



THE SPIRITIST INFORMATION SERVICE

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BELIEFS AND FACTS

D.Villela

Major modern religions appeared many centuries ago when the means to record ideas were deficient or non-existent, and thus their teachings were passed on by oral transmission until such time when they were able to be put into a form of writing. Understandably, this made room for inaccuracies of all sorts, as the teachings of Jesus widely attest in the many variations of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The same can be said of the narratives of uncommon events of a spiritual nature that have always marked the lives of great religious leaders. Because these events were rare and could not be explained due to the limited knowledge of the times where they occurred, they were considered miraculous and supernatural, therefore showing a lack of coherence of the Supreme Power Who would be violating the natural laws established by Him. This also applies to the Christian churches where the absurdity was not perceived of the Creator – defined by Jesus as our Father – condemning the majority of His children to eternal sufferings.

Making its appearance in more recent times, Spiritism benefited from the progress reached by humanity. It presented new characteristics through which the concepts of spirit life and the Divine Laws (reincarnation, cause and effect, and progress) turned from just a question of belief into the realm of recurrent examinations. Moreover, permanent exposure to concepts no longer perceived as theoretical but as live realities naturally makes us evaluate the moral aspects of our existences (“to be”) in relation to those aspects exclusively materialistic (“to have”, “to maintain appearances”).

In Spiritism we can observe the same attitude of interest and commitment that characterized the initial phase of the other religious movements, followed by its subsequent decline once the spirit

manifestations lessened and with it the reflection they had generated.

Concepts regarding our spiritual nature have always been around, systematically ignored by the majority, including religious settings where the preference goes to external rituals for a distant Creator.

The Spiritist Doctrine changed this depiction through teachings that let us perceive the effects of the Divine Laws in all fields of life, always coherent and indivisible. The difference in terms of authenticity in the supernatural events of the initial period and those that follow no longer exists.

Ultimately, the difference lies in the fact that occurrences in religious descriptions can be examined, studied and understood, thereby giving them vigor and a permanent update in tandem with the modern mentality, thereby better equipping the individual for the struggles the challenges of life will present.

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The Spirits' Book (Introduction, Items 3, 4 and 5).

BRITISH SPIRITIST MINI CONGRESS

Elsa Rossi

The First British Spiritist Mini Congress on June 10-11, in London, was a great success. Under the title “The Role of Spiritism in Our Lives”, the event, sponsored by the British Union of Spiritist Societies (BUSS) took place at the Spiritualist Church of Wimbledon, and represented one more significant step for the dissemination of Spiritism on British soil. The welcome greetings were given by the president of BUSS, Mr. João Vicente Dalledone.

The organization that went into the Mini Congress contributed for the event's excellence, from the reception committee to the participants who came from all over the world: Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Scotland, Spain, France, Honduras, England, Italy, Mexico, Portugal and Sweden, all enjoying the atmosphere of harmony

and fraternity. Two book stands, the BUSS library and the “Joanna de Ângelis Bookshop”, offered a great variety of Spiritist books.” An exhibit with photos from Spiritist events carried out previously by BUSS, a display with the history of the International Spiritist Council, as well as an exhibit of old Spiritist stamps issued in Brazil and in France, among other presentations, helped the public in getting to know a little more of the history of Spiritism and the efforts employed for its dissemination on British soil and around the world.

The Congress also had two very special moments: the launching in English of the book *Courage*, by Emmanuel, psychographed by Chico Xavier, and a book signing by the medium Divaldo Pereira Franco, one of the lecturers of the event.

In the midst of so many attractions, the segment dedicated to the study of the Doctrine enjoyed the highest recognition. Lectures were presented by representatives of different nationalities: Divaldo Pereira Franco, from Brazil opened the event on the 10th; on the 11th, before the scheduled presentations of the day, representatives of the 11 Spiritist participating groups talked about the work they are carrying out in the doctrinal area. Subsequently, lectures were presented as follows: from the United Kingdom, Evanise Zwirtes, “Transpersonal Psychology In Daily Life”; Charles Kempf, from France, “Spiritism and Charity”; Cláudia Bonmartin, from France, “Spiritism Can Help You Live Better”; Juan Antonio Durante, from Argentina, “Spiritism, Secure Guide for Humanity”; Tânia Stevanin, from the United Kingdom, “Spiritism and Modern Science”; and in closing, Divaldo Pereira Franco, “Spiritism and the Challenges of Life.”

