



SOLAR

The SOL Association for Research
newsletter

Comments On Spirituality

William Allen LePar

The Path out of Hopelessness

“Hell is that state where one has ceased to hope.”—A.J. Cronin

Hell is that state where one has ceased to hope. Where is this state of hell? Is it a place? Is it somewhere in creation? Or maybe better we should ask, what is hell? How should we understand the word “hell”?

The definition of the word that we now use, which is “hell,” is the netherworld or the land of darkness. Let’s start by saying that hell is not a place. I have said this many times in the past, hell is a state of condition. The word “Sheol” which now has been replaced by the word “hell” initially meant the land of darkness or the netherworld. The netherworld, neither here nor there. The land of darkness, the state of groping hither and yon, no direction, an aimless wandering, where can I reach to touch, how may I turn my head to hear, how can I open my eyes wider to see, I am suspended in a heavy

dark fog, no up, no down, no left, no right, I just am. No indication of who, why, or where. How do I extract myself from this? How do I direct myself into touch, into hearing, into seeing, into feeling,

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and more importantly into being? There is only one direction I can go and that is into an area even darker than what I can perceive at this moment. I can only look inward and see how dark my inner existence is. If I do not do this, I cannot find hope of ever escaping this state I exist in.

This is an effort to give you some sense of what hell is or the netherworld or the land of darkness. It is a condition of nothing other than the willingness to turn and look within and see those things that we have done and the things that we have not done that have brought us to this state of helplessness, therefore hopelessness.

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continued on next page

The Path out of Hopelessness from page 1

ourselves, we would look up and see the vast interior filled with light. The sweet music of the heavens filled our interior being. The light of the Divine Presence shone out through our stained glass windows so that we were a marvel to be seen. In the gigantic, arched ceiling of our inner temple, there wasn't a surface that wasn't filled with this Divine Light. How could a being so filled with the presence of that Divine Light and love find itself lost in a state of complete darkness with no sense of a presence? To put it very simply, a few wrong choices turn this vast spacious cathedral into a darkened cubbyhole filled with nooks and crannies, twists and turns, so compact that light cannot find its way.

The condition or the state that we find ourselves in at the moment of death will be determined by what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen not to do. Very few of us will be found guilty of doing things of great wrong and harm to others. The majority of us will be found guilty of great wrong, by our own judgment, not in what we

have done but in what we have not done. For the most part, when it comes to the vast majority of mankind, we are guilty of omission more so than commission. This great cathedral that once was filled with light was reduced to a darkened little closet through the acts of not doing. The acts of doing good for others, the acts of kindness, become the greater supports for that expanding cathedral that we once were. The elimination of good deeds, the choice not to do something, is the act of not reinforcing the great cathedral, therefore causing it to begin to collapse and compress upon itself. Collapse and compress upon itself until we find ourselves encased in a room no bigger than ourselves.

What is the first step in rebuilding the great cathedral that we once were, the great cathedral that blazed with the internal light of the Divine Presence? Hope. That condition wherein regardless of how dark our condition is there is always that possibility of kindling a new fire, a new light, that will

