



THE SPIRITIST INFORMATION SERVICE

Rua dos Inválidos, 34 – 7º andar – Centro
BR: 20231-044 – Rio de Janeiro – RJ – Brazil
Home Page: <http://www.lfc.org.br/sei>
E-mail: lfc_sei@uol.com.br

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SUFFERING ON EARTH

D.Villela

The correct intuition on the existence of an active retribution mechanism in life, allied to the unawareness of its educational nature as well as of its function along successive lives, took the religious movements that do not believe in reincarnation to adopt deficient and unsatisfactory concepts regarding divine justice. According to that way of thinking, the consequences to our actions would present themselves in a dual format, encompassing two definite situations: unaltered bliss (heaven) or supreme disgrace (hell), with yet a third level of purifying suffering (purgatory) before access to the community of the blessed. About this third possibility, we would like to add that, since there is no mention of it in the Bible, this is not accepted by all Christians.

Besides its simplistic view, since even human justice despite its imperfections has long been more diversified in its sentences, this model has left without logic explanation an immense gamut of inequalities —economic, moral, and intellectual— observed in our society. Moreover, this approach did not even touch the matter of grave illnesses, as well as other circumstances with their share of sufferings or advantages equally inexplicable.

Allan Kardec's synthesis "To be born, to die, to be reborn again and constantly progress, that is the law" sums up admirably how we will always encounter the consequences of our actions. It also prepares our future days, where we simultaneously will be watched over by dedicated benefactors in the two planes of life ensuring our safe journey while building our happiness.

While studying the different situations, with the assistance of spirit instructors, wherein suffering on earth presented itself without an apparent cause, Allan Kardec was able to verify the

precise functioning of this mechanism, which did not apply to all with the same automatic response. To the contrary, it always happened in an individualized fashion that took into account personal circumstances and conditions.

One of the cases examined was that of Mr. Letil, who died brutally in April 1864, when a cauldron of smoldering lacquer caught fire and fell on him causing grave burns that opened wounds down to the bones in some parts of his body. Death came after almost 12 hours of horrific suffering during which the victim maintained total auto control, giving instructions on his business, praying and reaffirming his submission to God.

Mr. Letil had been a Spiritist, an honorable person with a goodhearted temper. When evoked a few days after his death at the Spiritist Society of Paris, he came through, supported by disincarnated friends, and described to the participants the cause of his suffering. More or less two centuries before, he said, invested of an inquisition authority, he condemned to death by fire a young girl of thirteen, supposedly involved in a plot against a religious authority. When the executioners refused to burn a child, he himself started the fire.

Due to this crime, his spirit had experienced prolonged sufferings, modifying himself gradually and turning into the estimable person respected by all. Nonetheless, he still had to go through the painful atonement demanded by his conscience.

Divine justice works like that, always educating us towards goodness.



Heaven and Hell (Second Part, Ch. 8).

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Darcy Neves Moreira

At the end of each year we follow the news carried by the media, with all the predictions for the New Year. Along with that, shops, banks and other institutions post announcements regarding their

business hours while they are busy closing their sheets. It is that vital time of evaluating a good or just regular performance, of profits and losses, at time when dividends are distributed. Was it worth it? What can be done to improve?

End of year! One more year that is gone! And how quickly it went! Time to make assessments, a strategic stop to look at our lives! How did we administer our treasures? If the time to return to the spirit world would happen this very instant, how would we conduct ourselves? What personal experiences have we acquired? Did we transform losses into gains?

These are the questions we pose at the end/beginning of year, and while we make wishes for a happy new year filled with happiness, we remember the last recommendation of Jesus to His disciples, when, foreseeing His sacrifice, He said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14: 27). This is still the most current, simple and loving recommendation from the Master to all His followers, and if transported back in time, we would hear and feel His voice still saying: "Be in peace, pacify your sentiments, have courage; under all circumstances remember that I am at the helm of this ship and will not permit that any soul be lost! I am your shepherd! Rejoice! Work, and pray for one another!

