakening of moral defenses, responsible for the maintenance of man's immune system, allows the invasion of micro-organisms. These attack the nuclei of discernment and reason, driving men into the woes of insanity.

The development and practice of prayer, constructive conversation, meditation and reflection, noble acts and service, strengthen man with specific energies. They protect him from both physical and spiritual aggression, which cause multiple imbalances, leading to mental and obsessive diseases that make him so miserable.

Conversely, mental and physical idleness, pessimism, irritability, discouragement, maliciousness, anger, hatred, jealousy, and all vices, not only increase the factors that produce insanity, but also create matrixes of serious obsessive fixations.

Mental disorders increase in direct proportion to a person's moral disturbances, which torment the irresponsible and guilty spirits with the painful therapy of purification. They could have avoided this had they freed themselves from the circles of foolishness, imprudence and immediate gratification

Knowledge about the spirit world, which is present in all human affairs, can greatly enhance the work of psychology, psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and psychosomatic science. They can be enriched with enlightenment and, to man's advantage, be transformed into real sciences of the soul and the mind. This can happen only after certain preconceived ideas are overcome. Notwithstanding the due respect these sciences deserve, their ideas are obstacles that blur the vision of life's realities and its greatness.

SUICIDE

Suicide is an act of utter rebellion; a reaction to pride; an act of vengeance that seeks to destroy self for being unable to destroy someone else. Suicide is an expression of moral brutality in which human beings still linger

In one brief moment, rebellion huffs a person into an abyss of madness and suffering which extends for years of indescribable bitterness and misery.

Because of a hasty analysis of a situation, wounded self-love pushes man down a bottomless pit, where conditions are greatly worsened. Only after an exceedingly painful and lengthy remorse, with much agony, will the victim be able to overcome the situation

Impelled by unjustifiable jealousy, a person takes revenge on life by throwing himself in stormy waters, which drown him but do not give him rest. His choking unceasingly torments him, and he is unable to free himself....

In the name of wounded dignity, an emotional man chooses to cowardly escape through a road-with-no-end; a road of illusion which he then bemoans bitterly and weeps in late repentance

To end a long terminal illness, a patient shortens the time to his "freedom." In doing so, he finds that he is not freed but enchained to an endless state of despair and with the same pain that had tortured him before. Besides this, he has to cope with the new affliction of the violence he committed against his existence, which he had no authority to destroy

Afraid of suffering, one who commits suicide finds his torments are even greater than the ones he had before his act.

He justifies it by the illusion that once his consciousness is destroyed there will be sleep and nothingness

Basically, the reason for self-destruction is pride; it is the attempt to solve, by violence, problems that only good works and a deep trust in God can resolve efficiently. Exceptions are those cases of neuroses and manic-depressive psychoses. These result from old and spectacular evasions from life by the spirit, which are deep seated in his being, predisposing him to a repetition of the moral failure.

Man, conditioned only for worldly success, is not equipped for inner conquests. Were he so equipped, he would be better protected against natural difficulties and struggles, so necessary for his spiritual advancement.

Circumstances change, the components of a problem alter, conditions, no matter how bad, are transformed by the action of time.

Sorrow is replaced by joy, sadness is replaced by happiness, misfortune, patiently taken, is replaced by hope. All this is possible when people learn how to transform thorny obstacles into flowery roads of blessings in their lives.

Man's destiny is to have joy and spiritual abundance.

Because he is not life's creator, but a user, although not always a good one, he is forbidden to destroy life.

Through an act of irreflexion, he interrupts its physical manifestation, but this does not destroy the inner mechanism that animates the outer form.

Every negative assault takes the form of an overload, which follows the transgressor of the law of equilibrium wherever he goes.

There are souls who claim to be religious yet are unwise; who prefer to postpone their deliverance even if later they have to face more difficult requirements. Being unable to do what is

least now, they erroneously presume that, after having failed, they ~ be able to assume greater responsibilities. A vain and presumptuous attitude which they use to cover evasion of duty

....

Those who turn away from the commitments they made before life are the victims of self deception. They will not die. No one is destroyed at death.

Regions of unhappiness and darkness abound on both sides of life. Cases of abuse of conscience, rebellious minds, and frustrated hearts continue beyond the grave

Addressing the problem of serious and unpredictable afflictions a suicidal encounters, one must also include that of indirect self-destruction; of those who consciously endeavor to speed up the moment of their departure by various means.

Suicidals also include those who are addicted to sex and the indulgent in one or another vice, those who ingest high doses of tension, and those who poison themselves with hatred and destructive passions, the gluttons and the lazy, and those who cultivate pessimism and imaginary diseases

Life is a symphony of love and beauty ready to meet us. A transparent drop of water, the nervure of a green leaf, pinch of fertilizer, a perfumed petal, a live seed, a ray of the sun, the twinkling of a star, are all invitations to thought, to contemplation, to love!...

Of course, there are aggravating and attenuating circumstances to suicide But no matter what the cause may be, there is no other consequence for the victim but to face life and its intensity again, with the aggravating factors he had not anticipated

Yes, Spirits will erase the woeful results in their wandering state and after enduring indescribably difficult conditions. Add

to this their return to Earth under painful expiatory restrictions. Such is the lot of him who betrays the divine trust, namely, the physical body that was molded for the Spirit's glory and progress.

