

EXTRAORDINARY FACTS

D.Villela

The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus is profoundly suggestive, constituting one of the rarest examples in the Gospel of someone seeking out the Master in search of enlightenment instead of seeking a cure for an illness or the removal of spiritual perturbations. Explaining why he knew the authority of the Nazarene, Nicodemus, the doctor of law simply affirms: “for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him (John 3: 2), thus clearly attesting the importance of the miracle, that is, the apparent rupture of the natural order, as if momentarily the laws that govern the physical world would have their course suspended or altered for the production of a certain phenomenon.

The Judeo-Christian tradition is full of facts of this nature. In addition to Jesus and the prophets, the saints also would have produced them, a condition indeed indispensable for canonization, as such extraordinary fact would be understood as evidence of the link of the author to God.

It is easy to see there a reflex of what was happening with earthly authorities, who made the laws for the others, but not always followed them, violating them accordingly to their interests. This way of seeing the Divinity, attributing to it human characteristics, constituted evidence of spiritual immaturity involving two paradoxes: first, the admission that God, the Supreme Wisdom, would have to make repairs or amends to His works; and secondly, they expected that God’s emissaries would prove their condition by being able to derogate His laws.

The progress of science, showing – always and evermore – the precise function of nature came to block superstition and the taste for the supernatural, something now seen as a sign of lack of culture and naiveté.

The Spiritist Doctrine, for its part, resting on rational observation and control, revealed the presence and performance of spiritual elements and the laws that

regulate their actions, explaining the phenomena reputed miraculous and showing the impossibility of countless others created by superstition and ignorance.

In recognizing the authenticity of the extraordinary facts produced by Jesus and other noble missionaries, the Spiritist Doctrine however demonstrates that they were natural occurrences obeying the laws whose existence Spiritism came to reveal.

To this extent, the Doctrine teaches to identify God’s legitimate workers, the one with the greater responsibilities in spiritual terms, by their morality and not by their eventual production of wonders.

Notable magnetizers were able to cure ill bodies with impressing swiftness. Jesus, however, is the doctor of souls, the one Who offers the path of integral health, capable of providing optimism, peace, and hope in any phases of our lives.



“The Genesis” (Ch. 15.)

WATER

Cesar Soares dos Reis

Water is the order of business of the day. It gets scarcer while at the same time its extraordinary properties make it a priceless treasure. Numerous scientists affirm that life was born in water some 3,5 billions of years ago. Ilya Prigogine, Nobel Prize in chemistry, says that, astonishing as it sounds, even at some proportionally long distances each molecule “knows” what the other molecules will do at the same time what it is doing. In other words, there is a form of communications between the molecules, as if there were an omnipresent conscience that manifested itself in each particle according to its potentiality. The experimental conclusions indicate that the evolution of the universe follows a course. Nature has a direction. Living beings possess a steering axle. This type of research ends up giving increasingly more sense to life, specially human life.

All creation is immersed in the universal cosmic principle. The spiritual principle is the orderer, the manager, the

agglutinating agent of the material elements, presiding over its organization, functioning and evolution, as we can apprehend from Chapter Two of the First Part of the “Spirits’ Book.” (Question 33 of the same book is also worth to meditate about.)

Life, however, started in water, something Thales of Miletus was already proclaiming in 600 B.C. Approximately six hundred million years ago jelly fish, one of the most ancient forms of animal life, already existed. All living beings are composed of approximately 80% of water, which is the universal mediator to chemical reactions. By better knowing water we will better know ourselves, and will be able to have a precious tool for our life.

