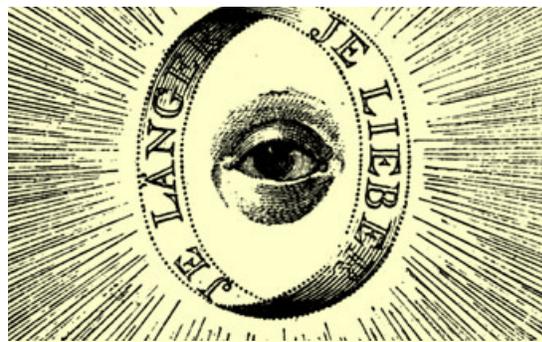


READERS' QUESTIONS

Grades of Spiritual Sight



Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg

QUESTION: PLEASE distinguish between the various grades of spiritual sight and the ability to leave the physical body in soul flights. **Answer:** The first grade of sensitiveness to the superphysical is that in which a person gets impressions from entities, beings, or conditions on the invisible planes, these impressions being in the nature of telepathy or thought transference. They may come from people who have passed over to the other side. They are positively not clairvoyance of any sort and have no relation to it.

Usually the next development consists in that of etheric sight, which is a form of physical sight by which a person becomes able to see the etheric bodies of men, animals, and plants and also the etheric nature spirits.

The next grade is clairvoyance, which enables a person to perceive the desire world and the desire bodies of men and animals. A still higher grade of clairvoyance enables one to perceive the realities in the world of thought.

No one of these grades of spiritual sight confers the ability to leave the physical body in soul flights. This latter is an entirely separate function. It consists in the development of the two higher ethers of the vital body and their separation from the lower by a life of service, so that when the person goes out of his physical body he takes these higher ethers or soul body with him and uses it as a vehicle in which to traverse the invisible realms and bring back the memory of experiences there obtained.

There are many people who have developed only the first grade, namely telepathic sensitiveness to impressions from the other side, who imagine that they have developed one of the higher grades of spiritual sight. These people constitute a real danger because they frequently give out unreliable and misleading information in regard to the invisible planes. It is an occult maxim that where a person has any real occult development he does not tell others of it and does not spend his time detailing his last soul flight on the invisible planes for the edification of his admiring fellow students.

An exception to this rule is that of a person who has been commissioned by the spiritual Hierarchs to give out a new presentation of truth or a new philosophy such as Max Heindel gave out. In such cases it is permissible for the agent thus selected to give out some of his experiences on the superphysical planes for the benefit of his followers. But such individuals are very rare, and they are always very guarded in the information, which they give out relative to themselves.

The Mystic Marriage

Question: What aspect in the horoscope indicates whether the mystic marriage between the higher and lower selves has been consummated?

Answer: Nobody but an Initiate of the Mysteries could give this information, and so far as we know no such Initiate has made a statement on the subject. The mystic marriage between the higher and lower selves means the complete mastery of the lower by the higher, and only the Initiate has attained this. When one has reached this stage, he has arrived at the point of completely ruling his

stars and has completely risen above his horoscope. He is then no longer controlled by the influences shown by his horoscope, and the ordinary rules of reading it no longer apply to him. Therefore it is to be seen that this question is one that would be of interest only to Initiates, and the horoscope of any person below the stage of an Initiate would give no information on the subject whatever.

“What God Hath Joined Together”

Question: What is the meaning of the New Testament quotation which says: “What God hath joined together let not man put asunder?”

Answer: Esoterically this refers to the marriage of the “sons of God” with the “daughters of men”; namely, the union of the ego or spirit with the human lower nature consisting of the four lower vehicles obtained through involution. This union was divinely planned and consummated, and this passage refers to the fact that it must not be violently disrupted by either suicide or murder. It does not refer to [worldly] marriage at all from the esoteric standpoint.

Asking the Fellowship for Help

Question: Why is it that whenever I am in trouble and I write to you about it, I am shortly helped, usually before a letter arrives from you?

Answer: When you have a problem and write it out plainly, and provided you are really striving to live the life, then your letter constitutes an appeal for instruction, and this is given by the Invisible Helpers at night, perhaps for several nights in succession, until your consciousness is impressed with the idea to be conveyed. This process is frequently completed before a letter has time to reach the applicant. The above applies to instructions concerning spiritual matters in particular, and sometimes it is also extended to advice on temporal things which will affect the spiritual status and growth. But advice is never given on purely worldly matters.

Raw Food

Question: Do you advocate an entire diet of uncooked food ?

Answer: No. Uncooked food is a negative form of diet, although it possesses many advantages from a purely dietetic standpoint. Uncooked food is more

negative in nature than cooked food, and in turn vegetable food of all kinds is more negative than animal food. People of a sensitive or mediumistic nature should avoid an entire raw food diet for the reason that it will increase their negativeness and lay them open to undesirable influences from the invisible planes. However, people who are psychically positive may advantageously adopt a diet quite largely composed of raw food.

Individuality and Personality

Question: Will you kindly explain the difference between individuality and personality?

Answer: The individuality is the ego or threefold spirit, which is developing self-consciousness through the processes of involution and evolution. It is the higher self. The personality is the composite entity composed of the four vehicles of the spirit, namely the mind, the desire body, the etheric, body, and the physical body.

Divine Protection

Question: Last summer I was riding in an automobile and was caught in a cyclone which did great damage all around me. I immediately sent up a silent prayer to the Invisible Helpers for protection. Almost at once a great calm swept over me, and I escaped unharmed. Was it right for me to ask for this protection, or would I have been shielded in any case without requesting it?

Answer: It is always quite permissible to ask for protection from inimical forces, and it is not at all certain that protection will be forthcoming if we do not ask when there is apparently great need for it.

All storms are produced by the nature spirits, and they work under the direction of higher Beings bringing about retributive justice. But retributive justice is not an attempt to punish an individual for certain wrongs which he or she may have committed. It is the working out of the law of cause and effect; and as causes are traceable to individuals, they then are subjected to the resultant effects. However, there are cases where an individual or individuals are in a certain locality who are in no way connected with the collective destiny which is due for payment there. In such instances a way is always provided for escape, one of which is through the aid of Invisible Helpers who are ever ready to render assistance when it is merited. □