

PATIENCE

D.Villela

Patience is defined as the virtue of those who endure evil and exasperation with neither complaint nor upheaval, while being as well the quality of those who wait serenely for that what is late.

In the face of illnesses or disappointments, patience expresses itself through a posture of equilibrium that favors the assistance we are given, including by the spirits, facilitating at the same time the coexistence with relatives and friends who can approach us without fearing our exasperation or aggressiveness.

Patience is also necessary while waiting in line or sitting in waiting rooms, situations that not rarely demand from us a great deal of time, and to which we normally react with acrimony and irresponsible criticism. Patience should also be at hand while we await the result of our good deeds, something that is not always immediate.

In fact, impatience is never justified since we are at all times in the presence of the divine laws which always deliver what is best for us – whether or not agreeable. Therefore, we have to understand illness or let downs, even when harsh, as experiences of high educational value. On the other hand, impatience on our part when we are waiting for something is a sign of our difficulty in occupying our mind with positive thinking on such occasions — good reading, for example — and connecting instead with the dissatisfaction so common to most of us under those situations.

The Superior Spirits never get impatient. Albeit always on time in their commitments, they do not alter their demeanor when circumstances alien to their will impose on them delays or changes in plans. They carry on, serene, even when visited by illnesses or adversities.

The Spiritist Doctrine is a valuable helper in this area, explaining that this is a form of charity, and showing the importance and necessity, for our own good, of preserving our inner harmony at

moments of uncertainty and difficulty, as well as in the face of deficiencies of those around us.

Lastly, it is always opportune to remember that the highest example in this particular case —indeed in anything else that refers to goodness— is Jesus Christ Who personally brought us the good tidings twenty centuries ago, and patiently awaits that we accept His loving invitation for true peace and happiness.

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The Gospel According to Spiritism
(Ch. 9, Item 7).

A LOVE SONG

Giovanni Scognamillo

The title of this article relates to Mozart, a child prodigy who composed classical music and played organ and harpsichord at age 5. His early talent no doubt demonstrates that his music knowledge he brought with him, a knowledge he acquired in past lives, since only reincarnation is capable of explaining this phenomenon that continues to dazzle the world.

Born Johannes Crysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart, in Salzburg, Austria, in 1756, this genius of classical music would disincarnate in the same town in 1791, at only 35 years of age, at the peak of his creativity. He left a valuable music contribution, from chamber music to sonatas, from concerts to symphonies, and even operas, by now so very well known, as *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and the most renowned of all, *Don Giovanni*. His operas continue to be staged in theaters all over the world.

When Mozart was 8 years old, while touring in London, he made the acquaintance of the opera singer Carlo Manzoli, who dared him to compose in a short amount of time “Una canzone d’amore” [a love song] to be included in a certain opera being presented at that time. The little boy, responding to Manzoli’s request, sat at the harpsichord and improvised the melody as if he had known it for a long time. Manzoli describes that moment as follows: “That little boy seemed transfigured before my eyes. On

certain moments he floated on top of the bench while his little fingers frenetically touched the keys and the melody escaped not only from the instrument, but also from all pores. I had the impression that the ‘gods of music’ were possessing him, such was the melodic beauty of this ‘canzone d’amore,’ produced impromptu and before my astonished eyes.”

Mozart was a legitimate medium of music, a superior spirit who did not fear the idea of death, having even prepared his wife Constanza, the children and friends for his soon departure from this world. He stated, serene and peaceful, that he “foresaw the approach of death, this friend of humankind that stops one path to start another right after because to die is not to cease to exist. No, no! I do not fear this transformation and I feel it very close, and as such I start, at this moment, to compose my own requiem and in doing I spare my friends from this chore.”

The production of his last opera, *The Magic Flute*, in September 1791, demanded much time from our composer who was simultaneously creating the *Requiem*, a work he would not finish because death, “this friend of humankind,” announced itself consigning him to bed, from where he once more states, without any doubt: “I will not last long.” And so it happened. The inspired Mozart departs his worn out body on December 5, 1791, leaving behind incomplete what would become his last work. Fortunately, for our delight, Mozart-spirit returns and utilizes the mediumistic faculties of the also composer F. Sussmayr, and thus finishes his promised requiem. Examined in no time by musical experts, it was authenticated as being authored by the genial Mozart, alive in the spirit world.

