

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Readers, Members, Friends, and Colleagues.

"Would it not be more economical to build asylums for the sane instead of the demented?" (Kahlil Gibran)

Here in our world, truth can be paradoxical, facts are rarely clean cut, our minds can be pretty set, or divided and divisive, our agendas might be unclear or not acknowledged, and consciously or unconsciously we put our own "spin" on how we interpret life. We are also pretty good at obscuring that which is real and true. And yet, we are continuously given other options, higher options.

"It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out." (Proverbs 25)
In our world, an angle on the diamond Truth might be spelt out, or hinted at in parables, verse or jokes.

An art teacher looked at what was beginning to appear in a child's painting and asked what it was. The child replied, "Its God.", "But nobody knows what God looks like!" The teacher decreed. The child confidently replied, "Well now they will!"

Mother Teresa was asked by a reporter, "When you pray, what do you say to God?" She replied, "Nothing, I just listen." "So what does God say to you?" he persisted. Mother Teresa replied. "Nothing, He just listens."

Maybe the only way we can truly know the divine is by living it; to live the synthetic Unity of existence as do perfected men, Adepts, Sages and Masters, who have married mysticism and occultism, heart and mind, and spirit and matter. Let us not regret, let us kiss the world with mind and heart.

*One regret, dear world,
That I am determined not to have
When I am lying on my deathbed
Is that*

I did not kiss you enough"

(I Am Determined. Hafiz. Pg. 85. I Heard God Laughing.)

**BASIC DUAL PATHS OF GOD: THE INVOLUTIONARY\EVOLUTIONARY,
DEVIC\HUMAN AND THE PATHS OF GOOD AND EVIL -- PART 2: DUAL PATHS OF THE
DEVIC AND HUMAN KINGDOMS continues from last newsletter**

[These parts and paths are to be read as part of a synthetic, spiraling, progressive interaction within and of the universe. Mindfulness of the laws of cycles, flux and reflux, the via negativa and the via affirmativa as earlier elaborated and good and evil beginning to be explored, will bring greater clarity to our continuing journey.]

Introducing The Elementals:

We humans evolve from interaction within duality and part of our struggle is with the apparent disparity between what might be called our lower and higher nature. As Madam Blavatsky informs us:

"... once...incarnate, [man's] essence becomes dual ...a) their essential inherent characteristic, heaven aspiring mind (higher Manas), and b) the human quality of thinking, or animal cogitation...[lower Manas]. One gravitates towards Buddhi, [the other] tending downwards, to the seat of passions and animal desires." [Buddhi-plane of higher emotions, Truth, Love, Wisdom.]*

This disparity and resultant struggle, is not only as a result of the orientation of each mind, but also because what we commonly call 'our mind', this downward seeking lower mind, is actually elemental in form and nature, as are our emotions, physical body, and even the personality we have built up over our present lifetime, These lower elementals have *separate lives (and agendas) quite distinct from us, the essential soullspirit, the rider within .*

*"Awake awhile.
It does not have to be
Forever,
Right now.*

*One step upon the Sky's soft skirt
Would be enough."*

(Hafiz pg 73. I Heard God Laughing)

On 'the path of return' (the natural evolutionary path every man treads), our task is to remember Who, we really are, Soul or Higher Self; to disassociate ourselves from the long held belief that we are these

lower bodies that compose our 'lower self; and to master and transform these relatively faithful servants into beautiful vehicles for higher expression.)

"The most useful among the people is he who is distant from the people." (K. Gibran)

Most of us tend to think we are these elemental bodies, rather like a horse or surf rider who transfers his sense of identity to his horse or board or like a "lost child" who thinks she is a wolf or ape.

So What Are Our Bodies If Not Us? There are two streams of thought as to this, *but both say: that they are not the man but separate lives with whom we live con-jointly in the same forms; and man's evolutionary aim is to express soul\spirit through these!*

The first, claim our bodies are lower orders of the Devic Kingdom. This would mean devic lives not only aid us by building our forms but also are the matter from which they are made.

A second theory, which I now lean to, is that that there is a third kingdom of elementals and our "bodies" belong to this.

