



# Newsletter

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Winter 1994

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*The more you  
have, the more  
you will be will-  
ing to give, if the  
spirituality is  
there.*

*The Council*

**within**

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## Comments on Spirituality

by William Allen LePar



## Putting Prayer To Work

### Part 1. Unanswered Prayers

We believe that prayer consists of saying to God, "Please make this happen, or please let this happen." That may be the general understanding of prayer, but that isn't what prayer is at all. When we pray for something, it is natural to ask something of God, but in praying for something we must assume a certain responsibility in working with that prayer. "Working" with a prayer means conducting ourselves in a way consistent with the goal of the prayer. Our prayer loses meaning if our actions are immoral, if our attitude does not support what our lips say. So when we see a world praying for something and the prayer does not appear to be answered, it's because the world is giving the situation lip service.

As an example let's assume there is a war and the people on both sides of that war are praying to God. Since we are a part of the Western belief system, let's also as-

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sume they are Christians. By dealing with the Christian aspects we may gain a clearer picture. Two Christian countries go to war, and in the one country, all the mothers and fathers are praying that they win the war and their sons come home alive. In the other country, all the parents,

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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 re-unite with our Divine Source.

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# Full Moon Over Woodstock

Another year is swiftly slipping away. It occurred to me that there are many things of value passing by also, unless we make an effort to utilize them before the dust of time grows too thick upon their surface.

The crow knows we must be careful in our view of the past, or we run the risk of never properly facing the future.

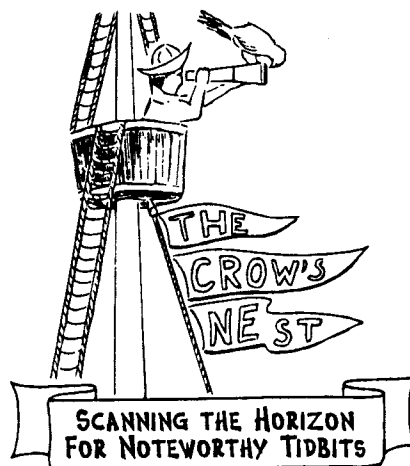
Nonetheless, as the summer of '94 approached, I had a great anticipation for the silver anniversaries of man's walk on the moon and of Woodstock. Why do I bring up these already old reminiscences of ripples in history from a quarter century earlier? I do so for a number of reasons, but primarily because we must use caution when looking at the past. By that I not only mean we have to avoid glamorizing or living in the past, but it is also necessary to

avoid improperly using yesterday as a yardstick to measure today and tomorrow.

We're developing a telemaniacal relationship with our past, in which invaluable lessons of yesterday are lost because they are so profoundly simple that they don't play to our sense of the theatric. Even worse, historical events that are profitable enough to bring to our attention are often "re-formatted" for maximum profitability. The facts may all be there, but the more marketable ones are given a little extra spit and polish, distorting the truth and lessening the value of the event. (We do the same thing with food, turning grain from the field into that stuff in the box on the breakfast table each morning.)

I was disappointed that what I felt was the more noble of 1969's two grand events, the moon walk, received relatively little attention. Shucks, had there been no other "biggie" to celebrate and remember, just three weeks later, I still would have been disappointed in our response. Think about that July night for a moment. Mankind had actually figured out a way, short of dying, of leaving the earth and going somewhere else. It still amazes!

The use of the phrase "more noble" may seem odd but, to the crow, America's effort to reach the moon epitomized the idea of noble. We were stretching our imaginations



and our ability to learn and then utilize so many vastly different components for a single complex task. We were probing the unknown, uniting creativity, technology and man's thirst for adventure into a great crusade.

Woodstock, on the other hand, had plenty of blemishes on its face — the extensive use of drugs and so-called free love, to point out the most obvious. And it was, after all, a money-making venture that just got out of hand. The moon program, on the other hand, was a classic demonstration of how cooperation and dedication to a common goal can achieve the truly magnificent.

