



The Rainbow Journal

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FROM THE EDITOR

We are now into the eighth year of the Rainbow Journal with the first issue being distributed to some ten or so readers in January 2006. Over the years the Journal has touched on many subjects other than related to Edgar Cayce or religious and spiritual matters for the reason that they were of interest to the writer.

The principle behind writing the articles was always to create food for thought rather than instruction. I believe it is most important to keep an open mind which makes it easier to accept that sometimes we have got it wrong and at other times accept that 'I don't know.' - BDA. ΩΩΩ

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Supposing, out of the blue someone asked you "What do you want?" Being caught off guard you will probably answer with the first thing that comes to your mind, perhaps "a cup of tea", "a new car", "to get a job" or whatever.

Our primary want at the moment may be something trivial such as a drink of water if we are thirsty. However once one has the time to contemplate on the question one may find that, to give a thoughtful answer the question needs to be more specific. Most readers will have all our primary needs met so what we want will be beyond the basic needs of life such as food clothing and shelter. Then to be more specific perhaps we should expand the question into a number of related ones. For example 'What do you want to *have*?', 'What do you want to *be*?', 'What do you want to *do* or *achieve*?'

The first of these questions deals with what material things we may want. Perhaps on top of the list would be "more money" but on reflection we will realise that it is not money itself that we want but what we can do with it. Having unlimited amounts of money could give us all the material things we desire and more, for as a member of our Search for God group once said "Money gives you freedom." It also can give one a sense of power and prestige.

Of course to have lots of money one has to get it somehow. Also it is one

thing to make money a goal so as to escape poverty and provide for basic necessities but it is quite another when money becomes our primary motivation and measure of success, or when we equate happiness or worthiness with wealth. My brother once cynically said "Money may not buy you happiness, but at least you can be miserable in comfort." The challenge is to put the value of money in perspective. In the end, the question is: How much are you willing to pay and what are you willing to do to have money?

Research suggests that our conscious minds aren't so much in charge of the decisions we make as they are great rationalizers of them. Which means they often collude with our unconscious minds to chase after things that we don't really want or are not for our best interest. We often have far more invested in seeing ourselves as virtuous, noble, fair-minded, and good than we do in recognizing the truth: that we often want things for selfish reasons and therefore do things that make us base, self-righteous, and unjust.

In reality most of us may not actually know what we want. And even when we believe we want something we may not know why we want it. On the other hand there are some of us that are perfectly clear in what they want, sometimes from a very early age. Perhaps this desire is a carry over from a previous

life.

And sometimes our deepest desires reflect our deepest pain: we want our parents' love, long denied us; to have a dead loved one back with us; to be healthy again; to accomplish something; to be important or remembered. All these desires, whether consciously apprehended or not, are the true drivers of our behaviour. Thus, if we're genuinely interested in self-improvement, we can't be satisfied with the easy answers our

conscious minds often feed us for why we do the things we do. Rather, we need to make a conscious effort to search out and acknowledge what we really want. Pausing to ask ourselves just what exactly we want - not what we think we should want or what others want us to want or want for us - without judgment can often be a surprisingly emotional exercise, but it's an exercise by which we would all be well served. *BDA. ΩΩΩ*

WHAT'S IN A WORD

In this issue, and possibly some future issues of the Journal, we will examine the origins of some words commonly used in articles relating to theological and metaphysical matters. Many words in our modern English have a variety of meanings depending on their usage. Therefore we must be sure we have the right meaning to get proper understanding of what the writer is attempting to communicate to us..

In ancient text in particular, to get this understanding of what has been written, one needs to seek the meaning that the writer was attempting to convey with words that were used at the time they were written. One difficulty in getting this understanding is that meanings of words can change subtly over time. Also ancient scripts were written in languages other than English which underwent translations, sometimes many. For instance the Old Testament was mostly written in Hebrew. The New Testament was written in Greek, while Jesus most likely spoke in Aramaic and possibly Hebrew. Bible scrolls were translated into Latin before they ended in the versions we have before us today. Translations rely on the skill and discernment of the translators so if they get it wrong the message of the writer can be distorted or lost.

The following are two words found many times in the Bible.

SPIRIT

The word 'spirit' has a variety of meanings, such as an alcoholic beverage, a ghost, life force or soul. The origin of much of our 'English' language goes back to Latin root words. The origin of 'spirit' is in the Latin 'spirare' - to breathe, and in its noun form 'spiritus' - breath. We can see the connection here when we read the stories on the creation of man in the Book of Genesis. *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”* It was the spirit, the breath of God, that made us living souls and it is that spirit from God that lives in us today.

