

March/April 2004 – # 45

UNITY IN THE CREATION

D.Villela

Belief in angels, spiritual beings living in a state of perfection and acting always according to the divine laws, is millenarian and common to various religious schools. Our Judeo Christian tradition also adopts this belief, wrongly supposing, however, that angels are angels since their origin, essentially different from the human species which is characterized by deficiencies and imperfections that require arduous efforts to overcome.

With the concepts of reincarnation and progress, the Spiritist Doctrine came to clarify this point, informing that there are no distinct creations but only evolutionary degrees, from humanity to angelness, the successive states of the same trajectory common to all creatures.

Equally supported in the concept of evolution, Spiritism addresses another imprecise point in Christian thought: besides angels and men and women, there are other beings in creation, the irrationals, who possess intelligence in rudimentary form, as well as sentiments and will, bringing the following question: what is the meaning of their existence? Will they forever be destined to be inferior?

The Doctrine explains that it is not so. The Spiritual Instructors have informed us that the intelligent principle goes through the lower kingdoms of nature, where it progresses little by little animating material bodies until it reaches reason. In the human condition, where it can distinguish good from evil, it will intern for a long time aiming towards the angelic state in a process which, while addressed with more depth in works that appear after the Codification, it still escapes in many aspects our understanding.

It is interesting to point out that this is also the position adopted by oriental religions, although in some, unlike Spiritism, they believe in metempsychosis, the possibility that human beings incarnate in the bodies of animals. That would be contrary to the Law of Progress and is

categorically denied by the spirit instructors in Spiritist literature.

Allan Kardec observed in this regard that the passage through the lower kingdoms of nature does not diminish mankind's position whose dignity, in a same analogy, is not harmed because human beings had to go through the stages of fetus, infancy, and youth before becoming adults.

God, our Father, loves all creatures the same, independently of the evolution each has achieved, guiding them to the integral happiness through the complete acceptance of His laws, when His children, enlightened and responsible, will become the agents of His almighty will in all the universe.

◇

The Spirits' Book (Questions 604 and 607).

SPIRITIST IDEAS

As science in its multiple fields of action brings new information on the world we live in, the more the Spiritist ideas gain acceptance within this context. Proof of that is in the recent interview of Catholic priest Don Alessio Cappelletti by Spiritist researcher and doctrine disseminator Giuseppe Lenzi, published with prominence by the Italian periodical *L'Aurora*, under the title "Does the Devil Exist?"

Cappelletti is known as a "demonologist," a highly regarded priest to assist in cases of obsession and other mediumistic manifestations, always in the light of Church theology, which attributes these phenomena to demoniacal actions. However, many times the answers of the priest, due to their content, resemble Question 798 of the *Spirits' Book* wherein the Superior Spirits tell Allan Kardec that Spiritist concepts will become "broadly accepted. They belong to the natural order of things and the time will come when the Spiritist Doctrine will take its place among the branches of human knowledge."

Dr. Lenzi – as the researcher is called – proposed more than 20 questions to the priest, all based in questions from the *Spirits' Book*. The answers and

explanations he obtained were close or similar to the information brought forth by the Spiritist Doctrine. At one point, for example, the "demonologist" affirms: "Many of the obsessed are in contact with undeveloped spirits and practicing a type of "vulgar Spiritism." These individuals are not in search of truth, but magic solutions for their problems. The answer is the action of the demons (inferior spirits) who dominate them."

In light of this answer, Dr. Lenzi asked if the priest believed in the existence of a serious Spiritism, to which he answered affirmatively. Throughout the dialogue, Don Alessio demonstrated ample knowledge regarding the "incorporation" of spirits.

Citing question 131 of the *Spirits' Book*, Dr. Lenzi asked how would God have created or permitted the creation of spirits dedicated exclusively to evil?

"I speak – replied Don Alessio – of 'demons' who answer to the call of those who, pretending to dominate 'those forces' instead submit to them in an obsessive manner. The majority has in mind the making of money by using the recourses and help of these 'fallen angels' who end up imposing their will on those who invoke them."

Dr. Lenzi continued to question: "Would you, then, confirm the incorporation of those spirits?"

