

# SOLAR

## NEWSLETTER

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# *The March of Materialism*

*“We know our existence only from external objects, and we measure it by them.”*

*From “On the Feeling of Immortality in Youth” by William Hazlitt*

“We know our existence only from external objects, and we measure it by them.” If you were to come across this quote on a little plaque or in a thought-for-the-day book, a thinking person would assume that it was written as a commentary on today’s society. The surprise is that it was written in 1827. Isn’t it surprising how nothing ever changes?

This is a classic example of a situation spiraling in a given direction or a situation moving from one level to another level. In the early 1800’s, if society were only aware of its existence by the external or materialistic objects that it possessed, it would have been at a level equal to the materialism of that time. On the other hand, today it is the same situation only elevated to a more materialistic involvement. We must remember in the early 1800’s if you had a nice carriage and a good strong horse, that was your means of travel. Today our means of travel is an SUV, a truck, or

an automobile. For the affluent family man, it is the van with a number of DVD players equal to the number of children in the family. Oh, and let us not forget the surround sound necessary to give you that big theater experience. You may say that it is basically at the same level of materialism to acknowledge our existence. One flaw in that thought: In the early 1800’s, the family had one carriage and a pair of horses to draw it. Today, the average family must have a vehicle for every member of the family that is of driving age.

The cancerous disease of materialism has kept up with the times. It is the silent killer that keeps us on the constant quest for things. As I said before, nothing ever changes, it only intensifies, and in its intensity it requires a greater involvement on our part, thus it becomes less obvious because we have become more immersed.

We have been taught to think that

our identity, our existence, lies in the things that we possess. The greater the number of objects that we indulge ourselves with, that we surround ourselves with, the more we think we exist or that we are living. The truth is that it is quite the opposite. The more objects, the more things, we own or surround ourselves with, dictate the

*continued on next page*

*Comments on Spirituality*  
*William Allen LePar*



*The March of Materialism continued*

depth that we are burying ourselves at. The more things that we own, the further away from our true existence we move. They keep us occupied emotionally, mentally, and physically, thereby eliminating the opportunities to get to know ourselves. We are too busy with things, too busy with things to take the time to ask ourselves, "Who are we really? What am I really? Why is it whatever I have only offers me momentary happiness?" And then the familiar emptiness comes crashing in like a wave from a wild ocean. To ease the pain, we add another object to the burden we are already carrying.

To really discover our true state of existence, we must learn to put objects in their proper place, and that is a safe distance from us so that they do not become a burden, a cost factor, a distraction, far enough away so that our only means of knowing our existence is to seek the silence within, to seriously ask ourselves, "Who am I? What am I? and What is my purpose in life?" We must move these materialistic objects far enough away from us so that all we have is the silence that allows us to discover the truth and that is: Who am I? What am I? and Why do I exist? Only then can we experience our true existence, only then will we have a real measurement of our existence, only then will we discover that the only happiness that man can experi-

ence is that internal peace and the emotional, spiritual, and mental wellness of knowing that you exist and why you exist.

Objects, materialism, is the elusive butterfly that we chase blindly not realizing that it leads us deeper and deeper into the bed of quicksand, realizing too late that the beautiful object led us to a dark pit of no return. There is nothing wrong with owning things, objects. It is when those objects become the purpose of our existence, that spells the loss of all the important things, the permanent things, the real things in life.

Getting to know who you really are is the great profound experience of life. That knowledge is necessary to discover a life of happiness; it is necessary to own a life of happiness. Getting to know who we really are requires the person to bravely and courageously walk into the silence and be willing to accept all that is shown to him, and then take that and make it better than what it was. Only then will you and I find happiness. And only then will the world become a better place for us and for our children and for our children's children. In the silence we discover the ability to commune with the god within. And in the silence we learn to commune with the great God over all.