Words related to breathing come from the Latin root word, so we breathe in - inspire - and breathe out - expire. We breathe through our skin - perspire. When it comes to death we expire, the breath (spirit) departs from us and returns to its source. Inspiration comes from the God given spirit within us that gives us the ability to create e.g. *“The claim of John the Baptist to prophetic inspiration broke a silence that had lasted for more than three hundred years.”* *“He believed that the Greek translation of the Septuagint portion of the Old Testament was divinely inspired.”*

The word “spirit” is often taken as just another word for “soul.” However,

that does not appear to be the case. The Bible texts suggest that “spirit” and “soul” refer to two different things.

Bible writers used the Hebrew word *ru'ach* or the Greek word *pneu'ma* (meaning air, breath or spirit) when writing about the “spirit.” The Scriptures themselves indicate the meaning of those words. For instance, Psalm 104:29 states: “If you [Jehovah] take away their spirit, they expire, and back to their dust they go.” And James 2:26 notes that “the body without spirit is dead.” In these verses, then, “spirit” refers to that which gives life to a body. Without spirit, the body is dead. Therefore, in the Bible the word *ru'ach* is translated not only as “spirit” but also as “force,” or life-force, an invisible force (the spark of life) that animates all living creatures.

SALVATION

The word 'salvation' is used a lot in the Bible (158 times in the King James version), also in the Course in Miracles text (278 times) and a few times in the Edgar Cayce readings (27 times). Given the obvious prominence of this word how many of us truly understand what it means? When I was young I understood that to find salvation was to be 'saved' but was not sure as to what I would be saved from or what I would be saved for. It appeared that if we believed in Jesus, followed God's commandments and did not sin we would then be 'saved', and go to heaven after we died while those of us who were not 'saved' would end up in hell. Not a very bright future of mischievous young children.

When we look to a dictionary for meaning we find the general definition of salvation as being “the state of being saved or protected from harm, risk, etc.” In theology it is defined as “deliverance from the power and penalty of sin; redemption.”

One Bible commentary describes salvation “encompasses both the physical and spiritual dimensions of life, having relevance for the whole person. On the physical side, entrance into the kingdom (following salvation) requires attention to earthly needs, especially those of the poor. Jesus demands that a wealthy man give his riches to the poor. . . . The objective basis and means of salvation is God's sovereign and gracious choice to be "God with us" in the person of Jesus Christ, who is described as both author and mediator of salvation. . . . The subjective basis of salvation is personal repentance and faith, often associated closely with water baptism. John the Baptist preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, a message echoed by Peter and Paul. Jesus said salvation required belief in him. Paul enjoined confession with the mouth that 'Jesus is Lord' and belief that God raised him from the dead.”

As mentioned, A Course in Miracles makes extensive use of the word 'salvation', with the first use of it in the statement “Of your ego you can do nothing to save yourself or others, but of your spirit you can do everything for the salvation of both.” Other statements are: “God's Will is your salvation.” and “Never forget that the Sonship is your salvation, for the Sonship is your self.” Despite the many references to salvation in the text there does not appear to be a single definition of it.

Perhaps it is up to each of us to come to our individual understanding of what 'salvation' means or not worry about it at all and concentrate on obeying the commandment of Jesus that we love one another.

Your comments on what you believe to be the meaning of 'salvation' would be welcomed. BDA. ΩΩΩ

BE CAREFUL WITH WORDS

When we consider words we find that they have two basic functions. One is a tool for thinking and the other is a means of communication. They are not the only way we think and communicate but are most important, particularly in this modern, sophisticated age.

It has long been recognized that the what we perceive as the meaning behind words written or said influences our behaviour. In fact, the Bible says: "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." (Proverbs 12:18). The effect that words can have is incredible. They can inform, persuade, hurt or ease pain. They can end a war or start one. They can get our point across, or destroy any hope of our ideas ever being understood. They can create permanent bonds between people or destroy any hope of a meaningful, constructive relationship.

An aspect of the English language is that there are groups of words - called synonyms - that have the same or nearly the same meaning. For example happy, joyful, glad, cheerful, merry, elated etc. Some of these synonyms have both positive and negative connotations and the selection of the word we use may depend on what we think of the person it refers to. For example a leader of our group is *strong willed* while the leader of an opposing group is *pig headed*.

