

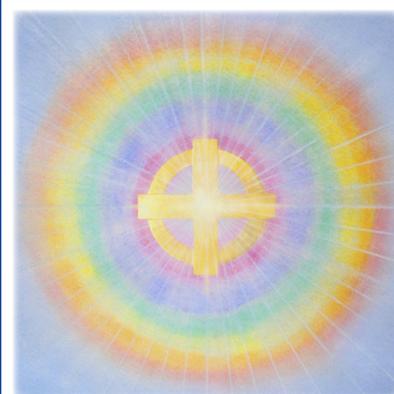
The Angel of His Presence

We all have our Angels. We are all ministered unto by Angels. We all have the correspondence within us of the Angel of His Presence, though the correspondence may not yet be unveiled within the Being, and so there has as yet come no realisation of that most Blessed and Glorious Presence. But the Angels talk with us, they commune with us, they walk with us. We may be ever in their company, always sharing something of their Blessedness and their Ministry. For it is thus Souls grow, it is thus they move through the ages. It is thus they climb the Hills in their Processional and pass from state to state, summit to summit. It is thus they come to know more and still more of the Divine Reality.

Have you never talked with your own Angel? He will have spoken to you many times. For the Angel of His Presence is in our constitution, though not in the fashion of the Divine World sense, where HE assumes the Presence and Fashion of ADONAI HIMSELF, nor in the Celestial degree wherein HE becomes the concrete Exposition of the Eternal Mystery within the Inner Realm of a Star, and even within the Kingdoms, the higher Kingdoms of the Earth, when unfallen. HE speaks within the Soul through His Own Presence there. It may be but a miniature, but it is real. It is of that Living Substance that can grow, become richer, fuller, and know the vitalization that results from the Motion of the Eternal Breath or Spirit of the FATHER-MOTHER.

Try, therefore, first of all to realise your union with the Heavens; ... that you are Children of the Eternal, sharing His Mystery even to having within you the correspondence of that Sublime Mystery named the Angel of His Presence in the Divine World. Walk through life in the consciousness that you are ensphered from His High Realm.

Herald 19 pages 156 -157



The Order of the Cross

Spiritual Reflections

April 2016

Thoughts on the Teachings

John
Pignéguay

IT IS NOT HARD TO SEE why just about all of us are able to have such an easy relationship with the idea of ‘angels.’ The term itself seems to bring with it a realisation and an atmosphere which needs no defining, and it explains itself to us without us having to even think about it. But when we do think about it (something we should perhaps do a bit more often), all sorts of potencies contained in the term step quietly forward to make themselves better-known to us.

Someone who is a great help or support in troubled times is often described as ‘an angel,’ a personal and heartfelt accolade of gratitude, and an inspiration in itself. Our spirits are lifted in these moments and would seem to give an intimation of something ‘else’ going on, something that connects each of us to a greater reality – as well it might. As Our Friend says in the cover-extract: ‘We all have our Angels. We are all ministered unto by Angels.’ A fractious and noisy world may make this seem rather unlikely, but that is because of a lack on our part – we allow the outer conditions and activities to dominate, which is understandable up to a point. Having to live and work on ‘the outer’ means that we have to make sure we find a sense of balance through ‘the inner.’

Our Friend writes ‘Have you never talked with your own Angel?’ Most of us would probably like to think we do, in one way or another. ‘He will have spoken to you many times’ – but have we been listening? Being *really* honest with ourselves would be a good place to start.

Our awareness of ‘The Angel of His Presence’ will increase if we are able to balance our lives in such a way, in a practical way, so as to bring a realisation to everything that we do (and seek to do) that we are at all times ‘ensphered from His High Realm.’ When we begin to truly appreciate what all of this means, we will not only enhance our own spiritual potency but also become more able to share its radiance in our daily lives.

Gateways to God: Part I

HOW BEAUTIFULLY AND WONDROUSLY WE ARE MADE! For are we not made and fashioned in the image and likeness of God, of Him who is both Father and Mother to us? For many ages He has been thought of as our Father. But He must also be our Mother. Else how could we be His children?