In 1858, in Paris, one of the members of the group of Allan Kardec, Victorien Sardou (1831-1908), through a mediumistic experience, made a drawing of the house of Mozart in the planet of Jupiter, as reported in the *Revue Spirite* of 1858, affirming the superiority of this genial composer buried in a common grave, and whose tomb remains a mystery to this day. Known as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, his life was a beautiful song of love coupled with a hymn to immortality.

AROUND THE WORLD

□ ARGENTINA

The Asociación Espiritista Luz y Vida (Pasaje San Ignacio 3666 – 1231 – Buenos Aires – Argentina) expanded its activities into the Internet, creating the webpage www.aeluzyvida.com.ar, offering articles, news on the Spiritist Movement, and the history of the institution founded on February 3, 1910. Another novelty is that the visitor can read and print out recent and old issues of the organization's Boletín de Luz y Vida.

□ CANADA

The Allan Kardec Study Group BC (#320 – Columbia Street – downstairs – New Westminster – BC – Canada) has just finished its Internet version of *The Spirits' Book*. It took a group of dedicated volunteers many months to create a dynamic and enjoyable web site for this marvellous book, including many innovations that will enhance interaction with the readers. The Group is adding SpellOut technology that will allow the questions and answers to be transmitted by sound to the users. To check it out, visit www.allankardec.ca or www.spiritism.ca and, once there, click on "The Spirits' Book." The book also can be downloaded as a PDF file from the Group's virtual library. If you have any suggestions, or questions, please send them to info@allankardec.ca. The Group meets every Sunday from 4:30 to 5:30 PM to study the *Spirits' Book*, and from 5:30 to 6:30 PM to study the *Mediums' Book*.

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God does not leave His silence to promote Himself as He wishes that each one of us could do the same to one another.

Emmanuel



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□ COLOMBIA

Through the Internet, at www.geocities.com/fedesur/afiliad.htm, it is possible to know a bit more about the activities of the Federación Espirita del Surcolombiano. It's got information on events, recently launched books, and also a list of the organizations affiliated to the Federación, as well as a map of the regions it covers. Its email address is fedesur@mixmail.com.

□ ITALY

"An Important Testimony of Love from the Beyond" is the title of an article published by the periodical *L'Aurora* (Largo Pietà 9 – Camerino – 62032 Macerata – Italy). Written by founders Franco Predieri and Elisabetta Piccini of the group "Grazie, Mio Dio" (Thanks, My God), of the city of Pisa, it narrates an experience lived by the young Rita Laura, who always nursed the dream to dedicate herself to service as a nun. For this very reason her grandmother Zita, who was very proud of her granddaughter, promised to be present on the day she would take her vows at the Convent of San Domenico, in Pisa. However, a little before the ceremony, Zita died. The ceremonial, nonetheless, was carried out as planned and lots of photographs were taken. To everyone's surprise, once the photos were processed, the spirit of the grandmother of Soror Maria Clara – religious name adopted by Laura – clearly appeared, materialized at the location of the event, thus proving that Granny Zita kept the promise she made to her granddaughter!

□ NORWAY

A new issue of the *Norvega Esperantisto* is in circulation. The publication, from the Norwegian League of Esperanto, carries extensive news on recent events relating to Esperanto. One of them was the Congress of Norwegian Esperantists that took place in the city of Kleppe, close to Oslo. This congress happens every two years and as before, it brought together a great number of participants from all over the country. Among the topics was the use of the Internet to teach the International Language. A cultural program was also offered with tours and art exhibits. In describing the congress, the magazine pointed out the fellowship that always characterizes Esperantist gatherings.

Norvega Esperantisto is located at: Olaf Schous vei 18 – 0572 Oslo – Norway – Internet: www.esperanto.no.

