

They Are Not Our Children

THE YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE have exciting news: they are about to have a baby. They are ecstatic! Their very own child! And, in due time, the baby is born. The attending physician proclaims health. Again they are ecstatic. As the baby grows, the parents begin to notice that it has a mind of its own. Perhaps it chooses not to eat when the parents place the bottle in its mouth; it pushes it out with its tongue. Another time it may cry until it is picked up and held. As it grows, it may decide it does not like certain foods. And it does like other foods which, if taken in the excessive amount that it desires, are not good for its body. Then there comes a time when the grown child may show its individuality to be so completely at odds with the parents' values that, in dismay and wonderment, they ask: "Where did we go wrong?"

While the parents have attempted to do everything "right" to the best of their understanding and ability, they have to accept the fact that their child is an individual with its own "agenda" during this incarnation. And the fact is, that child NEVER WAS THEIR CHILD! Max Heindel gives us the background information on this in the *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception* on pages 188-189, as follows:

At the beginning of Manifestation God differentiates *within* (not *from*) Himself these virgin spirits [i.e., our life wave, humanity], as sparks from a Flame, of the same nature, capable of being fanned into Flames themselves. Evolution is the fanning process which is to

accomplish that end. In the virgin spirits are enfolded all the possibilities of their Divine Father, including the germ of independent Will, which makes them capable of originating new phases, not latent in them. The latent *possibilities* are transformed into dynamic powers and available faculties during evolution, while the independent Will institutes new and original departures—or Epigenesis.

Long ago, before the parents of the newborn baby themselves were born into the Physical World, the Recording Angels conferred with their souls about their forthcoming incarnation. They were reminded of various "loose ends" left after some of their previous incarnations. Considering the possibilities that may be available if certain other souls chose to enter incarnation at the same time, they were shown the synopses of potential lives that would provide the opportunities to "tie up" the previously mentioned "loose ends." In the world of the spirit, like attracts like. And those souls with whom one has interacted in the past, that are available for incarnation at the same time, will be attracted to each other again, especially if there is some "unfinished business" connected with the relationships.

When the virgin spirits were differentiated within God, each individual spark of divinity began its own evolution toward conscious godhood. From that moment, each one grew at its own rate and in its own way, setting its own individual course. Thus each energy spark became more individual or different from every other. Yet, remember, while

each is an individual, it is still differentiated within God. (The most important point here is, no life is ever LOST, as some faiths assert. How could any life be lost if we are still an integral part of God? It is inconceivable!)

If a person were to go to a foreign country or, indeed, another city within the same country, where would he choose to live? In all probability it would be in a section where he feels most comfortable. And where would that be? Somewhere that is in some ways similar to home, perhaps where the same language is spoken, the stores are familiar and the people are friendly. The soul seeks the familiar. Like attracts like. And so, when planning a new incarnation, the various souls choose a life-synopsis that permits them to dovetail this new journey into the physical with other familiar souls with whom they have unfinished business—karma.

Before they were born, the new parents had an agreement with the soul of their child-to-be to provide it, at the appropriate time, with a physical body that would meet its karmic needs so that it could also resolve unsettled issues. And, in all probability, that soul had a similar agreement with other souls of its generation that they would meet in the physical to do their version of the same thing. And this routine repeats itself throughout the many ages of existence in the dense material form.

When the physical parents question their expertness in rearing their child, wondering what they should have done or could have done to direct that child in the life-direction they deem most advantageous for it, they need to remember that it is NOT THEIR CHILD. The parents never did OWN the child. Their giving birth to it was a trust. It was, in a way, a business deal! The child is simply another soul whom they knew in prior times. In order to discharge some of their joint karma and to consummate their relationship in impersonal love, they collectively agree that the soul shall be provided with an appropriate physical body.

The parents have their agenda. The “child” has its agenda. And it is hoped that, while discharging ripe karma, all concerned are able to build new ties (epigenesis) that are compatible and desirable for their future adventures together in this and later incarnations. If the parents observe that the “child”



*Your children are not your children...
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.
—Kahlil Gibran*

is about to make a mistake, or, indeed, is in the very process of erring, they may and should warn their charge of the potential harm attending on such behavior and should, where appropriate, provide suggestions for alternative action. But when rebuffed, they should step aside and let that soul make its mistake, if it is indeed a mistake. For who is so wise that they can see all the aspects and ramifications of any action and thereby discern whether its outcome shall be beneficial or injurious? That course of action may have been part of the precarnate agenda planned by the soul to actualize during its imminent embodiment. It may *need* that experience. Parents can do only so much. Both they and their “child” are here in the physical dimension to gain experience. The physical world is the laboratory of life. When one soul insists on one course of action contrary to the advice of others, those advising can but step back, let go, and let God. □

—A Probationer