



SOLAR

The SOL Association for Research
NEWSLETTER

Comments On Spirituality

William Allen LePar

*S*uccess 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 what have you. We are given the proper informa-

tion 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

continued on page 9

*“To
err is
human,
to
forgive,
Divine.”*

To Forgive is Divine

Marilyn Ridzon

I've always liked that quote. Probably because at first glance it sort of lets us “off the hook.” But not really since we are supposed to be continually striving to be more Godlike.

The Greek definition of forgiveness is: To dismiss, to remit the punishment and to treat the guilty party as though they are innocent. Most of us struggle with forgiveness. There are people we say we just can't forgive or won't forgive. But most of all, we struggle with forgiving ourselves. But God says, “I forgive you.” 1 John 1:9. We can and should ask for God's help to forgive ourselves and others.

In the Our Father, Christ taught us to “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Forgiveness is essential for our physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Many say,

“Well, I just can't forgive him or her.” That may well be true but you don't really have a choice if you want God to answer your prayers. Jesus said: “And whenever you stand praying, if you



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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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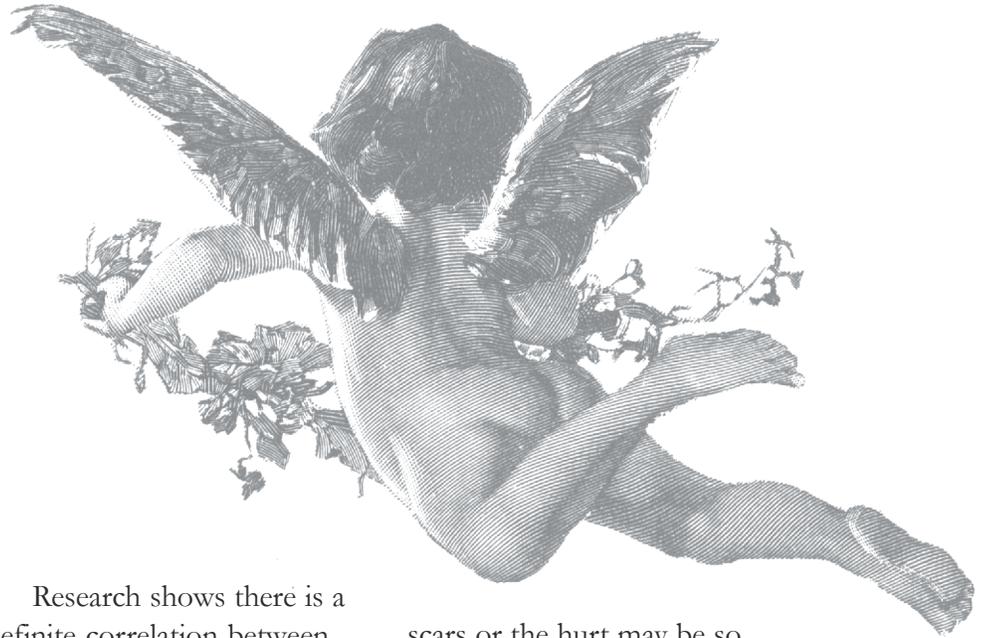
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have anything against anyone, forgive him that your Father in Heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in Heaven forgive your trespasses.” (Mark, 11:25-26) That’s plain enough!

Before we can expect an answer to our prayers, we need to let go of grudges, bitterness, hatred or a vengeful attitude. The grudges we hold against others will cancel out our prayer efforts. When should we forgive those who have hurt us or pray for our enemies? Jesus was very clear about this. He said we should do it every time we pray.

It’s not enough just to say “I forgive you.” To achieve true forgiveness we must be willing to let go of judgments and old perceptions and look at the situation from a different perspective. Also, there can be no strings attached to your forgiveness. You can’t say “I’ll forgive you if you change or do so and so.” To be genuine, your forgiveness must be unconditional. A lot of people say they can forgive but not forget. But real forgiveness involves forgetting as well. On the other hand, forgetting without forgiveness is not acceptable either. If we repress negative memories we may never achieve forgiveness. There is an order to forgiveness: forgive first, then try to forget.