When it comes to relationship breakdowns it has been found that certain words had a negatively influence on the behaviour of those involved. For example the words "divorce", "child custody", "visitation", "sole" and "primary access" produced negative feelings. Replacing them with more neutral and conciliatory terms such as "dissolution of marriage", "parenting plan", "time-sharing", "parenting arrangements" and "parenting time" led to more amicable negotiations.

At the end of World War II the

Allies Powers sent a message to the Japanese demanding surrender. The Japanese responded with the word *mokusatsu*, which translates as either "to ignore" or "to withhold comment". The Japanese meant that they wished to withhold comment, to discuss and then decide. The Allies translated *mokusatsu* as the Japanese deciding to ignore the demand for surrender. The Allies therefore ended the war by dropping the atomic bombs and transforming the world we live in forever.

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT WORDS

Harold Robins

"Words have incredible power in our lives. For one, they provide us with a vehicle for expressing and sharing our experiences with others. Most of us do not realize, however, that the words we habitually choose also affect what we experience. Transformational Vocabulary is about how we can take control of the words we constantly use to change the quality of our lives and at the same time affect the people we speak to in a positive way.

"What is interesting is how two people can experience the exact same sensations differently in their bodies by virtue of the labels they put on the experience. For example, one person may feel "frustrated" while the other just feels "a little confused." It amounts to a huge difference in the way we feel, and when we change the way we feel, we change the way we behave.

"Consider this example: In a business meeting with two partners, the same event triggered a dramatically different response in each person. The CEO went into an absolute rage, whereas the second partner seemed to have no reaction at all.

"The enraged CEO believed that "rage" made him stronger and enabled him to deal with the situation. Rage was his way out of pain. Conversely, the

partner who felt only “mildly annoyed” was acting on a belief that getting too upset would make him lose control of the situation, and that would mean too much pain. He wasn’t disassociating; he honestly was not feeling the intense anger.

“This is the essence of the words that we attach to our experience become our experience, regardless of whether it’s objectively accurate or not. Therefore, if we want to change our lives and our destiny, we need to consciously choose the words we use to describe our emotional states. What would happen if, the next time we were in a situation that used to make us feel angry, instead we felt annoyed? Or if we used a word like “peevied” instead of “enraged” to describe our experience? Maybe instead of feeling “worried,” what if we used the words, “I’m a little concerned,” or “I need some clarification”?

“Conversely, if someone asks us how we’re doing, think of the difference between responses like “Oh, I’m okay, I guess” and “I’m feeling on top of the world!” The labels we put on our experience become our experience. Choose our words wisely.

“According to Compton’s Encyclopedia, the total number of words in the English language is around 750,000. Of that number, guess how many words we habitually use: 500 to 2,000 at the most, which represents only one half of one percent of the language. In Roget’s Thesaurus there are more than 3,000 words describing various

emotions. Of those, there were 1,051 words for positive emotions and 2,286 for negative emotions; roughly twice as many negative words as positive words! Think of the implications.”

Diane Setterfield “The Thirteenth Tale”

“There is something about words. In expert hands, manipulated deftly, they take you prisoner. Wind themselves around your limbs like spider silk, and when you are so enthralled you cannot move, they pierce your skin, enter your blood, numb your thoughts. Inside you they work their magic.”

George Orwell, '1984'

“But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.”

James 3:1-12

“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!” *BDA. ΩΩΩ*

THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT

The forbidden fruit is a phrase that originates from Genesis concerning Adam and Eve: “*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying: 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it; for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely*

die.” (*Genesis 2:16–17*). Apparently, as a consequence of Adam disobeying God by eating the fruit he and all his descendants, including us, are being punished. As one Bible commentator wrote: “God punished Adam and Eve, and all their descendants, by making their lives hard. No longer could they live

in the perfect world of the Garden of Eden. Men would have to struggle and sweat for their existence. Women would have to bear children in pain and be ruled over by their husbands. Adam and Eve were thrown out of the beautiful Garden of Eden forever.”¹

One may wonder why such a severe punishment would be inflicted by God on all mankind indefinitely because of the actions of one man. On Easter Friday I watched a rerun of an old Simpsons cartoon in which the Simpson family fall asleep in church during a boring sermon delivered by Reverend Lovejoy and each of them have dreams based on them being characters from the Bible. Marg dreams of Adam and Eve when they (Marg and Homer as Adam and Eve) are kicked out of the garden by God (having the voice of Flanders) after he gets angry at them for their disobedience. In his final words Homer, as he laments his lot, says something like: “Never mind, God is kind and loves us all so He will not hold a grudge for long.” - Yeah right!

