A brief meditation upon a great quest

THE GREATEST QUEST of life is the Being’s desire to contact the Divine… The Soul’s quest for the Divine is as natural to it as for the Sun to shine always. For it is the effect of the inshining Light of Him who is ever the Soul’s Sun; and although the mind may have a long way to journey ere it can even cognize the Light, let alone dwell amidst the splendours of its glory, yet the Soul seeks to find the Light, to contact it, to dwell in it, because of the Divine inherent Principle, which is also the Divine inherent Indwelling. This is also the explanation of the Soul never finding satisfaction anywhere but in the cognition and ultimate realisation of the Divine… The story is full of exquisite tenderness, and it breathes of the FATHER-MOTHER’s Love and Wisdom. It reveals the Divine understanding of the Soul’s needs, and the Divine approach unto its healing…

What is the Healing that Christ gives? What is it? If in everyone there were perfect healing within, there would not be required any healing without, except of such hurts as came through the motion of the disturbed elements of the still fallen conditions of the world. But from within there could be no tribulation whatever. Even the outer world would be speedily healed. What is the Healing that Christ gives? Oh, it is the restoration of attribute. It is the re-energizing of potency. It is the re-illumining of the mind. It is the re-exaltation of all the Being. It is the re-fashioning of the spiritual man and woman. Christ heals fear by giving to the Being perfect trust in the goodness of the FATHER-MOTHER. HE chases away the shadows which fall upon the threshold as the result of fear, through illumining the mind, helping it to understand correctly what is asked of it, and what Healing means. HE touches the atrophied attribute, and makes it recover its power…
HE heals the spirit. HE heals the will through making the will perfect, balanced; the spirit in its divine motion; the heart in its perfect response to the Divine Love’s motion and as a container of the Mystery of that Love for the service of life. HE heals the mind by teaching it how to respond to HIM, how to be like HIS own Mind, clear and beautiful and pure, and yet lowly in its power.

_Herald XXII, pp126,127,130,131 extracts_
(See also _The Logia or Sayings of the Master, p132_)
The Spiritual Journey of each one of us is as unique and as varied as we ourselves are as individuals. This may seem to be stating the obvious, but sometimes the quiet exploration of ‘the obvious’ may yield some interesting results. Our Friend’s words in the opening sentence of the cover-extract reflect the nature of this spiritual journey – ‘The greatest quest of life is the Being’s desire to contact the Divine.’ The journey implied here helps to focus our spiritual vision and give us direction, something that we need to give time to amidst the many persistent distractions of modern life. How we deal with these distractions in a positive way is an interesting subject in itself. Every person will have a different approach, and we can all learn from each other. Some will find unspoken inspiration and solace in great works of art and music, or in the wonders and beauty of the natural world. Similarly with the brilliant spectacle of a starry night-sky or a spectacular sunrise or sunset, all of these are indicative of a powerful sense of ‘something definitely going on,’ and on more than one level.

We feel better for such experiences and in a way that is impossible to put into words. But we know within ourselves, and we may feel drawn into something, or towards something, that is greater than ourselves but nevertheless still very much a part of each one of us. The resultant quiet sense of healing needs no words. Words, however useful and necessary they may be in our outer lives, are not always appropriate to the things of the Spirit and the inner life. The Christian theologian and philosopher St. Augustin of Hippo (AD 345-430) made exactly this point in one short but telling sentence – ‘God gave us music that we may pray without words.’ This sentence is worth repeating quietly to ourselves, for it speaks to us of the ineffable. The mind is stilled, and in that new reality, our perception and intuition can expand into new areas of spiritual awareness.

Our Friend’s words in the cover-extract concern “…the re-illumining of the mind…the re-fashioning of the spiritual man and woman…the re-exaltation of all the Being…” all aspects of our spiritual journey which are felt within our inmost Being and are beyond mere words. With this certainty as our gentle ‘guiding
star,’ we will surely find ourselves on that spiritual path towards discovering (or rather re-discovering) “…the healing that Christ gives.”