Research shows there is a definite correlation between hostility, anger and heart disease. Likewise, positive emotions like love and forgiveness contribute to our physical well-being. In fact, forgiveness is so powerful that it can affect all aspects of our lives.

During a conversation with The Council, someone asked if there is a connection between forgiving and forgetting. The person wondered if you can’t forget, does that mean you haven’t really forgiven. The Council answered: “It really is based on when you say you forgive, how honest are you about the remark. Nothing can happen until you first forgive, but forgiveness goes beyond just the words. It is how you treat the person after you say, ‘I have forgiven you.’ Forgetting, there are times that we can forget, if we try. There are other situations where the

scars or the hurt may be so deep that they will be ever-present with us, therefore we cannot forget. It would be perfect or wonderful if we could forgive and forget but there are experiences in life where it is not possible. What you can’t forget, you must make sure you don’t allow it to color your activities with that individual because if you do then you haven’t truly forgiven.”

Some ancient wisdom on the subject of forgiveness comes from first century monks known as the Desert Fathers. “If a man wants God to hear his prayer quickly, then before he prays for anything else, even his own soul, when he stands and stretches out his hands toward God, he must pray with all his heart for his enemies. Through this action God will hear everything that he asks.”



Merciful Justice

As a child I was educated by the good nuns, so it is not surprising that I tend towards the traditional Catholic point of view. The holy ladies taught us that things were pretty much black or white. There was, for the most part, clear cut good and evil. Follow the good path and God would allow you to enter Heaven. Do evil and God would condemn you to Hell. Those whose life was good but not perfect went to Purgatory to atone for the small stuff till they were ready for Heaven. Michelangelo, who was no doubt also educated by nuns, stated the case magnificently on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel with his last judgment rendition. To Catholics God often seemed to take on His Old Testament Persona of righteous wrath, judging here, condemning there, smiting the evil doers. Undoubtedly, the image of a wrathful God went a long way towards encouraging proper living—especially for young people the image served its purpose.

At the same time, the sisters taught us that God was not only all-knowing, all-powerful and all-just but also all-merciful! Now here's the catch. If God is all-just and also all-merciful how can that be? If He goes the justice route that rules out mercy and if He extends mercy, justice suffers. Either way, the system doesn't quite balance out. But for God Who is perfect, balance it must. This is classic Catholic, dare I say Christian, conundrum. How do we reconcile these theological oxymorons? The holy sisters explained that with God all things are possible: He can do anything—not a wholly satisfactory answer. No doubt about it, those nuns filled our impressionable heads with lots of heavy stuff. Sometimes I wonder if this has anything to do with the legendary Catholic fondness for strong drink.

I took solace in the Nicodemus story in the Bible. Nicodemus asked the Lord how to get to Heaven. The answer was simple indeed. Love God above all things and love your neighbor as

yourself. We can leave all the hair-splitting to the theologians. We do not have to fully understand all of the underlying details to lead a good life. We only have to love. I don't have any problem with the love God above all part, it's the love your neighbor part that can get sticky at times especially when they cut me off in traffic. It can be a full-time job.

I never fully resolved the just but merciful God dilemma until I was enlightened by something I heard in a LePar Trance in 1990:

“Man makes God some terrible ogre who has un-

Any judgment, any punishment, does not come from the Divine but comes from self

countable laws by which man must bow down to, if not he suffers the penalty of some unusual pain or some terrible experience. God gives man love, peace and harmony. He gives man happiness, but man can either use those gifts as

Points to Ponder

Dr. James Ridzon

they are given or distort them to destroy himself or cause himself pain and sorrow. The Divine Essence does not judge you in any way, shape, or form. He accepts you just as you are. Any judgment, any punishment, does not come from the Divine but comes from self because of the lack of self-respect and love that man has for himself. If there is a law that man must abide by it is the law that starts with loving one's self, so that love can be sent out to those round and about. Man has deemed God as a punisher and a judgment placer, but He is not. He judges no one or nothing. All judgment comes from self. The Christ Consciousness that is in you, that you can resurrect, is the only judge that you have and it is your actions that will weigh against your own potential.” (Second Public Trance, 90-10-20, ll 184-199)

You see, God does not judge us or punish us in any way. All judgment comes from self. God can indeed be all-just and all-merciful at the same time just like the nuns told us.