If your day appears to be gloomy and frightening, wait for the morrow.

Wait a little longer when everything seems to drive you into despair.

Divine Providence has ways of which you are completely unaware for clarifying things and removing errors and difficulties.

Love life and love to live--even when misunderstood and undergoing great sacrifices, and treading a thorny road

Recover today what you have wasted yesterday. Never entertain the simplistic idea of suicide. It is the most complex and unfortunate thing that can happen to man.

If your suffering seems unbearable, think of Jesus and His utter humiliation on the cross. He trusted in God. He also trusted in Mary, His Mother, as she, in anguish, watched her betrayed and seemingly abandoned Son. Although in profound agony, she was an example of total trust, unsurpassed patience and resignation, and an unwavering faith in God, which made her the Holy Mother of all Humanity.

WARS

Among all the tragedies that descend upon Mankind, war is the most hideous as it reveals great savagery. It is a remnant of man's primitiveness in his struggle for survival. As his instinct searches for safety, he tramples over those that are weaker, to celebrate and feast over their destruction.

Excited by the idea of increasing his assets, man arbitrarily thinks he is permitted to subdue his neighbor by means of aggression, when he should instead work towards self-discipline and overcome his own imperfections. This would bring about a true victory making him a genuine human being.

Because man trusts more in the concept of "might makes right" than in moral values, he applies technology to master warfare--a natural symptom of the conflicts inside himself.

Aggressive instincts form groups of individuals which, in turn, form nations. Nations adopt the principle of overlordship and the hoarding of goods. The hunter instincts lead to savage wars of domination, stirred by the archetypal desires people still have and refuse to abandon.

Yet, in their strife for conquering other people, these aggressive human groups are enabled to hasten progress. They achieve considerable gains that will be efficiently used in the peace to come.

However, as yet, love has not been able to motivate humankind to experience feelings of brotherhood, creating solidarity and solving many of the social ills that bewilder governments today.

In view of the fact that evolution cannot be detained, God makes use of man's warring stages to stimulate man's efforts. Although based on destruction, as soon as the fury of war

ceases, devastations are transformed into valuable contributions to the development of communities, which helps them redeem themselves of their past delusions. Once the burning rivers of conquerors' passions are dried up--conquerors that keep succeeding one another, a fact that warriors should study and ponder carefully--new movements for peace are born. Then come the times of mutual assistance, generosity, business activities, cultural exchanges, highly inspired gestures, thus disarming all vengeful intentions and neutralizing all inclinations to retaliatory attitudes. At the same time, it develops a sense of friendship among individuals, resulting in the alliance of all countries and in a large body of mutual assistance.

War, as history proves, has not taught the lessons expected, but it has demonstrated the passing nature of victories and earthly tragedies

Civilizations have always been erected and re-erected upon the ruins of vanquished ones However, people soon rebel, expelling their cruel oppressors with horrible retaliatory scenes--an act they themselves had condemned in their aggressor, which reveals their repressed passions.

Modern materialistic concepts see no future life for men and other living beings. They see only a chance combination of "nucleic acids and protein," an idea that has greatly contributed to our present emotional maladjustments. This resulted in reckless decisions and bloody wars of such destructive power as it had never seen before. If things continue developing in this manner, planetary life will be in danger of extinction

Notwithstanding the lowest, savage feelings that war generates, it inspires people to sacrifice their lives for those they love. It reveals the nobility of renunciation and abnegation of heroes who give all they have in laboratories of research and experimentation to find solutions to afflicting problems. They

make revolutionary discoveries in record time, stimulated by the thought of speeding up the end of animosity and helping the victims of raging battles

Man is a religious animal by constitution and spiritual destiny. The idea of God is innate even when he consciously denies it. He obstinately runs away from spiritual reality by turning to physical illusion. War becomes an unfortunate means for him to attain freedom from the traumas and fears he experiences and which terrify him

Jesus taught us that love, one day will replace human belligerency. It will solve disputes that can develop into war between nations.

Honest legislators in honest governments will settle misunderstandings. Instead of the hostilities and hatred that last for generations, the stronger side will overlook the impetuosity of the weaker one. Greater powers will share resources with the smaller ones. All nations will unite in the struggle against seismic catastrophes and other natural adversities. They will provide sanitation to unhealthy regions, will recuperate arid lands and will fight against disease, hunger, and economic difficulties

While necessary as a goading device to drive man, evil is a heritage that will disappear from the face of the Earth, through the superior and powerful inspiration of goodness. On that day, Humanity will know of war only by what they see in museums and old documents. Future generations will lament the rough methods they had once employed; they will be encouraged to make even further progress, ashamed as they will be, of their insane past

In those future days, all these fundamental factors, which are the moral tragedies, will also make a total retreat, because it is

from the unhappy and backward soul that come the other miseries that plague the world, in incessant assaults

Through love, and the understanding of the laws of cause and effect, man will begin to receive moral and spiritual strength for his advancement. He will then be able to set the excellent foundation of peace which will endure for times without end.