God has been thought of as a person. But He is never a person. He is in all, yet there is nothing, as such, that can be said to be Him. He is the Father and Mother of the Universe, and of all that has been divinely begotten within it. Within every soul He has placed His own mystery, which as it is brought forth, cultivated, expressed, will reveal uniquely and distinctively His own Likeness, Fashion and Image. This means that although we are all created and brought forth by that same Principle, as that Principle operates within us by means of His laws, yet each soul will have his or her own distinctive place and service at all times in His wondrous Purpose.

That that Purpose has been sadly intercepted is clearly obvious, else there would not be in the world today anything that was ugly, discordant, diseased, unbalanced, impure. We cannot conceive of Him as One who could in His creating, have anything in His creation that could be other than beautiful and true, any more than in the human realm a true artist would begin with an unclean canvas or adulterate his pigments (assuming they were pure in the first place) in order to produce a beautiful painting.

Yet we are faced by the fact that there is in the world today much that is unlike and indeed not of Him at all. We know also that this is likewise true, in varying degrees, of ourselves. The reason for this has deep causes, which can come to be understood by those who are prepared to seek deeply and reverently to understand them. What one can say is that the cause or causes for all that has happened have been removed, making it now possible for every truly seeking soul to find the answer for every problem, the healing of every kind of affliction, and the resolving of Life's many seeming contradictions and difficulties.

We have been told that only as man comes to know himself will he come to know and understand all else. And this can be understood when we see that if He has placed within us potentially that which is the miniature of Himself, then in the degree in which that has been cultured, so will there be the understanding of His Nature, His Purpose and His Will. In the measure in which this takes place so shall we come to understand ourselves, and thus Life as a whole. But where that understanding, having once been illumined, no longer exists by reason of the great declension of consciousness having taken place in man so that he lost the true vision of God's purpose, then the way back to that true vision and understanding cannot be easy.

It was, of course, unto the restoring of that vision to and in man that the Master, known as Jesus Christ, came in other days. He came, as the first part of His mission, to re-lay the foundations for the restoration of that vision unto those who could receive it, that ultimately it would be given to the whole world. What was relaid then as the initial part of His mission has now to be recovered and fulfilled in these days. Had what He taught them, especially the more inward aspects of His teaching, been embodied and carried out as He had hoped, then the world would be in a much better state than it is.

But this does not mean that our return in consciousness, our healing, our salvation, our restoration, is being accomplished for us. It is true that God alone heals us. But He heals us in the degree in which we respond to and conform to His Laws in soul, heart, mind and body. And this is accomplished not by what comes to us externally, but by what is accomplished in and by the soul of each one of us. What our Father-Mother does is to touch and stimulate the central Principle within us. In the degree in which we can be touched, and the measure in which we can respond to and receive, and be filled by His Love, and as that Principle becomes active within us, so shall we be healed, and the whole life restored from its centre to its circumference, and from its outer borders to its innermost mystery. For there is that dual motion of our life: that which proceeds to Him and that which

proceeds from Him. Therefore our approach to Him is as vital and important as that which we try to express and reveal of Him within and through the soul itself, within and through the heart or emotional life, within and through the mind with its thought processes, and into and through the body and outer activities. For in the broad sense, our life is four-fold; that which is outward, that which is intermediary, that which is inward, and that which is of the innermost. In the more inward sense they are like the four courts of the temple of our life.

Related to these, and moving through them, are the senses, those of vision, of hearing, of smell or inhalation, of taste, of touch, and of that most inward sense, that of feeling.

Of course the senses have been largely thought of as being physical and outward, and indeed as non-spiritual. But this is not so, as we shall see as we proceed. For they are God-given faculties and avenues which have their seat in the soul and which, on the outer, are the channels or extensions by which the soul senses what is taking place at every level of consciousness, including the outer or physical.

