



PHOTOS - 1st U.S. Spiritist Symposium  
Baltimore, MD - April 14, 2007



See more photos [HERE](#)

[Photos](#)

[Posters](#)

[Videos](#)

[Post-event insights](#)

See full review of the Symposium at the [SpiritistNEWS](#) (pdf 982KB)

Or go to page 36 - > [Click HERE](#)

*An effort to bring Spiritism to America*  
2007 © U.S. Spiritist Symposium



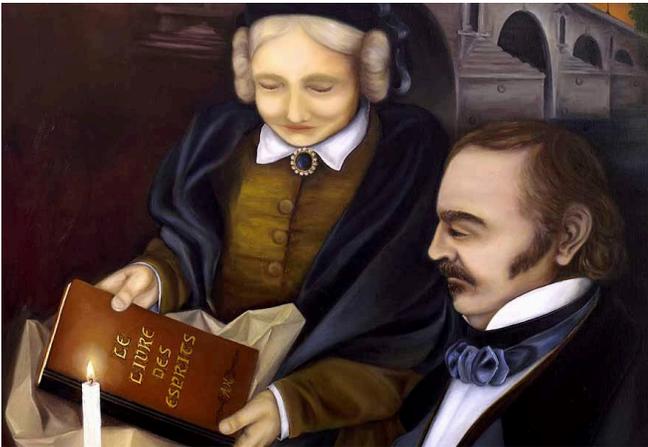
[Photos](#)

[Posters](#)

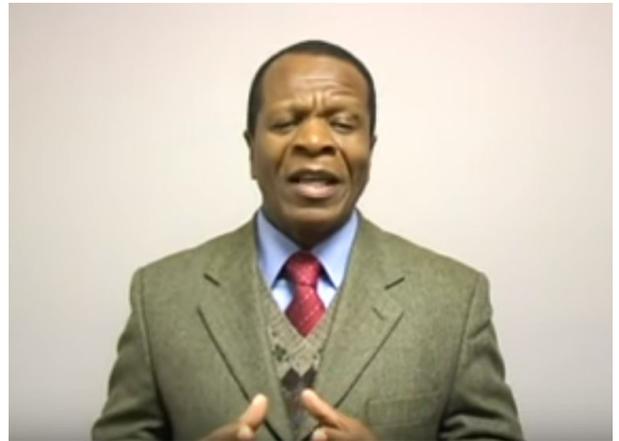
[Videos](#)

[Post-event insights](#)

150 Years of Spiritism



Raul Teixeira's special message





**POSTERS ON THE SPIRITIST TEACHINGS**

Posters were presented at the U.S. Spiritist Symposiums. You may get a copy of them in pdf version by click on the picture. If you would like to have a high resolution for printing (original size 30 x 40 inches), please send an e-mail to: [ssb@ssbaltimore.org](mailto:ssb@ssbaltimore.org)

Main principles of Spiritism:



Existence of God



Immortality of the Soul



Reincarnation



Multitude of the Inhabited Planets



Communicability of the Spirits

The Basic Books of Spiritism:



The Spirits' Book



The Mediums' Book



The Gospel A. to Spiritism



Heaven and Hell



Genesis

The Spiritist Therapeutics:



God at Home



Inner Transformation



Intelligent Sleep



Prayer



The Therapeutics of Charity



Obsession and Desobsession



The Therapy of Passes



Fraternal Counseling



Spiritually Magnetized Water



Spiritism for Children

[Photos](#)

[Posters](#)

[Videos](#)

[Post-event insights](#)



## *Post - Symposium Meeting*

### Insights on Spreading Spiritism in the U.S.A.

In the morning of April 15, 2007 (the day after the symposium), representatives of 11 Spiritist centers in the U.S. gathered together at the Spiritist Society of Baltimore headquarter to discuss about strategies to help disseminate Spiritism in English, which I would like to share with you, so that we may bring some of these points up in our next meetings...

One of the main highlights was that there are many people ready to disseminate Spiritism in English in the USA.

