

READER'S QUESTIONS

Suicide and Salvation; Organ Transplants Hypnotism; Exercises for Clairvoyance

QUESTION: On June 3rd my son killed himself with a gun. He was sick and on medication, except we discovered he was not taking his meds. So now my son who suffered so much is going to suffer more even though I really thought God would release his suffering and he was not in his right mind. I am trying to understand this. He was 44 years old and it was and is a time of grief for me and others. I of course got somewhat angry cleaning out his car and it was like he could hear me. I asked why, because we did everything we could think of to help him. He was living with us. Please tell me, so many have asked me, "was he saved?" I am speechless when that question is asked. He was Catholic but for many years attended Missions and their Chapel services. He wrote poetry to God about his love for him. Help!!

Answer: Your son's life served a purpose, his purpose, God's purpose. You did all you could do, including continuing to be parents to him in a way that is outgrown by children typically in their late adolescence. So you did double duty.

He took his life. He will discover that his life was not his to take. This will be a learning experience. He will learn that life is sacred, given by God; that it is to be experienced until the archetype for it dissolves, an archetype which the Ego knows and participates in creating in the heaven worlds prior to embodiment.

Was your son saved? Yes. Your son cannot be lost. He is, that is his Spirit is, a part of God and eternal. He will have to learn the consequences of his actions in purgatory, as will all of us, if we have

not lived our purgatory here on earth while we yet live in our earthly bodies. This is for our benefit. Else how could we rise to the heaven worlds? How can a body float on the surface of the water if it has a heavy weight tied to it? First we experience the negative in our past life, balance the ledger. Then we experience the positive. We learn from our mistakes and our good tendencies are fortified. These are then instilled into the archetype for our next earthly body.

Your son is loved by God and can never be outside that love.

ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

Question: I have been visiting your [web]site for several days reading on your beliefs. I have one question: How can you accept organ transplants in some cases if you do not believe in using animals for research? The possibility of performing organ transplantation today is possible due to this type of research.

Answer: Your letter implies that the Rosicrucian Fellowship in principle sanctions organ transplants. This is not true. We believe that the conditions that give rise to impaired organs result from the person's own prior actions. Not that all due efforts should not be taken to ameliorate present problems, but typically organ transplants are not among them. A defective or compromised organ (heart, liver, lung, kidney) is only the symptom of the problem, which may have lifetimes of causation behind it. Changing body parts does not address the problem. Changing one's life (thinking, feeling, acting) does. Our pamphlet on transplants, on our website (www.rosicrucianfellowship.org) or

available by mail, discusses this modern and largely misguided practice. We are given an individual body whose condition is of our making and whose care is our responsibility.

The taking of animal life to prolong human life is ethically dubious because the taking of animal life itself is wrong. God gives life, animal or human. The more highly evolved or individualized humans become, the less possible will be the replacement of their body parts. The immune system immunizes each person against the intrusion of many nonhost substances. There are metaphysical as well as biological reasons for an individual's rejection of others' tissues, organs, and fluids. Only medical hubris and rank materialism could presume to make improvements on the infinite wisdom and beneficence of God's plan for His creation by instituting the practice of organ transplants, as well-intentioned as they may be (often springing from genuine impulses of love and sacrifice) and notwithstanding instances of apparent short-term benefit.

KILLING TO EAT

Question: (follow-up to the preceding answer): Does this mean that, according to your beliefs, I should not eat meat, or wear leather, etc.?

Answer: The Western Wisdom Teachings make it abundantly clear that all the life waves which appear in earthly form—minerals, plants, animals, and humans—are seeking experience and the spiritual growth that results from this experience. But only the human spirit indwells its dense physical body. The group spirits that control animal and plants species and families direct their charges from the higher worlds. The point is that the taking of life removes the material vehicle by which these spirits evolve. While the plant kingdom now serves animals and humans not only as its primary food source, but as the provider of the very air it breathes, and will be compensated for this sacrifice in the future, humans are no longer dependent on the flesh of their younger (animal) brothers for survival. On the contrary, human nutritional needs are better served by a non-flesh diet, and more food can be produced by plants directly than as forage for grazing to fatten the eventually slaughtered animal. Acre for acre, the ratio is approximately 9

to 1 (to provide equivalent nutrition from plant vs animal sources).

The inevitable direction of the human race, developmentally, nutritionally, strategically, practically, is toward complete vegetarianism. Usually the transition to a nonmeat diet, together with its philosophical underpinnings, is gradual. We want our actions and our lives to be guided by our own thinking and typically resist others telling us what we should do and believe. As we give thought to these matters, we will all in time come to the understanding of what is best for ourselves and for our planet, and in accordance with God's will for us.