The lectures had simultaneous translation into English by Ana Sinclair, who has been providing this service for Spiritist meetings for 18 years, and the president of the “Sir William Crookes Spiritist Society” of London, Mr. Luis Del Nero. Charles Kempf's lecture was translated by Denise Ferret.

A musical presentation composed of cello and piano enhanced the program with moments of rapture and silent gratitude to God Almighty.

The Mini Congress attracted approximately 200 participants, almost the total capacity of the Wimbledon Spiritualist Church. From those, 48 were British, and 52 were volunteers. This success increased the enthusiasm of all participants who shall get together again in May 2006. Divaldo Pereira Franco, the medium from Bahia, Brazil, has already confirmed his presence.

The website www.buss.org.br posts the activities of the British Spiritist Movement.

AROUND THE WORLD

• ARGENTINA

The *Confederación Espiritista Argentina* [Argentinean Spiritist Confederation] completed 105 years of activity in June. To celebrate, it sponsored a series of events such as the one that occurred on the 18th at its headquarters, with the presence of representatives of the Argentinean Spiritist Movement. The *Confederación* is located at Sanchez de Bustamante, 463 – 1173 Buenos Aires – Argentina – fax 00 54 11 4862-6314; e-mail: caespiritista@ciudad.com.ar.

• JAPAN

The Third Revelation is making adherents in Japan through a group whose objective is to disseminate Kardec's Codification. The *Núcleo Espírita Cristão do Japão* (NEC-J) [Christian Spiritist Nucleus of Japan], operates at 509-5142 Gifu-ken, Toki-shi Izumi-cho, Kujiri 616-14 1F. Other details on the NEC-J can be obtained at phone (0572) 53-4006; fax 53-4131 or via email: necjapan@star.odn.ne.jp.



“Friends are levers of sustentation.”

Emmanuel



THE SPIRITIST INFORMATION SERVICE

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• PARAGUAY

Two booklets under the title *Empresas* are being distributed within the Paraguayan Spiritist Movement. They carry messages from *The Gospel According to Spiritism*, by Allan Kardec, and from the spirit Joanna de Ângelis. The name *Empresas* refers to endeavors related to day-to-day living, and suggests through the texts different conducts a person can adopt in order to promote fraternity, whether at their jobs, at home or in the streets. The first booklet has the faces of Jesus and Kardec on the cover, and the words “O homem de bem não tem ódio, nem rancor, nem desejo de vingança” [A good person does not harbor hate, resentment, or desire for vengeance]. The second depicts the faces of Joanna de Ângelis and the medium Divaldo Franco on the cover, and says: “Com Jesus a empresa é de solidariedade, de benevolência, de paz” [With Jesus the Enterprise is of Solidarity, Benevolence and Peace].

Each booklet, in color, contains 6 pages in high quality paper, and is distributed for free. To order please write to Alberdi 2831 casi 16 Proyectada – Asunción – Paraguay – phones 373-594 and 391-136; e-mail arami@rieder.net.py.

• PORTUGAL

There has been much activity in the Portuguese Spiritist Movement with the campaign “Em defesa da vida” [In Defense of Life], with the purpose of explaining in the light of Spiritism the consequences of practicing abortions. At this time it is expected that 50 thousand pamphlets will be distributed to homes, in the streets, libraries, medical offices, hospitals, and other medical centers, as well as political offices, among others.

The plea on the pamphlets is that people make copies and distribute, assisting in explaining the consequences of abortion to people and society. To order, please write directly to the *Federação Espírita Portuguesa* at Casal de Cascais, lote 4 R/C – 2720 Alto da Damaia – Amadora – Portugal – phone 00 351 497 5754 – e-mail feportuguesa@iol.pt.