Ho, Ho, Ho to Heaven

Sherilyn Highben

Laughter is the best medicine is an adage as old as time itself. When the first cave man slipped on a banana peel, laughter was recognized as a restorative. Now that may be a slight exaggeration but laughter has long been viewed as a healer of spirit, mind and body. The Council stated:

“In all your states of growth, the one thing that you can feel safe about is a sense of humor, and a sense of humor can be a healing balm for many afflictions.” An affliction can be in any area, spiritual, emotional, or physical. There are many people who believe that humor and laughter belong only in certain arenas such as movies, television, stage productions. They believe that humor and laughter should be used for entertainment purposes only. And heaven forbid that humor or laughter be found in churches or spiritual gatherings. But didn't Shakespeare say that the whole world is a stage and, if so, there should be laughter and humor everywhere. The Council also believes that humor should be everywhere, especially in spiritual experiences and growth. The Council: “Joy is part of spirituality, and spirituality must be joyful. If you cannot laugh in your spirituality then something is wrong someplace, you are not understanding what spirituality is.”

So to show you that there are some religious organizations that do believe humor has a place in spiritual growth, here are some actual statements seen on church bulletins that were collected and published for the sole purpose of making the reader laugh.

I hope you enjoy these as much as I did. Take joy in your spirituality and see the humor in everyday living.

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

Low Self-esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, “Break Forth Into Joy.”

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

A songfest was held at the Methodist church Wednesday.

Today's Sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? With hymns from a full choir.

Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.

Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Chance of a Lifetime

Denny Highben

It was just a few weeks ago, in mid-July, when I saw a couple guys loading a beige, thickly padded love seat into the back of a pick-up truck. I couldn't believe it. The psychic was packing up and leaving town already.

She had a good location, right on a busy highway as it curves into the outskirts of town and becomes our main street—appropriately named “Main Street.” The signage was sufficient to get the attention of motorists and the considerable pedestrian traffic in the vicinity. She even had a light purplish neon sign that read “ESP.” And she advertised a half-off readings special to start drumming up a clientele in her new location.

But, apparently, no one was interested. Or at least not enough were interested for her to establish a beachhead in the war on seeing tomorrow. When I saw that the new occupant of that building was a psychic, just a couple months earlier, I figured she would be there awhile for one of two reasons. Potential customers either see the times as very uncertain and want any guidance they can get. Or because the economy (on the surface) is healthy, those folks who see the times as “good” would have a few extra bucks for a little metaphysical curiosity. (Or perhaps they're whistling in the dark—enjoying the good times but secretly afraid the bottom is going to drop out and not wanting to know when they might have to face the music.)

I'm not a psychic, so I'm only guessing why she struck the tent, as they say, and headed for greener pastures. We already have one commercial psychic in town, although she doesn't advertise and works out of her house. Word-of-mouth seems to work well enough to acquire whatever business she needs. So maybe we should advertise our community as “The

Town Too Small For Two Fortune Tellers.”

Whatever opportunity she presented, it's gone. If she was legitimate or not, it doesn't matter. Folks driving down the road now no longer have the chance to pull in for a quick peek at their tomorrow, regardless of the quality that peek would be.

I wasn't upset she closed, though, because I had no desire to use her services. Comparing a psychic reading to hearing from The Council is like comparing a sip of the sweetest nectar to a gulp of old dishwater. The most significant difference is profoundly simple: A psychic, alleged or legitimate, is a single soul bound to and working through all the mish-mash of the earthplane, this mess we call life. The Council is a union of 12 souls with a vision so clear, so pure that there are no words to bring us an adequate comprehension of its value. A voice from beyond the grave? A vision applauded by the heavenly angels that fill the universe? A gift from God? All true, but even those of us who have participated in many trances, and whose lives have been wondrously improved by the experience, can scarcely begin

to appreciate the opportunity's worth.