Two poems by Jacqueline Ward

SEED OF A POEM

To me, this world is fragile as an egg-shell. Beautiful, in soft colours, like a wild bird’s egg. Not just a shell, but an egg containing all of us, all the flowers and forests, all the birds and creatures, light on the mountains, all the inhabitants of rivers and sea. Yet so fragile it could break like a shell in the palm of the hand.

But there are those who would subjugate everyone that they cannot use, everything that they can. Are they evil or ignorant? It is a matter of awareness – of heart and head. Do they know that they could break the egg-shell, spilling the world?
TRANSIENCE

A boy’s voice
a rainbow
poppy petals
the shine on conkers
the sheen on a fallen feather.

Dawns day
and we pray
children play
and so it goes on,
but not for ever.

Stay with me,
for I love you so.

Dear friend, this life is fleeting.
Let it be,
and travel on, into eternity.
Easter Gathering  
Sarum College, Salisbury

Prayers  
Maundy Thursday Evening, Richard Ashley

The gathering opened on the Thursday evening with a short service of prayers and psalms based loosely on the order of the traditional night service of Compline which celebrates the completion of the day and prepares the participants for a good night’s rest during which they will be guarded by and ministered to by the Angels. A short passage from The Herald of the Cross XIX, pp168-169 was read relating to the nature of prayer.

There is no accomplishment that is of a divinely permanent order for the Soul except by the pathway of Prayer.

We prayed for the work of the Order of the Cross, the World, the City of Salisbury after what it had been through and ourselves.

The service was concluded by us singing together the well-loved evening Hymn written by Thomas Ken, one time resident of Salisbury, Glory to Thee, my God, this night For all the blessings of the light;

Retreat  
Good Friday Morning, Bernard Fallon

In this wonderful setting for a Retreat, with the grassy sward of the magnificent Cathedral Close just outside the door, in which to stroll in quiet contemplation, the subject was Resurrection – the Resurrection of the Christhood, the whole House of Israel. The text was the unfoldment concerning The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones and The Arising of Israel from Ezekiel, pp137-153.

Those present were given a copy of the Logia of Ezekiel and the accompanying notes pp244-257 on Thursday evening and were thus able to read and prepare before the Retreat.

Before the Altar with its beautifully crafted Cedar table, resplendently lit by our new lighting stand, the First Part of the Retreat opened with a reading of A Psalm of Remembrance from Songs of Israel p87. This was followed by the text from Ezekiel.
pp137-141 and ended before the first break with the singing of Hymn 58, *O Cross of God within us*.

In the First Part of the Retreat the meaning of The Vision of Ezekiel was given to us as a Cosmic Drama wherein was the tragic fall of the House of Israel and the Children of the Planet, and we heard of the depth of their suffering; but we also heard promise of the Resurrection of the House of Israel.

In the Second Part of the Retreat the text was *Ezekiel* pp141-147 and we learned of the constitution of the House of Israel – as a regal community of the House of I-O-Seph, as the priesthood of the Temple of Solomon, as the Christhood of GOD – and what it is to become again. We also learned of the Four Breaths and how they will contribute to accomplishing this wonderful Resurrection.

Midway through the Second Part, Canticle 18, *A Call to Israel*, was sung, which takes as its text *The Message of Isaiah*.

Following from the rejoicing in the Heavens and in the Angelic Hosts at the return of each Soul of the true Israel, as it contributes to the rebuilding of the Christhood and the superstructure of the Temple of Solomon upon the Earth, we heard in the Third Part of the Retreat, *Ezekiel* pp147-153, of the significance of this Resurrection as it applies to each individual Soul and how each returning Soul must respond to the call of The Voice.

Midway through this Third Part of the Retreat the atmosphere was elevated to soaring heights by Anne Campbell and Ruth Pignégy singing Canticle 16, *The Refashioning of the Earth*, as a duo, accompanied by John Pignégy on our new keyboard. The text of this Canticle is again taken from part of *The Message of Isaiah*.

It seemed most appropriate, making linked understandings, that *The Vision of Ezekiel* and *The Message of Isaiah* were the subject of our Worship in the context of the chosen study book for the Gathering, *Minor Prophets*.