Of course these Bible stories are based on our interpretations of the early Bible texts which are full of metaphors and imagery which are open to different

interpretations. In the introduction to his book “Diet and Religion” John Cook states that few, if any human societies have failed to make dietary rules as part of their religion. He then goes on to offer an interesting point of view on the forbidden fruit.

“The forbidden fruit, as it is called, is popularly to be sexual in nature but early Bible commentaries and some modern sects - notably the Mormons - insist that it was just as the Bible implies it was: a food unsuitable for man's body in its newly created and immortal state. And when the first man and woman - who were spiritual children of God - ate it, their bodies became vulnerable to disease, decay and death. It was, therefore, through diet that man gained a knowledge of good and evil, of the consequences of wrong actions, of cause and effect.”

If this interpretation is correct then there is no such thing as 'original sin' which we are all supposed to be burdened with and therefore we will not be punished by a god who holds grudges. *BDA. ΩΩΩ*

1.
http://www.christianbiblereference.org/story_AdamAndEve.htm

THE SHARED GIFT OF EDGAR CAYCE (3)

Douglas Cottrell

Following in the footsteps of Edgar Cayce the Reverend Douglas James Cottrell, like Cayce, enters a deep meditative state, which he refers to as 'Deep Trance Meditation' and is able to access what is called the Akashic Records, which have been described as are a compendium of mystical knowledge supposedly encoded in a non-physical plane of existence known as the astral plane.

A self-described skeptic, Douglas's mind had been opened to the possibilities of psychic phenomena in 1975 when a co-worker at the *Toronto*

Star newspaper handed Douglas a book about Cayce (*There is a River* by Thomas Sugrue). He felt that Cayce's ability was genuine so was inspired to seek out other individuals like Cayce in order to help his daughter, Cheri-Anne, who had been living in a crippled children's institution since the age of two. That search led him to Ross Peterson, dubbed by the local media as “The New Edgar Cayce.”

In a deep state of meditation, Ross was able to discuss Cheri-Anne's condition from hundreds of miles away as if he were reading her medical chart. Ross described a trauma that Cheri-Anne

endured at birth which was causing epileptic seizures, something he personally could not have known. On the strength of that single session, and despite resistance from friends and the medical advice, Douglas took Cheri-Anne out of the institution and applied the remedies Ross suggested which brought her back to health. "I have to find out if I can do this too," Douglas thought. "If I could only help one child, it would be worth it!"

Inspired by what he had experienced first-hand with a genuine intuitive, Douglas studied everything he could on the unseen spiritual world – from chakras and the aura to energy healing, dreams, and meditation. Aided by his family doctor and his chiropractor, Douglas began conducting experiments in deep trance meditation and remote viewing. The medical doctor and chiropractor were able to confirm that

what Douglas was seeing was not imagination or conjecture. As his confidence and trust in this ability grew, Douglas was able to learn to enter deeper and deeper levels of consciousness.

Since 1975, Dr Douglas has given an estimated 25,000 Deep Trance Meditation "readings," all of which have been documented and recorded. The readings cover a broad range of topics from health and well-being to spirituality and soul's purpose, past lives, karma, and even unsolved mysteries, ancient history, and predictions about the future, including future earth changes and the economy. He relies on very little promotion and has shied away from public recognition throughout his career. He counsels people the world over and inspires them how to develop their own spiritual or psychic abilities.²

² <http://www.douglasjamescottrell.com/>

BDA. ΩΩΩ

A MORNING PRAYER

From the reading No. 9313.1990 of Paul Solomon (See *Rainbow Journal* No. 71).