They are pathways to and from the soul. They are gateways through which we pass, leading us from the without, through the realms of the mind and heart, even into the sanctuary of the soul. They are veritably gateways to God.

[Editor: In the next six issues of Spiritual Reflections we will read of the Gateways of Vision, Sound, Fragrance, Taste, Touch and Feeling.]

Winifred **Life is a Divine Art**

Foad

FROM THE HEART OF A VERY YOUNG CHILD came a great desire to teach Truth through Beauty.

It plucked the flowers and then dissected them to find out how they came, how their form was fashioned, and the wonder of their colour and scent. Whence came they?

Memories of other lives upon the Planet's Heavens, or maybe upon the Angelic Realms, were reflected into its consciousness. The joy of listening to the music of the insect life amid a field of grasses attuned to the gentle breezes, together with the sweet songs of the birds, especially the skylark, singing whilst soaring into the Heavens, filled the child-mind with imaginings and longings to express beauty. Later, its happiest moments were spent with needles and silk, and with brushes and a paint box. It liked to be alone to express its inherent desire, for it felt that art, beauty, form, colour and design, were linked in a mysterious way with GOD.

Oh the wonder and the tenderness of the Great Artist Who ever leads the Soul on to find its goal, though it often knows it not. Art is a channel through which Beauty should be expressed.

Beauty is the manifest revelation of Truth, for Truth is Beauty and there cannot be any real Beauty without Truth. Art trains and cultivates the eye, the mind and the heart to appreciate true Beauty. First there is the Truth of a single line, for does not the vertical line express strength, security and uprightness upon which the simplest article and the profoundest architectural achievements are based? Then the horizontal line, which is equally indispensable, expresses repose and rest, the necessary element in every true construction. With the combination of these two lines we get Balance, which contains the deeper and fuller meaning of Equipoise and Equity, for the Cross is the foundation of Life. It is the mystery hidden in the depths of Nature and is the basis of the Superstructure of Man. The Cross is the most sacred sign in the Universe and is the oldest of all symbols. The Cross of GOD in us. His Substance and Spirit in dual aspect form Life's perfect balance and motion, with centrifugal and centripetal modes of action and manifestation. Therefore, from the objective to the subjective, through true knowledge and the meaning of line, form and colour, the Soul comes to know the infinite possibilities within itself. Every line has its significance within that hidden mystery, and finds expression through man's various parts.

Beauty is essential to productiveness in civic life, and to the well-being of the nation. It is a necessary part of any scheme which can

be called Education. Ruskin said that education was 'Soul making', but surely it is rather 'Soul Understanding'.

To understand the mystery of Truth at the centre of all true Life, from which beauty, faithful expression and appreciation can alone come, is the goal of Art.

The oblique line is the harmonious, connecting and unifying line. Within ourselves it signifies service and adoration. The circle is the unbroken chain of Love in Life, and is the Sun or Life within us. Without these symbols of strength, harmony, rest and motion, and expressing of feeling and force, Art could not find its fulfilment nor express its purpose in life.

Design also enters largely into every form of artistic expression, and has an influence for good in the life of everyone. Briefly, it is true that the principles of Design are the principles of Life, and when applied, produce pattern and ornament, not only in that which is termed Art, but in life itself, which it beautifies and makes harmonious. It is a joy to redeem that which is uncouth and ugly, to make everything we do spell out the mystery and principle which is at the centre of all forms of true life. The Designer uses his powers to link thoughts and ideas from the mystic realms, and apply them to the way of everyday occupation and commerce.

We are journeyed back to that which is truly spiritual and Art shall be touched by the Eternal motion and express in that motion the Divine Idea, for the language of the Arts was and is to be an interpretation of the language of the Heavens.

The Oppressor laid it low, destroyed the nature of sacrifice, and changed entirely the holy purpose of Art as the reflected exposition of Divine Idea made substantial and concrete, formulate and creative. But the day is hastening when the Message will show Art to be a true expression of Divinity, coming forth into manifestation.