• SPAIN

The *Asociación Catalana de Estudios Prácticos del Espiritismo* [Catalan Association for Practical Studies of Spiritism] is responsible for the publication of a series of materials in Spanish. Among the titles are “Después de la muerte” [After Death], by Léon Denis; “El alma es inmortal” [The Soul Is Immortal], by Gabriel Delanne; “El poder del pensamiento” [The Power of Thought], by Annie Besant; “Las vidas sucesivas” [Successive Lives], by Albert de Rochas; “Memorias del Padre Germán” [Memories of Father Germán], by Amalia Domingo Soler; and the five books of the

Codification, along with “Posthumous Works” and “What is Spiritism”.

The complete listings can be found in the magazine *El Espiritismo* [Spiritism], the doctrinal publication of the *Asociación*. The contact address is Apartado de Correos 448 – 08191 Rubi – Spain – Internet: www.acepe.org and acepe@acepe.org.

• SWITZERLAND

PEN Club's Congress, to take place in 2008 in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, will include Esperanto as one of its official languages, as recently announced in London. These news were well received by the “Esperantaj Verkistoj Asocio (EVA)”, the international association of Esperantist writers affiliated with PEN and the international Esperanto Movement. The PEN Club International, founded in 1921, and headquartered in London, is an international entity for writers, created with the purpose of fostering ties and collaboration among its members. It functions as a non political, non governmental organization, with consulting relations with UNESCO and the United Nations.

• UNITED STATES

The *Centro Espírita Fraternidade e Amor* (Cefa) [Spiritist Center Love and Fraternity], of Village, Florida, has relocated. Operating for the past ten years at 1150 Normandy Dr., they now moved to 1440 JF Kennedy Causeway, Suite 321 – North Bay – Village – FL 33141, close to the “Grove by the Bay Building”, in front of TV Channel 7, with ample parking. More information directly with Cefa at their previous phones (305) 993-1378 and (954) 349-8577.

BOOK REVIEW

COURAGE

After the launching success of *Green Light*, the Spiritist Group of Brighton announced the publishing of *Courage*, another book psychographed by Francisco Cândido Xavier. The book, published in Brazil by the *Comunhão Espírita Cristã* [Christian Spiritist Communion] under the Brazilian title *Coragem*, presents messages of consolation and hope to those who suffer or feel the necessity to make their inner reform.

With texts written by the spirits Albino Teixeira, André Luiz, Batuíra, Bezerra de Menezes, Emmanuel and Meimei, the book proposes solutions according to the teachings of the Spiritist Doctrine for questions that normally encompass many of human's afflictions. Guidance is offered with simplicity and clarity, as one can see in the words of André Luiz, author of another well known book, “Nosso Lar – A Spiritual Home”, published by the Allan Kardec

Educational Society (www.allan-kardec.org). Under the title “In order to renew ourselves”, he states:

“Do not expect to live without problems as they are part of the ingredients of evolution, which is necessary in the pathway of everyone.

“In the presence of your own mistakes, do not fall into sorrowfulness but face the consequences so that you may rectify yourself, just like someone who employs stones to build a solid construction.

“Along your path, do not waste your time and serenity in the presence of possible obstacles, realising that those who presumably are upsetting us are, in fact, upsetting themselves.

“Always meditate before acting, so that your attitudes may be enveloped in fairness.

“Do not demand perfection neither on others nor on yourself, but try to improve as much as possible.

“Simplify your habits.

“Try humbleness and silence every time that violence or irritation cross your path.

“Talk about your obstacles only with those who are able to help, to your benefit with discretion and goodness.

“In the presence of conflicts, do not get drunk or make use of drugs, thus trying to escape from your mind, because not to face the consequences now means to return later, so that you may repair the damages and needs that you have created in your inner world.

“Remember that you are an eternal spirit and, if you have peace of mind, then you will always be inaccessible to any kind of offence or disturbance.”

