

SOLAR

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Comments on Spirituality

William Allen LePar



The Entitlement Mentality

“What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly.”

Thomas Paine

This statement was written in the late 1700's. If we look at it very closely, we see very clearly that it is germane to today. It speaks very clearly and directly to the attitude that prevails with the majority of people in this country. In our society today, the young people feel they have entitlements. Thirty years ago, forty years ago, fifty years ago, people felt it was necessary to work for those entitlements. So in essence they were not truly entitlements, but they were goals that we had to work for. If you take a look at some parents with their children, do the parents control the children, or do the children control the parents? It is pretty obvious that in our society today the children control the parents. To clarify “children,” that would be an individual from the moment of his birth till the time when his parents no longer give things to

him or support him or fulfill his needs. I put it this way because there are a number or, shall we say, many individuals in their thirties that are still living off “mommy” and “daddy.” Children, whatever age they may be, assume that they have a right to certain things or in some cases have a right to anything that they want, and in most cases Mommy, Daddy, Grandma, and Grandpa will see to it that they get what they want. Again, keep in mind when I use the term “child,” it could be a child of thirty years of age.

Many things come very easily to people today. Life, in its entirety, is very easy for individuals today. The ones who have it the easiest, who are always there with their hands out to take, are the ones that will cry and complain they have the hardest life. They are the ones to stand up first and yell the loudest, “I deserve that,” or “I am entitled to that.”

It brings to mind a little experience I had some years ago. I was visiting a family who had a son and daughter. They were in their late teens, and they were discussing something with their parents, and both of them

wanted something unimportant, something like a new TV or game machine or something of that nature, and the parents said they couldn't see a way to get that. The girl said to her parents she didn't want to hear that. They deserved to have this object. They didn't ask to be born. That makes you wonder how did a child or how did this brother and sister obtain such an attitude? Well, mother and father are directly at fault, directly responsible, for this attitude. They assumed good parenting is giving that child whatever it wants, whenever it wants it, regardless of what it may cost to do so.

When the time comes that the parents cannot do that, then the children show their true colors. They have no respect for their parents, nor do they have any respect for what they have been given in the past, for what they have now. They do not appreciate the good that they have in life because they did not have to earn it. If we get something too easily, we do not appreciate it, we have no respect for it. And parents fail seriously when they give their children everything that the children want. They are depriving the children of the opportunity to earn what

continued on next page

they get. The parents have trained the children to become part of a modern-day soup line, being given whatever it is they want. Always asking for that free handout. These children fail to learn the pleasure that they can receive by earning what they want, by working for what they want.

We have become a throwaway society because of these factors, people getting too many things too cheaply, too easily. The side effect of this is that manufacturers today build objects or merchandise that are basically throwaway items that have built-in obsolescence. Have you ever noticed when you purchase something from an electronics store or appliance store that as you are paying for the product or item, they ask you if you would like to purchase an extended warranty? This definitely says something about the life expectancy of the merchandise you are purchasing.

This built-in obsolescence is destroying our planet and the quality of life that we used to have. When will we run out of the resources necessary to feed this insatiable hunger that we have today? As each generation loses its moral responsibility, the following generation will lose even more. And so it goes. A gradual decline in self-

respect. A gradual decline in the appreciation of the things we have. A gradual decline in the quality of life.

The only way that we as human beings appreciate what we have is when we must work for it, when we must strive for it, because then it reflects a cost, and that cost then gives it a value, and the value then brings respect. Who do we blame for this overall disrespect for life in this country, and when I talk about life, I am talking about everything that incorporates life, relationships with people, necessary objects to sustain life, objects of luxury that add pleasure to life? Maybe we could blame the beginning on the baby boomers. Or maybe we could blame the X generation or the yuppies. I wonder if it is important to point out where the responsibility lies for the beginning of all this. Setting that aside, something has to change, if we are going to have a country, a society, a civilization fifty years from now, twenty-five years from now.

Where do we change? What do we change? We change ourselves first. We must learn that material objects don't make us happy. Material objects do not give us a value as an individual. We could have half of the wealth of this country, will that make us a responsible person, will that make us a good person, will that make us a

Those who have children must start immediately to teach those children what it is to earn what they want so that they will appreciate the value of it, so that they will develop a certain amount of self-respect.

productive person? No, hardly.

The more you have, the harder it is for you to be of value. You are not even valuable to yourself because you have exchanged the necessary self-respect that you must have for yourself, and you have exchanged that for a material identification or a material item that represents happiness to you, that represents importance to you, that represents value to you. Those who have children must start immediately to teach those children what it

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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is to earn what they want so that they will appreciate the value of it, so that they will develop a certain amount of self-respect. Parents must begin to be parents again.