But what if the slant of the news media had been different back then? If the focus of the journalists was not to report how great the space program was going, but instead to uncover every cost overrun, to put the spotlight on every failed test, and to provide a semi-permanent soapbox for every critic of NASA or of the administration that occupied the White House, would those of us who were thrilled by Mr. Armstrong's

***Think about that July night for a moment. Mankind had actually figured out a way, short of dying, of leaving the earth and going somewhere else. It still amazes!***

one small step for a man still have had such enthusiasm for the project?

As for Woodstock, the crowd somehow missed it the first time around. (Not a very proud achievement for someone who's supposed to be keeping an eye on the horizon, but true just the same.) I didn't even know it took place until almost a year later, when the legend was already replacing reality.

This time, 25 years later, I could not have hidden from Woodstocks I and II even if that had been my plan. But after taking it all in, the Woodstocks and the anniversary of the moon walk, a couple ideas struck me.

First, they both were examples of how good humanity can be, of how well we can cooperate and achieve if only we have the proper attitude. Even when some elements go wrong, as they always do, the end result is good if we really want it to be. Second, anything can be torn down and destroyed, or lifted high on an illusionary pedestal, if viewed to only justify our own prejudices. Here we are, now more than 25 years later, and we would be hard-pressed to duplicate either. (They tried with Woodstock, but too much was designed only for the marketing of nostalgia, one of the hottest items around.)

What that knowledge did to many people was to give them a sense of hopeless cynicism about today and tomorrow. I saw comments reflecting that destructive attitude in the coverage of both events. That is precisely the wrong reaction and, really, the main reason the crowd felt compelled to comment on these subjects before the silver anniversary year passed by.

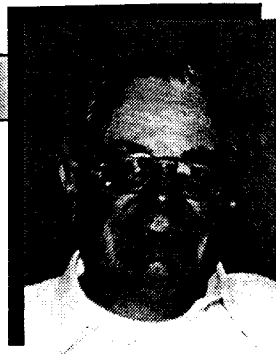
Instead, we should look objectively at events from our past. Then, we

should be warned of certain attitudes and actions by the shortcomings of

***They both were examples of how good humanity can be, of how well we can cooperate and achieve if only we have the proper attitude. Even when some elements go wrong, as they always do, the end result is good if we really want it to be.***

those events. And we should be inspired by their successes. The successes are not the walks on the moon or the music at the festival, but the way humanity responded to create something positive.

Most importantly, we cannot afford to consider the past as entertainment. We need to use it as a resource. If just one person considers the lessons of an event such as the moon walk or Woodstock and gains something positive and is thus changed, has not a mountain been moved?



## Points to Ponder

by Dr. James Ridzon

# Tastes Just Like Chicken

I have come to the conclusion that people do not like groundhogs. We recently moved to a new house where the back yard is next to a farmer's field. The view of the open space is nice but the groundhogs like it too. I've got a couple of large holes on my property near the lot line. Actually, I find the groundhogs rather cute. This spring I watched a very fat one go down a hole and come out a few weeks later much skinnier and followed by three baby furballs. Mother groundhog would stand guard while the little ones wrestled and tumbled about. At a certain signal from mother, all would scurry down the hole like it was some sort of air-raid drill. It was like watching a National Geographic special in my backyard.

**I** may think they are cute but apparently this sentiment is not widely shared. I've had no end of suggestions on how to rid myself of these supposedly vile creatures. The farmer next door said he'd shoot them if they wandered on to his land. I hear an occasional pop, pop, as he tries to clear his land with his rifle. In his case I can understand since his farm machinery gets hung up in the burrows. I've encountered other people who seem to feel an

urge to do the critters in just for the heck of it. I had an offer from a friend to come back with his thirty-aught-six to take care of my problem. We hired a cleaning service when we first moved in and the woman offered to send her sons over to dispose of the creatures. It began to sound like a commando raid on my back yard. The stunner was a gentle Amish carpenter I hired to build some bookshelves. He said to me in a lovely Pennsylvania Dutch accent, "You have some groundhogs out yonder!" I replied that I enjoyed watching them from the window. He said he liked to watch them too — in the cross-hairs of his rifle sight. I almost fell out of my chair. The thought of a heavily-armed Amish look-alike for a Keebler Elf, toting a telescopic rifle, was almost too much for my nervous system. I had always imagined that if an Amishman had a rifle at all it was probably some hand-made flintlock affair expertly cobbled out of cast off plumbing fixtures, where the greatest danger was setting his beard afire with the powder flash.