Get report in pdf version of this meeting [HERE](#)

See full review of the Symposium at [HERE](#)



*Spiritists got together, at SSB headquarter, to build strategies on how to be more effective in the dissemination of Spiritism in America. See more photos [HERE](#)*

[Photos](#)   [Posters](#)   [Videos](#)   [Post-event insights](#)

*An effort to bring Spiritism to America*

© U.S. Spiritist Symposium

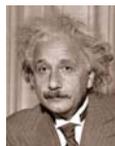
# Existence of God

*“God is the Supreme Intelligence, the First Cause of all things”*

-The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 1

## What was the idea of God through human history?

- ✓ **Primitive peoples of the Earth**  
- Belief in a superior being with superhuman power...
- ✓ **Ancient Greek, Egyptians and Romans**  
- Believed in several gods that represented what they thought was important.
- ✓ **Anthropomorphic view of God**  
- Revenge, punishments; other human characteristics
- ✓ **Thomas Aquinas (Middle ages)**  
- Believed in the “Uncaused Cause”, another name for God...
- ✓ **Albert Einstein** believed that a “Supreme Intelligence” had created all what exists in the Universe...  
-“I believe in Spinoza’s God who reveals himself in the orderly harmony of what exists, not in a God who concerns himself with fates and actions of human beings.”



New York, April 24, 1921

## Our Relationship with God

### Prayer and Meditation

**THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON GOD**  
Brain scans of people lost in prayer or deep in meditation have revealed the neurological underpinnings of religious states such as transcendence, visions, enlightenment and feelings of awe.

- Cosmic unity**  
When the parietal lobes quiet down, a person can feel at one with the universe.
- Response to religious words**  
At the junction of these lobes, this region governs reaction to language.
- Sacred images**  
The lower temporal lobe is involved in the process by which images, such as candles or crosses, facilitate prayer and meditation.
- Religious emotions**  
The middle-temporal lobe is linked to emotional aspects of religious experience, such as joy and awe.
- Attention**  
Attention is linked to concentration, the frontal lobes light up (red at top in scans) during meditation.

“If the individual knew how to meditate and how to concentrate... if he could see the bottom of his conscience and reason, there he would find the principles of an inner life (...) a glimpse of the life that awaits him in the higher worlds...”

“There is in each of us, a hidden source out of which life, love, virtue and power may flow. It is here, in this secret sanctuary, where God is to be found.

**God is within us...”**

- Here and Hereafter, Leon Denis, Part II, Ch. 9

This picture represents the scientific findings of Dr. Andrew Newberg’s research on the neurobiological underpinnings of meditation and prayer.

## Spiritist view of God

An axiom in science states “There is no effect without a cause”. Look for the cause of things which are not the work of human beings, and your reason will provide the answer.

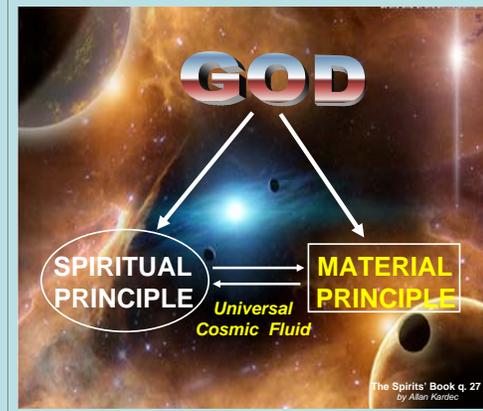
-The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 4

“It is not possible for man to sound the inmost nature of God. We still lack the inner knowledge of our own sense of being, which can only be acquired by means of a complete purification of the spirit. Only then we will be able to comprehend God...”

“But if we cannot penetrate His essence, His existence being given as a premise, we can, by the power of reason, arrive at the knowledge of His attributes...”

