

May / June 2004 – # 46

## ATTAINMENT OF FAITH

D.Villela

Faith, in its religious sense, signifies the belief in the existence of a Supreme Power that creates, maintains, and presides over life and the universe. While it is possible to make comments on faith and even study it in rational terms, it is not a question connected only to intelligence, because it involves more profound aspects of our individualities.

Throughout the times, religions have told us about faith, albeit associating faith with their acceptance of dogmas and rituals along with their description of the creation, and their role as representatives and agents of God before humankind.

On this matter of faith, however, Jesus brought us a very different concept that includes total confidence in the Supreme Being, even though we are not yet capable of perceiving Him or conceptualizing Him intellectually. We can, nevertheless, observe and understand His manifestations and connect them to the idea that He created us and looks after us, and that the conscious alignment of our actions with His laws will give us the power to overcome obstacles too hard for our still so human possibilities.

Being generally interested by the first standpoint – verbal and staying on the surface – religions wrongly suggest that these two forms of belief are automatically associated, or they identify and try to attract a large number of followers by utilizing psychological pressure (“those who do not accept our ideas are wrong”) or even physical coercion (frequently in the past through persecutions and even death for dissidents and adherents of other beliefs). In those cases, they were satisfied with the appearance of an adherence even if merely formal, external, that has nothing in common with the posture taught and exemplified by Jesus.

The Spiritist Doctrine enlightens that faith is an acquisition to be realized by spirits on their evolutionary journey by using their reflection and intelligence, and for this very reason achieving and presenting

themselves in various degrees of progress. In its initial stages, faith is understandably weak and hesitant, as we can observe in the Gospel where a father asks Jesus to cure his ill daughter exclaiming: “*Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*” (Mark 9:24). Little by little, however, faith gets stronger until it reaches the sublime levels observed in the conduct of the apostles and missionaries, and the absolute confidence in God, our Father, as demonstrated by Jesus.

The practical consequences of this acquisition are enormous, since from them directly flows the importance we attribute to the norms of behavior established by the Divine Power and the efforts we employ to follow them. Our decisions, choices, the way we deal with our problems, absolutely everything in our lives is affected by faith.

Although it is relatively simple to identify the divine magnificence in the functioning of our material universe, the perception of faith’s presence in our morality requires a more complex concept – reincarnation, cause and effect, and progress – capable of harmonizing the observations reached through the concepts of perfect justice, goodness, and wisdom always present in the Divine Being.

Spiritism equally conveys to us that no one will be left out from acquiring faith. Naturally not instantly, to the point of “removing mountains”, as stated in the evangelical expression, but giving us confidence enough to help us conquer our bad habits, indecisions and illusions that so much harm us, allowing us to truly become blissful.

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*The Gospel According to Spiritism*  
(Chapter 19, Items 6 and 7).

## SPIRITISM IN EUROPE

Living in Brighton, in the southern region of England, Elsa Rossi is one of those workers who does not spare any efforts when the goal is to disseminate Spiritism, particularly on European soil. In a recent interview for the *Revista Internacional de Espiritismo* [Spiritism

International Review], she assessed the activities of the Spiritist Movement in Europe on the eve of the bicentennial of the birth of Allan Kardec – occurring this coming October – and the progress in the areas of dissemination and Unification.

“At the meetings of the Supporting Coordination for the European Countries, we registered the presence of countries which have not yet joined, such as Germany, Denmark, Luxembourg and Estonia” – she states, adding that the European Coordination of the International Spiritist Council is officially composed of the following ten countries: United Kingdom, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Holland, Italy and Belgium.

Responsible for the writing and publication of the *European Bulletin*, that carries news of the Spiritist Movement throughout Europe, Elsa Rossi also spoke about Spiritist literature, undergoing ample expansion in the continent. “There are Spiritist books published directly in the following languages: Swedish, English, French, German, Estonian, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Norwegian, Czech and Esperanto, as well as books translated and published at Kardec’s time which are presently being revised, as is the case in Holland, where the five basic books are going under this process and will be published shortly. Some books were found translated into Danish and Finnish, and in the near future, they will also be revised and put into a more modern language”.