So you see, I had no shortage of volunteer firepower. The only area I was shaky about was the need to be rid of the groundhogs in the first place. People assured me I was bet-

ter off without them. I was told that they will continue burrowing until my yard resembled Hiroshima in late 1945. Another friend warned me that if a child wandered near the hole, the groundhogs would leap from the burrow, seize him by the legs and pull him under, adding that I wouldn't want that to happen to my grandchildren, now would I? In truth, I have only one grandchild and she is a newborn; much too young for me to decide the question at this time. A really helpful friend informed us that, "Groundhogs can have rabies, you know!" I knew that but my wife didn't. Now she does and I'll never be able to forget that groundhogs

***"To kill for the pleasure of killing is an absolute no. To kill an animal for your own sustenance or for your family's sustenance is quite another thing."***

sometimes have rabies. Of course, my chances of catching a disease from the guy telling me this were about a million times greater than my groundhog being rabid and biting me as well.

So, what am I to do? Should I just watch and enjoy my uninvited backyard guests or should I rotate in some fresh troops for a search and destroy mission? When faced with a compli-

cated decision like this, what I often do - or sometimes pretend to do when I write this column - is to consult William A. LePar's psychic source, The Council. Here is how they addressed such a question back in 1980.

Questioner (Me):

There is a group of animals that we might consider as pests, rabbits that eat your garden and gophers that dig holes in your yard. How should we deal with such situations?

Council:

If they are doing damage . . . to the home or to the garden that is used for food, then they may be dealt with. Where it is a situation where it is the beautification of your property so the neighbors can look upon your property with awe, the answer is NO! (85th Trance, 80-12-07, ll.329-348.)

Looks like we can't just blast them for the sport of it, but I think I've found a loophole. Earlier in the same Trance someone asked if it is acceptable to hunt or fish.

Council:

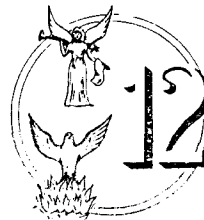
To kill for the pleasure of killing is an absolute no. To kill an animal for your own sustenance or for your family's sustenance is quite another thing. You may find that you would enjoy, shall we say, a fresh catch. There is nothing wrong in catching your own food even though it can be purchased in a store. (85th Trance, 80-12-07, ll.239-294.)

Bingo! We can blast 'em if we eat 'em. Now, when someone offers to kill the groundhogs for me I say, "Be my guest, but you have to eat them! I hear that if you cook them right they taste (all together now) *just like chicken!* You know what? The critters are still there.

## 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 mirror. 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 manifestation and an inner celebration. Let it 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.



# We Can All Learn From A Goat

by Don Weisgarber

Everything we do has extenuating consequences. Every simple act means problems somewhere down the road. Before you say to yourself, what a cynical attitude, let me explain about Sugar.

When you live in the country, like we do, and you've just built a barn, like we did, the next step is obvious. According to the kids, a barn should be inhabited. Not by Dad's truck, Dad's tools, and Dad's other junk, but by real, live, pettable creatures. And what could be better than a cute little pygmy goat?

For a while I resisted my ten-year-old's offer to buy the goat himself. He wanted it bad, but this was uncharted territory. What did we know about goats? Not a thing. But it wasn't long before I gave in. After all, what could be so bad about a little goat? They sleep in the barn and come out now and then to munch grass so you have less lawn to mow. They just graze along, mind their own business, and stay out of trouble, right? Wrong, really wrong.

The first thing we discovered about pygmy goats (other than that they are so darn cute) is that they much prefer garden plants to grass. The cabbage and broccoli were in especial danger, but the beans were her favorite, and she would eat pod, leaf, stem, and all. So our plan for a free roaming goat fell through, and it was a nuisance to have to stake her out every day. The next unexpected discovery was that a goat will

get on top of anything it can, and that includes car hoods and roofs. No car was safe from the scratches of little cloven hoofs, and either car or goat had to be put away.