"Yes," said the priest and concluded: "I saw illiterate people from the intellectual standpoint, speaking languages foreign to them. I spoke with some of those communicating spirits in Latin, Greek, and some distinct dialects. These people had no knowledge of what they were talking about. To me, I affirm that this is an obsessive process, or even a diabolical possession, and the victims are always those who practice cartomancy, occultism, witchcraft, foretelling, among others, because they are practicing 'debased Spiritism.'"

Seeking to explain to Don Alessio what Spiritism is really about, Dr. Lenzi demonstrated the difference between certain mediumistic practices and the missionary nature of the Doctrine, to which the priest replied: "How good it would be if people would occupy their time with the

reading of good books and would learn to respect those intangible forces that are not subject to the control of the curious and the perfidious. As far as the circles that dedicate themselves to serious studies, I don't see any danger, as long as they don't come in contact with the forces of evil!"

The interview was closed with an invitation by Dr. Lenzi for Don Alessio to attend a meeting where mediums and spirits are treated according to the explanations brought by Kardec. The priest thanked the invitation and concluded with these words: "God has many pathways. Let us serve Him in the place He has put us, because there His presence is guaranteed."

The periodical *L'Aurora* comes out monthly and is located at Largo Pietà 9 – Camerino – 62032 Macerata – Italy – telephone 0737-632401.

AROUND THE WORLD

• BOLIVIA

The *Federación Espírita Boliviana* [Spiritist Federation of Bolivia] has programmed an important event for 2005: the IV Bolivian Spiritist Encounter in the city of La Paz, from March 25 to 27.

News of the preparations will be posted on the monthly bulletin *Camino de Luz*, the official magazine of the Federation which also carries news on the local Spiritist Movement. More information can also be obtained at headquarters located at Calle Libertad, 382 entre Seoane y Buenos Aires – Casilla de Correo 6756 – Santa Cruz de la Sierra – Bolivia; phone 337-6060; Internet: www.spiritist.org/bolivia.

Mr. Eduardo de Carvalho Nanni is the current president.



Live your own life and let others live the existence God has given them.

Emmanuel



THE SPIRITIST INFORMATION SERVICE

A bimonthly periodical by

Lar Fabiano de Cristo

Editor in Chief:

Cesar Soares dos Reis

Editors:

Danilo Carvalho Villela

Eloy Carvalho Villela

Production Offices:

Rua dos Inválidos, 34 – 7º andar

Centro - BR 20231-044

Rio de Janeiro - RJ

Tel (21) 2242-8872

Fax (21) 3806-8649

Brazil

• CZECH REPUBLIC

In the countries under the communist regime in Europe, Spiritism was prohibited and many Spiritists were jailed and tortured. After the fall of communism and the change in governments, it became possible to publish some Spiritist books. Unfortunately, the Spiritist Doctrine was not known to the publishing houses and they refused to publish them, opting instead for books with more commercial appeal.

Three older Spiritist fellows – Kreuzinger, Machala, and Vána – before dying, promised to the younger Spiritist generation that after the loss of their physical bodies they would seek to influence a publisher to launch Kardec's books. And, truly, a few months after their deaths, the director of the prestigious Fontana, from the city of Olomouc, decided to publish *Heaven and Hell*, which has received great acceptance. Afterwards, *The Gospel According to Spiritism* will also be published in the Czech language. Moreover, in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, the publishing house Eko-Konzult has launched Spiritist books with excellent sales.

These good news were conveyed by Spiritist Esperantist Vlado Sladeczek, from the Czech city of Ostrava, in a letter to the SEI editors, and which ends with this suggestive observation: "It is proof, no doubt, that life goes on after death, and that those three friends were successful in their noble purpose."

• FINLAND

Founded in the city of Helsinki and still without their own headquarters, the *Grupo de Estudos Espíritas Allan Kardec* [Allan Kardec Spiritist Study Group] is taken appropriate steps to register the organization according to Finnish laws. As part of their work in the dissemination of Spiritism, the group is responsible for the translation into Finnish of the book *Spiritism in Its Simplest Expression*, under the title "Spiritism Lyhyesti," as well as the pamphlet *Get to Know Spiritism*, created by the International Spiritist Council.

