

In The Absence of An Active Love

All the articles that I write in this newsletter start from either a quote from The Council or from philosophers or individuals that have made a difference in life. On the evening of the writing of this article, Don offered as a quote the first six lines of the poem, "Manifestation." They immediately started signals from "the internal radio," but something didn't seem to be complete about it, so we discussed several other quotes and finally returned to the first six lines of the poem that follows. When I asked him who the author of the quote was, he revealed that it was part of a poem that he had written. I asked him if he had the rest of the poem. Since he wrote it, he had it memorized, and we used the rest of the poem. I was impressed with the first six lines, but was even more impressed with the complete poem. In a very few short lines, he was able to express some very deep and profound thoughts. Let me say here that what you read following this was how the poem affected me, how I understood it. Hopefully, this is the stimulation that Don wished to excite in the reader of his poem.

Manifestation

If you are but a word That God has spoken. A breath He breathed, A thought, imperfect, Of a perfect mind, Then words are shadows. And if a shadow Falls upon the page You there might see Something of what you seek, And come to know the light By what it isn't— A wave of words, A particle of thought. No god inhabits here *In these cast shadows.*

In this short poem, we have some important thoughts or concepts brought to light. In the first six lines, we have an example of how life should be. In the first five lines we look at the creation of the individual. We could say that it is ethereal, we could say that it is spiritual, we could say that it is the essence of a soul born. According to our religious teachings, we were given birth by the breath of God, that is the spark of our life, the beginning of our creation. These first five lines indicate an action. We can refer to this action as the cause. This resides in the realm of Comments on Spirituality
William Allen LePar



continued on next page

Active Love continued

the spiritual or the etheric. We were brought into existence by a mere thought. Thought creates reality, thus we began to exist or to live. All actions of the material world, of life, do not come into being with no cause. Actions are the effects of something deeper or greater, the cause. When we perform a good deed, there first had to be the thought, the idea. When it became strong enough, firm enough, clear enough, it then moves us into performance of an action, a good deed. In God's mysterious ways He thought us into existence, and in His mysterious ways through time through our own free state of existence we came into beings as we understand today.

The sixth statement speaks very loudly to us. "Then words are shadows." Man uses words oftentimes in place of deeds. Words are less costly and can imply wonders that will never come to be. Promises that were never meant to be kept, delicacies that will never be tasted. From the first five lines we are informed that the cause is the thought. Then it must go directly to action or creation. Speaking out the thoughts most generally ends there. Words drift off into time and space beyond the ability of light to reach. Thus they quickly float into shadows

and disappear into darkness, unfulfilled. When we seriously think about life and ourselves, how clearly do these first six lines speak of our lifestyle, our attitude? Only you and I can give an answer to this question. But sooner or later, this question will demand an answer. And the only answer that will be accepted will be the answer that is truth, not rationalization but truth.

Taking the idea that words are shadows, let us go on. If a shadow falls upon a page, "you there might see

We speak of life, doing good, people agree with us that that is the right thing to do, and this serves as a validation to us as far as how good we really are, and then that is where it ends.

something of what you seek." Could this say to those who speak empty words, and by empty words I mean those that are never followed by action, could this mean that the shadows or the words fall on the pages of life and we see this rationalization, and it validates our insincerity? Is that the way some of us work? We speak of life, doing good, people agree with us that that is the right thing to do, and this serves as a validation to us as far as how good we really are, and then that is where it ends. Could this poem, these few sentences, be saying that about some of us, the way we live, the way we have lived, and possibly the way we will continue to live? Are these questions that you are going to find answers to in this little essay? No, because these are questions that only you can answer. If you answer them truthfully, they will lead you out of the land of shadows. If you rationalize your answers, they will only bind you or chain you to those shadows.

The following two sentences, "and come to know the light by what it isn't," what does the author try to say here? Is the author trying to tell us that spiritual thoughts translate immediately into spiritual actions bypassing the step of words? Can we understand

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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.

Send letters to SOL, PO Box 2276, North Canton, Ohio 44720. Send e-mail to SOL at: sol_org@yahoo.com

Send e-mail to William LePar at: walepar@yahoo.com

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that when we put spiritual thoughts of good deeds into words, this oftentimes is the death toll to the action. Where kindness is demonstrated, where care and compassion are demonstrated, we can easily see God. We can know the light, we can come to know the light by what it isn't. Can we understand that as the empty words that have no productive action signal the absence of God or the light? That only when we see actions of compassion and love are we able to see the activity of God? When we only hear words, we see the absence of God.