- Genesis, Allan Kardec, Ch. 2

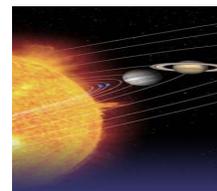
## UNIVERSAL TRINITY



The Spirits' Book q. 27 by Allan Kardec

## Attributes of God

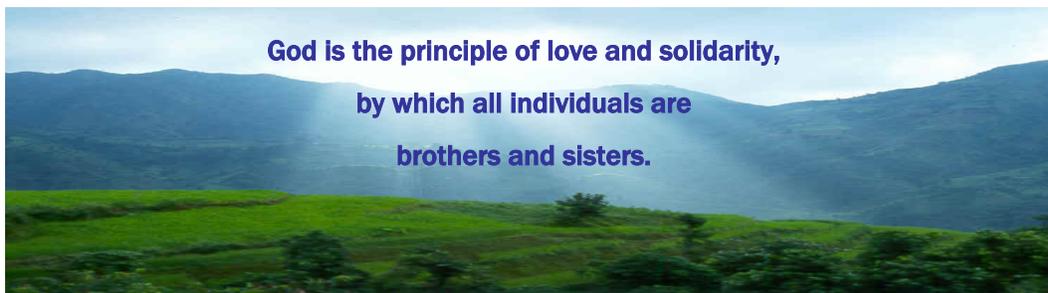
1. Infinite and Eternal
2. Unchangeable
3. Immaterial
4. Unique (no other gods)
5. All-powerful
6. Sovereignly Just and Good



“We judge the power of an intelligence by its works. Since no human being could have created the natural environment all around us, the First Cause must therefore be an intelligence superior to ours; and human intelligence must itself have a cause. The greatness of our intellectual achievements only emphasizes the extraordinary quality of this cause, of which our intelligence is an effect. Whatever names we choose to give it, this Supreme Intelligence is the First Cause of all things”.

-The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 9

**God is the principle of love and solidarity,  
by which all individuals are  
brothers and sisters.**



# IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL

## 1. What is the soul?

*Soul is an incarnate spirit.*

- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 134

## 2. What is the definition of spirit?



*Spirits are the intelligent beings of Creation.*

- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 76-77

- The existence of spirits has no end.
- Spirits can be imagined as a flame, an ethereal spark.
- Whenever an intent thought is, that is also where the spirit is.
- Each spirit is indivisible.
- The spirit can extend its thoughts in all directions.

## 3. What is our composition?

*Incarnate Spirit*



*Discarnate Spirit*



## 4. What is perispirit?

*It is a semi-material substance that envelops the spirit.*

- It connects matter and spirit.
- It is derived from the cosmic fluid present in each planet.
- It can become visible and even palpable to us in dreams and even when we are awake.
- It records all of our thoughts, feelings and actions.

- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 93-94

## 5. What is the destiny of spirits?



- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 101, 107, 112

## 6. How do spirits progress?

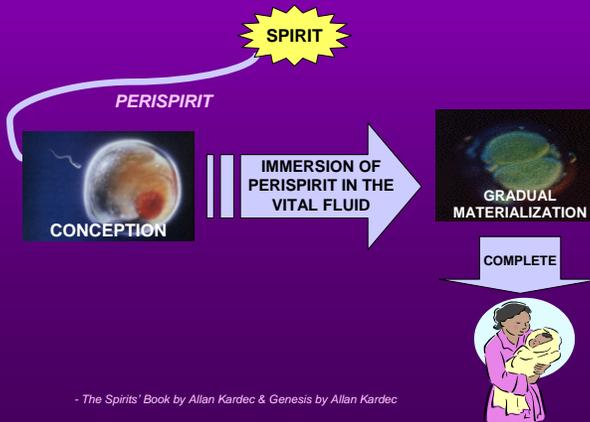
*Through incarnation!*

- ♦ Incarnation is the means through which spirits become perfect.
- It is a process of learning and purification through the accumulation of experiences.
- Incarnation allows spirits to perform their proper share in the work of Creation.



- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 132-133

## 7. How does incarnation happen?



- The Spirits' Book by Allan Kardec & Genesis by Allan Kardec

## 8. How do spirits make the transition back into the spirit realm?



Extinction of Organic Life → Rupture of Fluidic Link → Separation of soul and body

- Heaven and Hell, Allan Kardec, p. 206

## 9. What happens after death?



*"After death, we are what we made of ourselves in places that are best-suited for recovery, and for opportunities of service we might prove capable of doing."*

- "Nosso Lar: A Spiritual Home", Andre Lutz/Francisco Xavier, Ch. 9

## 10. What is the spirit realm like?

*"The spirit-world is like a great city where individuals of all ranks and conditions see and meet each other... As in a city, circles are formed by similarities in tastes, and good and bad spirits share the same space without having to interact."*



- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 278

# Reincarnation

“The return of a soul, or spirit, to physical life in another body that has been newly formed for it.”

- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Ch. 4

## In the Gospel

### John the Baptist was Elijah returned

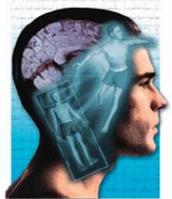
“From the day of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept, he is the Elijah who was to come. He who has ears, let him hear.”

- Matthew 11:14; 17:10-13



## Evidence

- Past-Life Readings
- Hypnotic Regression
- Experience of Déjà Vu
- Dreams and Nightmares
- Illnesses and Drugs
- Meditation
- Strong Emotion
- Spontaneous Flashes
- Experiences of Young Children



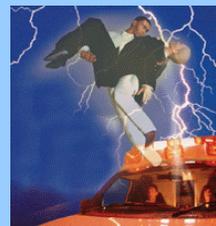
## Reincarnation in Our Life

Raises the sense of renewal

Strengthens family ties



Each Reincarnation is a Fresh Start



Engenders universal love

- Dalai Lama

Elongates time sense

- The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, Ch.4, items 18-23

## Aim of Reincarnation

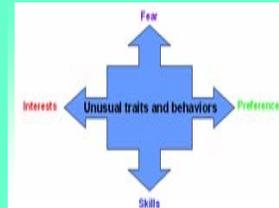
"Purification, to redress previous mistakes, and to effect human progress. Otherwise, there would be no justice."

- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 167

### Reincarnation and Children

"The good and bad tendencies a child reveals early on have roots in previous lives."

-The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, Ch. 14



### The Importance of Educating Children

"A spirit is more impressionable during childhood, when the impressions it receives more easily mold its personality and therefore its progress."

- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 383



“To be born, to die, to be reborn yet again, and constantly progress.”

- Allan Kardec's epitaph



# MULTITUDE OF INHABITED WORLDS

## Introduction

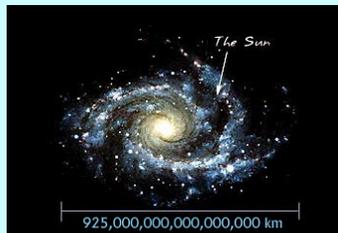
### We agreed in:

- Evolution of the spirit → reincarnation

### Question:

- Where is the spirit supposed to reincarnate in order to accomplish its evolution?

## What is the purpose of the Universe?



There are over 100 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy. If you tried to count them one by one, it would take you over 3,000 years!

Cluster of Galaxies



Our galaxy is not particularly large.



## Categories of Inhabited Worlds



- “The characteristics of the many inhabited worlds vary greatly depending on the spiritual evolution of the individuals living on them.”
- “Spirits who live their physical lives in a particular world are not attached to it indefinitely.”

- The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, Ch. 3

## Jesus said:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you.”

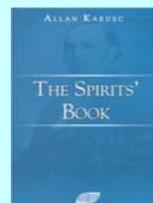
- John, 14:1-2

- The ‘Father’s house’ Jesus speaks of is the UNIVERSE.
- The many places are the planets orbiting in space.

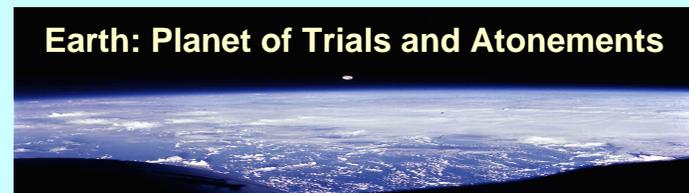
## The Spirits’ Book:

55. Are all the globes spinning through space inhabited?

“Yes, and contrary to what they believe, earthlings are far from being first in intelligence, goodness, and perfection(…)”



## Earth: Planet of Trials and Atonements



“The time has now been reached for one of these periodic transformations, which will move the Earth upwards from a world of atonement to that of a regenerating planet where men will be happy because God’s laws will reign.” - Saint Augustine

- The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, Ch. 3

## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS:

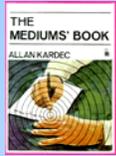
- “God has populated all worlds with living beings.”
- “There is nothing in the Earth’s position, volume, or composition that could reasonably support the notion that the exclusion of many thousands of similar worlds it alone has the privilege of being inhabited .”