In a message from Emmanuel, he describes how a person’s conduct, expressed in actions, words, or simple thoughts, can influence positively or negatively his/her desired happiness. In his words, “the mind is the home where each one of us lives, according to our thoughts”. The text continues:

“Therefore, our spirit lives where we project our thoughts.

“We can shelter either goodness or evil, according to our preferences.

“On Earth, very often we live a life of opulence and sumptuousness, thus placing ourselves innerly in deplorable situations of suffering and darkness.

“Only the incessant work on goodness can give us the miraculous chemistry of love for the elevation of our inner home.

“Because of this, Jesus said: – *My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.*

“Let us project more light on the pathway.

“Thus, let us embrace the inexhaustible service towards our fellows, so that our experience on Earth, which is based on principles, may fructify happy and victorious in the splendours of heaven.”

Courage can be ordered at publiolentulus@msn.com and

j.vicentecolho@uol.com.br; or by phone 00 44 1323 89 59 79. For information on future books, contact directly the Spiritist Group of Brighton at 43, Raymond Close – BN25 3DW Seaford – United Kingdom.

FROM OUR FELLOWS

TODAY SPECIALLY

Carina Streda

Peace in the world will only be possible when individuals focus their efforts in their own betterment, conscious that they are an essential part in the evolution of all Humanity.

Turmoil, violence, and injustices still remain on earth because human beings retain in their core the vices of their imperfect nature.

One cannot pretend to modify bad habits all at once, or to achieve relative perfection and with it peace of the soul, without first employing diligent and continuous efforts towards the acquisition of their virtues.

That’s why, every morning, you ought to tell yourself that today especially you are going to watch your wording, avoiding offenses and non-constructive criticism; that you will halt the words that offend and hurt; that you will silence slander and calumny; and that you will not talk about your adversaries’ faults. That for this day especially you will exalt the virtues of those who persecute you. You will substitute criticism for good mentoring, making your words an instrument of God to take consolation to those in despair; faith to the unbeliever; and hope to the despondent.

Today especially you will watch your thoughts. You will avoid despair, pessimism, and distrust. You will stop the energies that emanate from resentment, offenses, and jealousy. You will eradicate injustice from your heart, and will avoid feeling a victim in life; you will connect your thoughts to God, thanking and recognizing the help of the spirit mentors, and understand the Justice of the Creator. You will send to your brothers and sisters vibrations of love, courage and strength to deal with the plunges along the way; and you will believe in your own potential, preparing yourself for the challenges.

This day specially, during this little speck of time that is part of the rest of eternity that lies ahead of you, you will watch your acts. You will stop your indifference and lack of attention. You will think before you make decisions, you will take a deep breath before you respond to provocations. You will be gentle, attentive, and humble. You will dispense “thank yous,” “I beg your pardon,” and “can I help?” You will hug, look into people’s eyes, be kind, and make your arms instruments of God for those who are without any affection; and you will give

your attention to those who are lost in loneliness. Today especially you will avoid being idle, facing your job in your role as a cooperater in the evolution of this planet.

The understanding of the real reason to live – the efforts employed in the search for the higher objective of happiness – will light up your inner radiance and allow it to beam its light in the direction of those who walk beside you, encouraging them to pursue their own pathway to perfection.

Once you possess this inner radiance, this light will expel from this world the sufferings, desperation and sicknesses, and love will spread on earth transforming it in a safe home for men and women of good will, the builders of the true peace.

IN THE SPIRITIST MOVEMENT

• THE GOSPEL IN ITALIAN

The *Casas Fraternais O Nazareno* [Nazarene Fraternal Houses] launched a new edition in Italian of Allan Kardec’s *The Gospel According to Spiritism*. Published in many languages, including Esperanto, the third book of the Kardecian Codification, in Italian – “Il Vangelo secondo lo Spiritismo” – presents on its cover a beautiful photograph of a sunrise. In Brazil the distribution is made by the *Casas Fraternais O Nazareno*, in Santo André (São Paulo), phone (11) 4990-6688; and by the *Editora Espírita Cristã Fonte Viva*, in Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais), phone (31) 3433-0400. In Italy, “Il Vangelo secondo lo Spiritismo,” as well as the rest of the Spiritist books translated by the Brazilian publisher, can be acquired at the bookstore “Il Ponte”: Via Delle Leghe, 5 – 20127 Milan – phone 02 282-2415.