In the final days of Dr. Benjamin Spock, he stated that he regretted the fact that he had come up with the idea of not punishing the child because he realized that it did not create an adult who was willing to accept responsibility, but created an animal that existed on conspicuous consumption. In one of his final public statements, he expressed his regret for what he had been preaching all those years and that he was wrong, that what children need is discipline with a firm hand. Of course, there was not great coverage of his last statements. We have to remember how commercial our world is today. Look at all the books he has written that still sell. If his change of mind would have become public knowledge, the sales of those books would stop now. God forbid that we give up a few pennies of profit to make a better world, to make a happier world. So, if you are one of those parents who believes that “time out” is the way to teach children, let me put it very bluntly, you are a damn fool. You are responsible for the condition society is in, not only you but everyone else who has that same attitude, those who have it today, those who will have it tomorrow, and those who had it yesterday.

Children do not know instinctually what is good and proper. It is the responsibility of the parents to teach them what is honorable. They teach that to the child through action, through word, and through example. You cannot teach your child not to steal and then at the supper table you brag about how you brought home a box of pencils from work. We must teach our children what it is to commit themselves to the well-being of the family. We must teach the children that they are a vital, contributing factor in a family, that they can find themselves and their value in the family. That

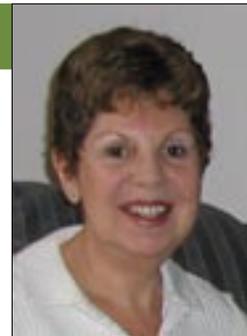
what is important most is not them and their happiness but the family and its happiness, its safety, its security, its growth. We must teach our children through the family unit that life does not revolve around them, but that the family unit is the life, and each member of that family must revolve around the family unit itself. Do, give what is best for the family for all.

How did we get from the original quote, what we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly? Well, I could have gone out on some esoteric verbal trip that would have sounded pretty, it would have sounded good, it would have sounded hopeful, but what good would it have done you? Nothing. It would have filled you with falsehoods, and then I would have become responsible for those falsehoods. Instead, I decided to take that quote and show

The parents have trained the children to become part of a modern-day soup line, being given whatever it is they want. Always asking for that free handout. These children fail to learn the pleasure that they can receive by earning what they want, by working for what they want.

you exactly what the world is like, how individuals feel they are born with entitlements, that they don't have to work for them, so therefore they don't have to really appreciate them, and how this creates a moral decay in the individual that spreads like a contagion.

Who infected the child first? Those who had the first impressions on the child. And how did they infect the child? By giving the child everything it wanted, by not teaching the child that there are laws, that there are rules that one must live by, and when those laws and rules are broken, there is a payment that must be made. Time out is not a payment. It is a lazy parent's way of trying to appear as though they are parenting. It is easier to give the child the “T” sign and say, “Honey, you shouldn't have done that. Stop and think about it.” Goodness gracious, if we take a stronger stance than that, our children may not like us. Well, I have news for you. There will be a time when that child will have no respect for you at all, because you did not teach him respect. There will come a time when you will have a need for that child, and he won't have time for you. He won't be able to be bothered by you. He may, if you become too annoying, have you put into a nursing home and then forgotten, until it is time to collect the inheritance. I can hear many of you say, “Well, not my children. They wouldn't be that way.” Well, I hope not, but my eyes have seen other than that. I have seen too many times the children that were given everything turn against the parents who gave them all, all the material things but none of the love, none of the discipline that showed you love, none of the guidance to the important things in life, the things that truly bring happiness and teach responsibility. The family is the wellspring of productivity and happiness. It is the source of an individual who is capable of knowing how to love and how to give freely.



Eliminating Chaos

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: “Concentration is the secret of strength in politics, in war, in trade, in short, in all of human affairs.”

It’s a new year and time to clean up the clutter and chaos in our lives - not merely physical clutter but more importantly, mental and emotional clutter. Successful people learn how to focus and concentrate. But even those individuals who seem to live a purposeful life, at times lose their focus, which is usually the result of too much internal chaos.

Emotional chaos can result when we don’t forgive those who have wronged us and we hold a grudge. Holding a grudge takes a great deal of energy and can create a lot of emotional and spiritual pain. When we engage in this type of emotional behavior, we can easily lose our focus and our ability to concentrate on our priorities. When it comes to relationships, it is imperative that we erase these negative emotions as much as possible.