It is remarkable to note that the chosen text for the Easter Services in the Cathedral was also *The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones* from the Old Testament Book of Ezekiel.
Worship Service  
Saturday Morning, Cathy Oerter

The Beautiful Sanctuary had in its midst the prior atmospheres from the Morning of Retreat on the Resurrection from the Valley of Dry Bones. Saturday’s Worship Service built on those and continued with the subject of Consciousness. The choir sang the Chorale, Love Ye One Another as the ministrant approached the Altar.

It is the time of the Return of Israel… It is the day of the Return into the consciousness of the Presence who is our Lord… The Return implies…the upgathering into one glorious degree of polarized consciousness wherein the LORD of BEING will become the Living Force, the Abiding Friend, the Holy Guest Who goes out no more, so that it will be true of them all that they shall go out no more from His Presence.

Herald XXV, p18,19

After singing Hymn 50, Gracious Spirit All Pervading, the ministrant spoke on trees and their share in our aspiration with readings on the Illimitableness of Consciousness.

…during ages of growth (the Soul) has gathered in of the Divine Ætheria which is pregnant with consciousness… It is in the midst of polarized Divine Ætheria that consciousness becomes manifest and finds individuated self-expression…and grows from the single to the multiple…until the Soul, having attained to Planetary Cosmic Consciousness, has the power to be in touch with the whole Planetary racial consciousness. Isaiah, p202

The Divine Omniscience from Herald XXVI, pages 129-139, were read in part. Light was shed on the Mysteries regarding contingency in all that will be accomplished, the Divine World’s ability to see the direction of souls and worlds and how their purpose can be known only after their history is written. We are not machines but glorious embodiments with His Law in us, with perfect liberty to express and reveal our perfect selves. What a great Mystery it is as we pass from realm to realm!

It is in such a Universe I would ever live in consciousness with my FATHER-MOTHER and your FATHER-MOTHER. But I would have you live in that consciousness, too, in such a Universe of delight with Him, notwithstanding the Earth’s shadows in these days, and its travail. Herald XXVI, p137
The Sanctuary was filled with increased potency as Canticle 26, *A New Avatar*, was sung followed by partial readings from *Divine Renaissance II* pages 502-511. The gathering of knowledge realized into the inner realms finds no abiding resting-place anywhere, until it finds it in the consciousness of the Blessed ONE.

Hymn 94 reinforced this reading on arising with verses 2, 3 and 5 sung.

*Arise my Soul, His Heights thou now must climb,*
*Press ever upwards to Heaven’s Joys sublime,*
*Lift up thine eyes and feel the quickening Beam*
*Of His pure Spirit, Love’s Magnetic Stream.*
*Arise, my soul, His Angel findeth thee,*
*Great as thy travail let thy triumph be.*

And then Love comes forth when the Soul reaches the state where there dawns upon its consciousness its oneness with all living things.

*…when the Cosmic-consciousness breaks within the Soul, it becomes manifest. Its motion comes through the Soul, and is revealed in love for all. It has learnt on the way to love all and despise none; …In such a consciousness there is no such thing as the earthly limitations of national and racial motion. There is the one sublime Love for all.*

*Divine Renaissance II, p505*

The choir voices resounded from the Heavens as they sang the Choral, *Behold! The Mystery of His Love*. The fellowship felt enfolded and uplifted. What a blessing the choir is to our Worship. We offer our grateful thanks to the singers and choir director for enriching this sacred time.

*It is in you all; doubt it not. The power of His own Mystery is in you; let it grow, filling you full of sweet reverence and gentleness, majesty and strength. Let the exposition of HIMSELF through you proceed until HE again becomes within you as your LORD, and you take on the glorious fashion of ADONAI.*

*Divine Renaissance II p511.*

The Service concluded with the intimate singing of Hymn 34, *Lord of all Being Throned Afar.*
Meditation
Saturday Evening, Christopher Nye

Our Friend produced an Easter Brochure in 1940. He sent it to all Members. It contained two addresses given at Headquarters. The first on Good Friday was called The Cross of a Christ. The second on Easter Morning was called The Resurrection Life. This meditation was inspired by The Cross of a Christ.