Elsa’s engagement to the European Spiritist Movement dates to 1997, through an invitation of her friend Janet Duncan at the meeting of the Council in Paris, and the implementation of the Coordinations for the Americas and Europe. “In 2001, in a meeting in Belgium, we assumed the Department of Integration of the European Countries, and we have tried to visit the different countries and give our contribution. During that period, the following entities were created: the Swedish Spiritist Union, the Dutch Spiritist Council, the Allan Kardec Luxembourg, the Allan Kardec Spiritist Study Group–Finland, and the Allan Kardec Spiritist Study Group–Denmark, among others” – informed.

Working with a small Spiritist group in the town she lives in, Elsa Rossi points out that the relationship between the Spiritist organizations in the United Kingdom is very close, which facilitates the creation of new centers of dissemination, such as the recently founded International Medical Spiritist Association of London, comprised of professionals in the health field.

"We need to blossom where we were and are now planted. Certainly, the master gardener in our lives, Jesus our Lord, will not leave us without the nourishment that makes us grow and bloom. Let us do our humble part with the certainty that we are never alone. Let us be Spiritist groups in Australia, in the Americas, in Japan, Bielorussia, wherever we are. Let us be with Jesus!" – she concludes.

If you are interested in reading this interview in its entirety, request a copy from the editorial department of the *Revista Internacional de Espiritismo* at Rua Rui Barbosa 1.070 – Caixa Postal 19 – Matão-SP 15990-903 – Brazil. Phone: 00 55 16 282-1066 – Internet: [www.oclarim.com.br](http://www.oclarim.com.br).

## AROUND THE WORLD

### • AUSTRIA

On October 8-9, the Austria's National Library, in partnership with the National Association of Esperanto, will sponsor a Symposium to commemorate two Esperantist jubilees: the centenary of the birth of the eminent Esperantist Lidia Zamenhof (1904-1942) – daughter of Lazaro Luiz Zamenhof, creator of Esperanto – and the 75 years of the incorporation of the "Internacia Esperanto-Muzeo" (International Museum of Esperanto) at Austria's National Library.

The theme of the event, "Esperanto in the Hurricane of Ideologies", will be addressed through various lectures, along



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with the position and lines of action of the current Esperantist work.

The International Museum of Esperanto is located at Hofburg – Michaelerkuppel – AT-1010 Vienna – Austria – telephone 53 55 145 – Internet: [www.onb.ac.at/sammlungen/plansprachen/eo/index.htm](http://www.onb.ac.at/sammlungen/plansprachen/eo/index.htm).

### • DENMARK

The *Grupo de Estudos Espíritas Allan Kardec* [Allan Kardec Study Group] offers weekly meetings for the study of the Spiritist Doctrine. As informed by the head of the group, Silas Vilas Boas, in a recent issue of the bulletin of the International Spiritist Council, "the meetings are very productive". On Fridays, at 6 PM, they offer the Gospel at Home, and on the first Sunday of each month, a public lecture in Danish. Interesting to point out that the theme is defined a month before and forwarded to interested parties through e-mail.

The studies are carried out at Skovsvinget 2, DK-2800 Lyngby – Denmark. Phone contact: 45 4084-8700 and 45 4495-5162, or at [www.geeak-dk.org](http://www.geeak-dk.org).

### • GERMANY

Every first Tuesday of the month, at 8 PM, the program "Raio de Luz" [Ray of Light] is broadcast by radio station *Onda Tropical*, at the city of Tübingen. On the air since October 2003 and presented by Maria Gekeler, a member of a local Spiritist Center, during 15 minutes it airs doctrinal messages and news of the local Spiritist Movement.

The radio frequency is 96.6 MHz, and the e-mail is [Chris.Renner@t-online.de](mailto:Chris.Renner@t-online.de).