The voice of the Master, which makes itself heard in all moments of life, is the best invitation for a life renewed and filled with good deeds wherever we might be!

In these days of difficulty on earth, our deepest wishes of serenity, faith, confidence in God, and happiness!

A New Year with the peace of Christ!



Enemies, whether we like it or not, are children of God just like us and consequently our brothers and sisters, to whom God will provide resources and pathways with the same goodness He shows in our favor.

Emmanuel

AROUND THE WORLD

• BELGIUM

The “Union Spirite Belge” is constituted by Spiritist institutions from Belgium and Luxemburg, with the purpose to promote the exchange of experiences in activities related to the study and dissemination of the Spiritist Doctrine. It is affiliated to the International Spiritist Council, which also has its European Department.

To get more information on the “Union” as well as names and addresses of the Spiritist groups affiliated to it, please visit <http://users.skynet.be/usb>.

• ECUADOR

Registrations are open for the First International Spiritist Congress of Ecuador, to take place October 27-29, 2004. Sponsored by the “Federação Espírita do Ecuador” (Casilla Postal 09-01-11336 – Guayaquil – Ecuador – phone (5934 2434048)), with the support of the International Spiritist Council, the event’s central theme will be “Spiritism: Redeeming Doctrine and Religion.”

The Congress will take place in the auditorium of the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the State University of Guayaquil, and will bring together groups of different parts of the world for study and fellowship.

• ENGLAND

A course of orientation and study of mediumship has just started at the “Allan Kardec Study Group,” in England. The objective is to prepare those who will start or are already working in mediumistic activities. The duration of the course will be approximately one and a half years.



THE SPIRITIST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Lar Fabiano de Cristo

Editor in Chief:

Cesar Soares dos Reis

Editors:

Danilo Carvalho Villela

Eloy Carvalho Villela

Production Offices:

Rua dos Inválidos, 34 – 7ª andar

Centro - BR 20231-044

Rio de Janeiro - RJ

Tel (21) 2242-8872

Fax (21) 3806-8649

Brazil

The “Grupo de Estudos Allan Kardec” is located at C/o 105, Church Hill – Walthamstow – E17 3BD London - England. It can also be contacted by phone, (020) 8923-5073, or the Internet: ALLAN_KARDEC_London@uk.gateway.net.

• ESTONIA

The “Centro Espírita Amor,” located in Vosu, is also known for disseminating Spiritism through the International Language. The institution participated recently in an Esperantist event in the country. At that time, the president of the organization, Auguste Kilk, talked to the participants in Esperanto about the Spiritist Doctrine.

To know more of the works of the “Spirita Centro Amo,” as Spiritists call it, write to Str. Rakvere tee 9 – 45501 Vosu – Estonia. Contacts can be made by phone (0) 32-38 572 or the Internet at august.kilk@mail.ee, in Russian, Esperanto, or in the official language of the country.

• FRANCE

Spiritist and Esperantist Mickael Ponsardin, of Lyon, is carrying out a valuable research on the Spiritist Movement in the native city of the Codifier Allan Kardec, where a new interest in Spiritism is taking place.

The first phases of the research show that at Kardec’s time the doctrinal activity was blossoming with the creation of 17 Spiritist Centers and one Federation. After First World War, however, from 1920 through the 30s, these institutions weakened to the point that at the end of the Second World War there were only four groups, which subsequently closed or were no longer Spiritists. This situation started to change at the end of the 80s, when new groups started to be established.

To do this work, Mr. Ponsardin has consulted principally old periodicals of that time, among them Allan Kardec’s *Review Spirite*; Gabriel Delanne *Le Spiritisme*; and Faguet’s *Le Progrès Spirite*, as well as minutes of assemblies of the Lyonese Spirit Federation (23, rue Jeanne Collay 69 500 Bron – Lyon – France – phone 04 78 41 19 03).

The mailing address for Mickael Ponsardin is 282 Avenue Berthelot – 69008 Lyon – France.