During the February Spiritual Linking this Address was shared by Members in two sessions. The first included those in Australia and New Zealand as well as in Europe; and the second session, as well as including Friends throughout the United Kingdom, was joined by those from across the United States and Canada. This gave Members from all around this troubled planet the occasion to worship together and generate a very potent atmosphere.

Throughout the Meditation there were pauses during the readings, with longer silences for contemplation. Here are some excerpts.

The Cross of Christ relates to every Soul who attains to the Estate of Christhood. It is inherent in everyone, from the very foundations of the Soul’s Being; for the Cross is the Mystery of God within each one. p7

Every Christ must bear the Cross of Adonai. The ministry and the bearing of the Cross by us may be unto the revelation of the Glory of the Presence within us and around us. p13

The Hymn 87, Never further then the Cross was sung, and the closing Hymn was Number 13, Now thank we all our God.

You will come bearing your Cross for the perfect accomplishment of all for which the Oblation was borne, and all the glorious ministries of the Solar Body and the Eternal World were poured forth. p17

The Blessing was from page 4 which concluded;

How lovely Thou art! How wonderful in Thy stooping! How rich and glorious in Thy Blessing of all!

Tomorrow, Easter Day, is The Resurrection Life.
**Easter Sunday**

The service on Easter Sunday was a celebration of the Eucharist for members.

**Study Groups**

There were four study groups meeting on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Each group focused on sharing the message of one of the Minor Prophets, from the book *Minor Prophets*:

- *The Message of Joel*, p49, led by Richard Palmer
- *The Message of Obadiah*, p77, led by Lisa-Mary Mountain
- *The Message of Habakkuk*, p143, led by Christopher Miller
- *The Message of Haggai*, p161, led by Robert Rider

The study groups were enriching times for all who took part, and deep thanks go to all four study leaders.

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**Self-Denial and Purification**

*Bridget Willamina Lytton*

And he who hath this Word of Life dwelling within him, and who heareth the Voice of the Only Begotten ONE, purifieth himself even as HE is pure.

*The Logia*, p86

On this theme, we are also reminded of the very first words of the very first foundation statement.

To attain, by mutual helpfulness, the realization of the Christ-Life, by the path of self-denial, self-sacrifice and absolute self-abandonment to the Divine Will and Service.

The enormity of this call, this challenge, can no doubt be overwhelming, but we are assured that we can attain this path through devotion, and the mutual helpfulness of our precious Fellowship as we progress and deepen in our growing trust and joy. This is most certainly being manifested in the Communal Sharing group, where Members and Enquirers from around the world can share Our Friend’s beloved Message.

Our Friend surely knew that it was a hard path to follow, and he speaks openly of these difficulties in his final address, in 1903, to
his Macclesfield Congregation on the keynote of the “oneness of all life”.

The Universal Father, whose tender mercies are over all His Works, brought into existence beings others than ourselves, not for us to boast or feel superiority over them, but that we should learn that they also are a part of the Universal Life. We are higher in evolution, in Culture and in the Breath of Life, not so limited as they because we are Souls inhabiting bodies in which the brain is so balanced that the moral forces are equally poised with the animal forces. We are in these bodies to fight a battle with the animal propensities in us, until we gain the victory.

These revealing statements have given me much food for thought. From my own experience, I was often torn apart because of the conflict between my Soul, that longed for the purity of an ascetic, monastic life and the passions and desires of a vital, physical life of freedom and well-being. Being a member of the Order and not living up to one’s ideals made it harder still. Had I known what Our Friend said about these “animal propensities”, it might have been easier to accept this “inner conflict”, instead of losing energy just coping with them.

In light of this understanding, it is significant to note that the science of Psychology has discovered that from conception to about age 7, a child is in the process of forming the sub-conscious mind. This powerful mind is built into the physical body, as well as the body’s cellular memory, and is long lasting and even dominant years later when childhood traumas can surface in the adult and even elderly part of the life.

But, at around 7 years of age, the higher conscious mind starts to take shape. In some older Souls, experiences from past lives may be carried forward into their current incarnation.

The subconscious, animal mind is harder to override. This is because it has the power to form habits. Habits are hard to change. When they are harmful to the body, they are called addictions – again, they are hard to change.