Contacts should be made through Maura Nykanen, one of the members of this working group, at 00 358 440 986 633, or at spiritKardec@hotmail.com.

• GUATEMALA

Thanks to the 12-page bulletin from the *Asociación Central de Estudios Espirituales Allan Kardec*, in circulation for 14 years, it is possible to know through quick and pleasant reading a bit more about Spiritism, as well as to get the scoop of what is going on inside the Spiritist Movement. The articles carry lots of explanations and alerts to Spiritist and non-Spiritists, like this one: "We should not waste the existence that the Supreme Law has given us to advance our own spiritual progress."

In addition to the dissemination of Spiritism, in the bulletin – which has the same name as the institution's and is distributed without charge around the world – the *Asociación* promotes regular studies at its headquarters on Mondays and Thursdays, at 6 PM, and on Saturdays at 1 PM. It is located at 11 Avenida 10-21, zona 7 – Colonia Castillo Lara – Guatemala – telephone (502) 471-7433.

• KOREA

News on Esperanto in Korea and neighboring countries appear in the magazine *La Lanterno Azia* [The Asian Lantern]. In its most recent issue, among the principal features is the creation of an affiliate of the "Korea Esperanto-Asocio" [Korean Esperanto Association], in the city of Kjongbuk, and the launching of a collection of novels of Korean authors translated into the International Language. Another novelty is the page "Verda Voĉo" [Green Voice], created by members of the Korean Esperantist Youth, also responsible for the virtual magazine *La Amikeco* [Friendship], distributed to young Asian Esperantists.

We point out the statement of the vice president of the Kjongbuk affiliate, Park Wha-chong, given to *La Lanterno Azia*: "Currently the world progresses daily towards becoming a global village. We believe that our language, the Esperanto, is a useful tool to link all humanity. We can sum up that Esperantism, translating the spirit of Esperanto, is 'Homaranism', that is, a heart with love and a sense of respect among mankind."

• POLAND

In Poland, the Spiritist Group of Bydgoszcz is in full operation. Contact via Internet should be made through our fellow Przemek Grzybowski, at his new email spirytyzm@onet.pl. The mailing address remains the same: Skrytka pocztowa 23 – 85-124 Bydgoszcz 39 – Poland.

• SWITZERLAND

The book *Nosso Lar* [A Spiritual Home], a literary success by spirit author André Luiz, psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier, has been translated into French. "Notre Demeure" can be found at the headquarters of the Spiritist Studies Center of Geneva at low prices to promote its sale. Requests should be sent directly to the Center at Rue des Voisins, 15 – Casa Postale 21 – 1231 Conches – Switzerland. More information at phone 076 382 8642.

• UNITED STATES

The *Spiritist Group of New York*, founded on 12 April 2001, disseminates information on the Spiritist Doctrine in its internet website www.sgny.org, from the books of the Codification in English to

books from other authors in PDF. It also shows links to organizations in Brazil and the U.S., articles, biographies from among others Alexandre Aksakof, Amália Domingo Soler, Andrew Jackson Davis, and Camille Flammarion. There are also books for children from the *Federação Espírita Brasileira* translated into English by members of the group.

The public doctrinal meetings take place at “Shelter Studios” at 939 Eighth Avenue (between 55 and 56), New York – NY – USA.

BOOK REVIEW

GENESIS

The Spiritist Alliance for Books, a department of the Spiritist Group of New York, whose objective is to translate books into English, launched a new version of the *Genesis* from the original French.

The work was a product of twelve translators. The idea stemmed from a delicate and overwhelming historical circumstance, the attacks of September 11, 2001, when lots of questions arose regarding life, its origin, and its significance.

Genesis – Miracles and Predictions According to Spiritism is the last book of the five that comprise the fundamental teachings of the Spiritist revelation, all authored by its codifier, Allan Kardec, pseudonym of French Professor Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail (1804-1869). The book appeared in 1868, when a respectable movement was already underway through Kardec’s orientation and under the influence of four other books that became very popular: *The Spirits’ Book* (1857), *The Mediums’ Book* (1861), *The Gospel According to Spiritism* (1864), and *Heaven and Hell* (1865).