• GUATEMALA

Everyday more people seek out the “Asociación Central de Estudios Espirituales Allan Kardec” to get to know more about Spiritism. The institution offers weekly studies on diverse topics as seen in the light of the Spiritist Doctrine. They have meetings on Mondays and Thursdays, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM, and on Saturdays from 3 PM to 5 PM. It also offers free of charge a bulletin with messages containing explanations on the Third Revelation.

The “Asociación” is located at 11 avenida 10-21, zona 7 – Colonia Castillo Lara – Guatemala – phone 471-7433.

• HOLLAND

It was with joy that Spiritists in Holland received information on the life of J.G. Plate, contemporary of Allan Kardec and translator of the books of the Codification into Dutch. Little had been known about this worker of the first hour of Spiritism, not even his complete name. The idea of this research gained new life through the presentation of research on the history of Spiritism in other countries during the meeting of the International Spiritist Council in Stockholm, Sweden.

“Little by little we are finding the bio information of this brother of ours for whom we have so much gratitude. In addition to this information, we also found historical materials on Spiritism in the country up to Second World War,” declared Maria Moraes, member of the “Associação de Estudos Espíritas Allan Kardec” (Klokkeuin 15 – 1689 KN Hoorn – Holland – Internet: www.allankardec@planet.nl) in a recent issue of the bulletin of the ISC, to be found at www.isc-europe.org.

• PORTUGAL

For more than 15 years, the “Federação Espírita Portuguesa” has been developing intense regional work through the implementation of Regional Unions. The objective is to decentralize the activities by promoting the re-structuring of the Spiritist Movement, giving greater participation to organizations in initiatives that will invigorate the dissemination of the Spiritist Doctrine in the country. The “União Espírita Regional da Grande Lisboa” and the “União Espírita Regional do Centro” are already formed, while the “União Espírita da Região do Grande Porto” and the “Unões Regionais do Nordeste e Noroeste” are underway.

More information can be obtained at the “Conselho Diretivo,” Casal de Cascais – Lote 4 R/C – Alto da Damaia – 2720-090 Amadora – Portugal – phone: 351 21 497 5754 – Internet: feportuguesa@iol.pt.

• SPAIN

All correspondence to the “Asociación Catalana de Estudios Prácticos del Espiritismo” must now be addressed to Apartado de correos 448 – 08191 Rubi – Apain. Internet address continues the same: www.acepe.org.



Help as much as possible doing good to others without demanding compensation.

Emmanuel

BOOK REVIEW

AFTER THE STORM

The proposition of "After the storm" is to analyze in the light of the Christian Spiritist point of view the difficult situations through which we go everyday, and offering at the same time the parameters of a balanced life in the face of conflicts that can metaphorically be compared to storms, as the title suggests.

The author, Joanna de Ângelis, through the psychography of Divaldo Pereira Franco, talks about 24 themes, among them "Disasters," "Sexuality," "Crime, Perversion, and Violence," "Alcoholism," "Euthanasia," "Mental Disorders and Possession," "Suicide," "Exorcism," "Disincarnation," and "Capital Punishment."

A topic that is causing a lot of debate is "Separation and Divorce," for its wide range, frequency, and consequences in the family constitution, basis of our society.

"As a general rule, marriage is a laboratory for emotional readjustments, and a shop for moral reparations. Spiritists that are in debt to one another, meet in a family set-up to fulfill important commitments.

"The meeting of congenial Spirits will, of course, produce a harmonious conjugal relationship. The family climate is, in this case, one of continuous joy. It is the union of Spirits on a mission of knowledge and good will, desirous to apply all their strength in the performance of noble tasks.

"In other cases they meet to work out an important project that will affect their own future. A marital union gives them the opportunity to jointly make restitution to past adversaries and defenseless victims who are in dire need of help and uplifting.

"It is of fundamental importance, however, in such unions, that both overcome selfishness, and acquire the means to strengthen their steps for the joint experience.