FALSE BELIEFS AND SUPERSTITION

Fixations take place in the perispiritual¹ centers, through the long evolutionary process, in transit, from the primary levels to the conquests of intelligence. Consequently, Spirits who are still young in the scale of evolution are subject to unfortunate aspects of superstition, which favor ignorance and unbalanced emotions.

The presence and extent of witchcraft and amulets is due to the spiritual backwardness of the Earth's population. Such abnormalities will retreat at the dawning light of rational faith, which can handle philosophical doubts, intellectualism and technology at all times, to preserve confidence in God.

Is it not a paradox that the decade when man left Earth in quest of the moon, dreaming about conquering other planets, is also one of a return to barbarism and superstition? During the same period, man was fleeing from computed calculations and scientific findings to engulf himself in the abyss of his disorganized imagination.

The supposed demise of religious faith, as foreseen by exponents of past and present century materialism, could not expect to find more shocking results than the technical minds of today

True, man was disillusioned with the gaudy promises of past religious doctrines. In his rebellion, he began to worship the machines he built, which led him to the arid land of skepticism.

¹See footnote on page 73

Feeling dry and restless, he turned to fantasy, bringing back to life old superstitions that make him act in ridiculous and depressing ways. But as he came face to face with the atomic world, he was forced to look into the kingdom of energy, and ontologically, into the transcendental.

Yet, due to a deep-seated suspicion, he was not prepared to investigate any spiritual reality, giving preference to clichés such as "supernatural," "miraculous," and "mysterious" in order to escape to the nihilistic stand that tortured him.

No one denies the interference of pulsating, living forces in the Universe, in continuous exchange with the human mind. There is a great distance, however, between this fact and that of belittling Divine power by giving extraordinary powers to the devil--a symbolic personification of vicious and perverse Spirits.

In essence, superstitious people suffer from atrophy of the spirit; they prefer fear to love, and smother all hope with distrust and despair

By a process of psychological transference, instead of going within himself to fight his inner enemies, man attributes his faults to his neighbor, blaming him for his own ills and negligence.

Thus he becomes enmeshed in the craftiness of dark Entities, who excite his "aggressive instincts" so as to keep him securely chained to delusion and reckless acts.

Having surrendered to false beliefs and superstition, only with great difficulty will he be able to return to light, for this will require effort, education and discipline. These personal conquests are intransferable, yet indispensable to lift him from sorrow, complaints and inferiority, to the higher planes of nobility, edification and peace.

The number of deceived and the unhappy deceivers is great, both in this world and beyond the grave, in an exchange of madness and impudence.

They reject truth and cling to illusion; despise the good and take pleasure in degradation.

Superstition, and the superstitious!

Superstition and the superstitious are the repulsive legacy of spiritual obscurantism and destructive folly, which still proliferate because man continues to prefer darkness to light, and suffering to love

However, no one can interfere in God's designs, no matter how much he may try.

The sorcerers of all times, whom people's fancy has placed upon pedestals, are mediums of backward and darkened Spirits, producing unfortunate doings.

Their generic name is used by clerical intolerance to silence the heavenly voices. Sorcerers were, and are, on the same road of struggle as all of us, and will one day have to give account of the trust assigned to them.

Stay with Jesus, the Liberator, and leave aside false beliefs, superstitions, and illusions. Rise and take up the work of your redemption and that of others.

You will learn, through the Spiritist Doctrine, that you are the builder of your own future, the one responsible for your happiness or sorrow; that you are the heir of your own values and the future legatee of all your acquisitions.

Be pure, without any degrading moral debts, progressing continually; have faith, love your neighbor and always serve, immune to evil wicked people. By properly teaching and demonstrating faith, and shunning the works of ignorance, you will attain victory over all darkness and all pain.

EXORCISM

Notwithstanding the continuous information given in many countries about the after-life, man has maintained his ignorance in regard to life and death. In doing so, millions of people suppose they can evade their responsibilities and duties relating to their evolution.

Thousands leave Earth and the physical body every day, while other thousands come to Earth into the flesh. It is an incessant exchange of vibratory stages of those going back to the Wandering State and those returning from it

They leave carrying their spiritual conquests as they return to matter, without any miraculous transformations or the life of idleness in a fictitious Paradise. They keep the vicious cycle of birth-grave-birth without reaching the goals of freedom and ascension that are theirs.

Death does not solve at all the problems that are not dealt with during physical life. For this reason, billions of senseless and vicious souls roam the spiritual atmosphere of the Planet. They find pleasure in being frivolous until pain and tears help them restore their balance and lead them towards progress

Each individual dies in his physical body or disincarnates, transferring to the spiritual reality his qualities and acquisitions. There are no surprises of undue concessions or biases, nor unjust punishments.

In this respect, we all live in a universe of waves, vibrations and minds that interchange and interlace. They enter into adjustments and disengagements in an incessant exchange of energy, a process from which no one can escape save by sublimation and spiritual progress

Reciprocal attunement between those in the flesh and those out of the flesh, who are of the same evolutionary level, produce mental fixations, a form of parasitic psychosis taking place along the same negative qualities of thought in disarray. Such a condition results in troublesome possessions of difficult recovery and of which many suffer in the world

There is no outward attitude that can lessen this predicament, much less overcome it.

Unbalanced minds stubbornly continue to avoid doing what is worthy. They indulge in bizarre practices reviving the supposed magic of old, to further increase the suffering of the possessed

....