- The Spirits’ Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 55.

# COMMUNICATION WITH SPIRITS



## 1. Are there Spirits?



*"Spirits are nothing but the souls of human beings stripped of their physical body."*

- The Mediums' Book, Allan Kardec, item 2

## 2. What happens after physical death?

We...

...keep thinking.

...want to communicate with our loved ones.

...are able to visit them.

...can act upon matter through the perispirit.

- The Mediums' Book, Allan Kardec, Ch. 1



## 3. What are the mechanisms of spirit communication?

*"We are spirits. We think continuously."*

Spirit → Continuous Thought → Universal Cosmic Fluid



**We think...we communicate!**

- Genesis by Allan Kardec & Reincarnation by Gabriel Dellane

## 4. What is mediumship?

*"Mediumship is one of the incarnate human being's attribute, which is used to communicate with discarnates."*



- Evolution in Two Worlds by Andre Luiz, psychographed by Francisco Xavier and Waldo Vieira

## 5. Are we all mediums?

*"Everyone who is in any degree influenced by spirits is a medium."*

- The Mediums' Book, Allan Kardec, item 159



## 6. What are the levels of mediumship?

### 1. Subliminal

*Exists or functions without an apparent manifestation.*



Intuition

### 2. Ostensible

*Evident to the medium who can either be conscious, semi-conscious or unconscious during manifestation.*



Healing Medium

## 7. What are the types of mediumship?

### Mediumship of Physical Effects

*"Those mediums who have power of obtaining physical manifestations."*

*Healing, Rapping, Displacement and Suspensions, Musical, Apparitions*

### Mediumship of Intellectual Effects

*"Those mediums who are more especially apt for receiving and transmitting intelligent communications."*

*Hearing, Speaking, Seeing, Writing, Somnambulism*

- The Mediums' Book, Allan Kardec, Ch. 25

## 8. What is a good medium?

*"Good mediums are those who understand that the true medium has a mission to fulfill, and that he must be ready, when necessary, to sacrifice his tastes, habits, pleasure, time, and even his worldly interests, to the good of others."*

- The Mediums' Book, Allan Kardec, item 197

## 9. What is mediumship for?

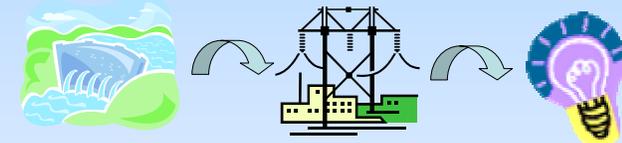
*"God has given mediumship to man for a serious and useful purpose."*

1. Self-illumination
2. Humankind's progress
3. Develop virtues
4. Help others in both planes

- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 430



## 10. What is the role of Spiritism in mediumship?



**Spiritism has come as a framework to guide mediumship by disciplining and conducting it for the general good.**

- In the Domain of Mediumship by Andre Luiz/Francisco Xavier and Waldo Vieira

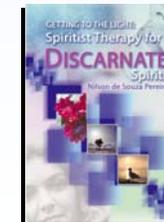
## 11. What are mediumship meetings?



They are serious Spiritist meetings when incarnates gather together to propel their own inner enlightenment, as they gain instruction from Good Spirits and, at the same time, become instruments in the rescue work of suffering and/or obsessing spirits.