As Jinarajadasa, pg.90-1 of First Principles of Theosophy explains, there are three types of evolving entities on earth *"1) The human [composed of men and animals], 2) The Devas or Angels, with the Nature-spirits or Fairies, 3) "... the life of mineral" and "Elemental Essence(...a peculiar kind of life...not differentiated, into stable or persistent form...[in a "critical state" ready to assume suitable forms of suitable duration, such as forming bodies that reflect what we think and feel.]*

But whichever they are, our bodies are not us; both the lives suggested have a separate agenda and goal to us, the resident soul\spirit; both the devic and elemental entity are of a lower order than ordinary man; and the lower elementals are on the downward propelling involutionary path.

As Mentioned, Part of Our Evolutionary Task Is To Gain Mastery of our bodies (Lower Self, another is to *balance, harmonize and unite Spirit and Matter within us.* As part of this, first and throughout, we are to gain mastery of, and perfect, the elemental forms of our physical, emotional, mental, and personality vehicles, the essential material bodies with which we, True Self or Monadic Spark, interact with the world.

*"Everything
Of
Intelligence
Innocently watches the way
One manages their body
And silver.
One's care of form
Is as
A
Divine
Audition to
The Firmament's Ballet
Company"(His Ballet Company. Hafiz. The Gift)*

Struggle as a means of evolution: In the struggle that is set up, both the member from the elemental kingdom and the member from the Human kingdom gain:

- The elemental body is refined, perfected and matter in general is lifted, lightened and more imbued with spirit.
- The human is also refined. His higher qualities sharpen, become more engrained and acted out, his consciousness and awareness expand and he steadily acquires the arts of mastery of himself and his world, and of discriminatory awareness.
- The man comes closer to fulfilling his earthly role of becoming a Perfected Man, Adept, and eventually co-creator with God.
- He progressively unites matter and spirit.

Harmony and beauty; As mentioned in my last letter, there is a very long evolutionary relationship between our soul and a solar angel. Our job is to 'listen', respond and to bring harmony and beauty into this divine, Devic relationship as well as into the elemental struggle.

A further communication from the Elder Angelic Brother of Geoffrey Hodson reveals:

*"Your people have so much which would be beautiful but is not, for want of peace;
nearly all your art is spoiled by too much striving and by want of peace.*

Only the greatest of your men of fire have truly achieved great art, great in the measure of peace it enshrines; yet everything that grows ...is beautiful.

All are the achievements of an art which springs from peace.

... So near, oft times, do we come, hoping that you will hear the beatings of our wings, and yet we fail, and often must retire, driven away, almost with horror, at the sounds and forms emitted by your ways of living. ..."

(The Brotherhood of Angels and Men. Pg. 24.)

Good and Evil: Angels, Demons, Fallen Angels and us: It is important to take responsibility for our own unhealed shadow side and its potential to attract energy of a similar nature. It is important to distinguish between internal and external ill and to understand that an external energy source of good or ill may or may not be human in origin. We are all probably brushed at times by the devic dark side and a good strong contact with the Master Within (Soul/Monad) and/or Master Without, being part of a spiritual group, good living and character and the understanding that we and our world are on a continuing, progressive spiral to good, can keep us pretty safe, as do the Three Arms of T.S.

Gaskell in his Dictionary of all Scriptures and Myths gives us some origins and definitions:

**"Daemons:- A symbol of intelligences on the buddhic and higher mental planes, which assist evolution and are related to the higher emotions and thoughts."*

**"Daimons or Demons (lower aspect):- A symbol of the desires which coalesce with thought and contain energies directed to the external world. Also the appetites, passions and illusions of the lower nature"*

**"Demons and Fiends:-... nature spirits or non human intelligences concerned with the direction of lower plane activities...elemental forces, instinctive, blind and persistent, working automatically on the astral plane. They build up habits, and are adverse to spirit, striving against the Higher attempts which are made from above to raise the soul"*

**Gaskell regards "devils and unclean spirits" as symbolizing our lower desires etc. that oppose evolution*

"We are ne'er like angels 'till our passion dies" (Dekker)

Whether Angels, as Higher Intelligences, can be evil is an occult subject which most of us need not enter at this time, however *Gustav Davidson*, (*A Dictionary of Angels- including The Fallen Angels*) has this to say: *"...all angels, whatever their state of grace --are under God, even when, to all intents and purposes they are performing under the direct orders of the Devil. Evil is itself an instrumentality of the Creator, who uses evil for His own divine, if unsearchable, ends."* (pg.xvi) He claims angels were (as man), created with free will and were given the choice to turn towards, or away, from God.