The so-called sacramental words, exorcisms, special utterances, and material offerings by no means affect Spirits, even those who are disturbed or who delight in cruelty.

Those who are still young in their sense of duty like to make contact with earthbound Spirits that have carried with them the same passions they had on Earth. People erroneously think that an abominable commerce like this will give them the peace, the profits and the illusions they seek

The number of people who indulge in such practices is enormous. They entertain atavistical fixations of superstitions, primitive beliefs, fetishism and curses, thus letting themselves be psychologically attuned with negative minds and energies.

The belief in demons gave rise to the practice of exorcism in the past, which is frustrating in itself since such beings are not a creation apart from humanity. The fact is they are merely the souls of men who once lived on Earth, and whether in fear, or to cause terror in others, believe themselves to be of separate creation, due to their own gross ignorance.

Heedless as they are, they can provoke complex diseases that pervade the very fibers of the soul; they prefer senselessness

and vulgarity to nobility, and self gratification instead of duty
....

Only a morally evolved power and the unfolding of higher energies can produce positive effects on possessing Spirits--who are misled and sick brothers--for their improvement and that of their victims. Therefore, the inner renewal of victims who are possessed restores their state of mental health which they must preserve at all costs.

Spirit therapy for possession consists in elevating the moral condition of the controlling agent, and the patient's constant effort for self-improvement.

Exorcism, curses, the burning of incense, amulets or special herbs are entirely useless. They cannot set free those who are redeeming past debts of serious offenses and who are now suffering the effect of lower spirit possession.

In any event, we should seek in Jesus the example to be followed, and in the lessons of Allan Kardec the safe guidance to lead us away from such situations.

The Gospel, through its authorized narrators, refers to healings done by the Master solely through the power of His moral superiority, which Spirits respected

Allan Kardec, inspired by the "Voices of Heaven," is clear in regard to Exorcism, according to the Spirits' Book, second part, chapter 9:

477. Have formulas of exorcism any power over bad Spirits?

"No, when bad Spirits see any one seriously endeavoring to act upon them by such means, they laugh at him, and persist in their acts."

SPIRITUAL FANTASIES

A basic characteristic in Jesus' Doctrine is the absence of fantasies of fear. Built upon love, its structure is simple and its message deep. It is a Doctrine without any outward showmanship.

Supplementing the teachings of the prophets of old, and giving fulfillment to the Law of Moses and other Messengers, the Gospel announces the dawn of hope and the gentleness of peace.

Nowhere does it stage aggression against causes or men, doctrines or ethics.

It comforts the unhappy and prepares them for their daily struggle in the journey of evolution.

It addresses the fallen, lifts them and helps them proceed with courage.

It assists the irresponsible ones, giving them the motivation to return to their senses and overcome their passions.

All of the Gospel's lessons are comprised of simple images, with a great ability to communicate their message. Even the more vigorous passages do not exclude the strong content of love in them.

When it raises its voice, it attacks error, but also helps the victim of deception.

Whenever it condemns, it aims at selfishness to reform the selfish.

When it summons helpers, it does not threaten but firmly defines the behavior by which man can become morally sound.

It does not establish systematic techniques, nor does it go into complicated interpretations.

Spiritual Fantasies

Its illustrations are inspired in lilies of the field, fishermen's nets, birds of the air, and plant seeds Likewise, it resorts to reeds, grains of wheat, fishes and bread, olive oil, coins and a pearl to inspire the incomparable poetry of its parables Millstones and donkeys, lamps, doors and roads, light and darkness; all are contained in its guiding statements, which leave no room for error Pain and problems, serious illnesses, and dramatic situations receive special care and are soon transformed into joy, health and cheerfulness Troubled Spirits as well as enlightened ones manifest themselves often, in perfect victory of life over death. They appear for useful purposes and engage in orderly conversation, thus demonstrating the value of individual effort and the benefits one can expect therefrom.

Heirs of God are the peace makers, the persecuted, the afflicted, those who weep, those who thirst for justice, the hungry, the pure in heart, the abused, the ill treated and despised. They are blessed for overcoming the momentary difficulties in their lives and for their faithfulness to the truth. It replaces the fear of God with the love of God. Then the Lord of Hosts will become the Loving Father.

The Spiritist Doctrine performs a similar phenomenon by reinstating and updating the Gospel teachings.

No impositions are to be found in the lofty concepts compiled by Allan Kardec in his codification of the Spiritist Doctrine.

Based on a profound and logical philosophy, its principles are supported by objective reasoning and are in concordance with the universal consensus of thought.

It is a far reaching, experimental science, that links faith to reason in a harmonious union.

He who verifies, knows; he who knows, believes; he who believes, becomes a better person.

A religion of love and charity, it establishes the need for renunciation and abnegation in the perfecting of man's life. All of its contents are against violence, fear, and coercion. It cheers up man in his daily struggle but does not approve of his cruelty; it helps the one who fails, yet does not favor the false excuses; it ministers to the sick and persecuted, but does not encourage procrastination of his need to make amends.

In dealing with the Spirits, it alerts man about the World of wandering Spirits whose inhabitants, almost always proceeding from the Earth, retain their peculiar habits and values

It does not encourage ostentatious fantasies or nonsensical prophecies.