Every age of man has had individuals and groups of individuals that only recognize their existence by their

objects, external objects that they owned and they measured their existence by those objects, but as time goes by, man is moving nearer and nearer to willful blindness, therefore he finds a need to own more and more external objects as a validation of his existence. He creates his own personal graveyard of objects that will be his memorial to himself. Only when he learns that his existence has a purpose that far exceeds the collection of external objects, collection of material things, will he ever find peace and happiness. That experience of revelation and self-discovery is nothing more than a thought away, an attitude away: the willingness to accept the idea that there is more to him than his physical body and all the things that bring that physical body a sense of pleasure or satisfaction. The attitude that there is more to existence and the willingness to want to discover what the more really constitutes.

Hopefully, the willingness to want to discover what the more is will initiate a journey of excitement, joyfulness, and elevating self-discovery. I can guarantee you, if you accept this challenge, you will be taken up into a whirlwind of excitement and pure pleasure of self-discovery and meaningful purpose in life. I invite you and I encourage you to join with me in this adventure that lies ahead and share with all of those who accompany us the wonders we behold.

**SOLAR** is published quarterly by SOL, a non-profit and tax-exempt organization dedicated to research and education on spiritual and metaphysical topics. We encourage you to share your comments and insights with us. All articles are based on the insights and guidance provided by The Council through William Allen LePar.

The Council . . . a gathering of twelve souls who once occupied physical bodies on earth but who have since forever left the physical world. In their final act of love for humanity they teach us to regain control of our lives and reunite with our Divine Source.

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# Addictions

While looking through some Trance Library Files, I came across the File titled Addictions. An addiction can be defined as a pathological relationship to a mood-altering experience which has life-damaging consequences. The range of possible addictions extends beyond substances like alcohol, heroin, cocaine or marijuana. It also includes the use of milder chemicals such as caffeine, sugar or nicotine. The mood alteration experienced in a stiff drink, a sniff of cocaine, or a strong sleeping pill can become the hook that pulls one back repeatedly for more. Even the relentless pursuit of fun such as shopping, gambling, internet games or eating can keep alluring a person until he is totally engrossed in it. The addict becomes emotionally, mentally, and at times physically dependent upon the fix. The life-damaging consequences of an addiction cause a ripple effect on all aspects of life: health, relationships, work, personality and most importantly one's spirituality. An addict is usually trying to alleviate pressure and is hiding from reality and painful issues.

It seems as if drug use is more prevalent than ever. I am not just referring to illegal drugs but prescribed drugs as well. According to The Council, it makes no difference whether the drugs are plant-derived or chemically-constructed, the effect and purpose are the same. Unfortunately, there seems to be more acceptance and tolerance of marijuana and some states are even changing their laws to make it legal. Marijuana does have some constructive uses such as treating glaucoma and overcoming some of the effects of chemotherapy. Someone asked if it is used for these reasons, would it be acceptable? The Council replied: "If such a thing as marijuana were prescribed for a glaucoma condition in order to relieve the pressure, then it would be acceptable but only according to the way it is prescribed. In other words, if you are to have so many measures of it per day, to go over that would be wrong. Any drug used for anything other than medical purposes is out of



*Health Hints*  
Marilyn L. Ridzon

the question and to change your laws to accept such an activity is causing a karmic situation that will backfire in all of your faces in the future as it is beginning to do so now."

Why has drug use become so widespread? The Council explains: "This is a tool which the dark forces in the universe use to cripple those who attempt to walk within the light. Those who inflict their spirit with such damnation are killing themselves first, not so much physically as spiritually. For what they are doing is sealing their channel through which the light of God passes. They seal this off. If a person deliberately ingests a drug such as marijuana, then he is deliberately saying to himself: 'I do not want to accept my own inner guidance from God that will come through my inner thoughts.'"

You must be in control of your thoughts; you must be in control of your body, and by taking such drugs, you are slapping spirituality directly in the face. An addiction is anything that controls you.

This topic is in Trance Lending Library File No. 90-25 (Addictions - Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Pop) which is available to all SOL members.

# More Spiritual Rules of Thumb

## The Loophole of Love



*Points to Ponder*  
Dr. James R. Ridzon

For more than twenty years I have attended the LePar Trances learning a wealth of inspiring spiritual information, but I must confess that I particularly relish what I have come to call, “The Spiritual Rules of Thumb.”