Before devoting himself to the important mission of compiling and systematizing the revelations that came from the invisible world, Allan Kardec had already achieved an honorable reputation as a pedagogue, with large and recognized contributions to the betterment of the educational system in France.

On the content of this book, we can without any hesitation affirm its lasting value, despite the fact that due to the progress of the sciences since its inception in 1868, some ideas, theories and principles had to factor in research and observations technically more accurate than in its times. The author himself, with a lucid foresight, alerted us on this matter. With respect, however, to the exclusive and specific field of the not yet recognized Spiritist science, everything else breathes novelty and actuality, based on logic and reasoning. In the *Genesis* the elements that give consistency to an absolutely real force in nature — the invisible world — ascend to a new phase in evolution where they will need no longer successive reincarnations

in planets of coarse matter. This invisible world is where all humanity comes from into the world through birth and where it returns to through death based on incessant progress, intellectual and primarily moral.

Unlike the traditional religious thought, Allan Kardec recognizes the role of science in the formulation of the real Genesis according to the laws of nature, without rejecting radically the old concepts and interpretations, especially those contained in the Bible. Those, in his view, were enshrined in allegories which hid sublime truths. Among many of his affirmations, the following define with clarity the characteristics of the Spiritist revelation: “If religion refuses to advance with science, science will advance alone,” and “A religion that would not be, at any point, in contradiction with the laws of nature would have nothing to fear of progress and would be invulnerable.”

In spite of the *Genesis* focusing particularly on the scientific aspect of the Spiritist Doctrine, it also addresses the other binding aspects, that is, the philosophical and moral aspects which, in a subsequent and natural way derive from the “physical elements,” so to say, of the revelation.

The 407-page book contains 18 chapters, among them, “Character of the Spiritist Revelation,” “God,” “The Scientific Note in Genesis,” “Systems of the Ancient and Modern Worlds,” “General Uranography,” “Geological Outline of the Earth,” “Miracles According to Spiritism,” and “Predictions of the Gospels.” Requests should be e-mailed to sab@sgny.org. For more information, www.sgny.org.

FROM OUR FELLOWS

NEVER LOSE HOPE! Cláudia Johann Scholl

“Life has lost its meaning, it is not worth living... It would be better for everything to end! Why doesn’t God take me? I don’t expect anything else from this life....” Those are some of the complaints we hear.

What makes people think this way, and why to they want to die? Why would they want to end their lives?

If we analyze the situations, we will see that it is the existential emptiness, coupled with a lack of the sense of life and noble purposes that lead the individual to lose hope and desire the illusive end.

With the lucid and rationale explanations offered the Spiritist Doctrine that comes to rescue the purity and the true sense of Jesus’ message, we start to see in a different light the difficulties in life, the losses, and the sufferings, understanding that they are the fruits of inadequate choices we made in the past, or programmed

trials to propel us toward our progress. Thus, we start to understand God no longer as someone who castigates and punishes some while extending privileges to others, but instead as a Father Who loves each one of us, but puts in our hands the responsibility for what we obtain, be it successes or failures, providing new horizons of hope through the possibility of our rehabilitation.

In this regard, let us comprehend how to wait. Hope is the virtue of those who know how to wait for better days, for positive happenings, those who make efforts for them to happen and who do not sit back waiting for others to do their tasks, those who fight to get something better.

Hope should be our everyday companion. Along with faith, it is the light that leads our steps and takes us to our final destiny of bliss after we conquer our vicissitudes and imperfections.

If we are going through a difficult period, and it seems that we are about to succumb from the weight of our trials, let the forces that are hidden emerge, thereby not letting despair take over, trusting in the divine support, putting on the lights of hope.

“Love, work, forgiveness, and hope” were the recommendations given by Abigail (spirit) to Paul of Tarsus, in moments of great disillusion and hopelessness experienced by the apostle of Christianity as narrated by Emmanuel in the classic *Paul and Stephen*, psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier. In our days, they still remain the tools that prevent us from succumbing to the difficulties we all confront in our lives.