Sugar (so we named her) didn't mind being staked out under a tree; she busied herself eating the leaves and stems off as high as she could reach. She didn't mind anything except being alone. What she really needed was a pen where she could roam free and the kids could go in and keep her company. And so, after \$200 and three days of work she had a 30-foot by 30-foot goat pen to graze and play in.

And, a little custom made swinging goat door through which she could enter the barn to keep warm. (And climb on my workbench, on top of my truck hood and then on to the roof.) After another two days' work she had a cozy little stall inside the barn, too. She's happy there, I think, and my son's happy. He gets to carry water down to his goat every day of the year, and feed her hay in the winter. Another chore! What more could a child want?

It was a simple thing; Get a goat. Yet that simple act has sent ripples all through our family life. But then every simple act does that, most not as obvious as this goat business. Some are classic; tell a lie and you must keep on telling lies to cover it. Do a good deed and others will do the same. All actions have endless consequences down the road. Hurt a feeling, say a prayer, scold a child, make a wish; it doesn't end there.

The Council: "Picture your life as a lake, as smooth and quiet as a mirror, a piece of glass. At some time, at some place, at some experience in your life you reached a crossroads where a decision had to be made. A decision was made, but the decision



*Sugar*

was not as good as it could have been, and so this caused a ripple on the surface and slightly distorted the clarity of it. So as life progressed another crossroads came, another decision had to be made. The decision was made not through the clarity of the lake or the pool as it was originally, but now that decision is made through that ripple effect, and so the clarity of sight is not there, and again a wrong decision is made causing a greater degree of ripples, more ripples, less clarity, less quiet, less calm, less clear. And as life goes on then, each decision is made through this distortion, through this lack of clarity until finally this peaceful, placid lake, this mirror, is totally distorted, all clarity gone. This is how life becomes a trial. This is how hardships come into being. Once the lake becomes so distorted, then decisions are no longer really made, but instead of decisions they become reactions to emotions and to situations, reactions to emotions and situations." (First Public Trance.)

So we try to muddle through our lives, making as few ripples as possible. 'Cause you see, even though this goat caused a lot of waves for me and a few ripples for my son, years from now we may be able to look back on this time as if looking upon still water. We will see reflected not the problems and the work, but more important things. Things having to do with fathers and sons, responsibility and love, working together, doing for others, caring for God's creatures. Those things. You know about them. You don't need a goat to know what they are.

## What Has The Council Said About. . . ?

by Barb Weaver



# Unpacking Holiday Spirit

Dear Readers,

It's that time of year again . . . time to shop till we drop, eat lots of goodies, and share with friends and family all the joys of this holiday season. It's also the time for remembering those less fortunate.

Most of us find it easy to open our hearts and reach out to those in need during this season of peace and goodwill. But it seems that many of us pack away our holiday spirit along with the Christmas decorations.

A few years ago The Council gave us this Christmas message to remind us to keep our hearts and hands open to our brothers and sisters all year:

"In a short period of time all of you will celebrate the season of Christmas, the season when the world recognizes a Consciousness entered the material world that was far greater than it had known before in its recorded history. We ask each of you that when that season stimulates the attitude of love and sharing in you, that you do not allow that attitude to fade away in some cold breeze of time, but that you continue that attitude with you for the rest of the year.

"If your world is to improve, it can only improve with each one of you, and it will only improve to the degree that each of you wish to improve. Each of you are a vital, productive part of tomorrow. Each of you control a very important aspect of tomorrow's future, of your world's future. Be sure that that point in the future, that condition in the future that you have control over, ends up being a positive situation.

Allow the real, loving you to be expressed through that physical container that you use to grow with. Do not let the world keep you in your little hiding place. Reach out with an open hand. When one gives, one gives with an open hand, therefore it is in the right position to also receive. A person with a clenched fist gives nothing and receives nothing. An outward stretched hand has much to give and much to receive."

