Words from Spirit: "Therefore, spirit teachers say: Prepare. There is no death of aught that lives. We proclaim in words of light. Prepare to live well in happiness and joy, both on Earth and the Spirit Plane. This plane is neither heaven or hell except as each soul makes it so for themselves, which is also true of Earth and your homes there. Every degree of pleasure or of sorrow is dependent upon the individuals in the home and according to their conduct, your Earth life is happy or unhappy."

On The Spirit Plane

Here the soul is stripped of all physical conditions and is free to make its own conditions. Helpers and teachers are nearby to hear your faintest cry for help and no respond immediately with all you receive. Spirits teaches us, helps us to help ourselves, leads us to think, to find our own talents and to develop them and to strengthen our soul qualities.

Living Conditions on the Spirit Plane

The Spirit Plane furnishes all conditions that any soul may require for its comfort, pleasure, even delight, all free for the taking. To be sure, we must learn first to desire and then to avail ourselves to these possibilities — we must learn to provide from materials at hand, all we need for sustenance, clothing, homes, furniture. The soul meets former friends as well as teachers. To the progressive soul, all things that are desired shall be attained when they are earned.

Necessary Preparation for Progress

Spiritual education is a most important preparation for spiritual progress, progress which leads to happiness here and hereafter. For the spiritual evolution of our own soul, we must practice self-control, self-reliance, as well as reliance upon the instructions of our teachers. We must acquire the perfect faith, which leads to knowledge. Faith and knowledge lead to serenity, to peace of mind. If we know what we believe, then under all trials, tests, and sorrowful conditions, we will be at peace, serene in our faith and in the wisdom and protective power of our faithful but invisible friends.

Foundation Facts

Concerning Spiritualism as a Religion

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Foundation Facts Concerning Spiritualism as a Religion

The Religion

Spiritualism receives the authority for its statements from progressed souls of Etheric Planes (Spirit World) who, through mediums, bring their knowledge to the Earth Plane in order to free humanity from outdated creeds and superstitions. They offer us a religion by which we may live each day; in fact, they say, "Religion is right living." Right living is encompassed in its entirety in the "Golden Rule." Living one's religion, as taught by sprit teachers, involves "Love your neighbor as yourself," and "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Loving one another, tolerance of the thoughts, opinions and conduct of those about us and charity for all—these are the leading principles concerning our relations with humanity in general.

Other teachings of Spiritualism include the possibility of communications between the Earth and the Spirit Planes through Mediumship. Spiritualism teaches that, under certain conditions, interchange of thought can occur between souls of Earth and those of Spirit Planes. This communication is usually carried out by means of sensitives called mediums, whose nervous systems are sufficiently refined and harmonized with souls of similar conditions on the Spirit Planes. Individuals may receive proof of the continuation of life after so-called death. Teachers from the Spirit Planes, speaking through mediums, whose skills and abilities they may use, bring us to discover much information concerning the continuity of life.

1. These teachers answer the questions of mortals who ask; "Where are the friends who have left us? Are they contented and happy? What is their new home like? How did they reach it? How do they live?"

2. Furthermore, the teachers tell us that Earth life is a preparatory school for a fulfilling entrance into the continuity of life.

3. This preparation involves the knowledge that we are responsible for our own life and are not saved from everlasting torment by the sacrifice of another's life.

4. Temptations do not come from the devil but from one's innermost being; no one succumbs to temptations unless we, ourselves, desire to do so.

5. Thus we learn that, if by our own desires we yield to temptations—that is, if we tempt ourselves and follow through on our own unfortunate desires—by those very acts we will create our own negative situations.

Whatever our conduct may be, it will bring its own reward or regret because, "as we sow, so shall we reap."

Evolution: A Universal Law

Evolution is one of the universal laws. Humanity and all of manifested life are the product of evolution, not of individual creation. All creation contains intelligence, differences being in the degree of expression. The planets and stars scattered throughout the cosmos are not the result of creation but evolution carried out through more eons of time than the mortal mind can conceive. The planet Earth is now and ever will be, as long as it continues to exist, undergoing the process of evolution.

Evolution of the God Idea

Following and living in adherence to Natural Laws were probably not understood fully by humanity at an early period. The results of living in accordance with these Laws can manifest in what we now label clairvoyance (or clear-seeing), clairaudience (or clear-hearing) and physical mediumship (knocking, rapping, tapping, and transfiguration, for example), and communications) were carried by between souls of the Spirit Planes and souls of Earth. As these demonstrations were not fully understood, they caused fears and superstitions in the minds of primitive people, and from these feelings arose the God idea. Spirit beings appeared to clairvoyants in the form of people like themselves and spoke naturally, yet seemed to possess powers and attributes far beyond those of people. Humanity created mental images of gods from whom they might seek advice and assistance. In this way the idea of a Supreme Being arose who had created humanity in the image of God. From their own observations of spirit beings, people created ideal gods, who possessed power to create or destroy and had overall authority. Eventually peoples' ignorance of Natural Laws and misunderstandings of the actions of these laws, led to fears and superstitions and finally, diversified and erratic religious doctrines.

Many of the ancient nations worshipped a multitude of gods, there was a god for every phase of nature and for every condition of life. In their efforts to appease these gods, enacted laws to control every facet of life, which only increased ignorance and superstitions. One group of people recognized Jehovah as their leader, and they were taught to consider Jehovah as possessing all power, all knowledge, and all wisdom. They recognized the gods of other nations as powerful, but quite inferior to their own god.

The Origin of Creation As Taught in the Bible

From the conception of Jehovah, influenced by the mythical stories as told by nations much older than the Jehovah worshipers arose the conception of the Creation of All Things. This was handed down by word of mouth through many generations, and finally embodied by written word. The Bible story of the creation of the Earth and all that pertains to it bears no relation whatever to scientific facts; yet the scientific facts are ignored by many religions even at the present time.

Values of the Instructions Given to Humanity by Etheric (Spiritual) Teachers

The instructions of the spirit teachers are valuable for the conduct of those who dwell on the Earth Plane and for the preparation of the continuity of life. Spirit stresses the fact that Earth life may be almost unbelievably improved in all its conditions by the acceptance and practice of the lessons given. Spirit also offers a glimpse to mortals of the continued life in its possibilities for improvement of self, for joy, for contentment, and for spiritual progression. Spirit stresses that we manifest our own mental and spiritual life both on the Earth and the Spirit Planes.

Heaven or Hell

Our own conduct leads to rewards or negative situations and produces thereby our own version of heaven or hell. In this sense, heaven is a state of contentment, of satisfaction with results we have achieved. Hell is a state of ignorance, or lack of possibilities, (sometimes called darkness), of dissatisfaction, of restlessness, of continued obstinate refusal to seek improvement, and often distinct unhappiness or even mental and spiritual agony caused by the results of our own conduct.