- The Mediums' Book, Allan Kardec, item 329

## 12. Does the practice of mediumship foster humanity's progress?



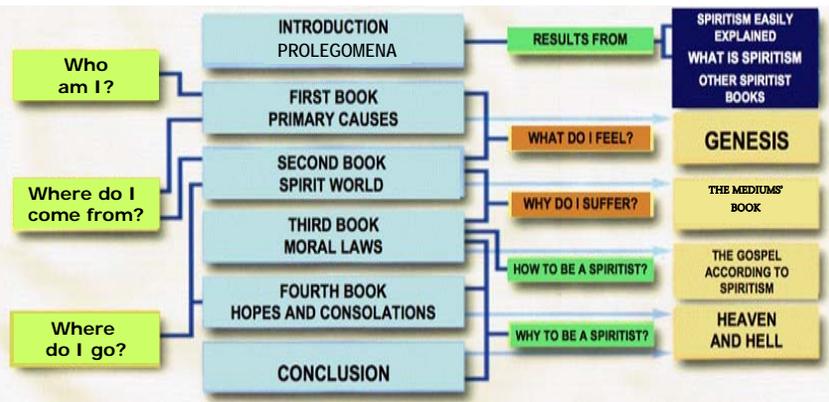
*"It helps both incarnates and discarnates. Incarnates are helped because the disciplined practice of mediumship deepens self-awareness and mind control. And "the entities that are enlightened during these specialized Spiritist meetings will reincarnate in better moral conditions and be able to count on stronger inner resources."*

- Getting to the light, Nilson Pereira



# THE SPIRITS' BOOK

-1857-

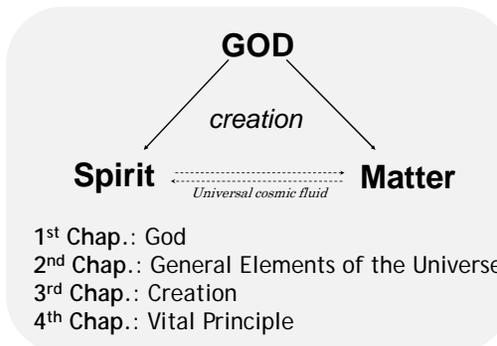


## First Part: First Causes

"God is the Supreme Intelligence, the First Cause of all things."

God created two universal elements: spirit and matter.

"Spirit is the intelligent principle of the universe."

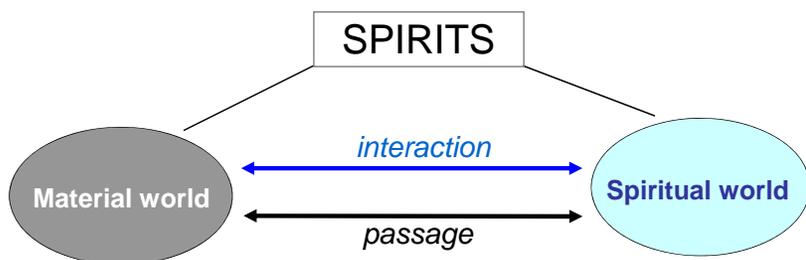


"Matter is the instrument that spirit uses and upon which the spirit acts."

Creation is the result of the spirit action upon matter, according to divine law.

- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 1,22,23, 63

## Second Part: The Spirit World



Spirits live either in the material or the spiritual worlds. They pass from the spiritual plane to the material one through birth. Their passage from the material plane to the spiritual one happens through death. There is constant interaction between spirits in the material and spiritual worlds.

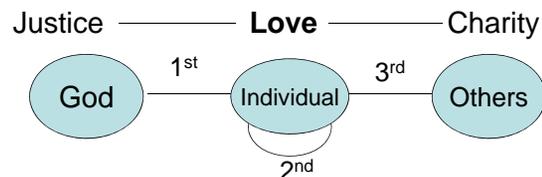
<b>Chap. I - Spirits</b> 	<b>Chap. II The Incarnation of Spirits(1)</b> 	<b>Chap. III The Return to Spirit Life (2)</b> 	<b>Chap. IV Plurality of Existences</b> 
<b>Chap. V Plurality of Existences Additional Considerations</b> 	<b>Chap. VI Spirit Life (3)</b> 	<b>Chap. VII Return to the Body (4)</b> 	<b>Chap. VIII The Liberation of the Soul (5)</b> 
<b>Chap. IX Spiritual Intervention in the Incarnate World (6)</b> 	<b>Chap. X - Occupations and Missions of Spirits</b> 	<b>Chap. XI - The Three Kingdoms</b> 	