These are principles that provide us with a candid glimpse into the workings of spirituality. Occasionally Mr. LePar’s source, The Council, will provide us with these gems in clear and unambiguous terms. These are, for me, the principles I have come to cherish as the foundation of a spiritual life. I would like to share seven of my favorites over the next several Newsletter issues. Come with me on a fascinating journey through The Council’s Spiritual Rules of Thumb. I’m sure you’ll share my enthusiasm for these wonderful principles.

- 1. The Golden Rule**
- 2. The Vineyard Principle**
- 3. The Ignorance is Bliss Principle**
- 4. The Job Principle**
- 5. The Tenfold Principle**
- 6. The Paid in Advance Principle**
- 7. The Loophole of Love**

We have explored the first six principles in previous newsletters. Now let us consider The Incredible Loophole of Love Principle.

This is a special-case situation which transcends all of the other Spiritual Rules of Thumb. It is the fast-track route of the martyrs. Definitely not for everyone but, for those who are ready, it is the celestial shortcut to spiritual perfection.

I must confess that a certain cynicism would seize me whenever I encountered a particular type of news story. You know the type: A passing motorist jumps into an icy lake to save a drowning child and drowns himself. Somebody dashes into a blazing house as a rescuer and becomes a statistic. Now don’t get me wrong. If the guy comes back out of the house carrying an unconscious baby, I like that. I figure the rescuer sized up the situation, decided he could make it and went for it. A true hero. I look at it this way: If a child is drowning in a lake and there is a rowboat at the dock, then I’m rowing to the rescue right now! Take away the boat and considering the deep water and my marginal swimming skill—well, the best I can do is say a prayer and find a phone. It’s clear to me: discretion is the better part of valor. If your odds of success are good then, hey! go for it. I think I would. On the other hand, if the situation is hopeless, then I say: “Be sensible, don’t be a dead hero.” This is

*Whenever  
human  
action  
consistently  
defies  
human  
reason, you  
can bet  
something  
significant is  
at work.  
These fertile  
areas of  
study can  
yield  
startling  
insights.*



clear to me, and I would think it would be clear to everyone. Yet the facts don't bear this out. It's not at all uncommon to hear stories of non-swimmers leaping into the water, people rushing into the flames, soldiers sprawling over live grenades, motorists pulling drivers from flaming gasoline trucks. I find it all very puzzling. What makes people attempt heroic rescues when there is virtually no hope of success? Am I missing some point here? Do I know something they don't know or perhaps, more likely, do they know something that I have overlooked? Hmmm—I wonder! Interview the few survivors with their smoking eyebrows and they all say the same thing. At the time, the thought of personal danger simply didn't occur to them. There was somebody in trouble and they had to help. No matter that if they had encountered the same person on the other side of the used car lot desk, they would have haggled him unmercifully. It's as if, for a time, their actions went on auto-pilot and even they can't explain it.

Is there a spiritual principle here that we need to examine? Is there a valuable lesson here? Whenever human action consistently defies human reason, you can bet something significant is at work. These fertile areas of study can yield startling insights. Let's examine the hidden wisdom of these so-called fools by checking the words of The Council. Witness this question-and-answer exchange which took place in November of 1982. It sheds a blinding light on the situation we are discussing. Seldom does The Council speak with such unambiguous clarity.

QUESTIONER:

When a person gives their life to save another person, someone who

goes into a burning building to save someone else; does that mean in a death like that they make great spiritual gains?

COUNCIL:

That is probably the greatest opportunity that a soul can have and through that activity they achieve great spiritual growth, great, great spiritual growth. They can eliminate much that they may have had to go through. They definitely are very strong candidates for the God-Made Heavenly Realms. We use the term "strong candidates for the God-Made Heavenly Realms" as a way of being somewhat reserved on that point. We would say unofficially or with a little less reservation, that they definitely without question would move through the Spirit Level very quickly and into the Angelic Level of the God-Made Heavenly Realms because you are fulfilling then the decree of Christ.

QUESTIONER:

A lot of times we hear of people who do something automatically like put their own life on the line to save somebody else and they say that they did it without thinking. Is this the case?