This information is part of the studies of the well-known Human Biologist, Bruce Lipton. The habits we may have in our
subconscious mind may hinder the embodiment of our Christhood attainment. The fact that we are so closely related to the pig and cow (modern science has determined that 97% of our DNA we share with them, and because of this, it is now common practice to transplant organs from them into humans) points up the fact that our violence towards them as well as the fact of killing and eating any of the creatures we share the earth with is indeed cannibalism. But we know that the manifestation of One Christ Soul on the earth has a powerful effect to change and heal the world.

How can the Order of the Cross, with its wonderful vision of the new Paradise on Earth, embody the Message? How can we help members to develop the skills necessary to ascend in estate? How can we climb Mount Lebanon?

We must not forget Our Friend’s advice:
…to attain, by mutual helpfulness, the realization of the Christ-Life by the path of self-denial…

The Language of the Message
Richard Palmer

We all know how wonderful is the language of the Message, how it lifts us up out of our concerns and sorrows; how it speaks to the Soul, gradually unveiling the Mysteries: how it raises our Vision to that of a more beautiful Life and Embodiment; how it speaks to those Ancient Memories deep within the Being.

This was brought home to me yet further on listening to a wonderful talk given by Kathleen Spencer on a CD entitled The Language of the Message. Kathleen speaks of the importance of the form of the ‘New Language’; how, in hymns, we should give a full meaning to terms referring to the Divine; the importance of sounding the vowels; the pronunciation of Sacred Terms; and further, their intonation which helps to bring out the deeper meaning, indeed, raises our consciousness in the very speaking of those Terms!

Listening to Kathleen brought a lovely atmosphere as she spoke, and indeed particularly as she spoke some of those sacred terms
with such potent vibrations. This atmosphere was further deepened on reading a very interesting reference she gave to a sacred term, from ‘The Kingdom of the Soul’ in Herald 2 p80 (not found in the later books).

We are also counselled, where possible, to read the message aloud. This helps to generate healing Electric Streams which flow out to us all, and help hasten the Redemption of the Planet. As we read the Message more and more, so surely, are we moved by the ever greater unfolding of the Mystery of the Presence within us, and our Vision of the Soul and the Universe!

I understand that copies of the CD will be available at the convocation.

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**Order of the Cross Publications**

All of our books are now available to purchase directly from us:

- £5 UK, $5 N. America, $5 Australasia.

Details of our publications and how to purchase them can be found on our website and a selection of our booklets can be downloaded free of charge from our website (see p 17).

We have Literature Secretaries in the UK, North America and Australasia and your order can be sent directly to your nearest Secretary.
THE COMMUNAL SHARING CIRCLE is international and open to all. All you need to join us is a phone! Three regional calls are scheduled to serve our global community:

I: North America, Australia and New Zealand – 00:00 UTC
II: Europe, Australia and New Zealand – 08:00 UTC
III: North America and Europe – 16:00 UTC

For local times and dial-in numbers, see pages 14 and 15.

We welcome you to participate as a reader or a listener. Readings taken from the books are referenced on the schedule; others require service documents, which may be requested by contacting the Communal Sharing Coordinator (see page 14).

Feel free to join us as frequently or infrequently as you like. When possible, please dial in 3-5 minutes before the hour and introduce yourself when joining the call.

FELLOWSHIP CALLS on 2nd Saturdays – June 9, July 14, August 11 – help us get to know each other better and consider ways to improve our Sunday calls. Fellowship calls begin in North America at 8 am PDT, 11 am EDT, and in the UK at 4 pm BST.