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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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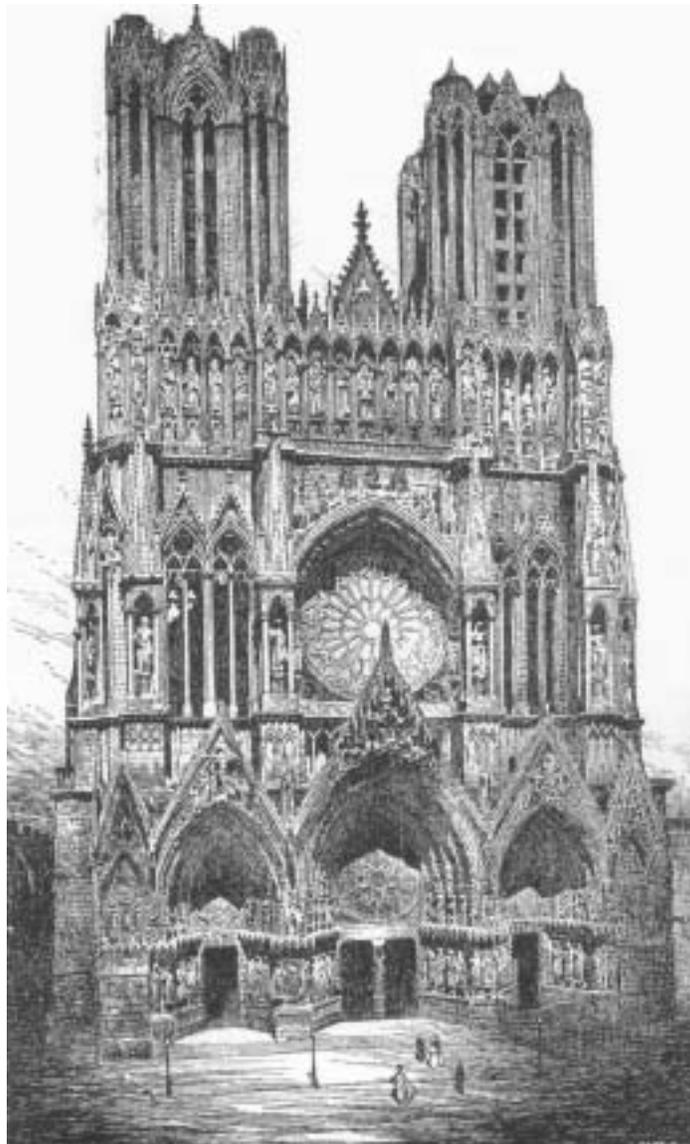
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begin to blaze, therefore rebuilding the temple or cathedral. As long as mankind has hope, as long as we understand that there is always a chance to rebuild, there is always a chance to change, that evolution of the soul is its normal state, then hell is defeated, the land of darkness will only exist momentarily.

The problem comes that when we enter that state that we refer to as death we undergo what I like to term “spiritual shock.” We thought we were doing so well, we thought we were loving, we thought we were full of kindness, only to discover that we have no rewards for what we thought we were and did. Instead, realization comes upon us in time and we realize that this land of darkness is the reward for those things we did not do. This realization is the triggering mechanism for the regeneration of the soul. It must be fortified with hope, hope that the reconditioning of ourselves can be done. That hope must be based on the awareness that the love that the Divine has for us is unconditional, we grasp that love and it becomes our safety ladder in our evolutionary climb back into the light, and with each step the cathedral ceiling rises higher and higher and that flame of hope becomes brighter and brighter and once again that temple, that House of the Lord, be-

comes rebuilt in all its glory and once again we rediscover the everpresence of the Divine Source.

Many of us walk day to day in a hell because many of us have no hope. And the great sadness is that many of us do not realize the condition we are in, therefore we have no hope. And it is only at that moment of death when we are forced to look at ourselves do we discover that we have led a life of hopelessness, a life of not doing when we could have. Reaching out to other individuals in simple little acts of kindness is the way we support the ever-growing cathedral that we are. It is through these little acts of kindness, thoughtfulness, that we insure that the cathedral we are building will be strong, will withstand the worst



that can be thrown at it. Hope is the awareness of knowing that productive change is always at our fingertips. It is simply a matter of grabbing hold of it and making it ours. We were created to walk the same path that this Divine Presence walks and that is the path of ever growing and expanding. Hope is a magical emotion that unlocks the door to greatness. It unlocks the door to our own godliness. It is the inner structure on which all else is built.

I must add a footnote here concerning faith. Faith is the power created by hope and that power makes all hope a reality. In life, now, never cease to hope. Don't commit yourself to a living hell and find that that is the only thing you will face in the life after death. Commit yourself to hope so that your future will be the great cathedral, the great temple, befitting you and your Divine Creator. And faith will make it so.

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The Stronger Love

Article one of a series of three by David Ries Jr.