Another example of internal, mental clutter is multitasking, which seems to be pandemic. In some instances, multitasking can be deadly. Multitasking while driving, such as talking on a cell phone, increases the chance of an accident 500 percent! Even drivers who use a hands-free phone are no better off. The problem isn’t a matter of physical dexterity but is a matter of focus. What we’re thinking about takes precedence over what we’re actually

seeing or doing. Nearly 80 percent of all accidents are a result of cell phone use!

Poor time management is another example of mental chaos. We must learn to prioritize our daily chores. In college my roommate was a genius but horrible at prioritizing (which is quite typical of geniuses.) This usually resulted in chaos for both of us. Invariably she would be typing her term paper at midnight, keeping me awake. (This, of course, was in the pre-computer era when the only thing available was a noisy old typewriter.) She had been given the assignment weeks or even months before but was not disciplined enough to get it done until the “11th hour.” We finally resolved this by getting her permission to type in the lounge area where no one would be disturbed.

Some people are trivia buffs. I could never see any value in collecting insignificant facts and cluttering our minds with them. Why commit all that inconsequential stuff to memory when you can find it quickly in a book or on Google? All this trivia keeps us from focusing on more important life issues.

When we reduce the chaos and clutter in our lives, we can focus more clearly and reduce our anxieties. I’ve heard The Council on several occasions say: “God cannot live in chaos.” So, in this new year, we should endeavor to learn how to focus more and spend our time and energy on things that are helping us to fulfill our destiny.

Mea Culpa

Points to Ponder

I am amazed by the limitless ability of the human mind to engage in self-delusion. I refer to the all too common practice of what I like to call the “Could have, Would have, Should have Syndrome.” You know the type. I know the type. I may even have done some of it myself. It is a very seductive way of thinking. I refer to the person who is always lamenting: “Woe is me.” I should never have taken that

job or married that person or bought that house or joined the Army or had so many children or fill in the blank. The list is endless. “Now I am in a mess, and I am powerless to do anything about it.” Note the idea of powerless to do anything: We will come back to that later.

Now let’s dissect this frame of mind to see how the lamenter gains by it:

1. The person gains the

sympathy of the listeners. “It’s not your fault. It could happen to anybody. What rotten luck.”

2. The lamenter is showing a proper humility. “I am willing to face my shortcomings.”

3. The lamenter is displaying admirable contrition for his stupid actions. The display of sorrow can be Oscar-winning. No matter that if by the magic of that amazing movie, *Groundhog*

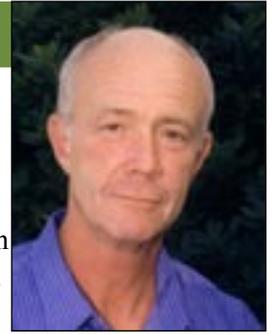
Day, he could relive the experience, he would probably make the exact same mistakes. (*Groundhog Day* was based on the premise that each morning was the start of the previous day – a fascinating movie well worth watching, I was a good half hour into it before I grasped what they were up to, but I digress.)

4. Here is the golden nugget. In spite of all the heartfelt “Mea Culpas,”

Being There

Denny Highben

part 2



Call them axioms, adages, clichés, old sayings, wise words or warnings, but dozens of them rush through my mind as I try to confine in language that which is beyond the constraints of human communication.

In the December issue of the SOLAR Newsletter, I began a discussion on “being there.” That is, on participating in a communication between our world and the spiritual realms through the deep trance communications of William Allen LePar. The goal was not to describe the process of a trance, when Mr. LePar’s physical is the conduit for the thoughts, advice and experience of The Council. Instead, the goal was to paint a portrait of the essence of being there, in the midst of a conversation with beings in the heavenly realms.

One cliché that quickly came to mind when I tried to put some meat on my bare-bones idea was the one about biting off more than can be chewed! Another, I must admit, deals with the worth of water and a dry well. No matter how much trance participants may have sincerely appreciated the opportunity to talk with The Council, it is my guess that we will all be stunned by how much more we could have benefited. Perhaps only the participants at one specific trance won’t feel that way. That was a communication known as “the children’s trance.”

The idea to discuss “being there” was spawned from a

recent project by the SOL Association for Research. SOL members listened, and listened, and listened again, to every recording of the trance dialogues. The project had one objective: to make sure every word in the recordings was accurately preserved on the printed page. But has there ever been such an awe-inspiring process? To not just hear The Council’s words as they are spoken, but to experience also the tone and emphasis and passion is an experience of tremendous value.

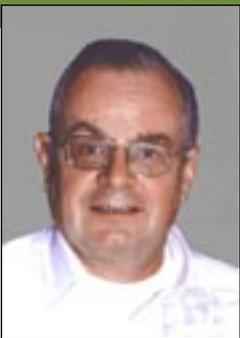
Physical humans at various levels of inner awareness were speaking with humans who are, spiritually speaking, light years beyond our most ambitious dreams of awareness. I scarce can take it in.

