SpiritistNews

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A Special Year!

The new year is just around the corner and certainly will not be a regular one. At least for Spiritists around the globe, 2007 will be a very significant year because of the 150th anniversary of Spiritism founded by Allan Kardec. National and international Spiritist organizations around the world are planning special events in tribute to Spiritism and mostly, to The Spirits'

n the 1800's Allan Kardec



Book. Millions of lives have been renewed after being touched by its teachings that are truly universal and bring hope to all.

The **SpiritistNews** will pay its tribute in 2007 by bringing a special column on the History of Spiritism. The Spiritist Society of Baltimore and other Spiritist centers nationwide will be sponsoring the **1**st **US Spiritist Symposium** in tribute to the 150 years of Spiritism, which will happen on April 14, 2007 in the historical city of Baltimore, Maryland. (see more info. on page 6)

THE NEW GENERATION



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"To be born, to díe,

to be reborn agaín, and constantly

progress, this is the Law."

- Allan Kardec

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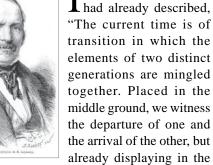
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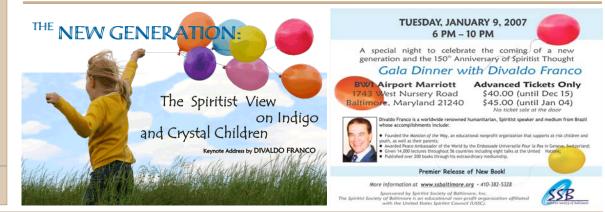
world their peculiar characteristics."

"The new generation can be distinguished by its precocious intelligence and reasoning, allied to an innate propensity for righteousness and the spiritualist beliefs, which denote a doubtless indication of a certain degree of previous evolvement. The new generation will not be composed exclusively by eminently superior Spirits, but of those that have already accomplished a certain progress, and therefore find themselves inclined to assimilate the progressive ideas and to second the regeneration movement."

"What, in contrast, designates the backward Spirits in the first place, is their revolt against God, because they refuse to recognize any superior power than that of the human beings; their instinctive propensity to lewd passions, their anti-fraternal feelings of selfishness, pride, envy, and jealousy; and finally, their attachment to earthly related values, such as: sensuality, ambition, and avarice¹."

- Allan Kardec

¹In the book Genesis by Allan Kardec, chapter 18, item 28.



A Little Guide to SELF AWARENESS

To paraphrase Rene Descartes in a 1641 work on philosophy, "I think, therefore I am". The capacity for self awareness and direction through the exercise of free thought and free will separates humans from animals. Would it were that simple.

Borrowing from The Spirits' Book, we can conclude that humans are a blend of thought from the spirit realm and action in the physical realm. And, because we have animal bodies, we are subject to animal instincts. What is the process by which we can begin to harmonize the animal and the spirit in us? More importantly, how can we cause the Spirit in us to advance?

Perhaps the first step toward self awareness is to use the power of observation in introspection. Start by keeping a little diary of events and thoughts. Soon, you will see patterns. In those patterns, you will begin to understand yourself.

In the process of self awakening, you may also want to find works of inspiration to use as guideposts. In Spiritist literature, *The Gospel According To Spiritism* is probably one of the most uplifting and inspiring books you can read. Other works include about anything by Rabindrath Tagore, Kahlil Gibran, Parahamansa Yogananda, The Dalai Lama and a certain host of others, including Mahatma Gandhi. Biographies of the lives of Saints are particularly rewarding. Soon, you will note that there is a notable discrepancy between where you are and where you want to be.

Note that we subtlely introduced the concept of betterment along with awareness. It is certain that a person, once aware, will not want to hold on to past habits and attitudes supportive of lower order thoughts and instincts, such as jealousy, greed, avarice or rage and anger.

To survive on this planet, it makes sense that we achieve harmony in mind and body. An early step toward self control lies in identifying the source of an emotion. Today, I confess that I had a certain second chakra satisfaction when I learned of a difficulty that an "enemy" of mine was having. But I recognized the source of the emotion and decided not to feed this power center with further thoughts of joy at this person's trials. I instead remembered that Jesus exhorted us to love our enemies. And so it was that I withdrew the power behind the thought to my heart. I then put myself in a golden light and forgave my self for the emotion of retribution. And I moved on.

