



THE SPIRITIST INFORMATION SERVICE

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WORKANDEVOLUTION

D.Villela

Differently from the “fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them” (Mathew 6:26), human beings need to work to get their food, clothing and shelter. In doing so, they develop their intelligence and refine their sentiments, and learn to solve problems increasingly more complex. At the same time, they learn to live amongst themselves with respect and solidarity, not forgetting that other animals, along with the trees, the wind, and the rain, also perform their useful roles contributing to the balance in nature.

Along the millennia, selfishness and ignorance of the Divine Laws always led mankind to have a distorted relationship with work, seen by the majority, as something negative, a source of concern, aggravation and tiredness – the Bible going as far as presenting it as a condemnation since in paradise no one works. One of the strongest evidence of this is the presence of slavery in all civilizations of the past. Although legally extinct in the twentieth century, slavery continues to exist in disguise in various corners of our planet, where people supposedly free are forced to work hard and long hours for petty salaries or just food and shelter, without any possibility to leave those that exploit them. It is remarkable that, from the distant past until recent times, slavery lived side by side with religion, including Christianity, despite the fact that the guidelines left by Jesus never endorsed this inhumane practice. It is quite interesting to realize that in our Western culture the first outcries against slavery came from philosophers, some free thinkers, and not from any religious factions.

Recognizing the divine origin of work and observing the characteristics and difficulties related to it, Allan Kardec asked the Spirits Guides if in more advanced worlds individuals were also submitted to the need to work. The response was that

the nature of work is always related to the nature of the needs, and as such, in worlds less material, subsequently the work would be lighter. The Good Spirits emphasized, however, that work was still and always indispensable, and carrying it out brought happiness and peace.

The Spiritist Doctrine, since its arrival in 1857, focuses yet another important aspect of this issue, that is, the necessity to rest to replenish our organic structures and to adequately use the hours not devoted to our daily work to elevate our intelligence above material things.

Outside our professional activities which impose timeframes and commitments, we are invited to employ our time wisely, devoting it to family and friends, to healthy recreational activities, or to religious practice, that is, fraternal actions to benefit others.

In truth, be it during or after working hours, we can and should practice goodness. Each day, after fulfilling our professional obligations, we still have available one more chunk of time which, if used correctly, will give us valuable income in terms of progress and peace.



The Spirits' Book (Questions 678 and 682).

SPIRITISM ATTRACTS ITALIANS

There is no denying it. Spiritism and related topics are indeed stirring an increased interest in the Italian public. The facts themselves confirm this fact. Recently, on June 21, Italian TV station “Radioaudizione Italiana,” commonly known as RAI, broadcast live on channel 29 of NET, between 10 and 12 noon – Brazilian time – an interview on “Are You Afraid of the Devil?”

Mirrored in RAI’s past experiences of addressing topics of this nature, the success of the interview was already expected, so much so that the taping took place in its roomy amphitheater, with approximately 400 people in attendance. At the head table were seated well known researchers of the paranormal phenomena on Italian soil.

The debate was begun by the demonologist and member of the Holy See Master Theologians, Dom Gabriele Amorzi, to whom the incorporation of spirits is an exclusive work of the devil. He does not believe, however, that the total of mediumistic communications comes from the devil, but rather that some belong to the angels. Very serene and sure in the defense of his ideas, the priest, who is also the founder and president of the Association of Italian Exorcists, was knowledgeable of mediumistic practices in religions born from religious syncretism in Brazil. He defended the dissemination of what he called “a higher Spiritism” to reduce the propagation in Italian soil of these beliefs arising from syncretism.

Next to speak was Spiritist Gabriella Leonardi, who clarified that there is neither “high” nor “low” Spiritism, but only that codified by Allan Kardec, and also called Spiritist Doctrine. She affirmed further to be in continued and constant contact with dozens of Spirits, including those of relatives that went passed into the spirit world. “None of these friendly Spirits brought me any information from the devil, and no one mentioned the devil’s domicile, that is, they never talked about hell,” she concluded.