The SOLAR editors welcome a new voice to these pages. David Ries Jr. has joined the writing staff. We hope you'll find his insights useful in your spiritual growth.

God intended the family to be the safest and most convenient place to express our love. He intended it to be a place in our lives where we can comfortably exist. He intended it to be a place in our lives where we would be able to express ourselves to our fullest and not have to worry about the rest of the world condemning us. We should feel as though we have nothing to fear in opening our hearts to our loved ones. A good family can show us what it really means to give of ourselves. A good family can show us what true devotion is by sacrificing one's own wants and desires for the needs of someone else. If we are down or upset, those in our family should always be there to comfort us and help us to understand and correct our problems.

The potential a family has allows for a deeper, more profound spiritual development. A family can be a comfortable ground to lay the seed for a life of selfless acts of love and devotion in the pursuit of real

happiness, not the superficial short-term happiness that comes from the pursuit of materialistic things.

This is an example of what a family should be, an example of what a family united can produce, what a family together should accomplish. This is how a family can change its world from a life of hardship and despair to a life of fullness and joy. Here are a few words from the Council on what the family unit should focus on:

“For (the world) the earth or material manifestation to become a better place, it must start within the home, within the family, within the father and the mother and the children. When there is an establishment of godly principles or Divine principals within that family and they are established well, because of the conduct of the parents as examples to the children, then the world will improve.”

The Council is speaking here of living Divine principles as a blueprint, of what it really takes to create a successful family, and what it really takes to change the world. Not to change it in some dramatic spiritual conquest of all humanity, but to be an example to

others of what happiness really is, to be an example of love and tenderness, and to show the family's strength in times of sorrow and hardship.

A family operating as one unit can accomplish a great deal. However, in today's society, especially in this country, "family" is a word that is worlds apart from what God intended it to be. Families today

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are divided; they are separate individuals working separately in their own quest for a life of things, rather than a life of genuine happiness. Families like this don't help each other;

they don't know what it is to work for the benefit of the whole. So, if the individuals isolate themselves from one another with their own wants instead of the happiness of the whole family, they begin to fall and the family begins to decay. There is little support to keep the family together, to keep it sound, and to keep it growing in happiness toward God. Many times this fall is caused by the lack of godly examples or individuals within the family.

These members of the family are not good examples to their kin. All too many times these individuals are worrying about their own self-centered mental little lives. They are too distant from the rest of the family. They are too concerned about themselves to care about anyone else. Consequently, they are not united and they do not share a common goal of family. And just like everything else that goes against Divine Law, it falls apart; it is chaotic, disrupted, haphazard, and destructive to itself and its spiritual growth. Each day the family is growing worse, collapsing in on itself, and destroying what good is left. These individuals not only hurt the family, they destroy it by their actions or inactions. The family cannot allow this to go unchecked for too long. A situation like this requires the family to make a hard decision. They must determine when an individual is no longer a supporting part of the family and thereby separate him or her from the rest of the family. When kin are divided

such as this, it is unfortunate and difficult to walk away from them. However, this is a necessary step in order to maintain the principles the family is operating under.

When a family unit that is separated begins to collapse, the collapse begins to compound the problem. The cause for this collapse is from those members in the family who are unloving and uncaring and are not concerned with the well being of their kin, and therefore not supportive of them. Examples of this kind of breakdown in the family are obvious in our world today.

Just look at the way people treat each other today in comparison to 30, 40, 50 years ago. The 50's were a time when seldom anybody dreamed of kidnapping children or of aborting a life. These things simply didn't happen. Families were close then and were very protective of each other. Neighborhoods were safe. Parents didn't have to worry about letting their kids out at night. They knew the rest of the neighborhood was watching and concerned for their safety. Essentially everybody watched out for everybody else.

It was a time when people felt safe and didn't have to lock their doors. Your neighbors naturally watched over your house while you were away, and when the family came back, the house was safe. In essence the neighborhood was your big family made up of the individual families. The safety and security you were used to in

your own home was extended to your neighbors.