"Now, we would offer you a prayer which can be understood by adults and children, people across all racial barriers, cultural barriers and religious barriers, which are artificial structures. Let us give this. It is well that each of you enter into a time when you seek in quietness to confirm and affirm that there is something in you that is good, that is of worth and of value. There is something within you that has a desire to express good, to contribute to the world in which you live, to contribute to life itself, to be a participant in co-creation with God." -

I speak this morning to the highest, the holiest and the good in me. I speak to that in me that is capable of unconditional love, that in me that is

capable of giving life. I say to you:

Please, please, you are the most Godlike seed of expression within me. Please, will you become activated and grow within me. And will you grow to such an extent that there is pushed out of me all energies that are not you, the good in me. Please grow in me until everything that I don't feel good about in myself, everything that is not divine, everything that is not loving and kind and creative, everything that is a misuse of my energy and a seed of dis-ease, everything that is of the nature of fear, falls away. Will you grow in me until I am filled with your presence, the presence of life and love, the presence of all that contributes to joy, laughter and wellness? Will you, seed of God in me, seed of holiness, of wholeness, of healing and health, of joy, allow me to want to be kind? Will you continue to grow and occupy my senses and every cell of my body, occupy every

part of my being, until I am no longer me, but you, until I am you manifest, holiness and goodness, and there remains nothing of me that is unlike you.

Please grow in me until I am filled with you. And reaching beyond that which I find in self, I reach to the source of all good in the universe and I say, 'I want to get to know you better. As your seed grows in me, I reach out to you to be filled with your divine presence, and so become an incarnation of love alive, of life living, and of light shining in this world of darkness.' And I pray that through my communion with the source of creativity, that we may become many candles about the earth creating one great light that allows for the healing of

our suffering Mother, the earth.

I know that my intent for this day is to be pure and of the highest purpose. If after forming such intent and purpose, I make a mistake, so be it. I will accept that without condemnation of myself. I will learn from it and grow, but I will not feel guilty or condemn myself. I will not think myself less worthy. I will enter into each relationship and situation with gusto, with energy, with joy, with life itself. And I will enjoy all these things. - Paul Solomon - From the book "The Fellowship Primer"

(Please contact us if you would like a copy of the Fellowship Primer in PDF format. ΩΩΩ)

YOU'VE GOT TO BE TAUGHT

Children are not born with prejudiced attitudes or with stereotypes. They learn values and beliefs from their family, peers, teachers, the media, and others around them. Prejudice is often a broad social norm as children become part of groups in which the individual lives. Parents play an important role in forming prejudices. Not only do parents teach prejudice directly through reinforcement but children often learn their parents' prejudiced attitudes by simply observing their parents talking about and interacting with people from other groups.

Concern over how parents instill prejudices in their children is not new as it witnessed in the following lyric:

You've got to be taught

To hate and fear,
You've got to be taught
From year to year,
It's got to be drummed
In your dear little ear.

You've got to be carefully taught.
You've got to be taught to be afraid
Of people whose eyes are oddly made,
And people whose skin is a different shade,
You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught before it's too late,
Before you are six or seven or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives hate,
You've got to be carefully taught!
- from the 1949 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical 'South Pacific'. - ΩΩΩ

AN 8 YEAR OLD'S NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

I was hit by a truck after getting off the school bus when I was in 3rd grade. I remember looking up t a crowd of people staring down at me in shock and a paramedic ripping my jeans to see my right leg that was broken. A broken femur, 6 cracked ribs, punctured lungs

and barely hanging on.

What happened next is hard to put in words. I saw the ambulance drive off with my body in it! My spirit was out and free and in no pain at all! I had a short but fast life review (like a movie) that I hardly remember except I knew what it

was about. It scared me because I thought my life was about to end. I was rushed to the hospital where I woke up in darkness that night. I couldn't speak or move as tubes were up my nose and down my throat, and my leg was in traction. I actually thought I was in hell, I was so terrified.

A nurse cracked the door open, spilling light into the room and told me I had been in an accident and need to go back to sleep and rest. The next day my family was surrounding my bed and a priest was kneeling beside me giving me Last Rights and praying the rosary. I was instantly above my body looking down at me. I was feeling bad about how awful I looked and how sad my family was until I noticed that I was travelling fast towards the wall where the wooden cross of Jesus was hanging. I went into a huge ball of white light that protected me and brought me to Heaven. I could see myself skipping and laughing and holding a man's strong hand. Looking up and

seeing Jesus wearing a white flowing gown and sandals made me feel so loved. I was so excited to go where He was taking me. Then He told me "it is not your time; you have to go back."