Reading The Council’s words creates a thousand journeys to view panoramas from a thousand summits. Hearing their words is the fragrant breeze, the brilliant blue sky, the ominous energy of the thunderstorm, experienced upon those summits.

But being there, participating in the creation of the dialogues, is beyond capture by mere words.

To mine The Council’s treasures, to discover the myriad jewels along the thousand journeys is, however, quite manageable. The first step is no further away than our next decision.

Dr. James R. Ridzon



impossible to do anything.

See how this works. I display all the admirably proper emotions to salve my conscience, but nothing can be done, so I can continue to sit on my assets and do nothing. Works great and there is no effort required. This type of person seeks advisors who tend to say things like: “You should have thought about that before you did it.” Again, no action possible, no ac-

tion required. These people are constantly searching for spiritual growth but are very careful not to find it. Searching is fun but discovery begs for action. One must be careful.

To be productive, our conscience must become forward-looking. Learn from your mistakes and resolve not to repeat them in future actions. A backward-looking conscience fills us with remorse but does not

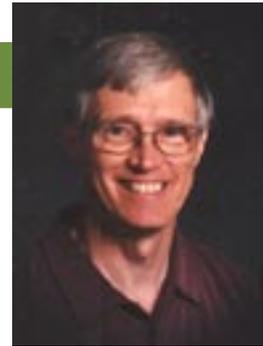
yield improvement. Conscience should be more a guide than a judge.

All this reminds me of the closing statements of a broadcast personality I followed years ago. Ron Penfound would close with: “Do the best you can in everything you do. Then forget about it. Don’t worry about it. You’ll live a whole lot longer.” Wise words indeed. Ironically Ron died at a rather young age.

(Should that be Mea Culpa?) what is done is done and NOTHING can be done about it now. In fact, it is

David Ries

Suffering and the Loss of a Loved One



Recently I lost two dear friends. Well, I really could not consider them close personal friends. I had never met either of them. They were close to me because they were close to a good friend of mine. I learned a good bit about them from her, and most importantly, what I learned about their lives touched my heart. I wrote a newsletter article about one of them, so naturally I would be more involved than I might be otherwise, but that isn't the complete answer. As I said above, their lives and their struggles touched my heart, creating a place that will be there always, even beyond this life.

One of the questions that has bothered me is this: Why do good and kindly souls seem to suffer more than most of us? The Council said that the reasons for their "apparently" needless suffering can be as varied as the individual who is suffering, but in the case of a godly soul, more than likely they are giving of themselves for the others around them. Their suffering is not deserved but is endured for the enlightenment of mankind.

I would like to add my thoughts to this. I believe that there are some souls who live their lives in relative obscurity. They are recognized in their own families and their community as loving and caring people. They very well may be equal in soul quality to some of our most revered saints. There are many examples of Christ in the world: those who live Christ-like lives of the same caliber as better souls such as Mother Theresa. These relatively

unknown souls are loved by their families and friends just as much as the more famous souls. However, they plan their lives to be free of publicity and fanfare. They make sacrifices. They love greatly. They are always there for others. They naturally live as examples of the way we should all live our lives. They speak with their actions. They ask nothing of others except that they allow them to share their love.

Recently I wrote an article about a seven year old girl who suffered greatly from cancer, and more recently I have come to know an older lady who suffered long and greatly from congestive heart failure. I was asked many times why these loving and innocent people had to suffer. Even if we accept karma in all its forms, and that this may be a payment, it is still difficult to understand why a child of seven or a woman of 78 must go through pain

and disfigurement for so long a period with practically no hope of recovery.

Let's take the example of Maddie, the seven year old girl who reached national attention as she struggled with a very painful and almost certainly terminal form of cancer. She was an only child. Her mother had died three years earlier of an entirely different illness. She was a lively and very personable child. A promising and exciting future awaited her, but it ended far short of what it should have and with much more than its share of suffering. Why? The age old question, why?

Why such a short life? What is accomplished? More than most of us will ever accomplish. Because of her willingness to accept a life that is short in years, one that is full of pain, she offers us the opportunity to learn. We see a seven year old dealing with what we fear most, long and agonizing pain, lack of sleep and week after week of treatments that cannot stop the progression, cannot alleviate the suffering. Yet through all this time she tried to be as normal as possible, to ignore the destruction to her body.