This little exercise in self awareness helps me stay in control of the powerful emotions that still lie within me, apparently not completely resolved. If they were completely resolved, I would not have revealed in my enemy's problems. But at least I had the awareness that I was experiencing a divergence between what I was and what I wanted to be.

You may pray for an epiphany to help you quickly bridge the gap between your current state and a desired state. However, it is far more common to have to roll up your sleeves and build that bridge through hard work and introspection. If you do the work, the epiphany comes naturally!

- by Jim Pursley

KARDECISM DOES NOT EXIST!

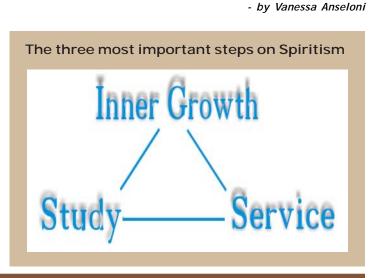
The word *Kardecism* does not officially exist in the Spiritist foundation. There is no mention to this word either in Kardec's books, or in Francisco Xavier's 400+ books or any other solid spiritist books.

Actually, there is only one Spiritism, which is the one given in a neologism by Allan Kardec. The word Spiritism had first been created by Prof. Hippolyte Léon Denizard Rivail in 1857. "For new ideas new words are needed, in order to secure clearness of language by avoiding the confusion inseparable from the employment of the same term for expressing different meanings... We say, then, that the fundamental principle of the spiritist theory, or Spiritism, is the relation of the material world with spirits, or the beings of the invisible world; and we designate the adherents of the spiritist theory as spiritists." (see introduction of The Spirits' Book)

It is important to remember the main reasons why Prof. Rivail used his pen name Allan Kardec to set the groundwork in Spiritism:

- (1) "Professor Rivail did not want to publish any of the books under his own name, which was highly respected in French cultural circles, to keep the work from being accepted solely on the basis of his personal reputation. Rivail thus decided to use the name he had had in a previous life, according to his spiritual friend Zephyr, and adopted the pseudonym Allan Kardec." (These were Divaldo Franco's words published in his book Understanding Spiritual and Mental Health; also this information can be found in the book "Phosthumous Works" published by the Brazilian Spiritist Federation);
- (2) Professor Rivail was the Codifier, in modern words, the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Spirits' teachings. He compiled information that several different mediums received at the time.

Although not-well-informed people refer to Spiritism as *Kardecism*, it does not mean that this term is official or even beneficial to Spiritism and its movement. When one calls it *Kardecism*, one personalizes Spiritism. However, Spiritism was not created by a man. On the contrary, it was brought by enlightened Spirits together with the help of many mediums, and masterfully compiled by Prof. Rivail (Allan Kardec).





Developing Our Mediumship

f you want to develop automatic writing or psychography, begin by righting small notes of encouragement to family members, friends, colleagues at work, a birthday card, a wish well card, etc. Then, start writing longer letters for chronically ill patients, people who live alone, prisoners, and others. Little by little, the good spirits will inspire you each time you get to write. Maybe you will not publish best seller books, or affirmations, but your writings will be useful.

If you would like to develop your speaking mediumship, begin talking about beautiful things. Do not curse, profane, or be ironic. May you always have words of harmony, peace and understanding. Comfort those who are suffering; guide the ones who are lost; and soon, the good spirits will be by your side when you need to speak. Maybe you will not be a great speaker, but you will be blessed by everyone.

If you aspire to be a seeing medium, then observe the landscapes of nature. Value the smile of a child, the trembled steps of an aging woman. See the beauty of life and treasure it. Appreciate the natural beauty of the sky, the stars, the silvery light of the moon and the golden light of the sun... If you would like to become a 'prescribingmedium', begin by taking a needy person to the doctor. Take his/her prescription and buy their medication. This is a good beginning. Other ways will appear soon or later. If, instead, you would like to heal people by laying on off hands, start by helping someone. Take care of an ill person, talk to him/her. Make him/her company. Read for the ill person. Sing a song, Play an instrument, say a prayer...