The forecasts contained in its marvelous texts aim at the hope of the victory of good; a victory that is perfectly in accordance with the teachings of Christ, that evil will disappear in the last days. Those who do evil, however, will be rescued by working out their own redemption.

Spirits who think they have the permission to frighten people with the premonition of calamities to come, or to tell of exaggerated fantasies in regard to accelerated progress of the Earth, are simply not evolved Spirits.

We must be careful not to believe any exaggerations, regardless of their source. In the Gospel and the Spiritist Doctrine we can find the encouragement and the means for success, in our evolutionary efforts.

Jesus is the Master, and Kardec the excellent disciple we should emulate, in our journey to perfection.

The Spiritist Doctrine, like the Gospel, is as clear as daylight. Any errors that may be made in its name are the responsibility of unwary mediums in their indolence or emotional disorder-Terrors that cannot touch the substance of the Doctrine. Such prophecies of fear and doom can be found in the movement,

pleasing some types of fretful or idle minds, but they soon fade away.

Nevertheless, this Revelation, in all its clarity, will remain as a lighthouse for times to come, guiding the ways and illuminating consciences in their quest for the Real Life.

DISINCARNATION

Faulty religious views have presented death as a bridge between physical life and the supernatural where Divine Justice awaits the Spirit to give him peace or unhappiness. This faulty concept has shaken the skeptics who then preferred their interpretation of a return to dust and therefore, to nothingness.

Despite the ancient custom of ancestor worship, it engendered a terrible reaction by Greek hedonism. The pleasure-minded at that time concentrated their existence on the ideal of physical esthetics of beauty and on pleasure which resulted in the dissolution of the substance and expressions of thought.

The Stoics, who opposed them, endeavored to resist the fear of death by trying to shun sadness and pain. They went about this through a nationalistic-fatalistic attitude. It required of them a superhuman effort to focus their attention on the realities of day-to-day life and the daring to be able to live each moment of the material life.

The Christian message was the most eloquent in History honoring both life and death. The ethic, as lived and taught by Jesus comprises the "denial of the material world" for the affirmation of God and spiritual life.

His message impels man to the collecting of moral values that are not destroyed or lost when the outer, organic structure is dismantled; that remain beyond the grave as valuable assets for a happy survival.

Moreover, His habitual and matter-of-fact contact with the so-called dead, and His retreat to be alone with God confirm the greatness of the spiritual principle in its transcendence of the physical body.

And as if all these eloquent proofs that He gave were not enough, He returned from beyond the grave Himself. This took place before a great number of witnesses with whom He visited and talked with undeniable evidence of vitality

All through history, the signs of immortality repeatedly show up and a permanent interchange goes on between the two spheres: the organic and the spiritual.

However, tormented and arid minds would bury into "nothingness" the immortal glory. Despite such atavistic negation, there was never in man's unbelieving unconscious a complete denial of immortal life. In the countless numbers of conversations by mediums, saints, and apostles there was always the confirmation of survival In all such paranormal phenomena, the word "immortality" overrode the annihilation of being, affirming the indestructibility of the Spirit and its survival of organic tissues

Let no one be mistaken; there is no death.

Wherever man turns his thought to, there is only life.

From decomposed matter spring up many complex forms of life.

The caterpillar dies in its cocoon only to rise as a butterfly in its wonderful transformation

The seed dies in order to liberate the plant

The semen dies in order to form a body

The body dies so that the Spirit may be set free from a vehicle he used during his voyage of purification.

Of course, death causes untold pain whenever a dear one is taken away from the company and tenderness of those who love him

Possibly, such pain is akin to the perpetual motion of attachment to values given to carnal bondage.

The absence of the body, however, does not stop the presence of the living being who left the form but whose essence was not destroyed.

No one can live indefinitely while in the physical frame.

It is essential to consider that organic life which begins with the ovum will disintegrate as soon as blood circulation and oxygenation are lacking. However, the cause that brought together the cohesion of the molecules and transformed them, is now free, and continues on its proper course.

No one is a parent, a son, a husband or a friend by mere chance.

When the clay is dispersed, this does not include the finer links that preceded the cradle and the ones that continue beyond the grave.

It is of great importance to constantly reflect upon the problem of death so that one is not caught in it by surprise. Otherwise, the attraction of the physical body could transform the event into a tendency to useless rebellion.

Loved ones live and receive in the beyond the effects of negative thoughts as well as those of tender love.

Thought is a living force gravitating in the Universe.

It is a powerful self-sustaining magnet that attracts waves similar to the ones it has or to which it is linked.

Always remember with gladness your loved ones who have died even though this seems a paradoxical request.

Death does not visit only your home. It invariably knocks at every door.

If you love, as you say you do, show it with a noble attitude, not by senseless reactions.

A memory that inspires desperation is neither useful nor is it noble.

Only genuine love inspires cheerfulness and confidence, joy and hope.

Put yourself in the place of the departed one and think how you would feel if you were the cause of sorrow to someone who, claiming to love you is contemplating revenge in the form of ending his life

You will then ponder the situation in a better light and transform your grief into joy in the certainty that you will again meet the one you love.

Life always returns what it receives.