IN THE SPIRITIST MOVEMENT

• BOOK BIENNIAL

The *Federação Espírita Brasileira* (FEB) [Brazilian Spiritist Federation] participated in the eighteenth International Book Biennial that took place in April at the *Centro de Exposições Imigrantes* [Exhibit Center], in São Paulo.

At the exhibit were a great part of the books published by FEB in its 56 years of literary production. The selling of the books, however, were the responsibility of booksellers and distributors present at the event.

Visitors were given a free issue of the magazine *Reformador* and other dissemination materials such as posters, decals, pamphlets and note pads, as well as a pocketbook-size copy of “O Evangelho segundo o Espiritismo,” [*The Gospel According to Spiritism*]. At the Biennial, a commemorative edition of this book was launched to celebrate its 140 years of existence. Children were given the book “Turma da paz com Allan Kardec” [Allan Kardec’s Peace Group], with pastimes and information on the Spiritist Doctrine.

At the event, FEB also launched the four first volumes of Allan Kardec's *Revue Spirite* [a twelve-volume collection] with translation into Portuguese by Evandro Noleto and a modern graphic presentation.

This is the first time the books were published by FEB, which will also offer the remainder eight volumes. For more information contact directly the *Assessoria de Imprensa da Federação Espírita Brasileira* [Press Office] at 00 55 61 321-1767 – Internet: imprensa@febnet.org.br.

• **SQUARE PROFESSOR RIVAIL**

One of the largest squares in the beach region of Niterói, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, now has been named “Praça Professor Rivail” (referring to Allan Kardec's real name). The project, an initiative of *Grupo Espírita Paz e Renovação*, from that city, materialized on the morning of April 1, with the unveiling of the plaque in the presence of Mayor Godofredo Pinto and representatives of the local Spiritist Movement. “The name of the square is an homage to the Spiritist community, which has carried out social projects for many years in this city,” declared the Mayor during the event that was covered by the principal periodicals of the city. The plaque is affixed in a monument of about 6 feet that also has an engraving of the face of the Codifier of Spiritism. The Praça Professor Rivail is located in the Praia of Piratininga [beach of Piratininga], between 136th and 138th streets.

The project, carried out with the support of the *Associação de Moradores* do bairro [a community association], is part of the homages for the bicentennial of the birth of Allan Kardec to be celebrated next October.

• **RIO DE JANEIRO RADIO STATION**

Radio station *Emissora da Fraternidade* is putting into practice actions relating to the celebration of the Bicentennial of the Birth of Allan Kardec. Although his birthday is in October, these initiatives are being developed throughout the year 2004. Part of it will be the special edition of the program “Debate na Rio” [Debate at Rio], under the theme “The Importance of Kardec for Humanity,” vignettes on the topic, interviews on Kardec's vision of the future, the relevance of his trips, and also the broadcast of lectures taped in Spiritist Centers that address this celebration.

Spiritist radio programmers, including those responsible for independent programs, will be receiving instructions to emphasize Kardec's importance. Another initiative is the competition on monographies of Kardec, with more details to be announced soon.

If you want to get all the latest news, listen to *Rádio Rio de Janeiro*, at 1400 kHz AM. Headquarters of the station are located at Estrada do Dendê 659 – Ilha do Governador – Rio de Janeiro-RJ 21920-001 – Brazil – Internet: www.radioriodejaneiro.com.br.

• **BOOK – “YVONNE: A SILENT HEROINE”**

Contemporary of Chico Xavier, Yvonne do Amaral Pereira undoubtedly is one of the most notable Brazilian mediums, as attested by the recently published book “Yvonne – uma heroína silenciosa,” [Yvonne – A Silent Heroine], by Pedro Camilo.

The book, not published in English yet, describes remarkable facts in the life of Yvonne and her ostensible mediumship capabilities consisting of psychography, psychophony, out of body experiences, and physical effects, among others. With ten chapters comprised in 156 pages, the work addresses topics such as “Lucidez de raciocínio” [Lucidity of Reasoning], “Receituário e cura” [Prescriptions and Cure], “Os contos de Tolstoi” [Short Stories by Tolstoi], “O incansável trabalho de Yvonne na Espiritualidade” [Yvonne's Tireless Spiritual Work], “O que pensava da obsessão” [What She Thought About Obsession], “O Esperanto e um curioso caso de reencarnação” [Esperanto and a Peculiar Case of Reincarnation], as well as a whole chapter with commentaries by known names of the Spiritist Movement, such as Carlos Imbassahy, Chico Xavier, Divaldo Pereira Franco, and Hermínio Corrêa de Miranda.