• CAIRBAR SCHUTEL PARK

One of the parks in São Paulo, the largest Brazilian metropolis, was recently named after one of the great figures of Spiritism in Brazil, Cairbar Schutel. Born in Rio de Janeiro in 1868, he was responsible for the creation in 1905 of the *Centro Espírita Amantes da Pobreza* [Spiritist Center of Lovers of Poverty], the first organization for the study of the Spiritist Doctrine throughout the whole region. Subsequently, he launched the periodical *O Clarim*, and in 1925, the *Revista Internacional do Espiritismo* [International Review of Spiritism], published to this day. He also created the *Empresa Editora O Clarim* [publishing house], which publishes the periodical and the magazine, as well as books that he penned as well as other materials from other Spiritist authors. Cairbar Schutel is known among Spiritists as the Apostle of Matão, his memory honored with love and admiration. The Park Cairbar Schutel is located on an area of 130x30 square meters, planted with many trees, near the Rua General Taborda in the Jardim Bonfiglioli.

• LAR FABIANO IN THE INTERNET

The website for the *Lar Fabiano de Cristo* in the Internet is now available in English and Spanish. To access it, please click on the banners representing the desired language, at www.lfc.org.br.

The site posts information on social work activity, and also the different addresses of Units in operation throughout the Brazilian territory.

• SPIRITISM IN RIO'S CITY HALL

At City Hall, where important decisions are made influencing directly the life of the residents of the city of Rio de Janeiro, one of the postcards of Brazil, vibrations of prayer and good deeds are being felt thanks to the *Grupo de Carita* [Caritas Group] brought together on October 2, 2002. Formed initially by five City Hall Spiritist civil servants, the group immediately attracted a good number of adherents, and is now operating in a space specially designated by the Mayor's staff inside City Hall's headquarters. The meetings for the study of the Spiritist Doctrine take place on Wednesdays, at lunch time, without interfering with the normal working hours of the group. Rio's City Hall is located at Rua Afonso Cavalcante, 455, Cidade Nova. Contacts with the *Grupo de Carita*, which also conduct social activities and the dissemination of Spiritist messages via the Internet, can be made at carita@rio.rj.gov.br.

• SPIRITISM AT THE BIENNALE

The Spiritist Doctrine once more marked its important presence at the *Bienal Internacional do Livro* [International Book Biennale] on May 12 and 22 in Rio de Janeiro. The event, on its 12th edition, recorded in 11 days the visit of more than 630 thousand people, 12,5% more than in 2003. In the three pavilions that housed the Biennale, in a total area of 55 thousand square meters, it was not difficult to find the presence of Spiritist literature, which was not restricted only to the stands of the *Federação Espírita Brasileira* [Brazilian Spiritist Federation], the *Associação dos Divulgadores do Livro Espírita* [Association of Disseminators of Spiritist Books], and the *Centro Espírita Léon Denis* [Spiritist Center Leon Denis]. At these stands the public interest was intense, with book signings and other activities geared towards children and youth, as well as the distribution of prizes. The attendance by a younger crowd was also a good sign. The number of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 increased from 30 percent in 2003 to 45 percent this year.

The next International Book Biennale will take place in 2006 in São Paulo, Brazil, where another opportunity will present itself for the dissemination of Spiritism among an heterogeneous public.

• CHICO XAVIER ON TV

In 1971, Brazil stopped to see two interviews aired by the extinct TV Tupi, in São Paulo, presenting Francisco Cândido Xavier, then at the pinnacle of his mediumistic activities. These interviews, in the form of questions and answers in a program called "Pinga-fogo," represented a milestone in Chico's life because they showed, for the first time live, in national network, the widely talked about medium. Conducted by the journalist Saulo Gomes, it also had other journalists participating, along with representatives of different religions as well as the public who called in to clarify doubts on Spiritism.