The families of yesteryear rarely exist in our world today. The families today have lost the beauty and simplicity of those times. Families have lost the ability to grow together as a unit and have decided to walk separate. This is sad, because within that family unit each member is a tremendous helpmate to spiritual success.

The next newsletter's article will continue with a few more Council quotes, and will explain in more detail the fall of the family.

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the Choice makes all the Difference

Article One of Two by David Ries

In a previous article I wrote about the short duration of a physical existence within the eternity of the true, spiritual existence. That article stressed the importance of the physical. Even though this existence is extremely short compared to a spiritual existence, every moment offers opportunities for us to make choices. Many times the choice is between a spiritual path and a material path.

An example: It's a cold, windy, rainy Saturday evening. I have just finished raking all the fall foliage from my yard. It took all afternoon and I'm tired. There is a TV special coming up shortly that I have been waiting all week to watch. This will be good! Just as I sit down in my easy chair to enjoy the evening, the phone rings. I decide to let the answering machine take the call. Nothing is going to interfere with my enjoyment! I hear the message come in. It's from my brother-in-law saying that he could use some help with a difficult plumbing problem. Since I just fixed something very similar last month, he thinks that my recent experience will save

him time in doing his installation. He has the water shut off and the old appliance removed so he needs me ASAP. He tried to do it without my help but now he's stuck.

What a dilemma. If I go to help him, I miss my show for sure, the show I waited all week to see. If I don't go, he may be up all night with no running water, or he could make a mistake with the installation and cause even worse problems. All I want is to stay in my nice soft chair in my nice cozy house.

The choice: Pretend that I didn't get the call until after my show or call back and say I'll be right over.

Let me say right here, it would be a rare person who would immediately return the call and volunteer to help. Some of us might ignore the call till later. Most of us would weigh the options before deciding what to do. Likely guilt would become a factor in the decision-making process. That isn't necessarily a bad sign. If a person is going to make a choice in life, no matter how trivial, it is important to have a clear understanding of all the emo-

If a person is going to make a choice in life, no matter how trivial, it is important to have a clear understanding of all the emotions and desires that encompass a decision.

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tions and desires that encompass a decision. Thinking and deciding: that is what The Council means when they say to ACT not REACT.

My thought processes might go something like this: Jeez, what timing. Couldn't he have put this off till tomorrow? What if I go out in the cold and rain, drive a half-hour and find that he doesn't really need me after all? I'll miss my show, I'll be of no use to him and I'll waste my evening. Nice piece of rationalization, even if I do say so myself.

My thought process continues: But on the other hand, how do I face my brother-in-law and sister if I shirk my responsibilities. After all, he helped me last month. Well he didn't really help, but at least he was there and did whatever he could. I could just say that I wasn't home or didn't hear the phone ring and didn't see the light flashing on the machine. Those would be lies of course. Do I want to deal with that?

When all of the analysis was completed, it took about 30 seconds. I know in my heart that I have only one choice. I call and say I'll be right over. Besides, I can tape the show

and see it when I get home. It isn't like I'm missing anything REALLY important.

One of the fringe benefits of making the proper decision is that it reinforces your thought processes for the next decision, less dealing with rationalizations and what-if scenarios. The following quote from The Council explains the importance of making good decisions.

Council: Much development and in fact the only development than an entity can fully make is in the ability to train and work with the physical. And the easiest and quickest way is developing the attitude and the thought. If you constantly keep on your mind your relationship and your responsibility to everybody and everything around you, you will soon be not only a channel for love, but you, shall we say, will become a booster of that energy or that vibration. You will add to it. We will suggest for you specifically to begin to think in terms of service. Think in terms of service to your fellowmen. If one were to feel as though one's purpose was to be of service and in return through that service become more aware of the unity of man and God, great

spiritual development can be expected. The greatest growth that an entity can make is through his day-to-day existence, in the simple little things, in the establishment of a very firm attitude of his existence within the Grace or Love of his God and his existence with his fellow man. 77-02-25, 29th Trance, page 403.

