

Promoting Spiritual Development

THE RECORDING ANGELS are the agents of destiny. Their aim is to give to all people what they need for their spiritual development. The questions this article will explore are what the Recording Angels do to accomplish their task and ways in which humans can help in the process.

In order for people to develop spiritually they need two things. They need to exercise their various spiritual muscles so that they develop spiritual strengths and they need to experience the effects of their actions so that they learn which actions were wise and which were foolish. In order for the universe to stay in balance as these processes occur, people who incur debts of destiny also need to eventually pay them back. The Recording Angels, then, have the responsibility of arranging people's spiritual exercise programs and their retrospections and their debt payments. Their specific duties involve the following:

1. Prior to birth they set up the major outlines of a life plan for each person and choose the time and place of birth of that person in such a way that that person will encounter those astrological energy patterns which will challenge him to exercise those of his spiritual muscles which are most in need of exercising.

2. They guide people in their 'chance' encounters with other people so that each person will encounter those who will promote the working out of their life plan.

3. After death, the Recording Angels see that each person retrospects his life and feels the effects of each of his actions on earth. This totally clears the debts of joy and sorrow, so that when a person is born again he does not have any outstanding debts of joy or sorrow. People may still have debts

of service to work out. If, in one life, a person has received more services than he has given, then he will owe some debts of service when he returns to life on earth. People can also incur debts of service by doing acts which harm or delay the evolutionary progress of others. In each life, the Recording Angels arrange for people to have the opportunity to pay as many of these debts of service as they are able.

People have free will, and they may use their free will either to work with the Recording Angels in promoting spiritual development of themselves and others, or they may work against the Recording Angels and against the promotion of their own and other's spiritual development. The Recording Angels are not deterred by the willfulness of humans, and they keep giving humans opportunities to develop and the associated retrospections until ultimately the spiritual development generally occurs. But humans by their actions can speed up or slow down the process.

What can humans do to speed up their spiritual development? They can accept the challenges of life and do their best to solve whatever problems they encounter. They can retrospect their actions at the end of each day, trying to see and feel the effects of their actions and thus learn which actions had desirable effects and which had undesirable effects. They can also serve whenever they have the opportunity.

This leads to the next question. How can humans serve one another, which translates into how can humans promote the spiritual development of one another? To promote the spiritual development of others we need to encourage them to face the challenges and solve the problems in their lives. This does not involve doing for others what they should be doing for themselves, although it may involve doing for others things which they are not currently

ready to learn to do for themselves. It does not involve giving to others everything they want (which may take away their motivation to develop the skills to earn things for themselves), although it may involve giving others the information and resources they need to get started on some productive activity. It does not involve telling people that they are doing a great job when they are not (which may give them a false sense of accomplishment and diminish their motivation to improve), but it may involve reminding people that they have potential and can accomplish great things if they persist in their efforts. This does not involve sheltering people from all the effects of their actions, although it may involve standing by them in their problems and helping them find a way through them.

A particular need for service occurs when people are ill. Any illness is given the sufferer by the Recording Angels in order to enable that person to learn some lessons or in order to help him develop some spiritual powers. For example, if people are ill because they did not know how to keep themselves healthy, their lesson may be to learn about such things as proper diet, exercise, rest, and a harmonious state of mind. If people knew what they needed to do to stay healthy but did not control their desire body sufficiently to live by these rules, then their lesson may be to learn to live according to rules.

Some illnesses may not be the effects of wrong living, but rather be caused by some unforeseeable 'accident' or congenital problem. These illnesses may have been given by the Recording Angels to help the person develop some spiritual quality such as patience, sympathy for those who suffer, humility, will power, seeking for spiritual understanding, etc. The spiritual needs of someone who is ill are to learn the lesson which the illness is trying to teach him and/or to develop the powers which the illness is meant to help him develop. When these have been accomplished, then the Recording Angels will lift the illness from the person. Possible service to ones who are ill may involve helping them with everyday living chores (if they need it), helping them understand the possible causes of disease (and thence also the route to cures), helping them view their situation from a spiritual point of view (so that they can see the goodness of the universe and can

SILENCE

"If we are to foster the awe, reverence, and adoration through which we may know the Word of Christ, then we must love, and not fear silence and stillness in...our life. From silence comes the Word. From silence God spoke and created the world. From silence He spoke to Mary and came to dwell in her womb. From silence He sent His Holy Spirit at Pentecost to lead the Church. Meditative quiet...is neither favored nor fostered in our culture. Yet there is no getting around the simple fact that only in stillness do we learn to listen with the interior ear. Only in stillness do we calm down enough to sense the Lord's presence. Only in stillness do we find out that the Lord loves us and that we are made to love him. Silence, then, is not a den of terror; it is rather the place where we fall in love."

—Anne Husted Burleigh

overcome such negative emotions as anger, fear, and worry).

Are spiritual healers, who are able to bring healing to those who are afflicted, working with the Recording Angels to promote the patient's spiritual development? If they are not initiates, they probably are unable to work against the Recording Angels because they will not be able to heal anyone whom the Recording Angels have not decided is ready to be healed. Initiates have the power to heal at will, but they have the wisdom to only use this power when it will be of benefit to the spiritual development of the patient. Thus, initiates will consciously work with the Recording Angels in promoting the spiritual development of people.

Another method of service is through prayer or meditation or projected thoughts. Any pure, loving, uplifting prayers or thoughts have a positive effect on the spiritual development of the world. It is possible to make prayers of commitment, to tell the Recording Angels that if they send anyone to us in need of service, we will do our best to help. (It is useful to the Recording Angels to know this.) If, in our prayers, we would ask for something, we might follow the example of King Solomon. He requested wisdom so that he could serve the people better. □

—Elsa Glover