### • HOLLAND

The basic books of the Spiritist Codification in Dutch have been available in the Internet, at [www.allankardec.nl](http://www.allankardec.nl), since the beginning of February. The project, from the *Associação de Estudos Espíritas Allan Kardec* [Allan Kardec Spiritist Studies Association], located in Hoorn, offers the translations of the books "What is Spiritism", "The Spirits' Book", "The Mediums' Book", "The Gospel According to Spiritism", "Heaven and Hell" and "Genesis", done by the pioneer J.G. Plate, in the period between 1873 and 1878. The second part of the Association's project includes the editing of those books, which will take a bit longer since it is being done by a small group of volunteers.

The Association's address is Klokketuin 15 – 1689 KN Hoorn – Holland – fax 00 31 (0) 229-234527 – Internet: [allankardec@planet.nl](mailto:allankardec@planet.nl).



Use patience and tolerance.

Act without attachment.

Emmanuel

### • SPAIN

The Spiritist Federation of Spain has moved to Calle Dr. Sirvent, 36 A – Almoradi – 03160 Alicante – Spain. To get more information, visit [www.espiritismo.cc](http://www.espiritismo.cc).

### • UNITED STATES

For visitors to Washington, D.C., there is an opportunity to get to know the doctrinal activities of the *Grupo Espírita Fé, Amor e Caridade* [Spiritist Group Faith, Love, and Charity]. The organization, headed by Regina Dray Prince, offers study meetings every Wednesday at 8 PM, at 15115 Interlachen Drive, # 907 – Silver Spring – MD 20906 – USA.

More information can be obtained at [gteep@aol.com](mailto:gteep@aol.com), or at phone (301) 598-2104.

### • VENEZUELA

The publishing house *Mensagem Fraternal* offers a vast list of Spiritist titles in the Spanish language, such as "Hace 2000 años" [Two Thousand Years Ago], "A camino de la luz" [In the Path of Light], and "Compañero" [Companion], by Emmanuel; and "Respuestas de la vida" [Answers from Life], "Obreros de la vida eterna" [Workers of the Eternal Life], "En el mundo mayor" [In the Higher Spheres], "Liberación" [Liberation], "Entre la tierra y el cielo" [Between Earth and Heaven], and "Y la vida continúa..." [And Life Goes On...], by André Luiz. All books were psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier.

Copies are printed in Brazil by the *Instituto de Difusão Espírita* [Institute of Spiritist Dissemination] (Rua Otto Barreto, 1.067 – Caixa Postal 110 – 13602-970 – Araras-SP – Brazil – telephone: 00 55 19 3541-0077 – Internet: [www.ide.org.br](http://www.ide.org.br)). Requests should be made directly to the address of *Mensagem Fraternal* (Apartado Postal 2228 – 1010-A – Caracas – Venezuela – telephone: 55 82 12 472-1325).

## BOOK REVIEW

### OBSESSION

It is neither something that can be discredited by science, nor a phenomenon solely spiritual closed to the input of earthly medicine.

Obsession exists and its effects are extremely serious to humanity. We ought therefore to study it, seeking to know its causes and the treatments capable of providing to those involved the relief from such a painful process. That is what the book titled "Obsession" addresses in its 240 pages, based on a true story that took place in the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Salvador [Brazil], involving Brazilian military personnel who fought in World War II, and whose origins are rooted in

facts that happened in Portugal in the last quarter of the XVIII century.

The “Foreword” brings an ample explanation of the obsessive process and its treatment, from which we highlight some passages, beginning with “The Working Team” – Any and every task, especially rescue work, demands a skillful and well-trained team...

The group responsible for disobsession work - and I want to make it clear that such work must be done by a group, not by isolated persons, and the group in turn should be under the guidance of higher discarnate spirits - must be firmly based on rules and regulations to be able to work successfully”.

The author presents as indispensable for the disobsession team work the following qualities:

“Harmony”, “Noble Ideals”, “Knowledge of Spiritist Principles”, “Concentration”, “Healthy moral behavior, based on Evangelical teachings”, “Spiritual balance of mediums and counselors”, “Confidence; good physical and moral disposition”, “Circumspection, which does not mean a tough-looking face, but a sense of responsibility and a clear consciousness of the work to be performed: a calm, relaxed, friendly disposition”, “Properly trained and courteous mediums”, “The counselor must be very lucid” and “Punctuality”.