If you would like to develop your physical mediumship - materialize spirits, remember that reincarnation on Earth is the most beautiful and useful materialization of a spirit. Be a responsible, kind father or mother. Love your children and the children of others, especially the ones who suffer. Educate them and illuminate their lives with your love.

If you would like to be a good spirit counselor or coordinator of Spiritist meeting, learn to speak about God's love and goodness. Be optimistic and talk about optimism. Do not demand moral changes in others. Do not let yourself be enveloped in discouragement. Intensify your faith. Appreciate life. Love it. Try it! Maybe you will never become famous, or have your name written in the newspapers, but you will find inner irreplaceable satisfaction.

- by Amílcar Del Chiaro Filho

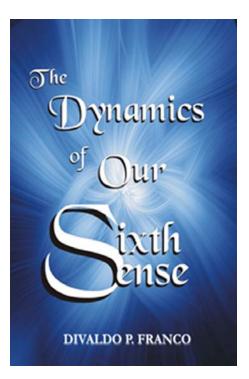
Translated from its original text (Portuguese) by Vanessa Anseloni

The Dynamics of our Sixth Sense

The mediums are the new builders of a new future. We are being invited to build a new world. To achieve this goal, we need a lot of emotional education. A lot of moral discipline. Because mediumship is neutral, it does not confer moral character. It is just like intelligence. When the medium becomes a moral person, he/she attracts the superior spirits whom begin to guide him/her and inspire him/her to great deeds. Therefore, the medium should have a very balanced moral life. The same way that a very intelligent person should take care of him/her intelligence with great care and abnegation. The medium is a medium all the time. A medium can "block" the faculty only to have a normal life. We live in a world of very disturbing vibrations. If the medium does not have this discipline, he may tune to very ill vibrations, with mystifying spirits. Then, mediumship may become a reason for suffering and imbalance.

The greatest worry of Spiritualism and Spiritism concerning mediumship is the question of education and the medium's moral discipline. So that he may be an instrument of goodness and help to build a happier and more just society. It is not enough only to give messages. It is necessary to live according to the messages that he/she gives. Otherwise, he/she is only a speaker without emotions. All of us can reach this level through training, through inner silence.

When we balance our emotional state we harmonize our ego. Then, the Self blossoms and we enter into the world of the infinite. This is the most difficult task in mediumship. To see spirits and speak with spirits is very natural. The same way we see people, we talk to people. But it is necessary to create this condition of mental, emotional and moral health. So we may also achieve a state of peace.



- Excerpt from Divaldo Franco's new book The Dynamics of Our Sixth Sense.

EVENTS in the U.S.

Another Touchdown

I would have liked to name this article "Another Goal" due to my passion for soccer, which is deeply rooted in my culture as it is in most Brazilian hearts. But I had no choice but to name it as is, because as a participant of the Spiritist Movement in the USA, I am now living in a different environment and need to adapt my way of thinking and expressing my ideas to the needs of this great land.

Spiritism has been present in the USA for decades, unfortunately, it has until recently, only been disseminated among Brazilian and Latin immigrants.

There had been in the past many scattered attempts to start this process of divulging Spiritism in English for Americans, but they had not been successful until recently, when organizations like the Spiritist Society of Baltimore (SSB) and the Spiritist Group of New York (SGNY) were formed with an entirely new concept in Spiritist dissemination and works in America.

While visiting the Christian Spiritist Center in Florida this past Thanksgiving holidays, Vanessa Anseloni of the S.S.B. presented a few speeches and most importantly, conducted a wholeday training on how to adapt our knowledge and skills as Spiritist speakers from the Portuguese to the English environment. During this training section she also shared her experiences in dealing with the American public in the S.S.B. and the many cultural aspects to be observed when opening up our Spiritist organizations to the English speaking public.

"We need to understand the American culture and its history in order to better approach them with the wonderful message that Spiritism brings," said Vanessa to an audience composed of many Spiritist workers from Florida and from the Regeneration Spiritist Group of Atlanta, which is also planning to start its public meetings in the English language in February of 2007.

These events were webcasted live as a new project which has just been completed by Christian Spiritist Study Center, now offering all of its speeches live through its website <u>www.kardec.com</u>.

After much criticism by many, including some Spiritist brothers who even described our Spiritism as non existent in the USA, moments like these are no longer rare and are an absolute proof of the changes in the face of our Movement which is being reshaped to embrace the American people.