"Generally, moral virtues are better developed in marital relationships. Such virtues must be worked upon for the sake of the home and the mutual enlightenment of both spouses, in order to rightly fulfill their commitment. Their offspring, who are usually bad relationships with ties from the past, are also called upon to become polished in the home workshop. From this family gathering, several commitments will result, affecting the future of each member of the family clan, as well as of the group itself as a whole.

"Attracted to one another by redemptive needs, but unprepared for the task, not rarely, the members of this program of affection soon find out they cannot continue living together.

"In a way, the problem is due to rash decisions and a desire for immediate gratification that blur people's perceptions. It is often a problem of inordinate sexual behavior that becomes the cause of suffering

in matrimonial life; a problem of difficult adjustment, almost always ending in hatred and unfortunate tragedy.

"It is important in marriage not to confuse passion with love, or sexual interest with genuine affection.

"One of the causes of maladjustment in marriage is selfishness; a trait that ascribes to itself special values at the expense of the marriage partner to whom it is committed."

After analyzing the topic, the author suggests important guidelines for the balanced and peaceful solution of the conjugal conflicts.

"Should you find yourself in a difficult situation that results in problems for your children, stop and think. They need you, but they also need the other founding-partner of the family.

"You should not rush into solutions that sometimes can only complicate things.

"Give time for the other part to awaken, and a sufficient period for readjustment.

"As far as you are concerned, remain at your post.

"Let it not be you who makes a decision in that wrong direction.

"Humility and perseverance in one's duty can change a behavior and rekindle the flame of understanding and love.

"Do not, however, stay together until there is such a build-up that can result in tragedy.

"If someone does not, of his own free will, desire to remain with you, do not become a shackle or a prison to him.

"Each person takes the road he prefers, and lives the life that is pleasing to him. Yet, wherever he may go, he will experience the conditions under which he deserves to be.

"Have patience and trust in God.

"When a certain circumstance is altered, or a situation is changed, do not imagine that life and happiness are gone forever.

"Keep cheerfully in the expectation that whatever you do not possess today, will be your life's fortune later on.

"If you are alone and your strength is failing, give yourself another opportunity in noble and devoted love.

"Should you have a difficult spouse to deal with, love him or her just the same. Do not abandon the struggle, but make of your spouse a friendly soul with whom you have commitments from the past. You are to build a joyful future that will give peace to both, offering other spirits who come to the flesh an excellent opportunity for their redemption."

"After the Storm," with 114 pages, is published by *Livraria Espírita Alvorada Editora* (Rua Jaime Vieira Lima 104 – Pau da Lima – CEP 41235-000 Salvador-BA – Brazil – Internet: www.mansaodocaminho.com.br). Requests for copies should be sent to the above address.



Do not demand from someone what this person is not yet able to give to you.

Emmanuel

ITALIAN PERIODICAL SHOWS THAT DEATH DOES NOT EXIST

Professor Alfredo Ferraro, a renowned and respected scientist in Italy in the field of astronomy, has been giving his contribution to the Spiritist community through exhaustive research. His works are published in the periodical "L'Aurora," as we see in a recent issue.

Residing in the city of Genoa, since his youth he established contact with the local "Circolo Scientifico Minerva" (Scientific Circle Minerva), an institution dedicated to this day to mediumistic research and compilation of other related events. His founder was the Spiritist Ernesto Bozzano (1862-1943). There, Prof. Ferraro discovered an interesting message dictated by a high Italian magistrate and addressed to one of his brothers.

Disincarnating on October 27, 1900, magistrate Vincenzo Reggio while alive had committed a small mistake that left his last will incomplete, something that was causing him concerns in the afterlife. This took him in spirit to seek out a medium to help with the appropriate correction to his will. In that institution, dedicated to the interchange with the spirit world, the predicament was resolved and the magistrate, who had been the president of the Supreme Court, send a message to his brother, none other than D. Tommaso Reggio, Archbishop of Genoa.