"A wave of words, a particle of thought, no god inhabits here in these cast shadows." I would think it is

We can look at the way we were created as an example of our life as it should be led. We were a thought of God, a breath of God, we came to existence as pure thought; from that point we started creating our own being. Because we broke away from the form of godly activity, we rationalized the activity into words.

pretty self-explanatory, but I think something should be said. A wave of words, grandiose promises, a thought of a good deed, not well planned, not executed, God cannot exist where there is no action. God cannot exist where there is an absence of an active love. A wave of words, a particle of thought, are shadows that have been cast only to drift on further and further away beyond the reach of the light into their own demise. We can look at the way we were created as an example of our life as it should be led. We were a thought of God, a breath of God, we came to existence as pure thought; from that point we started creating our own being. Because we broke away from the form of godly activity, we rationalized the activity into words. Words can receive immediate praise even before the actions have been performed, thus creating shadows. And to allow us to continue this charade of our godliness, we found acceptance of what we were doing through false praise that reaches out to us from the pages of life. Yet in

our self-deception, we become an example to others of how to recognize the lack of God. The telltale signs of a wave of words that sound beautiful, loving, comforting, a general thought of how it should be but no activity to prove the light as the author, the original author of compassion and love, hence nothing is born of the words, the thoughts. They lie sterile in the shadows that drift away from the light. If the Divine in us were to act, no words would be necessary, therefore no shadows created.

This is how I would interpret this poem written by Don Weisgarber. It is how it has affected me. Whether he intended this idea in the writing of this poem, I am not sure, but many times poetry can be a personal thing that goes beyond what even the author may have hoped for. Hopefully, it has moved me in the direction that would be pleasing to him and acceptable to him. Let me take a moment to personally thank Don for the stimulation and thought-provoking moments his poem has given me.

Editor's Note: The editor wishes to extend his gratitude to William LePar for his insightful interpretation of "Manifestation." Also, he offers the sonnet "Suffer the Child," first published in the poetry magazine Ancient Paths. Both poems copyright 2004 by

Don Weisgarber

Suffer the Child

Your parents claim he held you once, caressed you, But that was years ago, and you so small—
Just one more childhood story they recall
And used to tell, but you cannot attest to.
When then they whispered of the man's arrest, you
Knew they did not love him after all,
But feared what to their family might befall
From that one day he pitied and then blessed you.
And now you grow between the law and grace,
With planted in your breast forgotten light,
Between the prophets and messiah torn,
Schooled in the law—but once you saw his face,
Once briefly sat upon his knee, not quite
The master's own; not born again, stillborn.

Tennessee vs. John Scopes

In 1925 the noted attorneys Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan squared off in the now famous "Monkey Trial." It seems a young Tennessee teacher named John Scopes dared to teach the radical new Darwinian theory of evolution to his science class students. The idea that mankind may have developed from a monkey deeply offended the traditional older Victorians who worried that everything valuable was being eroded by Jazz, Modern Art, Freudian Theories, and the failure of Prohibition. Darrow represented Scopes while Bryan backed the state of Tennessee.

Clarence Darrow got the better of the arguments and made

Bryan look rather foolish in his defense of strict

Biblical interpretation.

He then shrewdly asked the jury to find his client Scopes guilty in order that the case might be appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court under Tennessee law, denying Bryan the opportunity to deliver a

closing speech he had labored over for weeks. The jury complied with Darrow's request and the judge fined Scopes \$100. A year later the Tennessee Supreme Court reversed the decision on a technicality and dismissed the case with the comment, "Nothing is to be gained by prolonging the life of this bizarre case."

The case for evolution was left undecided in 1925, and I see in the news recently that the whole issue has been dredged up again in the schools with an attempt to include in the science curriculum the "Theory of Intelligent Design" which holds that animals and Man did not evolve but were designed by God as we see them today. Most scientists find the evidence overwhelming in favor of evolution, but to the fundamentalists the idea of Man from a Monkey is abhorrent.