The Council not only sees the future, they see the present that is veiled from our eyes, and they know the past that has brought each soul and mankind as a whole to the crossroads before us.

The Millennium Trance, set for the Universal Being 2000 Conference on October 21, is another opportunity to bathe in that pure, clear vision. For the general public, it is only the fourth opportunity to experience a LePar/Council Trance. True, every word given to mankind by The Council over the past quarter-century has been meticulously recorded and is available for public consumption. And there is no way to overstate the importance, the value, of that treasure. But to actually hear The Council speak, to feel the presence, to share in that experience...

Imagine looking at a picture of Michelangelo's Pieta in a book, then imagine you can be standing with that great genius as he creates it.

How many more opportunities will there be to have such an experience?



conference ad

A Hidden Gem Of Wisdom

David Ries

During my years as an associate with SOL I've had the privilege of reading a great deal of the information given to us by The Council over the past three decades. Many sections have been reviewed numerous times and I believed that I had a fairly complete understanding of what they said. However, I should know by now that the information from The Council is full of surprises. Many times when we least expect to find it a gem suddenly appears. That was the case recently while reviewing a trance. I was reading, but not for content. So, I was amazed when I realized what I had just read. It was really just a few words within a paragraph but the implications were life changing.

The discussion centered on the act of charitable giving. The questioner wanted to know if anything spiritual could be gained by the act of giving even if the motivation was not a desire to help from the heart but a sense of duty. In other words, "I know it's the right thing to do. I should do it. It's expected, so I guess I'll have to do my part." Not exactly an overwhelming urge from within is it?

Question: What if you are giving not so much out of ego but more because you feel you have to, is it a duty?

The Council: Again, that is not the best way to give, but if it is duty in the sense of fulfilling obligation, it would be acceptable. If you give, you are charitable, because it makes you feel good, this is acceptable. If you give because you feel you have to, that is what would be considered an imperfect love, but it is better than no love at all. It shows that one is heading in the right direction and eventually that form of love will be perfected. At that point then all that has gone behind or in the past becomes perfect and the full measure then becomes yours.

Trance 160 lines 321-329

What caught my attention were the last two sentences. They emphasize the value of perseverance in this respect: As each of us go through our

If you give because you feel you have to, that is what would be considered an imperfect love, but it is better than no love at all.

day-to-day activities we realize that many of our attitudes and actions aren't perfect: a little resentment here, a little envy there, a self-serving comment that isn't appropriate. Even though we may think that our current efforts aren't the best and deep inside we know that we could do better, there is still hope. The fact that we realize that there is room for improvement gives us a great opportunity for success.

The additional thought that caught my attention and was such a revelation wasn't so much that through constant effort we will succeed,

but that in achieving that final success we will correct all previous transgressions concerning that improper attitude. There will no longer be a need to answer for those transgressions because the flaw in the character that caused them has been eliminated. This explains the grace period and the elimination of karmic debt as well as anything that I've ever read. The Council has said a thousand times that, "The effort is what counts, not the winning." There are so many aspects of our lives that we wish we could improve on. It seems that little progress is made over time. Yes, we can point to successes but we can also point to failures, and mankind associates failure with losing. The Council over the years has attempted to wean us away from the concept that to be a winner a person must finish first. Winning is running the race, making the effort. That is what guarantees success, The Council says. What more can we ask?

The hidden gem of wisdom! It is this, keep up the efforts—never give up.



Success In Adversity from page 1

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 further 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.



Calendar

October 7, 2000. One on One at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 425 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton.



October 21, 2000. Universal Being 2000 Conference—The Millenium Trance with William Allen LePar, the sleeping prophet of the New Millenium, at the Four Points Sheraton in Belden Village. Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

November 4, 2000. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

December 2, 2000. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

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.



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