Color the sky of your longing with the light of your prayers for the immortal ones you love. And begin to prepare yourself for the heavenly vacation that will come your way not too long from now.

Break loose the fetters of passions, shatter the chains of egotism, work on the means to free yourself from hurt, and reflect upon the nature of pain, so that nothing should hinder you when your time comes

To live is to be dying little by little. The final blow is the result of all these small deaths which project the soul into the reality of its indestructible consciousness.

To disincarnate is to disentangle oneself from the flesh. To die, literally, is to cease to live.

However, from a spiritual standpoint, death is life and life in the body can be likened to temporary death of one's freedom and greater awareness.

Therefore, you must live in such a way that, when death or disincarnation occurs, you may be free and go happily forward.

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THE NEW LABORERS OF THE LORD (TEAM WORK)

We are a large family within the great universal family; a team of sympathetic spirits¹.

Linked to one another from the moment of our creation by the Eternal Father, we have been treading our path of struggle and pain. In our experiences along the way, we have been gradually laying the foundations for greater and better constructions

When we make mistakes, we repeat the assignment as many times as necessary, until the important lessons can register in the depth of our spirit.

Outlaws as we are, we trod rugged byways, only to return stumbling and bruised, hurt by the thorns and sharp stones of the rough path.

Our ambition led us to renounce humility and plunge into deep abysses where we remained for an immeasurable length of time. There we stayed until the need for our restoration arrived giving us a new opportunity to re-learn and recommence our interrupted tasks.

Due to our sharp instincts, we preferred to remain at the animalistic level rather than the refined and delicate panoramas of the higher spheres. This and other strong factors slowed down our progress, while more courageous companions rose from their chaotic condition, crossing the boundaries and leaving us behind.

¹This 24th spiritual message has been especially recast and extended by me for this edition. (A note by the spirit author.)

The New Laborers of the Lord (Team Work)

However, the hour of freedom has come and the moment is a serious one.

Light, or darkness!

It can be a final decision for liberation, or one that leaves us in the repetitive cycles of our inferiority.

Ascension or downfall into the deep cliffs of false needs-which could become real needs, at our insistence.

Christ is calling us once more to awaken for the work of our personal uplifting which is, in fact, the uplifting of the Earth itself.

We are the cells of a universal body which, for the time being, is sickly, but progressing towards liberation, under the therapeutic treatment of the Revived Gospel.

This is not the first time that we hear the voice of the "Lamb of God" calling us to redemption, progress, and sublimation

Some of us knew Him since the first hours of our Era, but have preferred the deceptions of false aspirations.

We had marvelous opportunities, of which we did not know how to take advantage, or did not want to. Afterwards, we had to expiate a most agonizing pain in corrective regions of punishment and suffering.

We pleaded for difficult and painful reincarnations. We asked for leprosy, to smite our delusive flesh; for hallucination, to subdue our mental images; or insanity, to make us forget, for a time, our deeper impressions; we asked for cancer, which could sap our energy and stop us from further defeats; or widowhood; or orphanhood; or paralysis, caused by epidemics and devastating wars. All such handicaps are redeeming instruments by which we are made to meditate, ponder, and desire the liberating light of understanding

The New Laborers of the Lord (Team Work)

We will then be reintegrated into the ranks of those who have faith and are fascinated by the marvelous opportunity to recover the lost peace.

We listened to the exponents of the Divine Word and were moved. However, dominated by the desire of riches, which was still somewhat alive in our spirit, we foolishly retrogressed to our old habitat, the regions where we were before, setting up the machine of destruction in the name of religion.

We received unusual lessons of patience and humility from real saintly heroes. Yet looking at the vast panorama before us, our passions rekindled and we organized attacks on the peoples and cities where we said we wanted to implant the Cross...crucifying the reactionaries.

We registered in our minds lofty teachings, inspired by the higher planes, but we joined the transitory forces of the world of fiction. We skillfully and carefully spread intrigue through defamation so as to eliminate the enemies who had become a hindrance to our pseudo ascension.

We attended study meetings of resplendent spiritual light, in cloisters and seminaries, in silent monasteries and ascetic caves. Yet, despite all this, we transformed prayer and watchfulness into a means for deceit. We used confession as information sources to hurt and destroy in the name of Truth. Heavenly appeals were fruitless to our disturbed souls.

Repeatedly we reincarnated and disincarnated in anguish, conceiving plans and then destroying them; asking for quick rebirths, that could rehabilitate us permanently, without succeeding in our intent

What happens is that the flesh beclouds spiritual vision. In a sense, it blocks in backward Spirits the better and finer perceptions, thus obstructing the centers of inspiration and hindering contact with the higher planes.

The New Laborers of the Lord (Team Work)

Centuries go by in unsuccessful comings-and-goings

Our Spirit Guides, pitying our carelessness and foolish behavior, have always interceded in our behalf, seeing that we be given new assignments in a corporeal abode.

We have been in company of Artists, Thinkers, Masters of Science and Literature, so that we may be affected by their lofty spiritual goals. Their auras did reach us, giving us their light. But the effect was brief, as we were too engrossed in our earthly state of mind.

Finally, when the "Sun of Assisi" came to shine upon the Earth, reorganizing the Galilean King's Army of Love, we took this sublime opportunity to return to the work of Faith. We walked in humility through difficult roads, while listening to his song of universal brotherhood, compassion and charity.