At this point, the phone lines made available for the program were ringing off the hook. And thanks to one of those calls, Gabriella was able to convey another valuable explanation when she responded to a caller who asked how to conduct a mediumistic meeting with total security.

She proceeded to answer that “the first measure should be that of contemplation and meditation. The second, of prayer, and the third, the intention of those present in the meeting and the objectives to be achieved.” And she concluded: “Don’t expect communications from Spirits much above the moral standing of the participants of the meeting. Through our seriousness, good intentions and good purposes, however, we will attract the Good Spirits, making it difficult for ill-intentioned entities to intrude.”

Within the respect that presided the conversation, Dom Gabriele Amorzi complemented his previous answer which, in a certain way, fit the explanation given by Spiritist Gabriella: “I don’t want to say that

there are not serious communications, that is, those we call the 'sublime communications,' inasmuch as the angels, (Elevated Spirits) were able to maintain contact in apostolic times, in modern times we heard of certain communications that have come through some sensitives. In my conception, and as a priest, I would not negate the intervention of the Sublime. What exists is the fact that humans think much more in serving evil than goodness, and this creates an elective field favorable to the action of demoniacal spirits."

As the audience increased, more and more interesting issues came up to light. The spiritualist Antonio Tagliaferro, from the city of Ferrara, also seated at the head table, presented a great amount of psychographed messages, obtained at the circle he belongs to. All of them, according to him, were submitted to a meticulous analysis for form and content, and were deemed authentic. One of them was read by Tagliaferro, and it addressed the interpretation the majority of people have on the role of their Protector Spirit, called by them as their "guardian angel." "Guardian angels do not propose to resolve the problems of their protégées. They help them carry the burden of their trials by giving them strength and persistence, but without any miracles." At this point, Antonio Tagliaferro was interrupted by a person in the amphitheater who wanted to know the name of his Protector Spirit. He answered that "He does not have a name, but if you want to, called him Friend." And then he proceeded to say that "The guardian angel, or protector angel, does not alterate the reincarnation path of his/her protégé respecting the free will of the incarnated person."

At the conclusion, the applause from the public revealed the emotion of that moment and the outreach of that message, which reveals and confirms the teachings brought by the Higher Spirit World to humanity through the works of Kardec's Codification and supplementary materials.



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AROUND THE WORLD

• ARGENTINA

The *Confederación Espiritista Argentina* [Spiritist Confederation of Argentina] distributes via Internet, free of charge, supporting materials for Spiritist activities. Currently, they are offering volumes 1 and 2 of the manual for the Systematic Study of the Spiritist Doctrine, respectively titled [in English] "Supporting Guidelines for Spiritist Activities" and "Preparation of Workers for Spiritist Activities." Contacts: ceaespiritista@ciudad.com.ar.

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Two classics of literature can now be read in Spanish thanks to the *Fundación Espírita Humanista Allan Kardec* [Allan Kardec Humanist Foundation], which published the books *Evolución en dos mundos* [Evolution in Two Worlds], by André Luiz, psychographed by Chico Xavier and Waldo Vieira; and *Recuerdos de la mediumnidad* [Remembrances of Mediumship], by Yvonne do Amaral Pereira. Translations of the Portuguese originals were done by Prof. Héctor Centrón, who has also translated into Spanish *Nuestro hogar* [A Spiritual Home], *Misioneros de la luz* [Missionaries of Light], *Mecanismos de la mediumnidad* [Mechanisms of Mediumship] and *En los dominios de la mediumnidad* [In the Domain of Mediumship], also by André Luiz, the latter in partnership with Jane Authievre. *Los mensajeros espirituales* [Spiritual Messengers], also available in the *Fundación's* catalogue, was translated by Magdalena Ragonesi.

Requests should be addressed to the "Departamento Editorial 18 de Abril" (Av. Entre Ríos, 1.181 – 1.080 Buenos Aires – Argentina – Phone (054) (011) 4306-7030 – Internet: www.fehak.com.ar).