**SCHEDULE**

**JUNE**

3  I & III  Worship Service – Ministrant: Michael Arcese  
   *The Law of the Lord*  [Document provided]

10  III  Ongoing Study taken from *Divine Renaissance II*  
     Ministrant: Richard Palmer

17  II & III  Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye  
   *The Logia*, pp. 22-33 – Discipleship

24  III  Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Willamina Bridget  
   *The Evangel of St. John*  [Document provided]
**JULY**

1  I & III  Worship Service – Ministrant: Richard Palmer  
*The Divine Love*  [Document provided]

8  III  Ongoing Study taken from *Divine Renaissance II*  
Ministrant: Douglas Hudson

15  II & III  Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye  

22  III  Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Dorothy Reid  
*Herald 29*, pp.91-104 – *The Science of Being*

**AUGUST**

5  I & III  Worship Service – Ministrant: Lindajean Stewart  
*The Secret Name of God*  [Document provided]

12  III  Ongoing Study taken from *Divine Renaissance II*  
Ministrant: Sophia Howard

19  II & III  Spiritual Linking – Ministrant: Christopher Nye  
*The Mystery of the City on Seven Hills*, pp. 5-13

26  III  Communal Sharing – Ministrant: Elsie Danielsson  
*The Clouds of the Lord*  [Document provided]

FOR MORE INFORMATION and to receive service documents by mail or email, please contact the Communal Sharing Coordinator:  
Esther Gowan • esthergowan@earthlink.net • (1) 805-542-9133

LOCAL TIMES – Communal Sharing calls are scheduled year-round on Universal Time (UTC = GMT). To find the call-in time for your locality, refer to schedule A or B according to whether your Time Zone is currently observing Standard or Daylight Saving Time. During the months of June, July and August, schedule A will be in effect in all localities.
A – Daylight Saving Time in Northern Hemisphere; Standard Time in Southern Hemisphere

I A: 00:00 UTC
   5 pm PDT (Sat. eve.)
   8 pm EDT (Sat. eve.)
   8 am AWST
   10 am AEST
   12 pm NZST

II A: 08:00 UTC
   9 am BST (U.K.)
   4 pm AWST
   6 pm AEST
   8 pm NZST
   (1 am PDT) (USA)

III A: 16:00 UTC
   9 am PDT
   12 pm EDT
   5 pm BST (U.K.)
   (12 am next day AWST)
   (4 am next day NZST)

B – Standard Time in Northern Hemisphere; Daylight Saving Time in Southern Hemisphere

I B: 00:00 UTC
   4 pm PST (Sat. eve.)
   7 pm EST (Sat. eve.)
   8 am AWST
   11 am AEDT
   1 pm NZDT

II B: 08:00 UTC
   8 am GMT (U.K.)
   4 pm AWST
   7 pm AEDT
   9 pm NZDT
   (12 am PST) (USA)

III B: 16:00 UTC
   8 am PST
   11 am EST
   4 pm GMT (U.K.)
   (12 am next day AWST)
   (5 am next day NZDT)

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INTERNATIONAL PHONE NUMBERS FOR COMMUNAL SHARING CALLS

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Access Code: 506-112-581 # # (same for all areas)
The reading for June is
“Discipleship“
The Logia pages 22 - 33
It will take place on Sunday 17th
The Kingdom of GOD is within

The reading for July is
“The Coat of Many Colours“
Herald 19 pages 187 - 196
It will take place on Sunday 15th
Oh, to be clothed with the Coat of many Colours …

The reading for August is
“The Real Nature of the City of GOD“
The Booklet The Mystery of the City Upon Seven Hills
Part I pages 5 - 13
It will take place on Sunday 19th
For Zion if the City of the Sun.

The two Readings are 08h00 UTC (=GMT) that is 9am BST in the UK, 4pm in Western Australia, 6pm in Eastern Australia and 8pm in New Zealand; the second is 16h00 GMT that is 5pm BST in the UK, 9am PDT, 12 noon EDT in North America.
GATHERINGS AND EVENTS

**July**

24th – 30th Dance and families Gathering, The Ammerdown Centre, Somerset

If you are interested in joining us at the above gathering please let us know by email, letter or telephone using the contact information below.

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**CHANGES OF ADDRESS**

If you have changed your address or any of your contact details, please notify Roger Score at:

The Order of the Cross  
27 Old Gloucester Street, LONDON, WC1N 3AX  
Email: light@orderofthecross.org or  
Telephone 0207 1176 059

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

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Email: editor@orderofthecross.org

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**The Order of the Cross Website**  
www.orderofthecross.org
### Spiritual Reflections

#### Publication Timetable

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You are reminded that the next issue of Spiritual Reflections will be published at the beginning of September 2018.