The book is published by *Ideba Editora* (Av. Sete de Setembro 166 – sala 105 – Centro – Salvador-BA 40060-001 – Brazil – Internet: idebaeditora@ig.com.br).

• **COURSES**

The *União das Sociedades Espíritas do Estado de São Paulo* (Rua Dr. Gabriel Piza 433 – Santana – São Paulo-SP 02036-011 – Brazil – Internet: www.use-sp.com.br) promotes throughout the year the study of various themes related to the daily activities of the Spiritist Center through its Department of Doctrinal Orientation.

The studies are based on special study materials. The program for the next months is the following: in July, “Preparation of Monitors for the Systematic Study of the Spiritist Doctrine”; In August, “Fluidic Therapy”; in September “Public Meetings and Lectures”; in October “Prayer – Irradiation – Magnetic Treatment of Water”; and in November, at the end of the program, “Mediumistic Culture.”

• **SPIRITIST CENTER CRISTÓFILOS 100 YEARS**

The *Centro Espírita Cristófilos* [Spiritist Center Cristofilos] (Rua Martins Ferreira 57 – Botafogo – Rio de Janeiro-RJ 22271-010 – Brazil – Internet: cristofilos@hotmail.com) celebrated its one hundred years on May 1st with a cycle of lectures and artistic presentations in different locations.

• **ESPERANTO CONGRESS**

Materials are being distributed for the 39th Brazilian Esperanto Congress to take place from July 18-22, 2004, in the city of Maceió, state of Alagoas, Brazil. The event is organized by the *Associação Alagoana de Esperanto* [Esperanto Association of Alagoas] (Caixa Postal 396 – Maceió-AL 57020-970 – Brazil – Internet: ariknubxxi@ig.com.br.), under the theme “Esperanto in the Schools.” At the same time, the “39^a Brazila Kongreso de Esperanto” – nomenclature in the International Language – will have a version for children and youth. It will be the “24^a Brazila Esperantista Junulara Kongreso,” which will be carried out under the same theme. The events have the support of the Brazilian Esperanto League (Caixa Postal 3625 – Brasília-DF 70084-970 – Brazil – Internet: www.esperanto.org.br).

• **VIRTUAL RADIO STATION**

Around the world it is now possible to follow through the Internet the program “Despertar de um Mundo Melhor” [The Awakening of a Better World], produced by the *Lar Fabiano de Cristo*. It is broadcast from Monday to Monday, from midnight to 1:00 AM – network primetime – by *Rádio Virtual Amazônia FM*. The initiative belongs to members of the *Clube de Arte de Belém* [Art Club of Belem], associated to the *Lar Fabiano de Cristo*. On the other hand, the virtual radio station is maintained by the *Movimento de Reintegração das Pessoas Atingidas pela Hanseníase* [Movement to Reintegrate People Affected by Hansen's Disease] (Rua Nossa Senhora Aparecida 107 – apartamento 102 – Entroncamento – Belém-PA – 66645-455 – Brazil). The radio station is also located at this address.

• **SPIRITISM IN THE NET**

From anywhere in the world it is now possible to follow the studies of the *Casa Espírita Eurípedes Barsanulfo* (Rua Gazeta da Tarde, 235 – Taquara – 22715-100 Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil - phone 00 55 21 2446-8108). The lectures can be viewed via Internet at www.paltalk.com, where the visitor will need to fill out a form. At the link “Welcome Brasil” please click *Casa Espírita Eurípedes Barsanulfo*. The lectures take place every Monday and Thursday, at 7:45 PM, local time, Brasilia, Brazil. Along with the studies, there is information on various encounters, courses and seminars, with all programs posted in advance.



Ideas are a creative force to which our words will adhere generating sentiments, suggestions, forms, and things. Let us use conversation to better ourselves, employing words as an agent of elevation.