

The following is a chapter from William LePar's work now in book form entitled *More than Mind Discloses*.

7

Success in Adversity—Control in Life

Adversities. Each person will have some measure of adversity in their life. Most of us wish we could eliminate these adversities or at the very least keep them as minimal as possible. Should we wish or desire to eliminate all the adversities in life? No. Understanding the purpose of adversities may give us a better attitude towards these occurrences. Looking at the bigger picture, what do adversities offer us? The first thing that we have to remember is that no adversity comes to us unless we are well-equipped to deal with it in a spiritual way. Adversity is actually a test in disguise, just like all tests that are given to us, whether in school or out. We are given the proper information that we are going to be tested on. It is up to us to store that information in some manner or form so that it is useful to us. Adversity being nothing more than a test, it should be easy for one to see that all the information necessary to pass that test has already been given to us. Therefore, it is a matter of retrieving that information and applying it to the situation in a proper manner and in a proper sequence of attitude and action.

What is required on our part beyond the information necessary to deal with the adversity? We must learn first to control knee-jerk reactions and emotional reactions. We must learn to think the situation out and make an intelligent decision based on a standard that we should have developed or understood and applied to our life in the information or experiences given to us prior to the adversity. No adversity comes to us until we have been well prepared for it. It is nothing more than a test based on the experiences that we have had and the spiritual attitudes that we should have developed from those experiences. We must always keep in mind, and this is extremely important, we are never challenged with anything in our lives that we have not been well prepared for.

Many times we talk about karma, and our emphasis is generally on negative karma. We seem to have a subconscious drive to eliminate the recognition of a positive karma. This is definitely selling ourselves short, and in effect through some psychological stumbling block, gives us a feeling of unworthiness, thus giving us the potential to rationalize failure, failure made through the lack of control necessary in making the right choices in the given situation, right choices, of course, being based on spiritual principles. Man must never give himself the opportunity to rationalize away the power of positive karma. Man does not need to fail in any adverse situation, and he will not fail unless he rationalizes what he has already learned so that he can make the wrong choices which offer the easy way out.

Each adversity comes to us with an abundance of positive karma. In most instances positive karma is the internal strength necessary and the knowledge to make the right choices based on the spiritual principles involved. Each adversity requires us to gain control over ourselves, to gain control over our lives. The action of controlling ourselves is the exercise of discipline. The more discipline we exercise over ourselves, the stronger we become. As we grow in strength, we also grow in spirituality. If the adversity we are dealing

with requires a long period of time in our lives, the end result is that we are that much stronger in relationship to the amount of endurance that is required. A time of adversities requiring weeks, months, or even years of our life, once on the far side of that adversity, leaves with us the recognition of a greater strength than what we had prior to the adversity. It also opens up to us a revelation of the moral standards that we are capable of, if we choose.

Adversities can be summed up this way. They are tests of the moral standards we have and the strength of our belief in those standards. Regardless of how demanding a challenge may be, we will have more than a sufficient amount of positive karma to see us through successfully. The soul or higher self never places itself in a position where the ultimate end is failure. It never tests itself beyond its ability. It learns in small increments, stockpiles those learnings to a given point in time when the soul or higher self is ready to put those learnings into an activity that will ultimately end in success. When we fail in any challenge or adversity, it is because we have rationalized away our full potential. We have chosen not to exercise the control over ourselves necessary to be a winner. This is the eternal battle of the sensory-driven conscious mind (the me-first attitude) against the higher self. Success comes from listening to the little voice within and the conscious knowledge of what is right and wrong. These are the two avenues that good karma manifests itself through us. Using these two avenues, we avoid throwing unnecessary stumbling blocks in our own path.

The destiny of each adversity in our life is ultimately success, but if we fail, then it has been our choice. For success all we need do is follow the obvious signs as to what is the right choice to make. Many times we will have to fight against our personal desires in order to follow the positive signs. Again this is a challenge of our own self-control. That is why it is absolutely necessary to be in control of one's own self. It is this control of self that allows us to follow the proper signs, therefore guaranteeing the success. Many times these challenges will not be easy, and in truth we should not wish them to be easy, for if they are, then how have we exercised the spiritual muscles that we have developed; how will we ever determine how strongly we believe in what our mouth often professes? What other way can the heart be allowed to expose itself to the world? Adversities in life are the experiences that allow us to prove to ourselves that what we say is really an element of the heart and not just the lips. We must remember that the seat of all spirituality within the soul of man, within the consciousness of man, and within the higher consciousness, lies within the heart of man. It is that fire within the heart of man that allows him to share the warmth of love.

When it comes to crossing the finish line of life, the further to the rear you are, the greater your growth and your reward, because you have had to travel farther in adversity. The farther one must travel is an indication of greater control, therefore a higher degree of morality. Such control from an exterior source would indicate tyranny. From an inner source, a personal source, it is the indication of great morality or spirituality. A point to remember: Control from the outside is tyranny, control from the inside is spirituality.