In the book “Nosso Lar, A Spiritual Home,” published by the “Federação Espírita Brasileira” [translated into English by AKES] approximately 60 years ago, chapter ten is dedicated to water. Lísias, the friendly health aide, takes André Luiz to see the Water Park, where the Blue River, the great reservoir of the colony, flows. “Water here has quite a different density than it does on Earth. It’s much lighter — purer.” As he further informs, water is so important that the responsibility for its administration falls to the Ministry of the Divine Union, the more spiritualized department of Nosso Lar. And Lísias continues: “. . . We know, for instance, that it is one of the best energy conductors imaginable, no matter what the energy type. We use it here mostly for nutritional and medical purposes.” Later on he says, “There will be a time, though, when humans will recognize that the nature of water is divine, and will follow our example and truly value God’s gift. They’ll also realize that water absorbs the spiritual characteristics of the people in every home it touches. . . . Water doesn’t just carry away waste material; it becomes filled with mental vibrations too. . . . Water may be noxious in base hands, but healing when in the service of generous minds. Pure water, as it moves, spreads the blessings of life; it carries away human thoughts of bitterness, hatred, and worry. All of this, in addition to its ordinary functions of keeping the body and home clean.”

And now the Japanese scientist

Masaru Emoto and his team, along eight years of research, crystallized and photographed water samples in different situations. Vibrations were emitted on samples taken from rivers, lakes, rain, and snow. Thoughts, sentiments, words, ideas, music acted upon the molecules, which were subsequently photographed. It was then verified that the molecules reacted differently to different stimuli. Depending, there could be marvelous geometrical figures, beautiful images, or on the contrary, disaggregated forms, unstructured, with clear deformities. Words of love, harmonious music, a good thought, a generous prayer produce beautiful drops of frozen water. Molecules were photographed before and after being subject to vibrational emissions. The experiences were carried out with scientific rigor as well as use of sophisticated equipment. The result is in the book "The Message from Water," published in 1999, both in Japanese and English.

The research demonstrated that pure mountain water naturally presents marvelous geometrical designs in their crystal-clear patterns. Polluted and toxic waters show distorted structures with aleatory organizations. Distilled water, for example, was placed between two speakers that played Beethoven and then Heavy Metal. The resulting photographs of the water crystals were very different. Experiments were also conducted with water being exposed to words like "love," "appreciation," and "I will kill you." Even simple names of known persons like Mother Teresa of Calcutta or Hitler, produced impressive differences in the water crystals. Professor Emoto conveys an experiment of a recipient with water being placed on a table while seventeen participants gathered around the table holding hands. Each chose a word of love or friendship to speak aloud. The water was photographed before and after. The results were some of the most beautiful

structures of water crystals photographed. (Of course we find here something akin to what we do when we magnetize the water in our common activities at Spiritist Centers.)

Dr. Masaru Emoto is known as the one who "knew how to talk to water," according to the Internet site www.auraweb.it. Our comments in this article are further derived from our findings at the site of the "Associação Médico-Espírita do Brasil," [Association of Brazilian Spiritist Physicians] www.amebrasil.org.br/portugues/artigosb.htm.

All we can say is that water has been a part of the Spiritist method of cure, and that once more we can see that science is discovering, little by little, what the Spirits have already shown us.

AROUND THE WORLD

• ARGENTINA

The "Asociación Providencia de Cultura Cristiana" (15 de Noviembre 1.490 – 1130 Buenos Aires – Argentina) makes an appeal to those who want to serve the cause of goodness. The institution is asking for volunteers to help with the sowing of clothes. The items are distributed for free to the needy, whose numbers increase every day. The meetings relating to this activity, called "Beneficencia," are on Tuesdays, from 3 to 6 PM.

• AUSTRALIA

The "Franciscan's Spiritist House" is announcing a course on passes in the near future. Interested parties should contact the institution via Internet at spiritisthouse@hotmail.com, or at 1/3a Railway Parade Kogarah – NSW – 2217 Sydney – Australia.

• AUSTRIA

Their love for the Spiritist ideals had fellows in the city of Vienna gather and create in the year 1989 a group for the study and dissemination of Spiritism. The activities grew, the number of participants also, and finally, in December 1999, the "Verein für Spiritische Studien Allan Kardec" became official. Its creation was encouraged by reputed names in the Spiritist Movement, namely Divaldo Pereira Franco and José Raul Teixeira. The Society currently has numerous groups dedicated to the study of the Spiritist Doctrine.

The "Verein für Spiritische Studien Allan Kardec" is headed by Josef Jackulak, and is located at Spengerstrasse 10/2 – A1050 Vienna – Austria – Internet: jackulak@hotmail.com.