Art cannot be separated from Life. Each devotee contributes to the Nation and to the Universal world, and will leave a mark which will not pass away but live, for Truth cannot die. That which becomes manifest is not itself the reality, but only the testimony that there is this hidden reality.

All true Art is begotten of the motion of the Divine World within Man's Being and must ever express it, for Beauty is a necessity to happiness and life.

Though we tread the whole world over to discover Beauty, we shall not find it unless we find it in ourselves.

Beauty ... is so delicate a quality, so complex in its elements, a question often of such nice balance and judgment — depending perhaps upon a hair's-breadth difference in the poise of a mass here, or the sweep of a curve there — that we cannot weave technical nets fine enough to catch so sensitive a butterfly. She is indeed a Psyche in art, both seeking and sought, to be finally won only by devotion and love.

Line and Form by Walter Crane, chapter 3

Our powers and gifts are great and glorious only in the proportion in which the Divine Centre affects them, and the real Self finds perfect expression, for GOD is our Art and we have nothing of ourselves.

The Divine Motion in the realm of Art within us is that of one of the Great Archangels, Oriphiel; when a Soul ascends into the inner realms that Soul understands. There is no utterance so great as the motion of the Spiritual Being, for it vibrates in every expression and act. It is a language so sensitive, capable of recording and revealing impressions of beauty, form and structure which are hidden from the careless eye. It is a delicate instrument which may catch and perpetuate rotation, and is a staff to lean upon through the Journey of Life. It is a candid friend who never deceives us, verily a divining rod which may ultimately reveal to us that Beauty and Truth are one.

Life 'is an embodiment of the highest Art, the real Divine Art'*, because HE the FATHER-MOTHER, fashioned us out of HIS Own Divine Substance and Spirit. This secret in everyone is to be recovered in this day.

Oh, the Mystery of GOD in a Human Soul, and the perfect superstructure, whereby a Soul can reach to the Divine World and yet be sustained to live and function on these outer planes

for ministry because of the wonder of the Divine Standard, which is the Spiral of Being, to which all Divine magnetic streams flow and from which they again proceed, and to which all potencies are related and all planes of Being attached. From this great centre, centrifugal force proceeds as electric power by which it gives and creates.

Oh the wonder of the recovered Message direct from the Eternal World, giving to all Souls power to ascend the Sacred Staircase, and, in ascending to take on the fashion of the Luminous Cross! Oh the wonder of the Greatest Artist — our FATHER-MOTHER, Creator-Nourisher, WHO made each thing in its own order of manifestation to reveal HIM in Embodiment!

Art as expressed today is largely garmented in the grave clothes in which materialism has tried to bury it.

May all GOD's Children become again true Artists through Embodiment, for that is the Greatest of all Arts. The FATHER-MOTHER has need of all Souls who can bear witness to HIS Love and Wisdom in the Beauty of Holiness in all realms of Art.

[**The Divine Renaissance* Volume 2 page 462]

On Care for our Common Home

A READER WAS RECENTLY MOVED to share with the Editor an extract from the May 2015 encyclical from Pope Francis in which he writes about the sacredness of life with reference to the creatures. For copyright reasons it is not possible to reprint the passage here, but Members may wish to read it for themselves. It can be found online, and the extract shared with the Editor is to be found at the end of chapter V in paragraph 92.

It might be helpful to share some information about encyclicals. An encyclical is a letter circulated by the Pope to Catholic churches worldwide. It is sent to Catholics all over the world and is often addressed to all people of good will, namely non-Catholics who may also want to read the document. Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si' - Care of our common home* is addressed to 'every person living on this planet'.

GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

July-August

27-3 Natural Movement Dance and Families Gathering: Ammerdown

September

23-25 Northern Area Gathering: Gartmore House, Stirling, Scotland

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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This will ensure that Spiritual Reflections is sent to your new address and that all your contact details are up-dated on our database.

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