□ PORTUGAL

The Associação Espirita Eurípedes Barsanulfo, in Porto Salvo, Oeiras, metropolitan area of Lisbon, is the newest member of the Federação Espirita Portuguesa. This request for affiliation, gladly

accepted by the Federação, satisfies the need for organization and teamwork between Spiritist institutions, principally for a region that had no such membership in place.

□ SPAIN

A virtual library of Spiritist books in Spanish was recently created. It contains 40 books, including Kardec's Codification. They can be downloaded for free in PDF format. The initiative belongs to "Portal Plenus Espanha" (www.plenus.net/espanha), partner of "Portal Plenus Brasil" (www.plenus.net).

Interested parties can collaborate by sending newspapers, magazines, books or studies in Spanish to Johnny M. Moix, responsible for the "Portal Plenus Espanha." For more details please send inquiry to espanha@plenus.net.

□ UNITED STATES

The *Christian Spiritist Study Center* (www.kardec.com) conducted a seminar with the Spiritist writer and lecturer Richard Simonetti. The theme was "Who's Afraid of death?", title of one of his books that has already sold more than 200,000 copies. An English version is also available.

□ SWITZERLAND

The *Centre d'Études Spirites de Genève* (Case Postale 37 – Conches – CH-1231 Genebra – Switzerland) is offering to the public the books *Nosso Lar - A Spiritual Home* and *Life Goes On*, in French. These books are authored by André Luiz-spirit, and psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier. In French they were titled *Notre Demeure* and *Et la Vie continue*. The translation and revision were carried out by the organization itself.

In order to get copies please contact the *Centre* directly. These books are also available at the *Union Spirite Française et Francophone* (Boîte Postale 27 07 – 37027 – Tours – France – Internet: <http://perso.wanadoo.fr/union.spirite>).

BOOK REVIEW

THE SPIRITS' BOOK

April 18, 1857, is a landmark in the history of Spiritism. On that date, Allan Kardec, nom de pen of Hipolite Leon Denizar Rivail, an eminent pedagogue, published the book that is the basis of the Codification of Spiritism, *The Spirits' Book*. Four more books followed, all synthesizing the concepts of the doctrine of the Spirits.

Allan Kardec in the codification brought together accounts, experiences, and other written materials from all over the world that were originated from

communications with the spirits. In a significant contribution to the dissemination of the Spiritist knowledge, the Allan Kardec Educational Society (P.O. Box 26336—Philadelphia—PA 19141—EUA—Internet: www.allan-kardec.org) published a version of this book in English, translated by a team of its own volunteers. The 424-page book is divided in four parts, totaling 29 chapters.

The language is simple and up to date. “The Spirits’ Book” is above all a book for research and deep reading because it covers important topics that get our attention, such as “God,” “General Elements of the Universe,” “Creation,” “The Vital Principle,” “Incarnation of Spirits,” “Return from Corporeal to the Spirit-life,” “Plurality of Existences,” “Returns to Corporeal Life,” “Emancipation of the Soul,” “Intervention of Spirits in the Corporeal World,” “Moral Laws,” “The Law of Adoration,” “The Law of Labor,” “The Law of Reproduction,” “The Law of Destruction,” “Social Law,” “The Law of Progress,” “The Law of Justice, Love and Charity,” “Moral Perfection,” “Hopes and Consolations,” among others.

The chapter titled “The Law of Progress,” for instance, will help us understand God’s mercy in light of the process of evolution throughout the times. It is clear that it now it rests upon us to take advantage of the opportunities, as clearly defined in the following questions and answers from “The Spirits’ Book.”

Question 779: “Do we as human beings find the drive to progress built into us, or is it the result of education?”

Answer: “It is an internal impulse. But not everyone evolves at the same time or in the same manner. It is for this reason that, in society, the more advanced individuals are expected to aid the progress of those behind.

780. “Does ethical progress always follow intellectual progress?”

Answer: “This would be the normal sequence; however, it does not automatically follow sometimes.