In addition, the text explains who the obsessor is.

“A spirit that perturbs a person, generally considered as an inferior, earthbound entity or obsessor, is, in reality, someone who was caught up in the net of his own suffering. While in the physical body, he lived under the pressure of events that led him to rebellion and to the consequent repression of many conflicting emotions from which even death could not liberate him”.

As far as the victim/the obsessed, the author states the following:

“There are obsession and obsessed only because there are spiritual debts demanding reparation. Every obsession is, therefore, a moral problem in which the Spirit got entangled because of his deliberate disrespect of the ethical, legal and spiritual aspects of life. Nobody can escape a guilty conscience; wherever the debtor is, there is also the debt and the collector. It is the law!”

What is the role of the family in the obsessive process? How should it act in relation to the obsessed? These are fundamental questions also explained by the author, as follows:

“Since Spirits are bound together in a family group by their mutual necessity of evolution and reciprocal need for readjustment, those who surround the obsessed patient are strongly connected with the predisposing agent – if not personally responsible for the entity’s past failure - and who were now summoned to cooperate in the settlement of accounts.

It is said that the Spirits that live with a psychopath suffer much more than the patient himself. This is not true. They suffer because they need to evolve since they bear a share of responsibility in the problem they are now meeting. They must therefore do their best to help the liberation of the obsessed, liberating themselves consequently”.

“Obsession” is composed of 24 chapters, among them “Aggression”, “Insanity”, “Conflicting Forces”, “Help from the Higher Planes”, “Fraternal Blessings”, “Hidden Crimes” and “A New Life”.

The book was translated from the original Portuguese “Grilhões Partidos” [Broken Fetters], launched in 1979 by the *Livraria Espírita Alvorada Editora* (Rua Jayme Vieira Lima 104 – Pau da Lima – Salvador-BA 41235-000 – Brazil – phone: 00 55 71 393-2855 – Internet: [www.mansaodocaminho.com.br](http://www.mansaodocaminho.com.br)).

The English version, translated by Ely J. Donato and Hermínio Correa de Miranda, available since 1979, can be obtained directly at the *Livraria Espírita Alvorada Editora*.

#### FROM OUR FELLOWS

#### DO NOT SEPARATE WHAT GOD HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER

Jairton Fraga Araújo

Many try to separate religion from science, and in doing so, turn religion into dogmatic and mystical, contributing decisively for the moral backwardness of humanity. Science, on its turn, has become excessively materialistic, ignoring the existence of spirit.

In spite of the extraordinary progress of contemporary science, an enormous bias against the possibility of debate on things spiritual is still prevalent. The approach in this area of knowledge is immediately disqualified, as if equaling an absence of rationality. The XXI century promises a new posture of the “religious” man/woman who should incorporate science for the understanding of the basic principles so fundamental to religious doctrines, thus bringing down the depleted and worn-out dogmatic religions. The reverse would happen to the scientific man/woman who would transform the cold materialism of science into a more spiritualized one.

The planet has seen and admired the progress of science, and the development of technologies capable to confer to mankind decisive actions regarding the planetary destiny, the life existing in it, and the maintenance of life itself. But all this progress has occurred, usually, with predatory and destructive characteristics damaging to the natural equilibrium, threatening biological life itself and compromising the future health and planetary stability.

Frequently, the revealing Spirits have called our attention to the unbalance between our ethical-moral and intellectual progress. In this sense, Spiritism invites individuals into a profound reflection by furnishing the cognitive elements capable of allowing for their liberation from the entanglement of cold materialism. As a consequence of the narrow human vision, the inter-personal relations have been marked by selfishness and by unilateral interests with strong repercussion in the collective being of the planet, at this time clearly ailing.

It is necessary to insist on the thesis of spiritualization of science, without which the already existing unbalance will only increase. This cold and impersonal knowledge difficults and even impedes a new approach that could contemplate with clarity the importance of the eternal being in the light of scientific studies, directed to unveil the numerous phenomena still obscure or relinquished to prejudice. This circumstance will continue to maintain ignorance which, on its turn, will end up constituting an obstacle to the alliance between science and religion.