COUNCIL:

No, whenever you deliberately move into an activity that jeopardizes your own physical life for someone else's well-being, it may appear to you as an activity without thinking behind it, but we guarantee you that the soul has thought it out very well, very clearly. Whenever you read of those souls who do something like that, they may say it is without thinking; we can tell you that it was a very deliberate activity.

QUESTIONER:

Are you saying that throwing your life away for somebody else is a one-way ticket to the Heavenly Realms?

COUNCIL:

It is almost a sure thing, let us put it that way. We hesitate from saying that it is an absolute guarantee based solely on this, we do not want a bunch of non-thinkers doing something foolish that would give them nothing in return, so there are certain areas where we soft-pedal a little, because there are those who sometimes show a great deal of stupidity, excuse our adjectives. But let us put it this way, if the Lord says that you are to love to the degree that it may require your own life, who are we to challenge that? We hesitate emphasizing the point too strongly. But by all means if you find yourself in that position and in the middle of an activity, let us put it this way, if there was a house afire and another being was in there, and you find yourself inside there running to help the other person, do not worry about it, go ahead, and then when we see you shortly after that, we will give you the answer you want to hear. (82-11-20, LAD Trance 18, ll.1238-1313)

Wow! Does that clear it up for you? Keeping in mind The Council's warning about not doing something foolish, what we are talking about here is nothing less than a guaranteed ticket to Heaven. Now when I read about a failed rescue attempt I smile knowingly to myself. Now I understand! Another sinner has seized The Loophole of Love.

How would you respond if a politician ended a campaign speech in the following manner: “And finally, my fellow Americans, you might want to think twice about accepting at face value what I’ve just said.” Whoa! That would be sooo nice: Honesty. It could only be surpassed by a well-earned trust that politicians would not mislead us in the first place. But, this is the real world. Or is it?

# Who Do You Trust, Part One

For most of our readers, for members of the SOL Research Groups, and for others with knowledge of The Council’s insights, that question should come as no surprise. Actually, anyone accepting the existence of an eternal hereafter already knows the answer, if they would just bother to THINK. Here’s what The Council once said about our “real” world:

“What you understand as reality and life is only a shadow on the wall, nothing more. There is no reality to your present existence. It is an illusion; it is a pure illusion... Yet, you have all chosen, in a time before, to re-establish your perfection through these means.”

Alas, we find it harder to believe this world of ours “is a pure illusion” than we do politicians might mislead us – especially if we’re from the same party or political ideology. If we can be objective, however, we must

admit that there is plenty of proof to cause us to question what we’re told by our leaders. History books and current periodicals could be stacked from Manhattan to the moon with the evidence.

No such hard, objective evidence exists to support the idea this ol’ universe of ours is not really real. We only have what The Council has said, in the above quote and numerous other times throughout the 30 years they



*Denny Highben*

have been speaking to mankind. Yet, let’s look at another quote from The Council, one that we will never hear on any campaign trail:

“... Just as all of you should be extremely careful of what we tell you. You have no way of knowing what is really transpiring, nor do you have any way of proving what we say.”

So, to this point, here’s what we have: 1) The obvious fact, (which we ignore more often than the speed limit) that we are often fed a bunch of baloney by those who wish to lead, guide or otherwise obtain control over us. 2) An unearthly source of enlightenment, which those of us in SOL accept as genuine and trustworthy, telling us our world is a mere illusion. 3) That same source of enlightenment advising us to be careful in accepting what they tell us.

What gives? This will take some explaining, but it will all come together in the end. (Trust me!) One suggestion, though, before moving on: you might want to keep this edition of the SOLAR Newsletter handy, because it will take more than one article to wrap this up.

First, let us attempt to make plausible The Council’s contention that our world is an illusion, WITHOUT any further words from The Council. For those who are absolutely sold on the notion we evolved from

swamp things and when we die, that's the end, this may be impossible. However, if you subscribe to some form of belief that we are more, and that there is a continuance of our conscious, creative beings beyond physical life, then the task of illustrating how our world can be considered an illusion becomes only improbable. But it is no longer impossible. (I know there are volumes of philosophical meanderings on this same subject at your local library, by brains far more impressive than mine, but I don't plan to meander.)