Her story was published in a major Midwestern newspaper in a series of articles and was picked up by other media. There were thousands who read about Maddie and her struggles. Perhaps, just perhaps, this softened the hearts of some souls and caused them to look at their own lives, no matter

how troubled, in a different light.

There is also the story of 78 year old Katherene Jones. She lived in a small town of 1000. She was married but never blessed with children. At one time or another she watched over or helped raise most of the children in the area. She was a housewife. She would baby sit whenever needed and more than once took children in for years when the parents refused or could not take care of them. This was before the time of foster care.

She never had a bad word to say about anyone, never in her life. Not many of us can claim that, I would dare say. Those whom she raised for a period of their lives referred to her simply as auntie. The following is a comment from someone who was one of her “kids.”

“Auntie’s love has followed me all of my life no matter how far away from home I am. The lessons she taught me and the unconditional love she gave me will stay with me until I see her again. From the time I was a young child until now when I am not so young anymore, she showed me how to live your faith and not just talk about it. Auntie was the only person in this world who called me Pamela and got away with it, and oh, what I would give to hear her say it one more time. If I could only use one word to describe Auntie, the word would be comforting. When I was in her presence, I felt safe and secure, not afraid of anything and peaceful in my mind and soul. If I can only be half the woman that she was, I will consider my life to have been a great success. I love you, Auntie, and I will miss you until I get to hug you again.”

This is the type of person we should all aspire to emulate!

Auntie suffered quite a bit during her last year, her lungs easily filled with fluids to the point where tak-

ing a breath required supreme effort. Everyone who loved her wished that the suffering would cease. At 78 years she had lived a very full and rewarding life. It was time to go. But she would not go. She struggled for life. She still had another mission to accomplish. It was the holiday season, and many of her dear children wanted to return home to see her one last time. She wanted to give them the opportunity. Even though she knew that she would not live until Christmas, she instructed her foster granddaughter to buy gifts for her “kids” so that they would have something from her even though she would not be physically present. She also left instructions that each child was to come and take a memento from her house. This lady made such an impression on people that no earthly memento was needed, but she understood the significance of having something from the past.

Great souls will suffer greatly and beyond what most of us think possible, if it will bring an awareness to others; perhaps a bit of compassion once started in the heart will remain and be applied to other situations.

The answer to the question of “why” is very involved but yet simple in its basic form. The answer is love, compassion and devotion. Our world today is lacking in love. Yes, there are vestiges of caring and compassion, and some of it is truly sincere, but for every example of love you can find, there are hundreds of examples that are not love. There is a need for souls of a higher nature to be examples to the rest of us. It seems that examples of suffering touch the heart of mankind more readily than most activities.

People can only be moved to change if they feel a deep need for change. That can occur in two ways, either by force such as an uncontrolled change of their situation or if they

are motivated from the heart. In the example of Maddie, you will see both examples. Maddie’s father has to deal with both. The loss will be terrible for him but something that he must face. It is obviously life changing. All focus of his life was on helping his daughter, hoping and praying that a miracle would occur. At the same time he had to be as loving and caring as possible and help Maddie to deal with her illness.

Friends, relatives and hospital employees recognized the effort that she made. They saw this tiny person fighting a battle that most adults could not deal with. She faced it with spirit and fortitude. Her efforts were so remarkable that they drew attention from the media, and because of this, thousands read about her and were moved, it gave them pause, a little thought about others in a world that really does not care. Oh, the world says it cares. When a very large disaster occurs, there are massive efforts, but for most of us it is superficial and distant. This is more personal. This could be our daughter or granddaughter.

The world has become too progressive and too liberal in its attitudes towards itself and its fellow man. Many people are so wrapped up in their own lives that they no longer have a concept of what is important. The world needs examples like Maddie and Katherene. In the past we have had examples of loving and caring people. Today they are far rarer and their efforts are of less sincerity. There are still some very good, no let me say, there are still some very great souls that enter the earth, live their lives and become everlasting remembrances for those of us who remain. They become guiding lights to illuminate the path to a higher spirituality.

CALENDAR

March 3, 2007. Spiritual Dialogues at 7:30 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
425 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton, Ohio

No Spiritual Dialogues in April due to proximity of Easter.

May 5, 2007. Spiritual Dialogues.

June 2, 2007. Spiritual Dialogues.

July 7, 2007. Spiritual Dialogues.

August 4, 2007. Spiritual Dialogues.

September 1, 2007. Spiritual Dialogues.

October 13, 2007. Universal Being Conference

November 3, 2007. Spiritual Dialogues.

December 1, 2007. Spiritual Dialogues.

*For additional information on calendar listings, SOL membership, or books for sale, write to SOL, P.O. Box 2276,
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