It is worthwhile to reproduce parts of the message, as follows: "Voi siete le soli persone com le quali mi sono potuto mettere in contatto dopo la mia morte. Mi é permesso di comunicare con voi e sollecitare l'adem-pimento di una volontà che io avevo es-preso in vita e che i miei hanno trascurato. Io sono Vincenzo Reggio, presidente della Corte d' Appello, deceduto a Genova il 27 ottobre 1900 alle sei e mezzo del mattino. Il mio domicilio era in Corso Paganini 16 e mio fratello è Tomaso Reggio, arcivescovo di Genova. Scrivetegli."

The translation from the Italian text above is as follows: "You are the people that I was able to contact after my death. It was permitted that I communicated with you and solicit the execution of my will, which had been expressed and my heirs have omitted. I am Vincenzo Reggio, president of the Supreme Court, who died in Genoa on October 27, 1900, at 6:30 in the morning, and who lived at Av. Paganini 16. My brother is Tommaso Reggio, Archbishop of Genoa. Please write to him."

The Spiritist Center, through its representatives, took the message to the addressee, the person who could corroborate that that was in fact the signature of his dead brother, and that his last will had a mistake.

The psychographed page with the signature of the dead magistrate was printed in "L'Aurora," along with another document that had been signed by him

when alive. They are absolutely identical, a fact which took the Archbishop to confess his total confidence in the mediumistic work of this group, as can be attested in the written grateful response by him, and which is also shown in the periodical. He not only authenticates the communication, but also asks that other messages from his beloved brother be sent to him.

“L’Aurora” is located at Largo Pietà 9 – Camerino – 62032 Macerata – Italy – phone 0737-632401.

IN THE SPIRITIST MOVEMENT

• “REVISTA ESPÍRITA” IN SPANISH

As we already know, Allan Kardec founded the “Revue Spirite” on January 1, 1858. The magazine was in circulation until 1969, a landmark of the beginning of the dissemination of Spiritism through a periodical. A few years ago, through an initiative of the International Spiritist Council (ISC) in partnership with the French and Francophone Spiritist Union, the magazine was re-launched in its original French language. The partnership most recently presented another valuable project, the publication of the magazine in Spanish.

The objective is to attend the great public that speaks Spanish in Latin America, as well as the Hispanic community in the U.S., where the number of adherents of Spiritism grows significantly everyday.

ISC members who receive the magazine every three months in French, will also get it in Spanish. “La Revista Espirita” is published by the “Casa Editora O Clarim” (Caixa Postal 9 – 15990-000 Matão-SP – Brazil – Internet: www.oclarim.com.br). It is also available in the ISC Internet site at www.spiritist.org/larevistaespirita.

In its first Spanish issue, the magazine’s cover carries a photograph of the Grand Dame of Spiritism, Amália Domingo Soler.

• PROGRAM IN THE INTERNET

The program “Despertar de Um Mundo Melhor” [Awakening of a Better World] can now be seen in the Internet at www.plenus.net through an initiative of “Portal Plenus Net.” The page also shows other eleven TV programs from this collection, currently the more extensive of its kind in the Internet: more than 90 hours of video, lectures, courses, tapes, interviews with Divaldo Pereira Franco, José Raul Teixeira, and Richard Simonetti, among others.

The program, produced by the “Lar Fabiano de Cristo,” a social project maintained by CAPEMI – *Caixa de Pecúlios, Pensão e Montepios* – is transmitted on Sundays to the whole country of Brazil, by CNT, from 3 to 4 PM.

• “BONA ESPERO” SCHOOL

The current issue of the “Esperantista Vegetarano” (The Vegetarian Esperantist) carries an interesting article on the “Fazenda Escola Bona Espero,” located in Alto Paraíso, state of Goiás, Brazil. It was founded in 1957 by Esperantists with the objective of supporting and educating needy children of that region. Throughout its long existence, characterized by performing good deeds, “Boa Esperança” was able to help hundreds of children, some currently teachers in the region.

In the day-to-day activities at the “Fazenda,” the children receive, along with formal schooling, vocational education focusing mainly on agriculture, and also classes of Esperanto. The way of eating is vegetarian non-restrictive, that is, products from animal origin are consumed (milk and eggs), except for the meat. The manner of planting is organic, avoiding industrial fertilizers and the sort.

