

READERS' QUESTIONS

Fate of Executed Murderer; Use of Spiritual Power; Cooperating with Scientists; Interpreting Joshua

FATE OF EXECUTED MURDERER

QUESTION: If a murderer is executed for his crime, does he suffer the same as a suicide, or is the archetype destroyed? (It is stated in the Rosicrucian literature that he may see the comatose victim, also that he is able to incite others to crime.)

Answer: As a general rule people die, or are killed, when the pre-designated time has come. However, because man has free will, he may not only end his own life prematurely, but also that of another.

If a murderer is executed before his time to die, he, too, is murdered, even though it may be in the name of "justice." His archetype would not be destroyed, and would no doubt keep on (until his life-span ends) gathering material which it would be impossible for him to assimilate, as in the case of anyone murdered. The intervention of other agencies would probably prevent the suffering which a suicide undergoes, but he would be punished by having the comatose desire body of his victim "following him wherever he goes, without a moment's respite. The picture of the murder is always before him, causing him to feel the suffering and anguish which must, inevitably accompany this incessant reenactment of his crime in all its horrible details. This goes on for a time corresponding to the period of life of which he deprived his victim."

Max Heindel states that "when we free the Spirit of a murderer from his body we liberate him in the spiritual world where he can and often does work on others to influence them to similar crimes."

Were his archetype destroyed it would hardly be possible for him to influence another in this way.

USE OF SPIRITUAL POWER

Question: Would a person be justified in using spiritual power to sabotage war materials of an aggressor nation, or for example, the weapons of a person about to assault or rob others, as Parsifal used the Holy Spear to destroy the castle of Klingsor?

Answer: No, we do not think so. It is always a questionable procedure to use spiritual power to accomplish a material end. Whether or not a person would be justified; or to what extent he might be justified, would depend upon the nature of the case. There is always the matter of destiny to be considered on such occasions, and unless a person knows to what extent he may be interfering with the destiny of other people, he is apt to bring down upon his own head an undesirable karmic debt.

We are taught that the Elder Brothers always encourage the good, and that they transmute evil into good. People who are working constructively, i.e., doing good, attract help from both the invisible and visible planes, and in this way evil is eventually overcome by good. This is the method we should therefore use, rather than "fight" the evil.

One thing we can always safely do where help is needed: hold the persons and situations in the Light of God's Love, asking that His will may be done. This is white magic, and "the white magician is prompted altogether by love and benevolence." The use of the Holy Spear by Parsifal to destroy the castle of Klingsor (by making the sign of the

cross with it) simply indicates, in our opinion, the power of good to absolve evil. This power is inherent in the cross—or the spiritual life.

COOPERATING WITH THE SCIENTISTS

Question: It is stated in the Rosicrucian literature that we should cooperate with the scientists and use the information which they obtain. Why would it not be much more satisfactory in obtaining information concerning disputed points—for instance, the nature of the atom or the right kind of diet—to go directly to the invisible planes and obtain the correct answer by clairvoyance? Would this not be much more accurate, and settle the question without argument and long years of tedious experimentation?

Answer: Considerable scientific information was incorporated in the *Cosmo-Conception* because Rosicrucians believe in cooperating with the scientists and using empirical knowledge insofar as it is true and practicable. The reason is that one can obtain true information in regard to the nature and conditions of any plane only with the senses which are correlated to that plane. That is, we must obtain knowledge in regard to the physical properties of matter with our physical senses; we must investigate the Desire World with the senses of the desire body, namely, clairvoyance and clairaudience; and we must inform ourselves in regard to the Mental World with the cognitive faculties of the mind or mental body.

It is a mistake to think that all sorts of information on physical matters can be obtained from spiritual sources. However, if we wish to obtain knowledge pertaining to the spiritual counterparts of any physical object or condition, then we may use the spiritual senses. For instance, if we want information about the mental archetype of an ocean steamship, we go to the Region of Concrete Thought, which is the region of archetypes. If we wish information about the emotional properties of a revival meeting, we go to the Desire World, which is the realm of emotion, and there observe the colors that are produced by the activities car-

ried on in that meeting. But if we want to know about the physical properties of a metal such as iron, we must experiment with that metal on the physical plane.

Some people have the mistaken notion that the minute one gets into the invisible worlds he immediately becomes omniscient, but this is no more true in the higher worlds than it is in the Physical World. Knowledge is obtained by study and effort there the same as it is acquired here. To be sure, the archetypes there speak to us and flood us with a

knowledge of themselves, but we can make this knowledge ours only by studying it and working with it in the same manner we observe and logically process material data.

In accepting scientific knowledge we must keep in mind that it is not infallible, due

to the fact that scientists are ever discovering new data which modify their earlier theories. At the onset of the third millennium, the rapid increase of atomic, electronic, and genetic information has led to many scientific accomplishments which would not have been believed possible by most scientists themselves only a few decades ago. Judgment and discrimination must be used in considering this matter as in all others.

THE SUN STANDING STILL

Question: Will you please give the occult interpretation of the passage in Joshua commanding the Sun to stand still?

Answer: The entire book of Joshua is a story of initiation. *Joshua* in Hebrew means *Jesus*. The five kings that are destroyed and the seven cities that are saved may be said to refer to the process of purification that must take place within the body of the Neophyte in preparation for initiation.

The Sun and the Moon that stand still refer to the equilibrium that must be established in the Neophyte between the masculine and feminine poles, and it the power deriving from this balance that is used by the initiate. The Book of Joshua contains some of the deepest esoteric truths possessed by the early Hebrews. □

*Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the blossoms,
Kind deeds are the fruits.*