Having the opportunity to make choices should be something we desire. All that is left for us to do is make the right ones.

Next article: "The Drive for Wealth—Vanitas"

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Spiritual King of the Hill

by Denny Highben

The first issue of a new year is a good time to address some basics upon which The Council material is founded, and to look at a small but significant blip on the radar screen of current events through the perspective of those basics.

This idea meshed for me as I contemplated the possibility the Raelians had actually cloned a human being, an announcement that was made around the first of the year. Honestly, I don't know which way to go with this. There is plenty of fodder for humor, and there are some serious aspects of both the cloning announcement and what The Council has said about cloning. In fact, if one is not well grounded, one could lose considerable sleep over the implications.

First, let's establish one point. If this particular group, (the Raelians and their offshoot, known as Clonaid), has or has not actually cloned a human is not important. What is important is modern man is utilizing his technical prowess to achieve that goal. Whether the first clone comes from a bunch of clowns attempting to offer eternal physical youth to anyone who joins their circus, or whether it is produced by reputable scientists, it either has or will come.

So, what is a clone? Forget all the technical problems science says still exist and will exist for an unknown period to come. (Dolly, the sheep cloned in 1996, is prematurely aging and other cloned animals suffer from a variety of health problems.) Ideally, a clone is an exact duplicate of the donor. Not so, said The Council. Here is an exchange from a quarter-century ago:

Questioner: I was questioning whether the cloning that is being discussed in today's world. Is that coming through these, some of these past experiences? (The topic at the time was the artificial creation of physical life by our ancient ancestors of Atlantis and beyond.)

The Council: Certainly, certainly.

Questioner: And there would be no soul involved there, would there?

The Council: No. These, such things can be used as, shall we say, zombies for negativity. These are not creations of God, these are creations of man and can at the very best be as man determines them to be.

Questioner: Then our moral responsibility if we were to destroy a clone, where would we stand?

The Council: You will not

have that opportunity.

No soul for the clones and no opportunity for the creator class to destroy the creations. Hmm... Two rather unnerving thoughts. We'll let them roll around in everyone's brainpan for the time being and weave in

Whether the first clone comes from a bunch of clowns attempting to offer eternal physical youth to anyone who joins their circus, or whether it is produced by reputable scientists, it either has or will come.

another aspect of this whole question of clones and cloners, creators and creations.

Be it the Raelians or reputable scientists, the underlying goal is the same: To push any notion of God as mankind traditionally understands off the summit as All-Loving Divine Creator. This reminds me of the game we used to play as kids, King of the Hill. The fastest, strongest and best-conditioned chap almost always wound up

on top. Everyone else, suffering from various degrees of superficial injury, would be panting for breath at the bottom. But the day would come when someone a little faster, a little stronger, would stake his claim. I could understand why those who had the ability to legitimately contend for victory would risk their lumps, but I was always astonished at why those kids who had no chance to win kept coming back for more. Maybe it was just to associate with winners, or to say they tangled with champions, which gave them a modicum of celebrity.

Maybe it's the same motivation that lures people to join groups like the Raelians, or to hop on the science bandwagon without knowing who is driving them where. Certainly, for example, there have been enough holes shot in the body of evolutionary theory to render it lifeless. But still it towers over the intellectual landscape like a

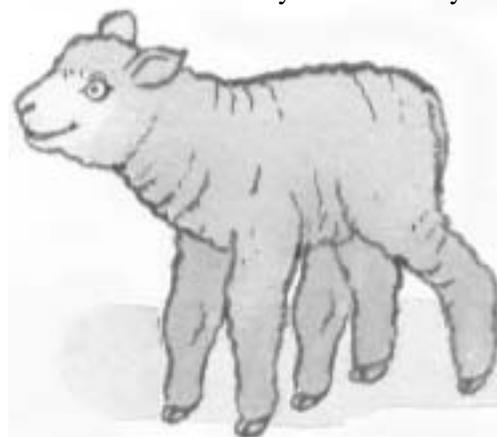
Hercules.