These two interviews can now be seen thanks to the *Editora Cultura Espírita União*, of São Paulo, which is presently offering this valuable material in videos and later will present them in DVDs. The cost for the package with three tapes is R\$ 60,00 [Brazilian currency] and can be ordered at (11) 3106-2768.

• KARDEC DVD IS A SUCCESS

The DVD "O Espiritismo – de Kardec aos dias de hoje" [Spiritism: From Kardec to the Present] occupies first place as the most sought after article in the site of *Versátil*. This company, in partnership with the *Federação Espírita Brasileira* (FEB) [Brazilian Spiritist Federation], produced the movie in 1995 in VHS. Launched recently in digital format, it presents the life of the Codifier of Spiritism, interpreted by the actor Ednei Giovenazzi. Fifty-two minutes long, the movie was produced in Brazil and can be seen in Portuguese, German, Spanish, French, English, Italian, Swedish, and Esperanto.

More details at www.dvdversatil.com.br or at phone (21) 2187-8268.

• SPIRITISM IN THE NET

The *Fundação Espírita André Luiz* launched a project to facilitate the study and knowledge of Spiritism all over the world. It is an Internet course, but with a registration format that will allow apprentices to plan their schedules and have their studies monitored by a professor. The first course, "What is Spiritism," written by Allan Kardec, shall have a duration of ten weeks with three weekly classes and the following materials: a file with vocal instructions, a written text, glossary of terms used in class, a video with the subject matter of the class, a text of the adopted basic book, and exercises on the topic studied.

Registrations for the *Centro de Estudos Espíritas On-line* [Online Center of Spiritist Studies] are open and available at www.feal.com.br/ceespi. Payment of a fee is destined for the maintenance of social assistance activity sponsored by the *Fundação*.

• FEB WEBPAGE

The webpage of the *Federação Espírita Brasileira* (FEB) [Brazilian Spiritist Federation] has gone through a change and now offers more modern resources to its visitors. The project, according to FEB's information, is the result of a careful technical study that identified the necessities and profiles of its users. Information on Spiritism, addresses of organizations, library, virtual library, data bank, surveys, and fraternal guidance are some of the services available. The new site, in the Internet since June 30, can be found at the same old address www.febnet.org.br.

• SYMPHONY OF CHORAL GROUPS

In the month of November hundreds of voices will come together in Rio de Janeiro at the 19th Symphony of Choral Groups, an event taking place for almost ten years. Each Coral Group shall present three songs from their repertoire, and if desired, can participate in the gran finale in which they will all sing together. For more information on the musical program contact Lília Rosa via e-mail at liliarp@bol.com.br; and on the organization of the event, Sônia Dias at smfeducare@yahoo.com.br.

• PARISIAN CEMETERY IN THE INTERNET

The cemetery *Père-Lachaise*, where Allan Kardec's mortal remains were laid to rest, posts a very interesting website in the Internet. It has search capabilities that permit visitors to find the tombs of celebrities buried in that landmark in the city of Paris. For instance, after typing Allan Kardec's name in the search window and clicking to search, a map will appear signaling the exact location of his tomb. Click on the location sign, and a photo of the dolmen will appear, and next to it the biography of the Codifier.

Père-Lachaise's website is at www.pere-lachaise.com/perelachaise.htm.



"Accept your difficult relatives with generosity and comprehension, being sure that God's Law would not link one to the other without a good reason.

The difficult relative is always a test to measure our Spiritual evolvement.

Very often, a complicated person, whom we share family life with, brings with himself marks of suffering or imperfections that were imposed upon him by ourselves in previous incarnations.

Do not ask from your relatives a similar behaviour to yours, especially those who are different to you, for each one of us is recognised by the advantages or losses we bring in our own soul."

"Green Light"

Andre Luiz