"If you are at a standstill in time remember that time does not stop nor does it go back."

Emmanuel

• ITALY

A mediumistic event in the city of Treviso made its way into the pages of the periodical "L'Aurora." As it goes, in a meeting of communicating with the spirit world, a spirit, without having been evoked, turned up and delivered a message rich in details. He informed his name, date of birth, location where he lived, names of relatives, and even the cemetery where his body was buried. Moreover, he revealed what was written on his tombstone, which had the format of a small stitched pillow. The story awakened the curiosity of one reader who decided to check the spirit's words. And great was his surprise, after a long search at the cemetery, when he found a tomb that indeed matched the description. The fact had great repercussion and was front page news, with an article and a photograph of the tombstone, with the still very legible inscription: "Al suo adorato Leone – La desolata mamma." [To her adored Leone — his desolate mother.]

"L'Aurora" is located at Largo Pietà 9 – Camerino – 62032 Macerata – Italy.

• PORTUGAL

More than 600 people attended the session on mediumistic painting recently offered at the "Associação Cultural Espiritualista," in Viseu. The information is in the new edition of the "Jornal Espírita," which published in color on the cover, paintings done by the Brazilian medium Florêncio, from Bahia. During the session, which lasted two hours, paintings were completed by authors such as Renoir, Van Gogh, Miro, Toulouse-Lautrec, and Rembrandt. The periodical is the responsibility of the "União Espírita Cristã" (Rua Allan Kardec, 1 – Bairro da Amizade – Rio da Loba – 3500-762 Viseu – Portugal).

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The "Associação Espírita do Paião" (Rua Professor Nunes Gonçalves, 36 – 3080-495 – Paião – Portugal) has completed another anniversary. Since 1982, without any pause, it has carried out activities for the dissemination of Spiritist postulates.

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After approval from pertinent authorities, the "Associação Espírita de Leiria" (Rua Joaquim Ribeiro Carvalho 9 cave – 2400-116 Leiria – Portugal) can finally start construction of new headquarters. The addition and expansion of the building will bring in more comfort and make better use of the space for doctrinal and assistential activities.

• SPAIN

An intense program of dissemination of Spiritism has been carried out by the "Asociación de Estudios Espíritas de Igualada" (Calle Carmen 13 – Caixa Postal 08700 – Igualada – Barcelona – Spain), headed by Blas González. It offers public meetings on Mondays at 7:30 PM; on Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 PM; and on Saturdays at 7 PM.



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BOOK REVIEW

A SPIRITUAL HOME

A new modality in Spiritist literature started to appear in the year 1944 with the launching of the book “Nosso Lar - A Spiritual Home.” Through the notable mediumship of Francisco Cândido Xavier, it brought us descriptions of the life after life experiences of the author, André Luiz. It was the beginning of a flux of information that would extend to a dozen more books, all showing the varied aspects of life in the spirit world according to the program established by noble disembodied mentors.

“Nosso Lar, A Spiritual Home” was originally published by the “Federação Espírita Brasileira,” the Alma Mater of Spiritism in Brazil (SGAN 603 – Conjunto “F” – Av. L2 Norte – CEP 70830-030 – Brasília-DF – Brazil – Internet: www.febrasil.org.br). It has sold 1.5 million copies, a feat celebrated at the recent XI International Book Biennale in Rio de Janeiro, an event that brings together publishers from various points of the planet.

“Nosso Lar” is also available in English. Translated by the “Allan Kardec Educational Society” (P.O. Box 26336 – Philadelphia – USA – Internet: www.allan-kardec.org), it shows quality work and graphics. It contains 232 pages and is composed of fifty chapters, of which we note “In the Lower zone,” “Undergoing Treatment,” “Some Valuable Advice,” “Learning About the Planes of Fife,” “The Water Park,” “Love, the Nourishment of Souls,” “The Dream,” “As You Sow, So Shall You Reap,” “The Music Fields,” and “Gospel at Home.”