The text was written by Dr. Riccardo Pinori, an Italian who, as a volunteer, worked for a few months at the “Fazenda.” The magazine is published by “Teva – Tutmonda Esperantista Vegetarana Asocio” (World Association of Vegetarian Esperantists), located at Via Pietro Cartoni 12/12 – IT 00152 Roma – Italy – Fax 06 58202232 – Internet: centro.stampa@tiscalinet.it.

• SPIRITISM ON THE RADIO

There are a lot of Spiritist programs being broadcast on the radio. In Pernambuco, for example, there is the program “Doutrina Espírita” [Spiritist Doctrine], on Saturdays, from noon to 1 PM on Radio Guarany (AM 1300 kHz), with interviews, news, features, and doctrinal commentaries. Another program well received, although short — ten minutes — is “O que é o Espiritismo,” [What is Spiritism] on Radio Capibaribe – Jovem Pan (AM 1280 kHz), of Recife, weekdays, at 6:20 PM.

• NEW NUCLEUS OF CME

The “Cruzada dos Militares Espíritas” (CME) from the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul has just created one more center for the dissemination of Spiritism, called Nucleus Campo Grande. It is open and operating since November 1st, at Rua Jaborandi, 80 – Jardim Aeroporto – 79100-190 Campo Grande-MS - Brazil. The opening was attended by the president of the “Cruzada dos Militares Espíritas,” José Plínio Monteiro.

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Today it is possible that this or that friend is in need of you, however, tomorrow you could possible be the one in need of help.

Emmanuel

• ESPERANTO IN RONDÔNIA

Recently created, the “REK – Rondonia Esperanto Klubo” (Esperanto Rondonian Club) is in plain activity, offering courses for the International Language and editing the bulletin “La Movado” (The Movement).

For 2004, measures are being taken to conduct a seminar to discuss topics related to the Esperanto Movement and the use of Esperanto in the Internet.

• SPIRITISM ON TV

The André Luiz Foundation, a well known Spiritist organization in São Paulo, broadcasts every Sunday through TV Executiva the program “Boa Nova na TV” [Good News on TV], from 10 AM to 12 noon, and on the third Sundays of each month, at 11 PM. In its programs, among other activities, there are news and time open to answer questions on Spiritism.

Jether Jacomini is the coordinator, and the program can be caught via satellite dish with reruns on the Net, Channel 14, and TVA, Channel 4, on Tuesdays from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM. It can also be seen in the Internet at www.feal.com.br and www.radioboanova.com.br.

• SPIRITISM IN THE NEWSPAPERS

Some Brazilian newspapers reserve space for the publication of articles and commentaries of facts analyzed in the light of the Spiritist Doctrine. For instance, the *Folha de Pernambuco* carries the column “Realidade Paralela” [Parallel Reality], whose texts are the responsibility of the “Associação dos Divulgadores do Espiritismo de Pernambuco” (Rua Marechal Deodoro 460 – Encruzilhada – 52030-170 Recife-PE - Brazil), with the support of CAPEMI.

In the same line, there is the column “Espiritismo” [Spiritism], from the *Jornal do Comércio*, of Recife, also in Pernambuco, an initiative of the “Comissão Estadual de Espiritismo” (Rua Siqueira Campos 45 – sala 604 – Santo Antônio – 50010-010 Recife-PE – Brazil). Both are distributed on Sundays.

• SITE “DIVULGAÇÃO DA DOCTRINA ESPÍRITA”: NEW ADDRESS

The site “Divulgação da Doutrina Espírita” has a new address in the Internet. Under the responsibility of Irani Pacheco Couto, from Rio de Janeiro, it presents, among other attractions, a collection of the articles published in SEI — Serviço Espírita de Informações — written by D.Villela, who writes the editorial, and Giovanni Scognamillo, who comments operas in the light of the Spiritist Doctrine.

The page has been in existence for more than two years at <http://pws.prserv.net/ily/dde/index.htm>.