HYPNOTISM

Question: I recently came across your website and was surprised to read your section on hypnosis. I cannot pretend that I understood all of it. I didn't, but having studied hypnosis for a while I could not make any link between the hypnosis that I have studied and wish to put into practice and the suggestions that you put forward about hypnosis.

You seem to say that hypnosis is an evil. Certainly the hypnosis that I have studied is not evil. It may be true that hypnosis could in theory be used for negative things but this is the same in all walks of life. A man could beat someone with his hand and a man could use hypnosis for negative aspects but the evil is not the hands or the hypnosis, it is the person.

You also say that no strong willed person can be dominated by a hypnotist. This is also not true. Anyone can be hypnotized. Hypnotism is not an unnatural evil. It is a natural phenomenon. It is simply a more concentrated state of trance. Trances occur in everyday life. Whilst you are reading this email [as first received] your awareness will be different from what it would be were you about to jump out of an airplane. While you are reading this email I wonder if you are aware of the weight of your feet on the floor or what is going on around you. You are not. But while you jump out of an airplane your awareness is heightened as adrenaline pumps around your body. You will be aware of your body. These different states of awareness naturally induce states of trance in every mentally capable human being. Hypnotists

use words and create mental pictures inside their patients' heads to intensify these natural trances.

There are two parts to the brain. The unconscious and the conscious. We actively think with the conscious brain and it can process only a hand-full of data at any time. The unconscious brain takes all information from all senses, thousands of messages a second, and sends the most important ones to your conscious awareness. For example if a small icon starts to flash in the corner of the computer screen then your attention is drawn to it. Your unconscious has processed that information and sent it to your conscious attention for it to be dealt with. Hypnotism is where the conscious part of your brain is subdued in an intensified trance. The hypnotherapist can then use a series of suggestions to cure his patient.

Hypnotherapy at last is becoming a recognized form of medical treatment. It is proven to help people. You argue that in order for a person to have a fuller ego they should overcome the problem on their own. This comes down to a matter of opinion. This could be said with any medicine. Often the problem could only be overcome with hypnotism, for example phobias or fear of public speaking, etc. Hypnotism isn't about control. The patient always has more control than the hypnotherapist and in no way can I see hypnotism going against God. (B. W., a 15 year old school pupil)

Answer: You seem to have done considerable study and given much thought to hypnotism and we commend your interest in the subject and welcome your email to us. The Rosicrucian position on hypnotism is particularly addressed to those persons who desire consciously to advance in self-development, which, of course, includes self-understanding. It is a cardinal precept of Western Wisdom Teachings that the individual will is holy and not to be intruded upon or violated by another. It is true that many persons are not yet very evolved and can use judicious guidance. This assistance may take a medical form when persons are handicapped by problems proceeding from the unconscious mind to which they seem to have no direct access. Nevertheless, entry into these areas by anyone other than the person him/herself does make them susceptible to "foreign" influence and,

to some degree, compromises the most central part of their being, since they themselves are not the conscious, deliberate origin of whatever impulse has been generated. Generalization of the practice of hypnotism (putting the person to sleep, in a trance, closing down their day-awake mind), and the principle behind it, leaves humans not in charge of their destinies, which is our calling. Complete responsibility for our individual destiny is God's will for us. And He has given us the wherewithal to achieve this goal, for we are created by Him for it. This is spiritual integrity. Thus we insure that we do not become the plaything of spirit entities when we enter the superphysical worlds; or, for that matter, leave ourselves more vulnerable to the innumerable subtle desire and thought currents in our meta-physical environment. Be assured, the more individuals are self-guiding and intentionally self-determining, the healthier and more confident they become. Our goal is to become entirely conscious, to bring all unconscious contents to ego awareness. This route may seem to take longer than by having others go where we cannot, by having more conscious influence over us than we do ourselves, but the results are more permanent and authentic. Under hypnotic influence, we revert to the older forms of development whereby the Eastern guru/ Western doctor/ spirit guide takes responsibility for part of our development which, for the typical Western ego, is not now appropriate.

EXERCISES FOR CLAIRVOYANCE

Question: Are there any exercises or books I could read to help attain clairvoyance?

Answer: In a word, yes. However, it would be good to determine your motives for wanting to gain clairvoyant abilities: Simply to seek your own pleasure, gratify curiosity, or boost your self-esteem could create unintended difficulties and dangers for you. When one lives a spirit-directed life one acquires the faculties relative to that life, including supersensible seeing and knowing. In *The Rosicrucian Christianity Lectures* you may find the chapter on "Spiritual Sight and Insight" helpful. In *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* the chapter on "Acquiring First-Hand Knowledge" also directly addresses your interest. □