## Third Part: Moral Laws

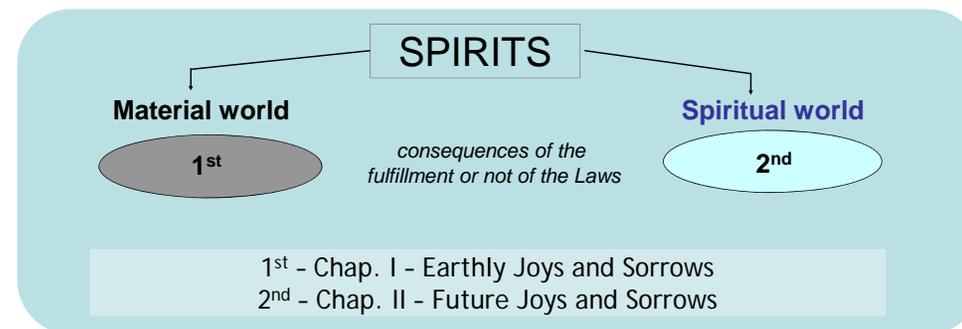
- Law of Worship
- Law of Labor
- Law of Reproduction
- Law of Preservation
- Law of Destruction
- Law of Society
- Law of Progress
- Law of Equality
- Law of Freedom
- Law of Justice, Love and Charity

Establish all the individuals' duties:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – to God
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – to oneself
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – to others



## Fourth Part: Hopes and Consolations





# The Mediums' Book

*The first and most complete scientific treatise on mediumship ever published!*

## INTERESTING FACTS:

### Author:

Allan Kardec  
(in collaboration with mediums and many enlightened Spirits)

### First Published:

Jan 15, 1861

### Place First Published:

Paris, France

### BOOK STRUCTURE

36 Chapters

FIRST PART: Preliminary Observations  
4 Chapters

SECOND PART: Spirit-Manifestations  
32 chapters

### DID YOU KNOW?

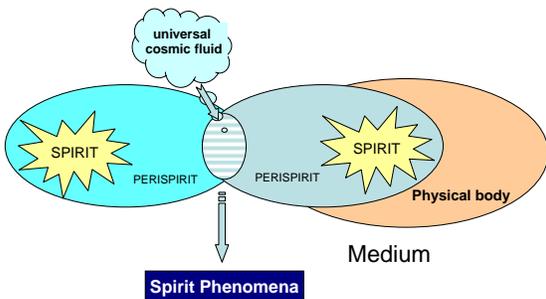
The term "medium", as we use it nowadays, was first used for this purpose by Kardec.

## WE ARE ALL MEDIUMS!

"All men are mediums; all have a spirit-guide who, if they listen to him, directs them in the right way."

- by Channing (Spirit), item 10

## Mechanisms of Mediumship



"The spirit has, as his instrument, his perispirit, just as a man has his body. This perispirit is semi-matter. The spirit has, as his intermediary agent, the universal fluid; a sort of vehicle on which he acts, as we act upon the air, in order to produce certain effects."

- Item 58

**Mediumship: A natural ability anyone may possess to communicate with the Spiritual World.**



## TYPES OF MEDIUMSHIP:

of physical effects

- Materialization
- Healing
- Pneumatography
- Musical
- Transport of objects
- ...etc.



- Chapter 25

of intellectual effects

- Automatic writing
- Speaking
- Seeing
- Hearing
- Inspirational
- Presentiment
- ...etc.

## Key for Development

"Calmness and concentration of thought, a strong desire and determination to succeed are key for the development of a medium."

- Item 204



## Stumbling Block

Obsession {  
- Simple  
- Fascination  
- Subjugation

"Our moral imperfections bring us under the power of obsessing spirits, and that the surest method of getting rid of these is to attract good spirits."