Davidson gives us three classifications (that still all fall under the Primary Fact above.)

[1]"Those angels that turned toward God gained the beatific vision, and so became eternally fixed in good; [2.] those that turned away from God became eternally fixed in evil. These later are the demons. [3] They are not the fallen angels (an entirely different breed of recusants which hatched out subsequently on Satan's defection)."

Good and Evil; Our Choice and Our Potential:

*"Man hath two attendant angels
Ever waiting by his side,
With him wheresoe'r he wanders,
Wheresoe'r his feet abide.
One to warn him when he darkleth,
And rebuke him if he stray;
One to leave him to his nature,
And so let him go his way."*

(Prince)

We can't avoid evil! It is here, part of our world and evolution. No longer innocent; our own master; we are free to make our own path and to remember aid is always nearby.

*"A guardian angel o'er his life presides
Doubling his pleasures and his care dividing" (Rogers)*

With our unseen company, we traverse a sometime zig-zaggy, bumpy road to attain the innocence that gains the Kingdom of God. We strengthen our character and our soullsolar angel adherence. We

recognize, purify and refine our elemental bodies. We become **increasingly discriminating in what we choose to believe and do**, for as Pope reminds us: "*Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.*"

A High Angelic Brother on the way of Love (in Hodson's book, *Be Ye perfect*, pg. 39) tells us that to progress from aspirant, to disciple, to Master (Adept) a man must

"...pluck...from the soil of his nature in which they have firmly taken root...

Viciousness, lewdness, sensuality, impurity, selfishness, self interest, cruelty, deceit, gossip, superstition, greed, and cunning... Subject it continuously to the fiery power of his will ...until the roots, leaves and flowers have been utterly consumed. ... [and thus] "to transform [his lower nature] into the fairest of earth's gardens....

Then within that spiritual receptacle, the vehicle of his higher self, in which his immortality resides, the precious liquid which he has thus distilled shall be gathered, drop by drop.

... stored until the secret dispensary of his soul is filled, shelf upon shelf, with those vital essences from which the universal panacea shall one day be dispensed.

That panacea is love...

The love which saves the world bears but small resemblance to that which men call love; it is a universal pouring forth of power, wisdom and knowledge upon every form of life..."

Now, he must become a powerful "worker", " knower", and lover and

"...direct the full force of all his powers of will and thought upon the products of his own being... not upon himself, lest traveling inwards, he but describe a circle, which closes on itself, and thus prevents all progress, rather than a spiral which shall wind, turn upon turn, up into the spiritual worlds;

not on his being, therefore, but on the products of his being....

Nor must he pay undue attention to the weaknesses of other men, for only from his own may he gain strength.

Each man is complete, each man is distinct, as are the facets of a jewel, and that which each distills from his own completeness will differ from the distillations of another."

Within, Between, Embracing Every Dual Path and Beyond is the One That Is All.

As Alcyone says in *Light on the Path*, "*Regard most earnestly your own heart. For Through your own heart comes the one light which can illumine life and make clear to your eyes all things...that point of faultless light is the splendour of completed love. It is the brightness that is at the heart of brightness. Unflawed, undivided, seamless, it is the One That is All.*"

As Hafiz says:

Because

There is nothing

Outside of my Master's body

I try to show reverence

To all things.

Because

There is nothing

Inside of my Master's body

I am saved

From all reason

And surrender understanding.

No wonder Hafiz,

It has been

Unusual

For a smile to forsake

You!

(Reverence. Hafiz. The Gift.)

In Brotherhood,

Lorraine Alston (President P.N.T.S.)

[The reality of angels and fairies is given little credence in our modern western world, even though they have come back into favor in the world of fantasy. Remember however that: a) their form is rarely visible being etheric, astral, mental or celestial; b) this idea of lower and Higher Builders and Intelligences does explain some blank areas in science; c) quite a lot of us have experience of them, recorded or not.]