> - by Maurício Cisneiros (President and founder of the Christian Spiritist Study Center, FL)



Members of the Spiritist Group Regeneration (Atlanta) and Spiritist Groups of Florida at the Training for Speakers in Pompano Beach, FL.



Public present at Vanessa Anseloni's talk on "The Medical-Psychological, Spiritist View of Depression" held at the Christian Spiritist Study Center (Florida).

Invitation to Love and Reason

at the III Spiritist Meeting of Massachusetts

Sixteen years ago, the first spiritist group in the Portuguese language was born in the State of Massachusetts - USA, the Allan Kardec Spiritist Society of Massachusetts (AKSSMA). It was the seed of the Promised Consoler to the Brazilian public in MA. In 2002, as the regional Spiritist movement got stronger, the AKSSMA sponsored the I Spiritist Meeting of MA. In 2003, a bigger audience participated to the II Spiritist Meeting. In 2006, Invitation to Love and *Reason* brought once again new hope and solaces to the public of MA. Prof. José Raul Teixeira and Prof. Dr. Vanessa Anseloni were the quest speakers of the event. This was the first spiritist meeting also directed to the American public, once simultaneous translation and workshops in English were also offered that day. The Argentinean doctor Judith Peterschmidt and Mr. Romulo Fani also participated as inhouse speakers.

In the opening ceremony, Prof Raul Teixiera described Reason and correlated to its development throughout the kingdoms of nature from the mineral to the human in the evolution in two worlds, the spiritual and the material ones. "The inter-relationship of the kingdoms proves the evolution of the Human Beings from the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms, reaching the human kingdom when we reached reason," explained professor Teixeira. "After our internships in previous kingdoms, we reached reasoning as we became able to feel the presence of God," explained him. "After reaching reasoning and feeling the presence of God, we found happiness. And to be happy is to love the ones who love us and respect the ones who do not love us."

During the first part of his presentation, Professor Raul Teixeira invited the public to reflect on the fact that reason, when well understood, does not give us room to complain that we are unhappy. He said that the spirits taught us that to use reasoning is to be able to distinguish good from bad. "This is the reason why it is worth praising God, because we have in our brains three important elements: (1) analysis; (2) synthesis; and (3) evaluation, which provide us with tools to leave our animal instinct to raise up to the spiritual side in us - from the primitive atom to the archangel," concluded him.

Forgiveness and Health

Dr. Vanessa Anseloni led reflections on the theme *Forgiveness and Health*. She showed scientific data on the fact that aggressiveness is a phylogenetic heritage. Also, she analyzed the study of the scientist Frans de Waal on the recent discovery that the impulse of reconciliation exists in animals, not being an exclusive impulse of human beings, although it presents itself in humans in a more developed form. "In his experiments with primates, Dr. de Waal shows to us that as soon as those primates finish fighting, they demonstrate clear signs of reconciliation, sometimes through the expression of lips contact." The central idea of the talk consisted of showing that there are bridges between the spiritist principles that motivate us to understand the importance of forgiveness and modern sciences which explain how much we gain in health if we forgive easily.

In a second lecture entitled *Therapeutic View of Reincarnation*, Vanessa Anseloni explained about the studies on "the importance of a spiritual education in childhood and adolescence so we can succeed in a reincarnation, as well as the importance of understanding the reincarnatory constraints or challenges as blessings in disguise that will help us progress as they call us to expand our moral and intellectual qualities."

The scientist and doctor Judith Peterschmidt brought solaces to the English-speaking public as she delivered her message on the topic *We are Never Alone*. She explained that our behavior tells us how we are doing both psychological and spiritually. The talk referred to the types of spiritual obsession that trigger feelings of sadness. Judith also mentioned the solution, the way one can treat obsessions. The first step is to learn how to distinguish good from bad thoughts, as well as give more attention to our good thoughts, as taught by the Spirit of Truth in the question and answer 467 of The Spirits' Book. That is the key that tells us that we are never alone.

Romulo Fani gave a talk on *Love and Ethics*, talking on the history of great icons in humankind such as Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa of Calcutta, among others.