• AUSTRALIA

More than 800 hundred titles of known Spiritist books authored by incarnate and discarnate spirits are available for buying or borrowing at the *Biblioteca Irmã Clara*, a department of the *Casa Espírita Franciscanos* (1/3a Railway Parade Kogarah – 2218 Sydney – Australia – phone 9553-1616 – Internet: franciscanos@ihug.com.au). In addition to Codification books, there are those psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier, Yvonne do Amaral Pereira and Divaldo Pereira Franco, among others. Also available to the public are CDs with Spiritist music, and tapes with lectures on current topics analyzed in the light of the Spiritist Doctrine.

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Do not demand from others qualities you do not yet possess.

Emmanuel

• BOLIVIA

The *Grupo de Estudos da Casa Espírita Martín de Porres* [Study Groups of Spiritist Center Martin de Porres], from the city Santa Cruz de la Sierra, a few weeks ago offered its first class on the Systematic Study of the Spiritist Doctrine. The course was created by the Bolivian Spiritist Federation, and is being taught by Edith Blacutt and Marco Antonio Cardoso. The estimated duration of the course is four months. Interested parties should contact the *Livraria Espírita Joanna de Ângelis* [Spiritist Library Joanna de Angelis], at Calle Libertad, 382 entre Seoane y Buenos Aires – Santa Cruz de la Sierra – Bolivia – fax (591) 3 3376060 – Internet: www.spiritist.org/bolivia/index.html.

• ECUADOR

Since January, the *Fundación Espírita Kardeciana* [Kardecian Spiritist Foundation] is being headed by our fellow Roberto Pérez Vitores. The change occurred because its former president, Pedro Julio Rodríguez, moved to Los Angeles, California, and asked his colleague to take over his position. For this reason, the activities at the *Fundación* are taking place at a new address: Costa Rica 302 y Washington – Barrio del Seguro – Guayaquil – Ecuador – telephone 234-2989 – Internet: ropevi_8@hotmail.com. Meetings for the study of Spiritism are offered on Thursdays, at 7 PM, and on Saturdays, at 5:30 PM.

• FRANCE

The date of the World Spiritist Congress, where Spiritists from all continents are expected, is getting closer. It will take place from October 3 to 5, in Paris, under the theme "Allan Kardec: Builder of a New Era for the Regeneration of Humanity," with lectures focusing on the Codifier of Spiritism,

This is a promotion of the International Spiritist Council (SGAN – Quadra 603 – Conjunto F – Brasília-DF 70830-030 – Brazil – Internet: www.spiritismo.org), in partnership with the French and Francophone Spiritist Union (1 rue du Docteur Fournier – Boite Postale 27 07 – Tour 37027 – France – Internet: http://perso.wanadoo.fr/union.spiritite).

• SPAIN

Recently, Spiritism was the topic of the program "Código Rojo" [Red Code], produced by *Tele Cinco* and broadcast from Madrid to 72 affiliates all over Spain. The debate, conducted by Paco Pérez Abellán, had as central theme "Spiritism and Its Phenomena Manifestations." Participating were the head of the *Comunidad Espírita Cristiana del Hermano Pedro* [Christian Spiritist Community of Brother Peter],

Hermano Francisco; a member of the group of parapsychology investigation HEPTA, Sol Blanco Soler; the Spanish writer and researcher, Manuel Carballal, as well as live participation of viewers such as the journalist and researcher of the phenomena, Josep Guijarro. These news are conveyed in the magazine *El Gran Corazón* [The Big Heart] from the *Comunidad Espírita Cristiana* [Christian Spiritist Community] (Valle del Sol, 7 – Camino 3 – 30590 – Geay Truyols – Murcia – Spain – phone 968 43 00 58 – Internet: grancorazon@ctv.es), in its most recent edition, which also carries some pictures from the event.

• UNITED KINGDOM

The Spiritist Group of Brighton is now housed at its new headquarters located: 43, Raymond Close – Seaford – BN23 3DW – East Sussex – United Kingdom – telephone 00 44 1323 89 59 79.