#### IN THE SPIRITIST MOVEMENT

#### • BICENTENNIAL DECAL

The Brazilian Spiritist Federation is distributing free of charge to Spiritist and Spiritist institutions all over the world the decal celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of Allan Kardec. The decal, measuring 18,5x13 centimeters, has an imprint of the Codificator’s face, the words “Conheça o Espiritismo – ciência, filosofia, religião – Leia Kardec” [Get to Know Spiritism – Science, Philosophy and Religion – Read Kardec], and the front cover of the five books of the Codification, along with “O que é o Espiritismo” [What is Spiritism] and “Obras Póstumas” [Posthumous Works].

The distribution is made through the *Departamento Editorial* (Rua Souza Valente 17 – São Cristóvão – 20941-040 – Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil – phone 00 55 21 2589-6020 – Internet: [www.febrasil.org.br](http://www.febrasil.org.br)).

Stamped self-addressed return envelopes to help defray the costs would be appreciated.

#### • CHICO XAVIER AVENUE

The previously called Rua Cinco, between Avenida Prefeito Dulcídio Cardoso and Rua Francisco Morazán, in the touristic neighborhood of Barra da Tijuca in the city of Rio de Janeiro, is now renamed *Avenida Chico Xavier*.

The homage to the medium from Minas Gerais, who disincarnated on June 30, 2002, at 92, was accomplished through law decree # 24.025, signed on March 15 by the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Cesar Maia.

### • SPIRITIST WEEK

In September one more *Vitória da Conquista Spiritist Week* will take place. It will be the 51<sup>st</sup> edition of the event, this year under the theme “Education of Sentiments”. The program includes artistic presentations, and lectures and seminars presented by, among others, Alberto Ribeiro de Almeida, José Raul Teixeira and Divaldo Pereira Franco.

Topics such as “Knowledge of Oneself”, “Affection Challenges”, “Integral Education” and “The Powerful Energy of Love” will be addressed at the lectures and “Deserve to Be Happy”, “Only Is Happy the One Who Loves”, “Challenges of Education” and “Personal Triumph” will be discussed at the seminars.

The Spiritist Week will wrap up on Sunday, after the Q&A session with Divaldo Franco and Raul Teixeira. Carried out at the same time, will be a version destined to children from 3 to 12 years of age, the 7<sup>th</sup> Spiritist Little Week, as well as another for the youth, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Spiritist Week.

For more detailed information, contact the *União Espírita de Vitória da Conquista* [Vitória da Conquista Spiritist Union] (Av. Rosacruz, 1.035 – 45050-040 Vitória da Conquista-BA – Brazil – fax 00 55 77 424-6323 – Internet: [www.uevc.com.br](http://www.uevc.com.br)).

### • RADIO RIO DE JANEIRO

Radio Rio de Janeiro has maintained almost throughout a whole year fourth place in its category (AM – Amplitude Modulation) in the state of Rio de Janeiro, composed of 23 radio stations. The results, divulged in a recent survey by Ibope, the Brazilian institute that gauges public opinion and statistics, refers to days and periods considered prime time, going from Monday to Friday from 6 to 7 PM.

Radio Rio de Janeiro, at 1400 kHz frequency, broadcasts daily Spiritist programs with interviews, news, artistic presentations, among other attractions. It can be tuned in throughout the world through the Internet, at [www.radoriodejaneiro.am.br](http://www.radoriodejaneiro.am.br). The address of the radio station is Estrada do Dendê 659 – Ilha do Governador – 21920-001 Rio de Janeiro-RJ – Brazil – phone: 00 55 21 3396-5252.

### • “GOTAS DE AMOR” [DROPS OF LOVE]

The state of Espírito Santo already has its first Spiritist TV program called “Gotas de amor” [Drops of Love], a production of the Spiritist Federation of Espírito Santo. Launched at the beginning of March, it runs for 30 minutes and is broadcast on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 PM on Channel 13 of station STV/DTV, RCA cable-operated. It is presented by the president of the Federation, Dalva Silva Souza.