Always in sympathetic groups, we plunged again and took physical vehicles. As a team, we were to set the foundation of happiness under the light of the Gospel Message, which had begun to prevail in various parts of the world.

There were many attempts by the enemies of the light to obliterate the Beloved Disciple of Umbria's steps which were crossing the frontiers to other regions of the suffering Earth. Soon, however, dangerous innovations began to be introduced into the Christian ministry: excesses where there was scarcity, fancy desires instead of detachment, and outer appearances instead of rustic simplicity. These innovations surreptitiously made their entrance into the Christian work. Had it not been for Divine Vigilance, there would have been nothing left of the "Bard of God" but the living account of his story

We began to feel how much we should do for ourselves and for our brothers, especially those who lagged behind

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When the days of the Spiritist Codification were being prepared, there was a call for laborers of good will to perform tasks on Earth. We heard the celestial invitation and hurried to offer our modest effort as mere tillers of the ground where the seeds of the Divine Gospel should fall.

And so, in the early part of the last century, during the height of the Napoleonic period, the Spiritual Hosts began their work of love over France. They renewed the French Psychosphere, disturbed by the revolutionary events of the past years The task, therefore, was of a great and grave nature.

Motherhood, having been offended, refused to go into new commitments.

Moral standards were shaken, and morality was unwilling to react.

Faith, uncontrolled and in a state of suffocation, was replaced by indifference, that dulls people's minds.

The codes of "human rights," established by the new "status," suffered the consequences of the new Emperor's bellicose demands

However, the dark skies of humanity were slowly clearing. Gradually, to the Earth's physical atmosphere arrived old heroes of thought, martyrs of faith, warriors of charity, and emissaries of Philosophy, Science, Morality, and Religion.

Among these was Allan Kardec, the incomparable servant of the Spiritist Era who was about to start his task.

The work to be undertaken was of such magnitude that could hardly be compared to any other before it

Those were the times when the convulsion of thought would open its reservoirs to practical experimentations. It was the inaugural era of the Technology and Electronics of the future, with all its complexities. The progress and evolution to be achieved were rather dangerous in that man, in his great

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knowledge, could begin to think of himself as a god without, however, being able to go beyond his own insignificance

Thus we follow the outburst of the phenomena of mediumship in America and Europe, some of which becoming the subject for the first experimentations and through which a new era was proclaimed: the advent of the time when Reason steps forward to liberate faith from prejudice, dogma, and limitations.

Others, used laboratory experiments, were able to establish the "facts about the spirit," but lacked the courage to declare the results fully. So also did a few other researchers of the truth for fear of the commitments they would have to make.

Both researchers and subjects, genuine or not, quickly multiplied, some of us being among them.

Mediums and researchers were willing to cooperate without, however, attaining the desired success.

Subsequently, reports increased in the form of booklets, books, papers, and treatises. Substantial debates took place and filled pages and pages of periodicals as well as reports that were documented in a multiplicity of volumes. All this, however, did not attain the ultimate goal of reestablishing on Earth the commitment to Truth, duty, love, and charity, as taught by the Divine Friend of us all.

It was undoubtedly Allan Kardec, the hero of such an hour and the unsurpassed example for the future, who then took control of the compass of Reason to steer the boat of Faith with confidence.

He took risks and gave up everything. As one inspired by heaven, he believed in the postulates offered by the spirits after sifting and investigating them. Thus Kardec became a shining star, touched by the Transcendental World to greatly illumine those times.

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Yet, so very many failed!

The number of deserters, slanderers and the fallen, in those days and these, is not small!...

Trained today to work for reconstruction of the world in which we dwell, and applying the methods of meekness, justice and knowledge, we must not forget, however, to ponder the urgency of our times.

The faith that flickers in our spirits is our guiding light, indicating the direction to take.

The resources accumulated in the past, and the increased possibilities are treasures to be used rationally in our present reincarnation.

Much work was done by the Spiritual Administrators of our lives so we could join and work together after periods of dispute, quarrels and domestic idiosyncrasies

There is not much time left for futilities or illusions.

We need to deal with those Spirits who are ready and determined to work at the task that cannot wait, and the duty that cannot tarry.

These are the days when we must produce everlasting accomplishments.

Let us decide, therefore, to draw close to Jesus and through Him dedicate ourselves to meaningful tasks, until the end of our journey.

This won't be a tour to the kingdom of fantasy, or a casual walk around the cathedral of faith. Rather, it will mean liberation from our unfortunate karmic injunctions. We will acquire wings to soar into greater flights, reaching ineffable pinnacles of life.

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There is much to be done and that must be done.

We will go about it without any false presumptions or any unjustified fears, which disturb the clarity of our work.

Aware of our responsibilities, let us not look too much at outward transformations, but strive for the better qualities within.

Let us seriously begin the constructive task of the new world, extracting from the rubble of our sickly "ego" the useful material for the constructions to which we must happily dedicate ourselves.

Well equipped, let us start our labor beginning from the home, which must remain on the solid foundation of love, understanding, and brotherhood, in order to resist the attacks of senselessness and frivolity. This we cannot allow to happen.