I wanted to throw my eight year old self down and have a tantrum and cry in disbelief. I didn't want to leave Him. Unfortunately, I ended up back in the hospital room, above my damaged body. Upset and not wanting to go back into my body I bounced around the room like a racquet-ball not wanting to hit the ground. I was fighting to not go back as hard as I could until I was suctioned into my chest area with a "pop!" and with no choice but to surrender. Ever since my accident I have not felt the same and still long to return to Heaven. I have suffered with severe panic attacks since then. Thirty three years later, I have just recently been baptised as a Christian, and finally feel brave enough to share.

ΩΩΩ

LETTERS

Hi Brian,

It was interesting to read all about collective consciousness, which I did know about, but never thought about it in such a way as to include so many people as examples at once. Also to read about the men like Solomon and Fischer, who I had vaguely read about, but not really absorbing what their role in the world was before. So thank You for all that.

Am just puzzled about one sentence, which I am sure you explained, but I still can't understand it when you said 'the creation of God which is called evil'

You call God's creation evil? Why? I am not always swift to understand things, but sometimes things make more sense. This doesn't.

Marg.

Editor - You have posed a very good question over the wording in the 'Christ in You' lesson which suggested that God created evil. "Now we understand something of the meaning of evil and its friendly uses, that the dark earth is the medium for growth; and I can best liken it to the creation of God, which is called evil, always pressing into activity the hidden force within the seed covering."

If God created the Universe and everything in it then if there is evil in the world then logically God must have also created evil. Perhaps the question can be answered in part when we understand what is meant by 'evil'. A definition found in Wikipedia may help in this respect: "the absence of that which is ascribed as being good". This definition suggests that evil is not something but an absence of something - goodness. Evil

has often been associated with darkness, which is the absence of light. When we turn away from God we turn away from the light which comes from God.

God gave us the gift of free will. By Adam eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge our eyes were opened to both good and evil. We can choose to rebel against God and some have called this rebellion the Devil. We can choose to serve God and our fellow man or we can choose to rebel against God, turn away from Him and pursue our own selfish

desires - no longer doing good but doing evil.

It is our confronting the consequences of our own evil (selfish) acts that cause us to experience suffering, so perhaps then the 'Christ in You' lesson is instructing us that evil has a 'friendly use' which causes us to find a way out of our suffering and return to the light.

I hope the above sheds some 'light' on the subject.

Hi Brian,

As usual I enjoyed the latest Rainbow Journal. The "Religious Experience" (RJ January 2014) was absolutely stunning. The last one especially. It had to be real as you couldn't make it up.

It would be very interesting to know how many other people have religious experiences. I wonder if a lot of people do even if not as stunning as the ones you gave us but I believe though that those who do, like me, don't tell people about it, for fear of being labelled crazy.

One experience I had about a year ago happened while I was contemplating what to do about my deteriorating health. I have neuropathy and it got worse and worse with huge loss of muscle tone so that I got to the point that I was worried that I may end up in a wheelchair.

I often worried and wondered what I could do to improve my health and one morning at home I was doing just that when I heard a loud voice say "I LOVE YOU!" It really startled me. I looked around and no-one was there. The voice felt close to my head. I believe it was Jesus' voice. It made me feel that I was not alone in my struggle and that God knows and cares about me. Since then various treatments have come to my notice and my neuropathy has gradually improved. I now have muscle tone back

and there is no way I'll end up in a wheelchair.

Re the articles on sin – what about karma? We will all sow what we reap either in this life or in future lives so if that's the case it could be argued that people don't have the right to punish other people. I still think prisons are necessary but if you acknowledge karma then prisons would be different than they are today. - Beth

Editor - Judging by the response it appears that the article on religious experiences has struck a cord with many of our readers. Because of this I will add more stories in the next few editions of the Journal.

Although I personally cannot recall having any religious experience I believe great numbers of people have, even comparatively minor experiences, as you described, and what is amazing the lifelong effect they can have on people.

The concept of sin is a very interesting one for, as I pointed out in the RJ article, sin is a major tenet in Judaism and Christianity. Over the past few months I have been reading the text of the Course in Miracles which has a lot to say about sin and claims that we are all in fact sinless, because we were created by God. Instead of being sinful it says we make errors. This is a difficult

concept for Christians to grasp but consider that Buddhism does not acknowledge the existence of God and consequently does not believe in sin as such. Yet Buddhism firmly believes in karma. After all karma is the law of cause and effect which means that everything we do has an effect whether good or bad. Good deeds bring good results and bad deeds bring bad results so the concept of sin need not come into

it. I hope to write more about this in the future.