• UNITED STATES

Every Wednesday, at 8 PM, the *Grupo Espírita Fé, Amor e Caridade*, [Spiritist Group Faith, Love and Charity] headed by Regina Dray Prince, offers doctrinal meetings for the study of current events in the light of the Spiritist Doctrine. The meetings take place at 15115 Interlachen Drive, #907 – Silver Spring – MD 20906 - USA. More information at (301) 598-2104, or online at gteep@aol.com.

BOOK REVIEW

CHRISTIANAGENDA

A manual with orientations for daily living, the “Christian Agenda” has fifty messages that address different aspects of interpersonal relationships.

Through direct and objective language, the author, the spirit André Luiz, psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier, shows how the application of evangelical guidance helps us to better conduct our lives in terms of family, profession, citizenship, and even recreation.

The English version of the manual followed the publication in Portuguese by the *Federação Espírita Brasileira* [Brazilian Spiritist Federation] (Rua Souza Valente 17 – São Cristóvão – Rio de Janeiro - RJ 20941-040 – Brazil – Internet: www.febnet.org.br). Translated and distributed by the Christian Spirit Center (P.O. Box 114 – Elon College - North Carolina 27249 - USA), it contains ninety-one pages. Its compact size allows it to be on hand while commuting, standing in line, or at any place for that matter.

The message “Redeeming Principles” gives us a good idea of the content of the book:

“Do not forget that God is the central

theme of our destinies.

Desire the well being of others as much as you desire it for yourself.

Come to terms quickly with your adversaries.

Respect your neighbor’s opinion.

Avoid disagreeable disputes.

Loan without expecting restitution.

Happily give your assistance in good works.

Do not worry about slanderers.

Thank your enemy for the value he ascribes to you.

Help children.

Do not abandon the old and the sick.

Where benefits are concerned, think of yourself last.

Apologize sincerely.

Criticize no one.

Straighten out your defects before correcting the defects of others.

Use faith and good judgment.

Learn to sow, that you may reap a good harvest.

Do not expect grapes from the thorn bush.

Free yourself from the weight of excessive conventionality.

Cultivate simplicity.

Talk as little as possible about yourself and your problems.

Stimulate the noble qualities of your companions.

Work for the good of all.

Value time.

Organize your work knowing that each day has its obligations.

Do not be anxious.

Serve all people with detachment.

Be happy, just, and grateful.

Never impose your point of view.

Remember that the world was not made only for you.

Social sciences present these principles today as new. However, they are ancient; they came to Earth with Christ almost twenty centuries ago. But we who are slow to comprehend, are still late in applying them”.

The *Christian Agenda* can be acquired everywhere in the world.

FROM OUR FELLOWS

POWER OF THOUGHT

Maria Emília Barros

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost”.

All of us launch around us creative or destructive forces, agreeable or disagreeable to the personal circle in which we move. (...) Our thoughts are walls in which we imprison ourselves, or wings with which we soar. As you think, so you shall live. (*Fountain of Life*, by the spirit Emmanuel, psychographed by Chico Xavier).

One of the most beautiful passages of

the Gospel is the one that tells us that, when the Apostles were together in prayer, the place trembled and all were with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 4:31). The apostles were very simple men, not well spoken, had little education, but their prayer was so strong and in unison, forming one single thought directed to Jesus, that the place where they prayed trembled and they were full of the Holy Ghost. Because shining inside of them was the desire of true fraternity, their minds together achieved higher purposes, and that saintly energy blessed their spirits. In that moment, states the Gospel, the Apostles started to talk like great lecturers in various different languages.

What intensity could that prayer have had, what union of thought could have happened in that instant among those men, so that “tongues of fire” descended upon their heads?

Although we do not see thought, we are immersed in them.

Thoughts have form, color, are energies that irradiate around us, that stay with us, and therefore can harmonize or debilitate us.

If we are intolerant, impatient, irritated, ill-humored and resentful, the energies arising from our thoughts, with their dark and dense color, will accumulate around us and will be absorbed, originating illnesses and attracting inferior spirits who will find in us an open field where they can exert their influence.