We are in the right place, surrounded by right people and living with those who are the best elements for the fulfillment of our program.

We should not let the desire for new experiences, or the utopia of new emotions disturb our commitment to the duty we have pledged to fulfill.

Let there not be any justification for our mistakes, or any deviation from our responsibilities.

Let us become the vessel where the flame of good is burning, and let us also offer the oil of our united effort to intensify its light.

Adversaries, whose matrixes are deeply etched inside us, will rise at every turn. Also those outside of us will appear in great numbers and will surround us, causing affliction and deeply hurting our feelings.

Let us be patient and watch!

We will redeem only what we must.

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We will be hit only at the weaknesses we need to strengthen. Staying near the Lord, and following His example, we will find the strength to overcome difficulties and conquer the limitations that have kept us lagging behind.

Stirred up by the Lord, and with His guidance, we will go forward.

Before anything, our ambition should be that of reforming ourselves. We should then kindle the Earth and its people with enthusiasm and hope. Our serious study of the Codification would allow us to bring it to the masses. We would thus repeat the sanctified experiences of the "men of the way," who opened their doors of perception to the Spiritual Entities, in the chambers of communion with the Kingdom of God.

Having brotherly love as our support, and the conscientious study of the postulates which form the Spiritist Doctrine, we will promote an idealism which is highly dynamic, productive and engaging, capable of creating true servants of noble causes. And we will summon the multitudes to rise and be renewed—those who became insensible and fell into pits of hallucination, not finding the truly charitable hands to uplift and enlighten their conscience.

We should respect all people and fear none.

Let us adhere to our work, in Action Groups, truly serving the cause, Christ and Kardec, helping sanctified Centers and Entities.

Our Sure Guide continues to be Jesus.

In any forthcoming attack, silence is the little known lesson of courage. The defender of our honor and our work is the Lord. To us suffices the glory of serving without ostentation. As the harvest is His, to Him belong the decision and direction.

Within our team of workers, let us have those who prefer to do conscious and methodic research. We give them the

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opportunity to observe and publish their findings in a form that meets the knowledge of our days.

There should be no hurry, for this work is an excellent field for presenting firm proofs. We should persevere and not be discouraged, even when results seem to be slow or do not correspond to our expectation

The tree develops gradually and the body unfolds cell after cell, in a harmonious and synchronized teamlike work.

Those others, who feel the melody of the word in their heart, should get together in groups of study and discussion and relate connotations that fit the present. Then let them go out as sowers of hope, spreading the seeds in the soil of human hearts so much in need, like you and me.

These fervent workers whose ideal is to serve should examine their neighbor's suffering; his immediate needs. Instead of giving him something merely to alleviate his condition and freeing themselves from their responsibility, they should engage in a deeper action; a social action, that does not only mitigate the problem, but that would possibly solve the difficulty. We would offer him the resources to help him liberate himself.

The scholars should propagate, in books or well prepared pamphlets, the excellent lessons of the Spiritist Doctrine, which has the answers to the problems of today and tomorrow; a Doctrine that really enlightens those who are confused with so many torturing thoughts, lighting the lamp of hope in the sky of their disturbed spirit.

Let us frequently gather together to remove any difficulties or misunderstandings in meetings of Christian action, where we can talk about our work and exchange the experiences we gained in the field. This will protect us from the tyranny of our "ego" and from the vanity of workers who do not want to let themselves be deceived.

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The words of each brother are valuable material, which deserves our consideration, becoming part of healthy discussion and debate.

There is too much suffering in need of our brotherly help. Uncontrollable despair awaits our rescue.

An active spiritual interchange does not leave room for dubious moral behavior.

The scoffing ethics of today are rampant, awaiting the revival of Christian morality in all its beauty.

There is no place for sensitivity or negative susceptibility.

The Spiritist movement is the restoration of Christianity in its original purity.

All facts and events, when examined from a "spiritual point of view," change their aspect.

Under the shining light of reincarnation, the ways of life change, and hope prevails in the minds and hearts.

If we cannot progress with the group, let us advance just the same according to our strength.

The discouragement of some should not affect others.

Those who are less gifted should not be jealous of those better talented.

We are all parts of one happy system, engaged in the construction of the "Kingdom of God," which has already started on Earth.

The many afflictions will soon call man to the noble realities of life.

We should not let ourselves weaken in face of the victory of dissolute customs or mad licentiousness.

Had one compared Christ to Caesar in that unforgettable afternoon, he would have seen the latter triumphant. However, it was Jesus, the King Who was returning to His glory, while the

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other was soon to descend to the tomb and be confused by a tortured state of mind

Temporary values just pass through We must not be fascinated by them or go after them.

Ours is the cup of bitterness, the attacks, the slanders and, may be, the cross

But after all is over, according to the Master's affirmation "Many that are first shall be last; and the last first in the Kingdom of God."

It won't be easy. Nothing is easy. That which is easy today was hard yesterday, and will be involved tomorrow. What we postpone now will reappear later on, more complicated and with interest penalties which will be capitalized into the unredeemed value.

Adjusted to the atmosphere of the Gospel, let us breathe in the ideal of our belief....

And united together, both incarnated and disincarnated, let us move ahead.

Jesus is waiting: let us go forward!