The reason why some people are considered 'bad' or 'evil' is usually because of the lack of love so punishing them and depriving them of any love is not going to fix them. Obviously if some people are determined to cause harm to others they need to be confined but that does not mean we are not to love them and instead punish them. ΩΩΩ

FROM HERE AND THERE

At an interview following her announcement of her retiring as a Member of Parliament Tariana made this comment: "Politics is about what's expedient and gets votes rather than doing what is right." - *Retiring Maori Party co-leader Tariana Turia.*

It is not the people who are locked up in asylums that are truly mad, but the politicians and generals who are ready to destroy the human race at the push of a button." - *R,D, Liang The Divided Self: A*

study of Sanity and Madness.

The first thing to avoid is trying hard to be 'spiritual.' It might be just wasting an entire life, because you are on a round trip anyway. Every one of us, at birth, is automatically issued with a pre-stamped Return Ticket Home (no visa required). There are no concessions. Spiritual is what you were before you arrived and spiritual is what you will return to. - *Clif Sanderson - Knowing Nothing, Living Happy, - ΩΩΩ*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A recent article in the Dominion Post reported that a woman, Anne Maynard, has sued Wellington Hospital, saying that after her husband had surgery there, he lost all interest in sex. A hospital spokesman replied: "Mr. Maynard was admitted for cataract surgery. All we did was correct his eyesight."

The doctor's receptionist was startled when a nun stormed out of the examining room and left without paying. When the doctor appeared, she asked what had happened.

"Well," said the doctor, "I examined her

and told her she was pregnant."

"Doctor!" exclaimed the receptionist. "That can't be!"

"Of course not," he replied. "But it sure cured her hiccups."

Sam shows up at a revival meeting, seeking help.

"I need you to pray for my hearing," he tells the preacher.

The preacher puts his fingers on Sam's ears and prays. When he's done, he asks, "How's your hearing now?"

"I don't know," says Sam. "I don't go to court till next Tuesday." - ΩΩΩ

CHRIST IN YOU

Part 1 **Fourteenth Lesson** **Out of Darkness – Light**

The seed covering, as explained in the last lesson, contains the germ – the promise – of the fullness of the Godhead, just as the outer man contains the seed form of the spiritual man with all the possibilities of growth and expression. We would have you remember that while the inner and spiritual is always perfect, the outer covering is often out of harmony and has many imperfections, owing to long ages – as you count time – of ignorance and sense dominion.

You are to learn that spirit is the rightful ruler, the true owner and king. Man has tried to alter conditions on the material plane, to seek help from without; this has hindered and often prevented the real work. Wherever spiritual forces have been brought to the material plane, the work is lasting, nay, eternal. An unconquered body is an unfinished life. All must be completed. He will perfect that which concerns Him.

As you grow in the understanding of the realities, your vision of Christ will be clearer, and vision is the beginning of attainment. We must first see, then become our vision. Hold the highest ideal, even Christ, and you will awake in His likeness.

You may ask at this point, how we

explain the perfect physique of the undeveloped races. The difference is that you have evolved, and although through ignorance you have not developed perfectly all round, yet it is a far higher thing to have come to the knowledge of your spiritual being, even at a loss to the material. The undeveloped man will awaken later, and he too must learn the I AM. The will to be becomes a force to be reckoned with. He will suffer, for knowledge is born of suffering, until he attains to the consciousness of God.

As you have struggled with the less real so will he, and you will watch and prey with us, till all the kingdoms of the earth are as the kingdom of heaven, for all soles are the inheritance of God. So much of your suffering is unnecessary and caused by opposing the will of God, but there is a quality of suffering that effects the highest good, that suffering which brings into activity the three great principles of spiritual growth – faith, hope, and love. The highest good is known by its opposite, and every experience can be used for ultimate good. Learn that the beauty of morning is known because of the darkness of night. Sorrow is ever making channels for joy.

ΩΩΩ

OUR CLOSING THOUGHT

“What is it all about then? ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, your body, and your neighbour as yourself.’ The rest of all the theories that may be concocted by man are nothing, if these are just lived. Love your neighbour as yourself in the associations day by day, preferring as

did the Christ who died on the cross rather than preferring the world be His without a struggle. Know, then, that as He had His cross, so have you. May you take it with a smile. You can, if you will let Him bear it with you. Do it!” 3976-29 ΩΩΩ

LOVE



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