If, on the contrary, we are calm, benevolent, tolerant, if we are at peace with ourselves and others, the energies arising from our thoughts will have a clear and soft color, allowing for well-being, the clearing of our spiritual psychosphere, and thus attracting the spirits who love goodness and who collaborate with humankind assisting us in our betterment.

As complicated as our lives can be, as much as our trials can be painful, if we trust in God and wait, the response will come in kind, following a logical pattern coherent with the harmony of the universe. If we cause perturbation, we in turn perturb ourselves, and we will have to correct what we have done wrong.

Therefore, let us be aware of the problems that can emerge in our bodies. They might be the result of our unhealthy and unbalanced thoughts, emitted by our own minds.

We are what we think. If in truth we want to have a more peaceful and serene life, we have to beware of the way we think. When harm befalls us and we get hurt, instead of responding to the offense and allowing a sentiment of discord to overcome us, let us think that we are not alone, that Jesus does not abandon anyone. If we are capable of elevating our thoughts and connect through prayer with our friends in the realm of the superior spirits, we will be bathed in our dimension with the light of the Divine Love, translated into courage and determination that certainly will thrust us to achieve new goals.

IN THE SPIRITIST MOVEMENT

• SPIRITIST TV PROGRAMS

The Brazilian TV station CNT broadcasts daily programs that address Spiritist issues: “Jacaré Poió e sua turma” [Alligator Poio and His Friends], geared towards pre-adolescents; the “Despertar de um mundo melhor” [Awakening to a Better World], with interviews, news and variety shows; the “Momento de união” [Moment of Union], from the Brazilian Spiritist Federation; and the “Boa nova” [Good Tidings], produced especially by the *Rede Boa Nova* [Boa Nova Network], from São Paulo. These programs are broadcast at various times, with reruns.

For more details, the website of TV station is www.cnt.com.br. To contact the different productions, visit the websites as indicated: “Despertar de um mundo melhor” (zaira@lfc.org.br); “Momento de União” (despertar@lfc.org.br); “Jacaré Poió e sua turma” (jacarepoio@lfc.org.br); and Rede Boa Nova (estudio@boanovatv.com.br).

• BOOKS LAUNCHING

The *Centro Espírita Léon Denis* (Rua Abílio dos Santos 137 – Bento Ribeiro – Rio de Janeiro-RJ 21331-290 – Brazil – Internet: www.celd.org.br) launched an interesting book “O que não é o Espiritismo” [What Spiritism Is Not], by José Carlos Leal. In a didactic form, the author presents the differences between some religious beliefs, its dogmas and liturgies, and the Spiritist concepts, ending up explaining what is Spiritism.

With 260 pages and 21 chapters, the book presents topics such as “Deus e Jesus conforme o Espiritismo” [God and Jesus According to Spiritism], “O Espiritismo e os sacramentos” [Spiritism and Sacraments], “O culto dos santos” [Cult to the Saints], “O Espiritismo e os livros sagrados” [Spiritism and the Sacred Books], among others.

• HOMAGE TO CHICO XAVIER

The month of June was marked by homages to our beloved and greatly missed fellow Spiritist Francisco Cândido Xavier, who disincarnated two years ago on the 30th. One of the honors came from the magazine *Seareiro* [Sower], from the *Núcleo de Estudos Espíritos Amor e Esperança* [Spiritist Study Nucleus Love and Hope], of Diadema, state of São Paulo. The periodical dedicated an eleven-page article to Chico Xavier, telling stories about his life, showing photographs of the medium in his adolescence in the town where he was born, Pedro Leopoldo, along with the modest house he lived in and some of the works he psychographed. If you want a copy of this issue, contact the *Seareiro* (Caixa Postal 42 – Diadema-SP 09910-970 – Brazil – Internet: seareiro@ig.com.br).

• CAMPAIGN FOR THE FAMILY

Family was the theme of the studies of the “Campaign I am Family” recently launched by the *Federação Espírita Amazonense* [Spiritist Federation of the State of Amazonas] (Rua Pedro Teixeira 365 – Conjunto Dom Pedro I – Dom Pedro – Manaus-AM 69040-000 – Brazil – Internet: ww.feamazonas.org.br). The following topics were addressed at the event: “How to Value Family Life”, “Challenge to Parents: Educate Yourself to Be Able to Educate”, “Dialogue with Youth: Behavior of Spiritist Youth in the Family and Society” and “Role of the Home in the Regeneration of Humanity”.