Here's one of the comments The Council made about evolution and, more specifically, about the motivations of those driving the science bandwagon, whether it's carrying cavemen or clones:

The Council: It (evolution) is man's way of eliminating the price of self-indulgence. When you eliminate a Creator and His Influences and His Rules, then you eliminate the responsibility to answering to anyone but yourself and in that respect then you can do as you please and as it suits you to serve only yourself. Once you bring in the concept of a higher being, a God, then you must answer to that, thus comes a judgment, thus determines or brings about a need for a form of action or a set of rules which then, in your concept, inhibits your free will. So you see, it gradually unfolds into the same thing, selfishness.

When you eliminate a Creator and His Influences and His Rules, then you eliminate the responsibility to answering to anyone but yourself and in that respect then you can do as you please and as it suits you to serve only yourself.

It's interesting that The Council said "in your concept" answering to a higher power inhibits our free will. Answering to His rules is simple, and the action reinforces our own nature as Divine Beings, as creations of God: Love one another as He loves us. And the set of Divine Rules with which we are all acquainted is the Ten Commandments. They basically advise us only on how to



stay out of hot water while becoming all we were meant to be. In our concept, following those Divine guidelines inhibits us from doing what, loving others less? Harming others? Putting ourselves first and to hell with anyone who gets in the way?

The Raelians have to be using sophisticated scientific procedures for cloning, so they have to have members who are scientists. It blows my mind that anyone with an education in science could follow a bunch of naked UFO worshippers.

Those reputable(?) scientists trying to clone a human may not consciously admit to such a motivation, but doesn't it make sense? They may rationalize a dozen and one reasons why cloning is good, and assert that they are not playing god, but such excuses don't hold water. (Maybe they'll send the clones out to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for widows and orphans...)

At least the Raelians are up-front about their goal. The big cheese himself, Rael, was

quoted in *Time* magazine that his mission is to destroy the myth of God. Of course, nature abhors a vacuum, so who would take their turn on the top of the heap? Why, Rael, of course.

Just a brief aside, and this amazes me even more than the slow, weak kids who kept getting hammered in King of the Hill. The Raelians, who hold mass meetings in their birthday suits, say that they believe aliens put us on earth. Wouldn't that make the aliens kings of the hill? The Raelians have to be using sophisticated scientific procedures for cloning, so they have to have members who are scientists. It blows my mind that anyone with an education in science could follow a bunch of naked UFO worshippers. (Maybe that's a twist on the old saying and clothes making the man. Science doesn't make the man, man makes the science.)

The whole idea that we are the product of alien creation belittles every soul on earth, regardless of what that soul has done with itself. I hate to add any fuel to any fires, from the alien conspiracy groups to

fundamental religious zealotry, but let's face facts. If these aliens that Rael allegedly visited put us on earth, that makes us the intergalactic equivalent of either lab rats, crops or clones. If we are lab rats or crops, that doesn't say much for us. If we are clones, that doesn't say much for us OR them. We certainly can't be greater than the aliens, because it is illogical to think a creator can create something greater than itself.

I'll end Part One with this thought, this basic from The Council through which we should view everything else given us by The Council and everything else that comes to our consciousness: We are Children of the Divine, and by our nature we are equal in quality with the Divine. A divine characteristic is free will, absolute free will.

And with absolute free will and an immeasurable ability to create, some of His creations are doing what?

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Calendar 2003

March 1, 2003. One on One at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 425 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton, Ohio.

April 5, 2003. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

May 3, 2003. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

June 7, 2003. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

July 5, 2003. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

August 2, 2003. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

September 6, 2003. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

September 14, 2003. SOL Picnic

October 4, 2003. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

October 18, 2003. SOL Conference. Speakers and time to be announced.

November 1, 2003. One on One at 7:30 p.m.

December 6, 2003. One on One and Christmas celebration

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