We understand an illusion as something that doesn't really exist even though we have the opposite perception. There are, however, two types of illusions. Let's call one type accidental or unintended, such as mirages, hallucinations and the like. The other type we will call deliberate or intentional. These are created for a purpose. Consider those who create illusions for fun or profit. A magician, using sleight of hand, props, and misdirection, can dazzle the rest of us all the while knowing he is constructing an illusion. Consciously, we might remember that what we are experiencing is an illusion, but another part of us gets caught up in the power, the perfect execution, of the illusion. For that span of time or that segment of

experience, we allow ourselves to accept the reality of it. The magician, though, knows he is in control, creating something that only exists for its specific purpose.

Does the point ever come at which the magician has been so proficient at his craft for so long that he forgets and the audience forgets that their shared experience is an illusion? ("Hey! That's right!" he might remember, "This is a charade, an illusion, and little ol' me is the man who is doing it. I'm so cool...")

Maybe we have been practicing "illusionomics" so long that we have, indeed, forgotten that very first sleight of hand, created for a purpose which was long ago lost in the indistinguishable confluence of time, experience, and the self-serving pride in the power, the perfect execution, of the illusion itself.

By the way, I know there is no such word as "illusionomics" but this is my article and I like it. Besides, we create words for a purpose, just like we create things such as automobiles, space stations, church buildings and romantic evenings. So, why could we not create an illusion that we perceive as physical life. If we are beings with an existence beyond the limits of our fragile, three-dimensional, organic containers, why would this illusion not

be within our realm of creative potential?

A final point to this aspect is included in the last two paragraphs. It may be harder to accept than the notion that life as we know it is an illusion. Mankind, The Council has often told us, is responsible for this world, this illusion. (You didn't really think I'd compare God to a magician, did you?) We are taught to believe the Divine Source created the universe, but then we would be living in His illusion, wouldn't we? And that would be an infringement on free will, which is a total and absolute aspect of our nature as creative, conscious beings. Here's the last line from The Council's quote which we have been using: "Yet, you have all chosen, in a time before, to re-establish your perfection through these means." That's got free will written all over it!

In the next part of this article, we are going to look more closely at The Council's advice to think twice about what they've said. We will also look at who (besides politicians) might not want us doing the same with their pronouncements. Here's a hint: Accepting that we are already in a self-induced illusion will help us understand.

*Consciously, we might remember that what we are experiencing is an illusion, but another part of us gets caught up in the power, the perfect execution, of the illusion. For that span of time or that segment of experience, we allow ourselves to accept the reality of it.*

# It must be simple, it must be very obvious

*Converting SOL's Trance Library from tape to compact disk has given all of us associated with the Trances a chance to revisit old friends. Not only do we hear the words of The Council from years past, but we also hear the voices of friends who have left us. Some have simply moved away and we may see them on occasion and some have left this life permanently and we miss them. It is pleasant for me to hear their voices and picture them in my mind. The sounds come from a time and place when we existed together for the purpose of learning. We learned about the facts of creation. We discovered many interesting details about our world and its history. Looking back from my present situation, it certainly seemed to be a more pleasant and easier time. I am sure that living at that time, it did not seem quite so soft and gentle. I guess that is the way it always is when viewing the past from the present. Regardless of the perspective there was much to learn then and, surprisingly, there is even more to learn today. That is the path of spiritual growth; the more a person discovers about himself, the more he has to accomplish.*

*by David Ries*



The trance that I am going to discuss in this article is the 188th. In this trance The Council does not give us any glitter or “glitz” that many of us find so fascinating. They address a far more important topic. In the course of more than 200 trances, they have talked on most every subject imaginable. However, the real purpose for The Council’s working with The Research and Study Group is to give each of us a direct path to unite us with our Creator.

In this Trance The Council gives the key to everything. They give us the reason for the 30 years of work and more than 200 trances. It is summed up in a simple paragraph.

Normally when I write an article for the newsletter, I attempt to present The Council’s thoughts in relationship to some aspect of my life. This time I would ask you to take these words from The Council and place them in relation to your lives and I will personally do the same for myself.