For more details, write directly to the institution at Rua Álvaro Sarlo, 35 – Ilha Santa Maria – 29040-400 Vitória-ES – Brazil – fax: 00 55 27 3222-2117 – Internet: [www.feeses.org.br](http://www.feeses.org.br).

### • BOOKS IN ITALIAN

Well known titles of the Spiritist literature can be found in the Italian language thanks to the work of *Casas Fraternalis O Nazareno* [The Nazarene Fraternal Houses] (Rua Dr. Cesário da Mota 41 – Centro – 09010-100 Santo André-SP – Brazil – phone: 00 55 11 4990-6688).

Among them, are those psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier “Parole di vita eterna” [Words of Eternal Life], “Seguimi” [Follow Me], and “Pace” [Peace], by Emmanuel; “Amicizia” [Friendship], by Meimei, and “Passi della vita” [Life Steps], from various authors.

The distribution is made by *Editora Espírita Cristã Fonte Viva* (Rua Dona Euzébia 100 – Providência – 31814-180 Belo Horizonte-MG – Brazil – fax: 00 55 31 3433-0400).

### • “TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO...”

The novel “Há 2000 anos...” [Two Thousand Years Ago], not published in English, literary success of the spirit author Emmanuel, through the psychography of Chico Xavier, is now a radio serialized program that can be followed from anywhere in the world through the Internet at [www.amazoniafm.com](http://www.amazoniafm.com). The program, produced by the *União Espírita Paraense* [Spiritist Union of Para], is broadcast from Monday through Friday from 11 PM to midnight by “Amazônia FM,” a virtual radio station 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.

### • TEACHING OF ESPERANTO

The recently created “Fundação Pró-Esperanto Universal” [Universal Pro-Esperanto Foundation] intends to open still this year in São Paulo the “Casa de Cultura do Esperanto” [House of Culture Esperanto]. The “Esperantista Kulturdomo de San-Paŭlo” – as it will be called – will develop among other activities, projects tied to the teaching of the International Language all over Brazil, and projects that will include a network of support to Esperantist professors.

This information is related in issue of the bulletin “Ilei,” from the “Internacia Ligo de Esperantistaj Instruistoj” (International League of Esperanto Instructors), located at Rua Engenheiro Francisco Azevedo, 243 – 05030-010 São Paulo-SP – Brazil – Internet: [www.ileibr.kit.net](http://www.ileibr.kit.net).

### • MAURITIUS WEEK

On September 18-19 the *Mauritius Week* will take place in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul. The event is an annual homage by the *Cruzada dos Militares Espíritas* [Spiritist Military Crusade] in honor of its patron, Commander Mauritius, a Roman legion leader sacrificed with his soldiers for maintaining their fidelity to Christ.

The program will be composed of exhibits of books and paintings, musical presentations and a seminar on “Família à luz do Espiritismo” [Family in the Light of Spiritism]. All activities will be developed at the *Colégio Militar* [Military School], in the town of Campo Grande.

Information and registration can be obtained at [cmemtms@terra.com.br](mailto:cmemtms@terra.com.br), or at phone 00 55 67 361-1055.

### • NOVELTIES IN THE INTERNET

The page of the International Spiritist Center in the Internet has a new design. Totally reformulated, it brings information on what is going on or will happen in the international Spiritist Movement. One can find out, for instance, details on the IV World Spiritist Congress to take place in Paris in October, 2004; or to visualize the first issue of the recently launched issue in Spanish of the “Revista Espírita,” founded by Allan Kardec originally in the French language. There is also a link to 27 countries, with further *links to* members of the organizations affiliated to the Council, as well as videoconferences with studies and debates about Spiritist topics.

The site is offered in nine languages, including Esperanto, at [www.spiritist.org](http://www.spiritist.org).

### • 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.radioboanova.com.br](http://www.radioboanova.com.br).

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In critical situations keep constructive serenity, as our mental states are contagious; thus, while calming others, we will end up being of help to ourselves.

Emmanuel