

READERS' QUESTIONS

Protection When out of the Body *The Panorama of the Blind; Seeing Entities* *Praying Spirits out of Purgatory*

QUESTION: Can another entity gain possession of a person's lower vehicles while the ego is out as an Invisible Helper, and how long and how strong is the silver cord?

Answer: There is no danger whatever of another entity taking possession of one's lower vehicles while the ego, with its higher vehicles, is out as an unconscious Invisible Helper. The unconscious Invisible Helper is fully protected while out of his body. With those who have evolved to the point where they can leave their bodies consciously, however, it is different. They are themselves responsible for any consequences which may result from the leaving of their bodies.

The silver cord is composed of three parts: one of ether, one of desire stuff, and one of mind stuff. No occult development is possible until the third part of the silver cord has been developed, but after it is completed the ego may leave its dense body and roam the wide world, either consciously or unconsciously, depending upon one's spiritual development. In either case, the ductility and elasticity of the third part of the silver cord, which is made of mind stuff, serves as a link with the lower vehicles. There is no danger of its being severed unless it has become more tenuous through illness.

THE PANORAMA OF THE BLIND

Question: Does a man who has been completely blind in his past life, when he views its panorama, actually see the pictures that existed around him?

Answer: The subconscious mind consists of the

records imprinted on the negative atoms of the vital body's reflecting ether. When such a man as cited is freed from his dense body, his spiritual power comes back in some measure and he is able to read these pictures with his spiritual vision.

The panorama presents itself to him in a manner similar to the way the scenes of a moving picture are shown, except that they are presented in reverse order, from the time of passing to the moment of birth.

Now since this record is independent of the physical sight, and since the reading of the record is dependent upon spiritual sight, it is true that people who have been blind during their past life actually do see the pictures of that life in the after-death panorama.

SEEING ENTITIES

Question: There is one thing in this world I would like to get the best of, but invariably it gets the best of me, especially at critical moments. For instance, I have a thing practically accomplished when an outside influence comes along and makes me fail. I feel as though some drug had been injected into me, and I become numb and dizzy and momentarily blinded. My whole life has been ruined by this power over me.

A number of years ago mental voices started to come to me. Then what appeared to be a good force showed me how easily anyone might be tricked by such things. One night after one of these experiences I opened my eyes and saw on the footboard of the bed two shapes with great peaked heads and strange sharp ears. There they sat eyeing

me with their big, mighty eyes rolling around greedily. But when I moved, they flew out of the window. What is it all about? Perhaps you can enlighten me.

Answer: It is evident that you are mediumistic to some extent. When one becomes mediumistic, his finer vehicles have become abnormally sensitive to the vibrations from the invisible planes, and he easily gets into contact with them and perhaps sees some of the entities which live there. If he is of a negative mental type, these entities may gradually acquire a certain degree of control over him. Among these beings are those that are good and those that are bad. Some are devoted to the furthering of the plan of evolution, and others are seeking to frustrate it.

The fact that you seem to come under the domination of some force which at the critical moment causes you to fail would indicate that some adverse influence from the other side is working against your welfare, affecting you at key moments in a hypnotic way, putting suggestions into your mind that are false, and even, perhaps, directing vibrations against you which make you dizzy. All phenomena of this sort are distinctly negative and most objectionable. When a person has been careless or negligent in the matter of self-control for many lives, psychic negativeness may finally reach the stage where entities from the other side of an inimical sort gain entrance to his aura and seek to bring about his failure.

The solution is perfectly evident: Do your own thinking. Start to become positive in all of your thinking, in all of your desires, and all of your acts. This will automatically compel you to use your will, which will thus be built up. Gradually the finer vehicles—the mind, the desire body, and vital body—will become positive, and thereby form an unyielding barrier to evil influences. If you do this, in time you will arrive at the point where such influences as those mentioned will automatically be shut out.

Then the phenomena which now trouble you will disappear. The positive individual *creates* his own thoughts and directs their activity. The negative person *receives* the thoughts of others, and is controlled by them.

PRAYING SPIRITS OUT OF PURGATORY

Question: What is meant by “praying” a spirit out of purgatory? Can this be done?

Answer: No one can be “prayed” out of purgatory. The action of the purgatorial forces frees the spirit from its base desires and corrects the weaknesses and vices that hinder its progress by making it suffer in the identical manner best adapted to that purpose.

Purgatorial activity is divided into two distinct classes, namely, the eradication of bad habits, and the reaction of evil deeds done to others. Desires in the physical world which cannot be gratified after a time burn themselves out, so to speak, and cease to be. Something similar takes place in the purgatorial region. There the spirit has no dense vehicle, and that is what makes the difference in regard to the gratification of its various desires. For example, the man who drank alcoholic beverages during earth life now has no alimentary canal in which chemical combustion can take place, thereby generating fumes which are a delight to the desire body. The vicious man can no longer kill, nor can the miser collect gold, et cetera. And so through lack of gratification these desires finally wear themselves out, exactly as they do in the physical world, and the spirit is freed from them.

In relation to the reaction of evil done to others, as the panorama of life unrolls backward, it presents to the spirit the scenes wherein it has done wrong to others, and then the evil reacts on the ego in such a way that where it has made another suffer, either mentally or physically, it feels itself as the injured one and endures all the anguish and pain that the victim felt in life. As the speed of purgatorial existence is three times faster than that of ordinary earth life, the intensity of suffering is likewise trebled.

Thus the spirit is finally purged of all evil by the action of the Law of Consequence and not by the prayers of others. And as soon as this is done, it is ready to leave the purgatorial region and enter the First Heaven world. However, it must be remembered that the purgatory experiences are not continuous; there is an interval of respite after each period of suffering. During these intervals the prayers of the spirit’s friends and loved ones are a great comfort to it. □