Well then, I hear you asking: "Who is right and who is wrong?" I'm so glad you asked because LePar's source has given us a fabulous explanation. It seems that both sides are right and then again both sides are wrong. Savor with me this magnificent tie breaker from The Council:

"Animals, yes, all animals have evolved and will continue to evolve. Some will evolve to quite an advanced form depending on man's consideration for those particular animals and his willingness to share his true concern for those animals, but man has not evolved. His structure, his physical structure has changed to a degree. Now, we have covered this all before. It has changed to a degree but it has not changed from a monkey to a whatever and then to what you might be in the future. Man has been much taller in the past, and he has been much shorter in the past. In the past he has had somewhat of a larger cranial cavity, and so he has had in the past a smaller cranial cavity. In the past he has had organs that had a specific purpose and are now gone or have been rendered to a questionable state, shall we say, or a questionable purpose. So there has been a degree of



Points to Ponder Dr. James R. Ridzon

evolution in the physical body of man, but not to the point where you would not immediately recognize a man as a man. Some of this has been because of climatic changes, dietary influences, intellectual and spiritual influences. Many things constitute the condition or the shape or the size of the body. So, to a degree the physical body has changed, but there is an extreme limit on that change or the degree of that change, taller, shorter, thicker bones, smaller bones, larger head, smaller head, things like that. Organs that were used at one time that are not used at the present time will eventually disappear from the body. Lack of use brings an impotency to that particular organ, and then it no longer serves its purpose, then it will evolve out of the body." (86-05-17, 138th. Trance, page 2230, 11.44-69)

So to you Clarence Darrow, evolution is a fact. And to you William Jennings Bryant, evolution does not apply to Mankind in the same way. Now shake hands in that big courtroom in the sky and make up.





Health Hints Marilyn L. Ridzon

Splenda it Safe?

Splenda (Sucralose) is the latest artificial sweetener to explode in the market place. The FDA approved its use in 1999, and since then it has been used in sodas, juices, candy, gum etc. But Aspartame (Nutrasweet) also had the FDA's seal of approval and look at all the problems it caused—everything from brain tumors to Leukemia. It is disappearing and Splenda is taking its place.

So exactly what is Splenda? Chemically, it is sugar with three of the sugar's atoms replaced with chlorine. (chlorine, of all things!) The new sugar isn't metabolized by the body and doesn't affect blood glucose levels which means it can be used by diabetics and dieters. What they are discovering is that people are actually gaining weight with Splenda. Researchers are now suggesting that although there is no immediate effect on glucose levels, there is a delayed absorption of Sucralose so that it is not actually non-caloric.

Splenda was first introduced in Canada in 1991, but most European countries have not given their approval for its use. Their contention is that there are no long-term human studies on Sucralose, and animal research has shown that it can cause shrinkage of the thymus gland as well as kidney and liver damage. Plus, Splenda could cause many more concerns after long-term use the same way Aspartame has.

Personally, I would just use real sugar, or if you're diabetic, I recommend stevia. It is an herbal extract which has been used in Europe for decades. It is available in liquid or powder form and can be found in health food stores. It is very sweet so a small drop is all you'll need.

Another artificial sweetener which has recently been declared safe is saccharin (sweet and low). It was first discovered in 1879 and has been safely used as a non-caloric sweetener for over 100 years. Concerns over saccharin's safety were first raised twenty years ago after a flawed study produced bladder tumors in rats when huge doses were administered. New and better scientific research has decisively shown that the earlier rat studies are not valid. In 2002, Congress agreed to give saccharin a clean bill of health and removed the warning label. My only hope is that eventually it will replace Splenda, but I'm not holding my breath.

Anyone who has any interest in their health should avoid all of these toxic artificial sweeteners and use real sugar. Our bodies were not designed to process these artificial substances. However, The Council has cautioned us on numerous occasions to "watch how much sugar you take in as far as sugar goes and what kinds of sugar you take in." Someone asked if fruit would be an acceptable snack. They replied, "That would depend on what

the rest of the diet consisted of.
Remember what we said, eliminate sugar. Certainly, we would agree that natural sugars are a little different in the way they work with the body than artificial sugars or refined sugars, but nonetheless, too much of that will upset the body's normal functioning. You will not get the best of the nutrients in your food by eating too much sugar, whatever form it is. And as we have said these sugar substitutes are an absolute no. You have no idea what they are going to do to you down the road."

So I guess there is no easy way to curtail your sugar intake, but using artificial sweeteners is definitely not the answer.

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The Measurement of Celebration of Celebratic Celebration of Celebr

In a college physics class the professor told the students, "No measurement is meaningful without uncertainty." On first reflection, this statement doesn't fit in with our view of the physical sciences; science is all about precise measurement, one hundred percent accuracy. But as my son the physics student explained to me, in science all measurements involve an element of doubt.