“How does intellectual progress lead to ethical progress?”

“By making people more discerning and better at making choices. Also the development of free will follows the development of the intelligence. With free will, one’s responsibility for one’s own actions increases.

“Some of the most intellectually advanced nations are among the most corrupt. How can we explain this?”

“Complete progress is our final objective. But nations, like individuals, progress step by step. And until they acquire a higher moral sense, they may use their knowledge and resources in inappropriate ways. The moral sense and intellectual power are two forces that will come into equilibrium only in the long-term.

781. “Is it possible for us to stop the march of progress?”

“No, but you can delay it.

“What should we think about those individuals who try to stop the march of progress and set humanity back?”

“They will have to account for their actions. Their efforts will not succeed, however; indeed, they will be swept away by the sheer force of progress.”

The following is Allan Kardec’s general commentary on this topic:

“Progress, an imperative of the human condition, allows for no opposition. It is a living force. Bad human laws may block it for a while; they cannot suffocate it. Whenever such laws become totally incompatible with progress, they will be overthrown, along with all the individuals who tried to impose them. This will be the situation until humanity harmonizes its laws with Divine justice, which aims at the well-being of everyone, not just the strong.”

FROM OUR FELLOWS

PRAYER AND PHYSICAL CURE

Rafael Couto Melsert

Various studies have been conducted in the last few years on the effects of prayer on organic illnesses in a quest to comprehend the processes involved in the connection between thoughts and emotions and its effects in the physical realm. Among those, a few had the conditions to be accepted scientifically. They were produced under strict conditions guaranteeing that neither patients nor the persons to whom the prayers were directed knew about each other. As a result, in the year 2000 a systematic review concluded that in 57% of the studies there was a positive effect of prayer on the treatments.

The first of these studies was conducted to determine the effects of prayer on patients of a cardiac unit of a general hospital in California. The 383 patients were randomly placed by a computer into groups that would and would not receive prayers. The patients from the first group needed five times less antibiotics, presented three times less pulmonary edemas, and none needed endotracheal intubations, while a dozen patients of the second group required such care.

In Kansas City, another study was performed under more rigorous conditions than in California to discover the effect of prayer in 990 patients of a cardiac unit. The results showed that the patients who had been recipients of prayers, and those who were not, spent about the same average time at the hospital, but the first group needed less surgeries and other invasive procedures.

In another study, a judicious research was carried out by three important medical centers in San Francisco, California, to evaluate the effect of prayer on 40 patients

with advanced Aids. People chosen to do the prayers were Christians, Jews, Buddhists, and Native Americans. The only request was that they must have had a minimum 5-year experience, including with Aids patients. The results demonstrated that the group that received the prayers needed less doctor’s home calls, had smaller periods of hospitalization, lesser attacks of opportunistic illnesses, and any illnesses they suffered were less severe.

Lastly, a more polemic study was carried out in Israel for the purpose of finding out the effect of remote and retroactive prayer in patients with a generalized blood infection known as sepsis. In this study, prayers were conducted during a period from 4 to 10 years after the patients had been hospitalized to evaluate the effect of prayers in space and time, the death rate, shortening of hospitalization, as well as duration of fever.

From the 3,393 patients involved, 1,691 were designated to the group who would receive the prayers, and 1,702 were assigned to the control group. The results showed that the percentage of patients who died was less in the first group, but there was no significant statistical difference in the death rates of patients from both groups. However, as far as hospitalization reduction and fever duration, the difference was significant in favor of the patients who received the prayers.

For the apprentices of the Spiritist Doctrine, prayer is a daily activity whose effect many times is not as highly valued as it should. The scientific approach on this issue, however, may offer elements to encourage such practice and the comprehension of the power of prayer.

IN THE SPIRITIST MOVEMENT

MOVIMENT YOU AND PEACE

A movement started five years ago in Salvador, Bahia, has arrived in Rio de Janeiro. It is known as “Movement You and Peace,” an event organized by Spiritists, albeit ecumenical in character, with the objective of bringing awareness to non-violence. Celebrated on October 4, in the borough of Campo Grande, western region of the city, artistic groups from different places in the country participated in the event. The closing was left to Divaldo Pereira Franco, who lectured on the theme of non-violence.

