

READERS' QUESTIONS

A "Bad Deal" *Visits From Disembodied Friends* *Prenatal Influence of Mothers*

QUESTION: If it be true that the individual Ego elects, itself, to re-enter life on the Earth plane and later, upon arrival, discovers he has probably, through ignorance, made a mistake, who, it might be asked, should be held responsible for this? Is the Ego perhaps entirely or partially responsible? How is it that the Ego before entry had not been sufficiently advised or educated so that this seeming mistake could have been avoided? At one's present stage of evolution this state of affairs is not properly understood and seems very unfair. As the die has been cast, however, there is nothing to do but proceed to the best of one's ability, making the best of that which might seem—A Bad Deal.

Answer: We believe that the crux of the answer to your question lies in the fact that man has free will, and consequently may learn the necessary lessons either by observation or experience. Most people have to learn by experience, but the choice is always theirs. Since we became individual, indwelling Spirits, with a measure of free will, only we are responsible for what comes to us. We actually do not make a mistake in choosing a certain life pattern (when we have merited a choice from several), be it ever so difficult. The Recording Angels give us exactly what we need for our development, but sometimes it is difficult for us to see that our experiences are what we need! When we analyze this thoroughly, we must find that our task, really, is to learn the lesson involved in the experience. Perhaps the experience is for the purpose of teaching us humility, tolerance, discrimination, or any

other one or more of the traits that we do have to unfold in our evolutionary journey.

It is a great mistake to think that we ever get "a bad deal." To allow ourselves to think along this line sets us against the tide of evolution. On the other hand, when we take the attitude that we ourselves are entirely responsible for attracting to us certain people and certain circumstances, and resolve to change our associates and improve our circumstances by changing ourselves, then we are going forward with the tide of evolution and will soon find pleasant changes taking place in our immediate world.

Constant soul searching is absolutely necessary if one is to progress on the spiritual path. It may be very painful at times to admit our own shortcomings. It is so much easier to put the blame on someone else, but when we do, we are listening to the lower self and not to the Spirit, which always guides us aright. By turning within, prayerfully, to that "inmost center where truth abides in all its fullness" and looking for the causes of our difficulties, we will find them. Then we must face them, and meet them by changing ourselves.

VISITS FROM DISEMBODIED FRIENDS

Question: In occult literature one often reads of persons who have recently passed out in death, afterward visiting friends and relatives who are still living. I understand that each Ego spends approximately one third as many years in Purgatory as it lived during its previous Earth life. If this is true, how is it possible for disembodied Spirits to leave Purgatory and visit friends when they so desire?

Answer: The purgatorial experience is not one prolonged uninterrupted process. There is a period of activity, followed by an interval of inactivity, and this alternating process continues throughout the entire purgatorial existence of the individual.

It is during the intervals between purgatorial action that those sojourning in Purgatory are permitted to visit the physical region where their friends and relatives reside. It is not possible for these people to visit the Earth at any time they desire to do so, for those undergoing purgation are not permitted to leave Purgatory during that period of time.

In regard to this matter, it should be kept in mind that it is unwise to “invite” (by our thoughts and feelings) the visits of our departed loved ones, as this may seriously interfere with the work they are doing in their new home. The work they have to do there is just as real as the work done here, and they should be left to do it in peace and quiet.



Silhouette paper-cut, Sister Mary Dorcy, O.P.

PRENATAL INFLUENCE OF MOTHERS

Question: Is it possible for a pregnant woman to influence her child for good or evil by her daily life and thoughts and by using constructive auto-suggestion?

Answer: Yes, to some extent, but of course the basic characteristics of the incoming Ego already exist, as shown by the horoscope at birth. It is by means of these characteristics, operating through the Laws of Attraction and Association, that Egos are incarnated through their particular parents. The general rule is that advanced Egos are born to advanced parents. However, there may be seeming exceptions to this rule, all under the guidance of the Lords of Destiny, who see that every human being gets exactly what he needs for his development.

The wise Emerson said of mothers: “In their hearts their mothers make them. When each one comes forth from his mother’s womb, the gate of

gifts closes behind him.”

In ancient times the sacrament of inviting an Ego to forsake the heavenly realms and some to abide upon the Earth was always performed within the sacred precincts of the temple. If this were again to be practiced upon the Earth, how soon would we see a new race among us again of men who might indeed be termed Lords of Creation!

After the one great sacrifice by Mary and Joseph, Mary went away into the hill country, where, surrounded by the holy calm and beauty of Nature, she could prepare herself as a fit channel for the coming of the great Adept Jesus.

The prospective mother should always be surrounded with beauty, harmony, peace, and tranquillity, if possible hearing inspiring music, seeing beautiful flowers and pictures. If this is impossible, she should concentrate upon one picture or an inspiring poem. If she cannot have flowers, she can surely look to the sky, raising her consciousness to the sunsets, the stars, keeping herself uplifted in a constant state of prayer and peace.

Woman is the torch-bearer of the race—or at least, that is her duty, and those who understand and cooperate with spiritual law are truly torch-bearers. Eventually every mother will work consciously with an Ego in helping it to prepare its new physical body. This is the supreme ideal of motherhood. By attuning her thoughts and her life only to the good, the true, and the beautiful, the mother holds them as a mystic crown above her, and in the clear reflection of their light helps the incoming Ego to build anew upon foundations which embody these same attributes. On great wings the day is coming when every woman will kneel before the shrine of truth, realizing that the Immaculate Conception was not destined for Mary alone, but for every woman who makes herself worthy to receive it, and who thus wins for her brow a crown of immortelles. □