God Bless!



## Health Hints

by Marilyn Ridzon

# Secondhand Smokescreens

An interesting poll was recently released which reported that 78% of the population said they feel sympathy towards smokers but they just don't want to inhale their secondhand smoke. Someone has done a terrific job of convincing everyone that nicotine is just as bad as hard drugs. After all, smoking is still legal and it doesn't lead to criminal behavior, so why should smokers be treated like social outcasts? (Before I go any further, I should point out that I'm an ex-smoker so I can understand both sides.)

There is still 30% of the population who have no intention of quitting. What's to become of this minority group? Are they doomed to living like fugitives, sneaking around dark alleys, gathering outside hospitals, airports and public buildings? The next thing you know they'll be banished to a remote island!

Doesn't anyone ever say, "Wait a minute! What's going on here?" Are cigarettes the real issue or are they using cigarettes to divert our attention from more serious matters? Why is there so much cancer? Nicotine can't be the only culprit. I've known many people who have had cancer who never smoked a day in their life. Could it be all the pre-

servatives, chemicals and pollutants causing the increase? (I'm not denying the fact that smoking can lead to serious illnesses.)

If 70% of the population doesn't smoke then why is there still so much cancer? Some would have us believe that it's from secondhand smoke. Give me a break! Admittedly, the chemicals they're putting in tobacco are harmful to the smoker but no one is ever going to convince me that secondhand smoke is just as bad as smoking.

Here's what The Council had to say about nicotine and smoking:

"We cannot approve of such things, but we must also inform you

that such things as the nicotine do not do the harm that the chemical substances that you get in packaged food, it does not do that harm. Nicotine is a more natural toxin and can be warded off much easier by the physical body on a physical aspect and also on a mental or spiritual aspect." (42nd. Trance, 78-04-08, 1.279.)

If someone had told me ten years ago that one day smoking would not be allowed in most public places, I would have said, "Ridiculous!" We must be careful not to get caught up in the "herd mentality." We must learn to think for ourselves. It's cigarettes this decade, but what will they take from us next?

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***D*oesn't anyone ever say, "Wait a minute! What's going on here?" Are cigarettes the real issue or are they using cigarettes to divert our attention from more serious matters?**



## Putting Prayer To Work: Unanswered Prayer

from page 1

brothers, and sisters are also praying that they win the war and their loved ones come home alive. Only one country wins the war. Is it because God has favorites, and has answered the prayers of only one side? Was it God's thought, "Well, I like these people over here a little better than I like those." No. When you pray, the verbalizing of the prayer is the final step in an attitude that must be developed. If the verbalization comes before the attitude, it takes that much longer for the prayer to work, if it's going to work at all. The reason why most prayers don't seem to be answered is this: We want the answer to our prayers placed on a silver platter and served to us. This attitude smacks of wanting something for nothing or, at very best, an hour's labor for eight hours' pay. We have to assume the responsibility of working with that prayer and the situation so the prayer can manifest itself. In essence, it takes a mental attitude and the physical activities that support that mental attitude.

**M**any metaphysical groups consider prayer merely to be a positive force, a vibration that one sends out. It is, but it's only a positive force and a vibration that you're sending out if you are in accord with the prayer. If you're not in accord with the prayer, then you are sending out conflicting messages, conflicting signals. The words you say are one form of power or vibration. The mental activity, the visualization inherent in the prayer is another form of vibration or power that you're sending out. If the voice or the word is saying one thing and the heart or the visualization, the inter-

nal you, is saying something else, you're cancelling out your prayer. Or even worse, you're sending out mixed signals that are causing confusion, distraction, dissension. When a prayer is answered, it's because all the elements were in place and all were working together.

You have to be willing to work within a situation to make the prayer come alive or to manifest. An example: A person has family problems and prays for guidance; they pray to resolve the problem whatever it may be, but nothing happens. The situation gets worse or else it just stays stagnant. Why? Because some element isn't working with the rest. In most cases the thing that is out-of-sync is us, because we say things with our mouth that we really aren't saying with our heart. We need to ask ourselves, "What I really want in my heart, is it really right or is it self-serving?" This is where the higher self becomes involved. If you're being too self-serving, the higher self is going to block that prayer because what you're doing in essence is asking the higher power, God, to be a witness to a falsehood.