In reality, it is a continuation of the enlightenment process initiated with the “Spirits’ Book,” wherein the Spiritual Benefactors affirmed: “Our mission is to open your eyes and ears. . . . Never before has humanity received communications as full and instructive as the ones you are receiving at present.” – “The Spirits’ Book” (questions 627 and 628).

The preface is by Emmanuel, who, with very simple words, exalts the depth of the book.

“Prefaces generally introduce authors, extolling their virtues and enlarging on their personalities. Here, however, the situation is different. There are no earthly records for a physician named André Luiz.

“Often real understanding and true love come to us hidden under the cloak of anonymity. In order to redeem an unpleasant past in the process of reincarnation, old names are wiped away and new ones take their places. All past events sink into temporary oblivion – a blessing of Divine Mercy.

“In this way, a curtain has been drawn over André Luiz’s former self. Thus we cannot introduce an earthly doctor and human writer, but instead present a new friend and brother in eternity.”

Later on, Emmanuel closes the preface with objectivity.

“André Luiz comes to tell us, dear reader, that the greatest surprise of bodily death is that it places us face-to-face with our own consciences, where we build our heaven, remain in purgatory, or plunge ourselves into the infernal abysses. He reminds us that the Earth is our sacred school which no one should desecrate without knowing the price of this terrible mistake.

“Keep his lessons in the book of your soul. They remind us that it is not enough for human beings to cling to their human existence. It is necessary to know to use that existence worthily. The steps of a Christian, whatever his religious affiliation, should move truly toward Christ. To this end we have great need of the Spiritist Doctrine, but most of all Spirituality.”

We would like to note in closing the responsibility that derives from possessing instructions so complete, since as we well know “for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.” (Luke 12:48).

FROM OUR FELLOWS

THE ART OF GROWING OLD

Lucy Dias Ramos

Biased and unfriendly is still the manner many of us stick to in analyzing and considering physical aging. In acting this way, we seem not to grasp that, unless we die prematurely, we are all bound to this feature of biological life.

Even myself, who has tried to deal naturally with this phase of life, the threshold of which I have already crossed, feels apprehensive on certain occasions with the limitations physical decline imposes on us.

Looking myself in the mirror one morning, I tried to remember my face of earlier days. It was strange to see the physical appearance reality reflected; it perturbed me at first, because I did not see the precise shape of my face nor the joviality and radiance of times past.

And I thought: everyday I am getting a bit older. I perceived the wrinkles becoming more defined, the minuscule lines around the eyes, the traces of worries on my forehead. I noted that my eyes are not as bright and that visual perception is gradually fading. I know I don’t hear sounds with the accuracy and precision required at certain times. My voice is less clear and its pitch lower, it is losing its musicality and the power to express all I think and feel. And my hair? I observe that not even the illusion of coloring can reconstitute the softness it used to have, its shine and vitality.

To my mind came a poem from Cecília Meirelles: “In what mirror of time has my face been lost?” And I repeated her words: In what mirror of time have I lost mine?

We change a lot, really. We change inside and outside. The burdens of life, the problems of everyday, the struggles,

the duties and responsibilities of family life, work, they all take their toll along the years. However, to our happiness, we come to realize that most of the wear and tear is exterior, that it does not affect our inner world. Inside, we acquire maturity.

It is interesting to observe that we do not feel so old when comparing our mental age to our physical age. Most people feel younger inside.

Reflecting on physical aging, I did a deep analysis of my inner state. I realized that the most important thing is how I am feeling; by looking inside of me in search of self knowledge through a sincere evaluation, I perceived that there are many advantages, advancements, and imperishable conquests in relation to life and my fellow human beings.

I further realized that I am still capable of intense love. I love life, my relatives, my friends. I love nature and above all, I love God. This immense love I feel inside of me colors brightly everything that surrounds me. I know that this capacity to love is not a privilege. We can love always because we are immersed in the immeasurable love of God!

I learned to forgive. I do not keep the mental trash from anguish and resentment because it is bad for my being. I try to forget negativism from people and things.