Love was the main theme of the closing ceremony of the III Meeting when Raul Teixeira delivered a memorable message. "When we revisit the history of human beings, we get a sense of its beauty. Yesterday, we were in the caves, tribes, and today in the skyscrapers. We were created simple and ignorant and we are progressing. Jesus said 'My kingdom is not of this world' and, we, as His sheep, aren't either. Fraternal love is the only one that we can offer to the world. I can distribute it to the world and I will never remain without it. Love was Jesus' life," said professor Teixeira.

"The first letter of the divine alphabet is love. The second is reincarnation. Lazarus, in spirit, said that love is of divine nature, those are the reasons why we have great difficulties in understanding and seeing love, because we still live passionate love. We are human beings, we achieved reason. Self-love also helps us to take care of the body, soul, nature and consequently others."

⁻ by Marcony Almeida (Member of the Allan Kardec Spiritist Society of MA)



Speakers (from left): Judith Peterschmidt, Vanessa Anseloni, Raul Teixeira and Romulo Fani







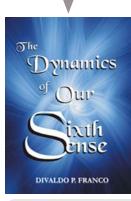


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The SSB bookstore is finally online. Now you can buy your book or CD by using your Credit Card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover) or Paypal System. Also, special discounts will be offered to Spiritist Centers. To visit it, please go to www.ssbaltimore.org/bookstore

NEW RELEASE



The Dynamics of Our Sixth Sense by Divaldo Franco

This book came true as a result of a phenomenal workshop given by the Brazilian medium and speaker Divaldo P. Franco on July 22, 2006 in the auditorium of the Lily Dale Assembly. It crowned the I Spiritist Weekend in Lily Dale, sponsored by the Lily Dale Assembly.

This workshop represents an unforeseen study of our sixth sense, our mediumship. Divaldo Franco provides us with the definition of mediumship, its types, and its therapeutic features. Through his personal experiences, he enlightens us with considerations on the role of mediumship and its charitable purpose. The core of his teachings was of love and kindness. The end of the workshop was blessed with an uplifting trance channeled message of Dr. Bezerra de Menezes through Divaldo Franco's extraordinary mediumistic ability.

Therapeutic Visualizations - Inner Journey (CD)

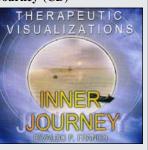
"Live in a way that you leave enlightening footprints in your pathway as if they were stars pointing out the pathway to happiness." -Joanna de Ângelis.

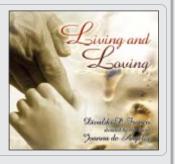
Deep therapeutic visualizations. Three tracks:

- *I Decision to be happy*
- 2 Visualization of Liberation
- 3 Visualization for Inner Balance

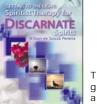
Living and Loving (CD)

Through the hands of Divaldo Franco, Joanna de Ângelis brings us inspirational messages that will uplift your heart and enlighten your soul. Beautiful voices of Dave Enway and Amy Biank.





These books/CDs are available for purchase at <u>SSB bookstore</u> online. The production of these materials is a fruit of collaboration between SSB and the "Mansion of the Way"

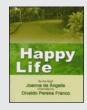


Getting to the Light: Spiriťist Therapy ťor Discarnate Spirits by Nilson de Souza Pereira

This small book offers objective guidelines about the therapeutic approach to troubled discarnate spirits according to Spiritism. It's

strongly recommended to anyone interested in (1) understanding the dynamics of spirit intervention; (2) using Spiritist therapy for the good of humankind; and/ or (3) serving as a Spirit counselor or psychotherapist. (35 pages) - Published in collaboration with SSB.







Those Left Behind: Understanding Suicide from a Spiritist View by Jussara Korngold

This is the first book in English to examine suicide from a Spiritist viewpoint. With extensive research, author Jussara Korngold follows the steps of noted Spiritist Allan Kardec to illuminate classic Spiritist attitudes toward suicide. If you have endured the trauma of a loved one taking his or her own life, Those Left Behind will console and comfort to help you find answers you need to some of your most difficult questions. To order this book send an e-mail to: sab-books@sgny.org

Submission of material to SpiritistNews

submit your articles, poems, letters to editors, events on the Spiritist English speaking movement in the US and worldwide at ssb@ssbaltimore.org

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