• FIRST TIME LIBRARY

In Ceará, one of the states that comprise the Northeast of Brazil, the *Edições Caminhos da Harmonia* [Editions Paths of Harmony] in partnership with the *Associação de Divulgadores do Espiritismo* [Association of Disseminators of Spiritism] (Alameda dos Jasmins 323 – Quadra 22 – Cidade 2000 – Fortaleza-CE 60190-550 – Brazil – Internet: logos@secrel.com.br) promote the project “Biblioteca da Primeira Vez” [First Time Library].

The initiative, already implemented at various institutions, consists of the loan of doctrinal books to those who come for the first time to the Spiritist Center. The book is chosen according to the visitor’s profile, that is, those who demonstrate inclination to deepen their knowledge on Spiritism are given a book of the Codification, plus an invitation to participate in Systematic Study of the Spiritist Doctrine or similar course at the institution. On the other hand, those who just look for a general idea on the Doctrine, are offered a copy of the pocket book “Nós e o mundo espiritual” [The Spirit World and Us], with basic explanations in simple language of what is Spiritism.

This initiative opens up a greater access to Spiritist literature, and thus helps the dissemination of the Spiritist Doctrine.

• ENCOUNTER OF HISTORIANS

Spiritist historians and researchers will meet in September for the third National Encounter of the League of Spiritist Historians and Researchers. The event’s purpose is the rescue and preservation of the memories of Spiritism, the gathering of materials related to the trajectory of regional, national and international Spiritist Movements; biographies of Spiritist personalities; memories of institutions and national and international events; academic thesis with Spiritist themes; methods and techniques to preserve the memory of Spiritism; epistemology and methodology of scientific research; and communications of projects of scientific research concluded or underway.

More information can be obtained at www.panoramaespirita.com.br.

• MAURITIUS WEEK

“Mauritius Week” is a homage conducted annually by the Spiritist Military Crusade to their patron saint, Captain Mauritius, the Roman military sacrificed with his men on 22 September 286 for choosing to remain faithful to Christ. The 2004 version of the honors took place in Campo Grande, state of Mato Grosso do Sul, in the month of September, as customary, with book and paintings exhibits, musical presentations, and a seminar on the central theme “The Family in the Light of Spiritism”. The sub-topics addressed were “Origin of Family”, “Family Ties”, “Conjugal Living” and “Relationship Between Parents and Children”.

More information on the Crusade, headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, is available at www.cme.org.br.

• ESSAY ON PEACE

An intern at *Rádio Rio de Janeiro*, a radio station completely devoted to the dissemination of the Spiritist Doctrine, received a very special award. Rafael de Oliveira Sobral, 21, had his essay included among the one hundred best in a contest sponsored by UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – in partnership with a local newspaper, the *Folha Dirigida*. The contest received essays from 12.871 university students from the State of Rio de Janeiro, addressing the theme “Writing of Peace”.

“In order to achieve peace, it is solely necessary that we act like real spontaneous and natural beings. The only thing needed is for humankind to humanize itself!” states Rafael in his essay. He is currently in his fifth year at the *Universidade Federal Fluminense*.

The one hundred winning essays, including Rafael’s, were published in the book “Escrevendo a paz” [Writing of Peace], just launched by the sponsors of the event. The book, edited in Portuguese, English and French, will be distributed at 190 UNESCO field offices around the world.

Among the one hundred published, the authors of the ten best essays were selected to deliver the book at UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris. “*Rádio Rio de Janeiro* is honored to have among its workforce an intern capable of defining with such simplicity what humanity needs to do to achieve peace, one of the banners of our station. Congratulations, Rafael!” declared the leadership of the station in a press release.

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Peace within yourself will be peace in others, and all of us, everywhere, need peace in order to accomplish the best.

Emmanuel