Council: “Spirituality. Some of you express an interest in spirituality. Some of you say that you are on a quest for spirituality. Some of you say that you wish to be spiritual. But what is spirituality and how do we attain it?”



It is very simple. It must be simple, it must be very obvious. It must be staring us right back into our faces if we have an All-Loving and Forgiving God, an All-Loving and Forgiving Divine Presence, and since we do, then spirituality is before us. If we cannot see it, if we cannot understand it, if we cannot reach out and bring it into ourselves, it is because we choose to be blind to the love that this Infinite and Divine Presence has for us.

“How do we attain spirituality? If spirituality is an attitude, then to attain it we simply bring that attitude into us, make it a part of our nature. Not something we talk about, but something that we do something about.

“What is this great secret, this attitude, this mystifying miracle maker? It is as simple as this: Do nothing to someone else you would not want done to yourself. That means then you must be caring, you must be loving, you must be honest, you must be faithful, and you must be a responsible individual. That sums up spirituality, yet for as simple as it is, for as obvious as it is, those who choose not to see what lies before them are numbered in the frequency of raindrops hitting the face of the earth in any given storm. Infidelity to oneself translates to infidelity to all other aspects of that individual’s life.

“Spirituality, kindness. Spirituality, thoughtfulness. Spirituality, an attitude, an attitude towards yourself and towards those round and about you. Do you really want spirituality? Or do you just want to talk about it? If

you truly want it, it is yours for the changing of your attitude. Spirituality begins with a thought, then that thought must be brought down into the individual in the form of an attitude, and then that attitude must be made into reality, and that is done by the way you treat others. Spirituality, nothing more than a thought, an attitude.”

When I sit in my chair and think about my life, my activities and attitudes, I can certainly find many areas of fault and yet it is still difficult to consistently put The Council’s words into practice today. The Council knows that we struggle and certainly the Divine understands. They simply

*“Do you really want spirituality? Or do you just want to talk about it? If you truly want it, it is yours for the changing of your attitude.”*

wish that we would understand that growing in spirituality, gaining a more spiritual nature, is a constant effort. Not a big effort constantly but a constant effort. Even though I understand what The Council is talking about in the paragraph above, I can find many, many times when I haven’t consciously been paying attention. Looking back on my day, I realize that I made glaring errors in judgment, thought, and action. Maybe someone else viewing the errors would not feel that they were “that serious.” I always prefer to judge myself harshly. Then if I have over-judged myself, the burden can be lifted at a later time. If I am casual in my attitudes, many unpleasant surprises could await me. The Council said once that before we sleep, we should examine our day to determine whether it was a Godly day, one that we were willing to offer up to our Father or one that we would rather forget. Recently I have tried more diligently to do this. Just the self-examination is a great motivator and sets the tone for the next day. Subconsciously the mind now realizes that the activities of the day will be reviewed. If it causes me to make even the smallest change towards a more spiritual attitude, it is a step forward. Then the day can be considered a success. That is really all that The Council and our Divine Father are hoping for, a step forward, a day of success.

# Defining In Life

I've heard people say that there are certain events that are defining moments in life; that bring out the best or worst in our character. An extended illness or terminal illness is one such event. The death of a loved one is another. In the past four years, I have been fortunate to experience both. Yes, I said fortunate because I gained invaluable insight from both experiences.

The first defining moment was a diagnosis of breast cancer. I couldn't be a candidate for breast cancer. I didn't have any of the diagnostic signposts women prone to breast cancer are supposed to have. As a matter of fact, I had all the signposts of women who were unlikely to have breast cancer. However, in the spring of 2000, I was diagnosed with breast cancer—stage 2. That meant surgery to remove the tumor, surgery to install a port, 3 months of chemo therapy and 60 radiation treatments. It meant reducing my workday to a half day because as a teacher with a low immune system, I was catching everything the students brought in the door. I bowed to the inevitable when I had to go to the ER with a white blood cell count of one. So I worked half a day, drove home so tired I didn't know where I was, dropped on the couch and passed out until my sons came home from school and woke me up. My children and husband took over all my mothering chores—laundry, cooking, cleaning the house, ferrying kids to activities, etc. My husband had to adminis-



*Sherilyn Highben*

ter Procrit shots in my arm every evening to increase by blood count. He hated it! I hated it! Then there were the other side effects to deal with—loss of hair and nausea.