The First “Movement You and Peace” in Rio was sponsored by the *Clube dos Livreiros e Divulgadores Espíritos do Rio de Janeiro*, with the support of Unesco, *Mansão do Caminho* (from the state of Bahia), the *Federação Espírita Brasileira*, *Centro Espírita Léon Denis* (from Rio de Janeiro), and the *Clube de Arte do Lar Fabiano de Cristo*.

□ ARTICLE ON “LAR FABIANO”

A periodical from the *Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas Espíritas Allan Kardec* (Rua Padre Anchieta 8 – Centro – 24210-050 Niterói-RJ – Brazil – Internet: www.cepeak.org.br.) dedicated a special section in its most recent issue to the *Lar Fabiano de Cristo*. “Did you know that the largest project in the world to assist needy families is Spiritist?” Asks the front page, reproducing a table showing the amount of families assisted by the institution.

The periodical interviewed Prof. Cesar Soares dos Reis, director of the *Lar*, who gave more details on the institution. “The *Lar Fabiano* has a volunteer program, counting nowadays with more than a thousand individuals, who dedicate part of their time to benefit families being assisted. Also accepted are donations of equipments, clothes, warm clothing, toys, and currency. People can also help us by becoming members of the Art Club or by buying an insurance plan from CAPEMI, the organization that supports us. Every participant of a CAPEMI plan contributes with 13,3%, which is destined monthly to the philanthropic initiative.”

Prof. Reis added that Spiritism will help put an end to socio-economic and moral upheavals, quoting that “The process of social change is slow, but on course. It will not be derived from front pages of newspapers. It starts inside of us and from there irradiates benefiting those around us. Human systems are assembled by interests and current comprehension of mankind. Little by little we will understand how to live in a different way, and becoming better human beings, we will help build a world with much more happiness.”

□ BOOKS IN ITALIAN

A Spiritist book is a good present to those who speak Italian or to take to friends in Italy. And now there are many books translated into Italian thanks to the initiative of “Casas Fraternalis O Nazareno” (Rua Doutor Cesário Mota 41 – Centro – 09010-100 Santo André-SP – Brazil – Internet: www.casadelnazareno.com). A good suggestion is the pocket book, easy to transport and to be read anywhere. Among them, many psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier: “Oggi” (Today), “Così Vincerai” (Thus You Will Win), “Noi” (We), “Messaggi dall’Aldilà” (Messages from the Beyond), and “Leggi D’Amore” (Laws of Love), all authored by Emmanuel-spirit. Additionally, from the same medium, but by other spirit-authors, there are “Informazioni Sulla Vita” (Messages from Life) and “Scultori di Anime” (Sculptors of Souls). Also available are “Meditazioni” (Meditations), by Luigi Santi Campo-spirit, psychographed by Lauro Michielin.

The books can be ordered from *Editore Espírita Fonte Viva* (Rua Dona Eusébia 100 – Providência – 31814-180 Belo Horizonte-MG – Brazil – Internet: www.fonteviva.com.br).

□ MAGAZINE “REFORMADOR”

The September cover of *Reformador* is all green symbolizing hope for those afflicted with thoughts of suicide. “Do Not kill! Your Neighbor or Yourself!” reads the front page. “To try to destruct others or oneself is a mistake of grave consequences that delays for centuries human progress, thus delaying the benefits it brings to all,” says the editorial.

Reformador is a monthly publication of the *Federação Espírita Brasileira* (Souza Valente 17 – São Cristóvão – 20941-040 Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil – Internet: www.febnet.org.br).

□ SPIRITISM AT THE UNIVERSITY

The “Núcleo Espírita Cristão Chico Xavier” [Christian Spiritist Nucleus Chico Xavier] is the newest center of dissemination of Spiritism located at an educational establishment. Operating from within the “Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade Federal do Ceará,” it conducts study meetings on Thursdays from noon to 1 PM. The program started in an atmosphere of great joy in the “Auditório do Departamento de Morfologia,” with Mário Kaúla delivering the lecture “Spiritism: what it is, and what it is not.”