I make plans, I dream, and I have ideals I try to fulfill in every moment of my life. I fight for these ideals and dreams, albeit knowing that some will never come to fruition. But I won’t let go of them nor the illusion with which they adorn my days.

I have not lost the pleasure of talking, of traveling, of knowing new people and places. I read intensively a new book, and am happy with stories of lives of others who do good, as well as images of places that authors so beautifully describe in their books, be it a simple narration touched by sensibility, or a profound philosophical reflection.

I have tried to develop in my being feelings of generosity and gratitude. Only a few people are grateful to God, to nature, to family, to those who helped them along the way. The blessings are so many, and I try to remember them and to thank God for each person that was important in my childhood, my youth, people who taught me to respect the divine laws and understand them. Generally, the human heart becomes generous while exercising generosity.

Looking at myself in the mirror of life, this morning, I reached into the most intimate recesses of my being and concluded that I am happy. Not the ephemeral and fleeting happiness of our transitory life, but the happiness that confers to us that peaceful conscience of someone who is doing all possible to be joyful and to make others happy.

The broader comprehension the Spiritist Doctrine gives us of the real purpose of life, how to deal with our

everyday problems, how to confront difficulties and limitations in growing older. It delivers the light that guides our steps towards our greater destiny in the sunset of life.

“Aging should be considered inevitable and fortunate for what it brings in rewards after the strenuous struggles of our searches and accomplishments. It is the result of how we conducted ourselves, how aging was built by thoughts and attitudes, and enriched by the lights of happy remembrances or the shadows of discontent. . . . To age is an art and a science that should be taken seriously, to be exercised at every moment since every passing instant steers toward decrepitude, while death, the cessation of biological phenomena, does not occur.” (“O Despertar do Espírito” [“The Awakening of Spirit”], by Joanna de Ângelis, psychographed by Divaldo Pereira Franco.)

That is the only thing we cannot reverse...

IN THE SPIRITIST MOVEMENT

• **BOOK COLLECTION: “A VIDA NO MUNDO ESPIRITUAL”**

The “Federação Espírita Brasileira” (Rua Souza Valente 17 – São Cristóvão – 20941-040 – Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil – Internet: www.febnet.org.br) launched at the XI International Book Biennale, at Riocentro, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, the collection “A Vida no Mundo Espiritual” [Life in the Spirit World], comprised of thirteen books by André Luiz that touch on the subject of life in the spirit world.

With new graphic presentation, the author’s first six books are ready: “Nosso Lar,” “Os Mensageiros,” “Missionários da Luz,” “Obreiros da Vida Eterna,” “No Mundo Maior,” and “Libertação.” In the near future, the remainder will also become available: “Entre a Terra e o Céu,” “Nos Domínios da Mediunidade,” “Ação e Reação,” “Evolução em Dois Mundos,” “Mecanismos da Mediunidade,” “Sexo e Destino,” and “E a Vida Continua.”

The occasion also celebrated the fact that “Nosso Lar” has sold 1.5 million copies, a significant event in the dissemination of Spiritism.

• **DIVALDO FRANCO IN RIO DE JANEIRO**

The Spiritist lecturer Divaldo Pereira Franco will be in Rio de Janeiro in August for a series of public conferences. Among other sites, Divaldo will speak at the headquarters of the “Federação Espírita Brasileira,” at the “Concha Acústica da Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro,” the “Feirão Pró-Mansão do Caminho,” the “Colégio Militar,” the “Sociedade Hebraica,” and the Hotel Quitandinha.

• **CHICO XAVIER SQUARE**

The public square located at the Ladeira João Vieira, in front of the “Centro Espírita Vicente de Paulo,” number 172, in the town of Mendes, Rio de Janeiro, is now renamed as “Praça Francisco Cândido Xavier.” The initiative belongs to members of said institution and other individuals from the local Spiritist Movement, who presented the proposal to the town’s council suggesting this homage to the medium from Minas Gerais. The request was approved and sanctioned by the mayor through “Lei nº 940/2003,” enacted last April 8.

The Praça Francisco Cândido Xavier will now be revamped with new lights, parking, and landscaping.