So, how was I fortunate? I had a very loving, supportive family that assumed all of my responsibilities without so much as a murmur of complaint; a family that was afraid for me but never indicated that fear. (After the experience, my husband and sons shared how they reacted and felt about my battle with cancer. I was truly shocked to learn how well they hid their fear and misgivings.) I had a staff at work that covered my classes without any compensation other than my gratitude. I had a church family that prayed for me, checked up on me when I missed a Sunday, and occasionally prepared dinner for my family to give my husband a break. I learned that I had a lot of people who cared about me. I learned, perhaps more importantly, that I could survive!

The other defining moment I experienced was the unexpected death of my mother this past October. Death of a loved one is always difficult, but the death of your mother is especially tough—especially if that mother is all that motherhood embodies. When my family lost my mother, they also lost their focal point and a very dear friend. I have four siblings and 15 nieces and nephews who grieved for their mother and grandmother. Watching your spouse and children grieve is not a pleasant experience,



# Moments

especially when you are also undergoing the grieving process. After the grieving process diminishes and the mundane routine of life begins again, many families begin to break apart. They fight over the estate, no matter how small or large. They argue about who did the most for Mom, who was there for her. They just drift apart because the cohesive element, Mom, is no longer there.

Again, how was I fortunate? My family didn't drift apart. We all agreed, to the dismay of the estate lawyer, about who would get Mom's house, who would get her car, who would get various items in the house. We didn't sell everything off, the advice of the lawyer, and split the profit. We kept the house in the family because it is OUR HOME and we want to be able to visit. We paid off a debt our youngest brother had with money from the estate before dividing the remainder of the estate. The lawyer thought we were crazy! He really couldn't understand why we weren't each trying to get as much money from the estate as we could. Finally, my brother explained to him that we were a family, that we hadn't done anything to earn the estate, our parents had. That we were simply caretakers of the estate, and that our mother would have wanted us to remain united so that's what we were going to do. I'm very proud of my family! The next year will be difficult for all of us because it will be a year of firsts (first Christmas, first Easter, first Mother's Day, etc.) without Mom but I know

we will still stick together and get through these "firsts" with tears, with laughter, and with love. My mother, I'm sure, is proud of the way we have handled ourselves and, I hope, knows that our behavior is directly linked to the values we were taught by our parents.

My defining moments have shown me that my family is strong, united. Sure we have our disagreements, our quirks, but we still function as a family. We care for each other and we take care of each other. The Council has said repeatedly the family is the cornerstone of spirituality in the physical world and that one of the major problems with the world today is the destruction of the family unit. There are now more dysfunctional families than functional ones. They have also said that if we want to regain our spirituality, we begin in our own backyard with our family. Being a strong family unit is hard work! There has to be a lot of give and take. There has to be communication. There must be unconditional love. There must be forgiveness. But the rewards for all that work are unlimited. The knowledge that you have someone who is there for you no matter what the situation or problem might be is invaluable. And the knowledge that by working toward a strong family unit you are also moving forward spiritually can be both motivation and reward. Make that family unit strong.

# What do you want to know?

Years ago this newsletter ran a popular column called "What Has The Council Said About. . ." Questions readers posed to us would be researched by going back through the trances to see how The Council weighed in on that particular topic.

We'd like to revive that concept. If you have a question on spiritual, moral, or other topics, The Council likely has already given an answer. And with the searching capabilities of today's technology, that answer should be readily found.

So if you have a need to know, write in or email, and we'll have an answer in the next newsletter. For now, just title your correspondence, "Dear Council." Send it to SOL, P.O. Box 2276, North Canton, Ohio 44720 or email it to [sol@raex.com](mailto:sol@raex.com).

*For additional information on calendar listings, SOL membership, or books for sale, write to SOL, P.O. Box 2276, North Canton, Ohio 44720, or call 330.497.9645. Or you may visit our website at: [www.solarpress.com](http://www.solarpress.com).*

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