□ BOOK “VIOLETAS” CAN BE COME A MOVIE

The book *Violetas na Janela* [Violets on the Window], by the spirit Patrícia, psychographed by Vera Lúcia Marinzeck de Carvalho, was turned into a play starring the well-known actress Ana Rosa, and could now become a movie. The idea belongs to the actress herself who at the moment seeks support for this project. The screenplay has been completed and the cast should include stars from Brazilian television. The news appeared in the recent issue of the *Informativo da Associação de Divulgadores do Espiritismo do Paraná* (Rua Major Fabriciano Rego Barros 1.152 – 81630-260 Curitiba-PR – Brazil – Internet: www.adepr.rg3.net). According to the bulletin, the director of the movie will be the acclaimed Brazilian cinematographer Tizuka Yamasaki.

Violetas na Janela tells the story of a young girl who dies at age 19, and how she adapts to the afterlife. The book, which already sold more than 966,000 copies, is published by *Petit Editora* (Caixa Postal 67545 – Agência Almeida Lima – 03102-970 São Paulo-SP – Brazil).

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There is always someone drowning in the sea of human difficulties.

Cast your vision and you will identify emerging opportunities to serve.

Emmanuel

□ NEW BOOK: “A SAGA DO DESEJO”

The *Casa Editora O Clarim* (Rua Rui Barbosa 1.070 – 15990-903 Matão-SP – Brazil – Internet: www.oclarim.com.br) published a new book, *A Saga do Desejo*, [The Saga of Desire] by the spirit Anselmo, psychographed by José Campos Júnior. The story takes place in the last years of the reign of Emperor Vespasian, during the times of the combats in the Coliseum of ancient Rome, and involves the soldier Aurelius and the young Esther.

In the 332-page book, the author tells of his own experiences along 86 chapters. The story serves as an alert to all of us who are given opportunities in more than one reincarnation, where, by exercising our free will, we will always have countless occasions to do good.

□ “LORENZ” CATALOG

The *Editore Espírita Francisco Valdomiro Lorenz* is distributing for free its book catalog, available at editora_lorenz@uol.com.br, or at Caixa Postal 3133 – 20001-970 Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil. *Editore Lorenz*, located at Rua dos Inválidos 34 – 9º andar – Centro – 20231-040 Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil, publishes and distributes Spiritist books in Esperanto throughout the world.

□ BOOK LAUNCHINGS

Recently launched, the book “Orientação Terapêutica à Luz da Psicologia Espírita” [Therapeutic Orientation in the Light of the Spiritist Doctrine] offers therapeutic orientations based on Joanna de Ângelis well known “Série Psicológica” [Psychological Series], brought to us through the mediumship of Divaldo Pereira Franco. The result of careful research by Geraldo Campetti Sobrinho and Paulo Ricardo Pedrosa, this 176-page book addresses topics such as “Autocura” [Self Cure], “Transferência de culpa” [Guilt Transference], “Depressão” [Depression], “Doenças psicossomáticas” [Psychosomatic Illnesses], “Meditação e visualização” [Meditation and Visualization] and “Problemas do sexo” [Sexual Problems].

Joanna de Angelis also brings a new contribution to Spiritist literature with her new 198-page book titled “Garimpo de Amor” [Love Prospecting]. Among the characteristics of this sentiment which, in the words of the book, is “as old as it is new,” she reveals 30 different facets of love, with commentaries on “Amor a si mesmo” [Love for Oneself], “Amor e casamento” [Love and Marriage] and “Amor e Jesus” [Love and Jesus].

Both books are published by “Livreria Espírita Alvorada Editora” (Rua Jayme Vieira Lima 104 – Pau da Lima – 41235-000 Salvador-BA – Brazil – Internet: leal@mansaodocaminho.com.br).