Even the most precise measurement can be off a little, and it is in knowing how much it could be wrong that the precision lies. Sometimes the uncertainty is stated, but most often implied. A scientific poll of people's views or votes will usually claim an accuracy of plus or minus a certain percentage, say three percentage points, for example, but if we measure, let us say the height of a door we don't say, "Seven feet plus or minus one sixteenth inch." We know our tape measure can only get so precise, and we assume a particular range of uncertainty. It may be one thirty-second inch or it may be three-eighths inch, or, if we're not very good carpenters, a half-inch or more. Whether or not the door fits in its frame will depend on how much uncertainty in the measurement we are willing to tolerate. If we are baking cookies and the recipe calls for two cups of sugar, we aren't concerned if we put in a little more

or less. We know the cookies will still be good if we take reasonable care. However, if we use twice the amount of sugar called for, or none at all (I'm speaking from experience here), the results won't be satisfying.

Physicists, of course, like to measure things a little more precisely than we pour out sugar. Their work is the measurement of the physical world. Whether studying the great spaces of astrophysics or the smallest of subatomic particles, they apparently realize that no measurement they take is perfectly accurate. Their accuracy comes in knowing to a degree how close they are to that perfection.

Let's leave this scientific concept for a moment to recall a spiritual law. "What is above is below." And, by implication, what we find here below will have a counterpart above. What we discover in the scientific world will also apply in the spiritual world. In our spiritual lives isn't the element of uncertainty so much more obvious than it is in the physical? As we measure, as we take stock of our lives, there is always doubt about where we stand. We have planned out our lives but must constantly adapt to life's uncertainties. We measure, for example, our lives by the law, "You shall not kill," but we do kill. Where do we draw the line with any accuracy between what killing is permissible and what is forbidden? Uncertainty enters in.

We measure our faith by our belief in God, and following what we believe to be His will. Yet, who can be certain what His will is? Who can be certain even of His existence? It is the uncertainty that is the source of our faith. By not knowing for certain, the choice is ours to draw near to Him by the conduct of our lives. "No measurement is meaningful without uncertainty" is another way of saying we have free will. How much meaning would our lives have if we did not have the choice, day by day, to do right instead of wrong, to love instead of look the other way? A measurement without uncertainty would be perfection, and perfection is not possible in this world. It is that imperfection that keeps us faithful, keeps us growing, until we are offered the last full measure, brimming over, for certain.

The Council's Christmas Message

Each of you come into the material manifestation with the seeds of Christ deep within your soul and in your heart, and at this time of the year as man prepares for the celebration of the entrance of Christ our Lord into the world, each of you think of that helpless babe, think of that Christ, that small innocent child, as your own flesh and blood. For you women, think of the baby as your own child, your own flesh and blood; for the men, think of Him as your own son. Bring that baby into your arms and nurture it so that it grows close to you. Feed it what is necessary for it to grow, and hold it dear and close to your heart. Nurture it and protect it as you would if it were your own flesh and blood; and if you do this, the day will come when that small babe that you protected and cared for, the beginning of the living Christ will be reflected back to you when you look

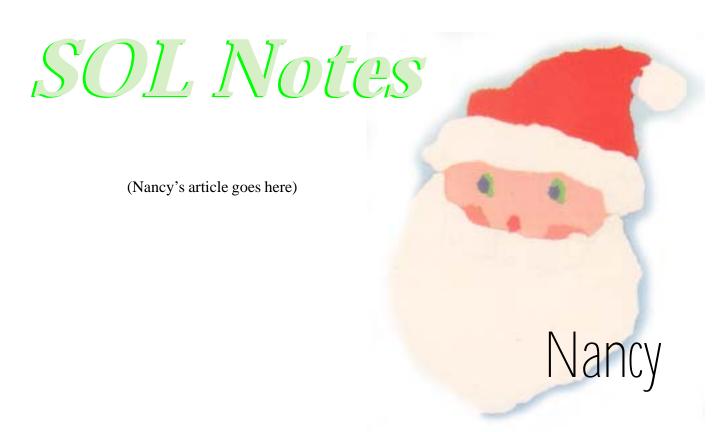
upon yourself in the mir-

ror. Let each of you be a shining candle at this time of the year. Let your own souls grow in the Love and the Light of our Lord Jesus. Let your every day be a symbol of Christ's rebirth into the material. When others look upon you, do not let them see what you are materially or what you have materially, but let them see the love that makes up the spiritual part of your being. Let them walk away from you uplifted and just a little bit better than what they were. This year do not let the celebration of Christ's birth be just an exterior festivity, but allow it to be an inner manifesta-

resurrect you now as a child of
God; and may the holiness of
this holiday, of this season,
be ever a part of you and
each member of your
family; and may each of
you have the holiest and
happiest of Christmases.

tion and an inner celebration. Let it

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