Those individuals who have reached that point where what they are saying with their mouth is the final declaration of what they have in their heart and in their higher self, have made a complete connection so that the power or those vibrations are flowing out and are connecting with others who are sending out that same vibration. And that combined energy then begins to work in the world. The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the reunification of Germany, the removal of the Berlin

wall, are the result of prayer, the combined prayers of many. Man, if left to his own devices such as his intellect and his physical activities, will only facilitate the deterioration of the conditions of his world. With the implementation of proper prayer, the heart and the higher self are connected in a godly pursuit for a godly resolution to the problems. Now, you have a much more powerful force being applied to a situation than just man's mere intellect and physical activities. The perfect formula for a prayer situation is the alignment of the higher self, the heart, man's intelligence, and his efforts. This is the secret to powerful prayers.

**P**rayer can only be answered when it's a just prayer and when we are willing to work with the situation. How do we work with the situation? Well, you have to be careful not to become a "gimme" person, with your prayers always becoming some form of "God gimme this, God gimme that." God doesn't give you anything, if you aren't willing to do your part. You have to reach up and accept what He has laid out before you. The question then comes to mind, "Well, does that mean pain and suffering too?" There's no pain and suffering on your table that God has prepared for you. The pain and suffering come when you don't accept what's laid before you. In essence, pain and suffering come from the rejection of the gifts that God has given to us. Accept with gratitude what God offers you in answer to your prayers.

*In the next issue: Part 2; Successful Prayer.*



# Some- thing To Think About

It won't be long now until the last moments of 1994 slip quietly away. If anyone is thinking beyond the busy and wonderful days of the holiday season, and wish to add another charitable donation before the end of the year, please think of *SOL*.

We believe the work that we are involved in, as volunteer members of this not-for-profit organization, is very valuable. Surely, you too have drawn value from your relationship with *SOL* and with the remarkable insights of The Council. You can help us expand our work with a donation. All donations to *SOL* are tax-deductible.

Thanks for all your support throughout the past. God Bless and Happy Holidays.

*If you haven't yet renewed your SOL membership for next year, here's four good reasons to do it now. Brand new lending library files!*

## What's New In 95

for  
SOL  
Members?

**Personal Morality Part 3 (95-49) Give Your Child A Head Start** The parent-child relationship is explored in detail in this fascinating File. Such topics as teaching in the womb, sleep learning, child discipline and parental example are covered. Do you watch TV with a child sleeping in the next room? It could be a very unwise thing to do. This File is an excellent primer for parents of very young children and for parents-to-be.

**Dinosaurs (95-50) The Original Jurassic Park** Why the fascination these days with dinosaurs, especially among children? Is it merely the size, strength, and power, or is there more to it, such as the possibility that they played a part in our own past lives? Incredibly, in past incarnations, we were contemporaries with the dinosaurs, and by our genetic tinkering, had a hand in their evolution. Also examined in this File are such "mythical" creatures as dragons, Pegasus the winged horse, and unicorns. Some were imaginary, but others were as real as the dinosaurs. Finally, the account of the destruction of the dinosaurs provides a lesson for modern man: destroy Nature at your own peril.

**The Mind Part 2 (95-51) Healings Begin in the Mind** This is a continuation of last year's file on the mind. It contains a comprehensive discussion of the mind's role in the healing process including so called "miraculous healings." The characteristics of the left-brain versus the right-brain are detailed in this enlightening file.

**Reincarnation Revisited Part 2 (95-52) Opportunities for Perfection** Topics covered in this file include understanding time, opportunities for perfection now and in the spiritual state. Discover the greatest opportunity available in the material manifestation to make tremendous spiritual gains (a one-way ticket to the Heavenly Realms.) There is an interesting discussion of dream cycles and the causes of certain emotional problems.

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