• **HOMAGE TO CHICO XAVIER**

Yet another example of the public appreciation for Chico Xavier’s life and work. The City Hall of Rio de Janeiro will pay homage to Francisco Cândido Xavier by naming an important avenue after him. It will be built in Honório Gurgel, linking the end of Via Light, in Costa Barros, to Avenida Brasil, one of the principal thoroughfares to downtown and the south of the city. The avenue will be 4 kilometers long and have characteristics of an expressway, with two tunnels, 13 walkways, and also overpasses. According to City Hall, the new avenue will be opened to the public in 16 months. This will be one more significant homage to Chico Xavier, who returned the spirit homeland in June last year, having left innumerable examples in the dissemination of the Spiritist Doctrine, not the least the more than 400 books he psychographed.

• **NURSING HOME “LAR VINHA DE LUZ”**

The “Comunidade Espírita Oscar Ferreira Carneiro” will shortly open the “Lar Vinha de Luz.” It is destined to house elderly from both sexes who have been active in the Spiritist Movement, and are now unable to enjoy a family life. The Lar will be located at the same address as the “Comunidade,” at Rua Jordão 1.348 – Jacarepaguá – 22725-549 Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil. The activities will start on July 1, the birth anniversary of the founder of the institution, Oscar Ferreira Carneiro.



“Love is a blessing you should cherish; it will help you along your spiritual evolution.

No matter how hard the circumstances you live in, never get tired of loving.

Jesus’ teachings, now being revived by the Spiritualist thinking, are like an action-hymn of love pointing out the road towards a new future illuminated by the lights of reason, aligned with faith and in sacred communion with boundless love.”

“Living and Loving” Joanna de Ângelis

• **PLENUS NET**

Everything on Spiritism in Brazil and the world can be found at “Plenus.net.” Created three years ago, it turned into a valuable site for the dissemination of the Spiritist Doctrine. It makes possible, among other things, to catch radio and TV Spiritist programs and lectures, such as “Despertar de Um Mundo Melhor” [Awakening of a Better World], produced by the Lar Fabiano de Cristo. Additionally, it has a chat room, a calendar of events of domestic and international activities in the Spiritist Movement, and information on the IV World Spiritist Congress, to take place in Paris, in 2004. The address is www.plenus.net.

• **BOOK BY RICHARD SIMOMETTI**

“Mediunidade: tudo o que você precisa saber” [“Mediumship: All You Need to Know”] is the new book by Richard Simonetti. It deals with various issues related to mediumship, such as spiritual influences, mediumistic initiation, animism, psychography, clairvoyance, incorporation, mediumistic prescriptions, and materializations. Extremely didactic, the book is divided in 38 chapters, with eight questions and answers each.

The 170-page book is a publication of “Ceac Editora” (at Rua Sete de Setembro 8-56 – 17015-031 Bauru-SP – Brazil – Internet: www.ceac.org.br).

• **CIRCUITO DAS ÁGUAS SPIRITIST CONGRESS**

The 1st Spiritist Congress of the Circuito das Águas is scheduled for September 27-28, at the “Centro de Convenções Circuito das Águas,” in Serra Negra, São Paulo, with approximately a thousand participants. The event’s central theme is “Discovering Happiness Through the Education of the Human Being.” Along with seminars, the congress will include artistic events with chorals and theatrical presentations. The initiative belongs to the “União das Sociedades Espíritas do Estado de São Paulo” – Intermunicipal do Circuito das Águas (www.concec.hpg.com.br).

• **BOOK LAUNCHING**

“A Gênese” [The Genesis], by Allan Kardec, is the most recent launching of the “Departamento Editorial do Centro Espírita Léon Denis” (Rua Abílio dos Santos 137 – Bento Ribeiro – 21331-290 Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil – Internet: www.celd.org.br). The book on the genesis, the miracles and predictions according to Spiritism, was translated from the original French into Portuguese by Albertina Escudeiro Sêco. The new edition carries more than 250 footnotes with complementary information along with an annex at the end with photographs of current discoveries, some courtesy of NASA, corroborating the truths revealed in the 704-page book, now with a modern graphic presentation.