- Item 252

## HUMAN QUALITIES THAT ATTRACT GOOD SPIRITS

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

KINDNESS

GOOD-WILL

DETACHMENT

DETERMINATION

- Item 226 (12)

## HUMAN CONDITIONS THAT REPEL GOOD SPIRITS

SELFISHNESS

PRIDE

JEALOUSY

HATRED

GREED

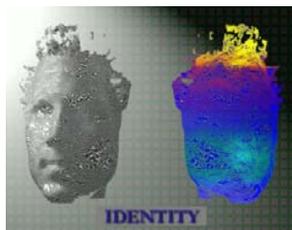
ENVY

VANITY

VICES

- Item 226 (11)

## Identity of Spirits



"The language of spirits is always in accordance with the degree of their elevation."

- Item 262

"Good Spirits only prescribe what is good and charitable. They are calm and gentle."

"Imperfect Spirits excite animosity and distrust."

- Item 266

## Good Medium



Francisco C. Xavier (1910-2002)

"Good mediums are those who understand that the true medium has a mission to fulfill, and that he must be ready, when necessary, to sacrifice his tastes, habits, pleasure, time, and even his worldly interests, to the good of others."

- Item 197

## Free Mediumship

"Serious mediumship is **NOT**, and can **NEVER** be, made into profession. Mediumship is sacred and should be practiced in a saintly and devout manner."

- The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, Ch.26, items 9-10

*"Every Effect Has a Cause. Every Intelligent Effect Has an Intelligent Cause."* - Allan Kardec

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SPIRITISM

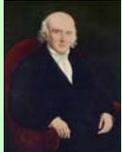
## OBJECTIVE

Compiled by Allan Kardec and structured in 28 chapters, this book contains explanations of the moral maxims of Christ in accordance with Spiritism and their application in various circumstances in life.

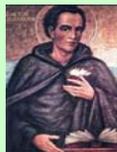
### Some of the 48+ spirits who authored the book:



**Delphine de Girardin**  
(1804–55) French writer



**Samuel Hahnemann**  
(1755– 1843) - German physician who founded homeopathic medicine.



**Saint Augustine** (354-430)  
One of the most important figures in the development of Western Christianity.



**Paul of Tarsus** (born c. 10, d. c. 67), the *Apostle of the Gentiles* was one of the most notable of Early Christian missionaries.



**Joanna de Angelis**  
A Spiritual Friend



**François Fénelon**  
(1651-1715) was a French Roman Catholic theologian, poet and writer.



**Blaise Pascal** (1623-1662) was a French mathematician, physicist, and religious philosopher.



**Saint Louis**  
(1214 – 1270) King of France



**John, the Evangelist**  
One of Jesus' disciples



**Emmanuel**  
Roman Senator at Jesus' time.



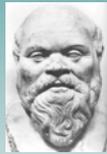
**Saint Vincent de Paul**  
(1581-1660) French Priest



**The Spirit of Truth**

## SOCRATES AND PLATO:

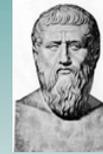
*Forerunners of Christian and Spiritist Ideas*



Socrates

*"The occupation of the philosopher is to care for the soul less in regard to the present than to life in eternity. Since the soul is immortal, it would be wise to live our lives with this fact in mind."*

- Source: Plato's Phaedo



Plato

## CAUSES OF SUFFERING

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."*

- Matthew, 5:4

**Present Causes**

**Past Causes**

*"Whether the cause is in the present or a previous life, our misfortune can be traced back to a wrong done in the past."*

- Ch. 5, item 7

## Jesus Christ in the Spiritist View

*What is the most perfect type that God has offered to humankind as its guide and model?*

**JESUS.**

- The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q&A 625

### Master

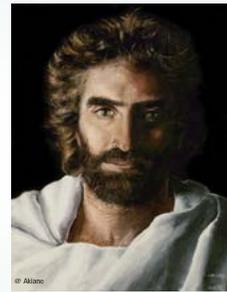
*"He was not God himself, but an ambassador of God ... a divine Messiah."*

Genesis by Allan Kardec, Ch. XIV, item 9

### Psychotherapist

*"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."*

- Matthew 9:12



© Allans

### Human Being

*"His superiority over men was only of his spiritual nature, which absolutely controlled matter, and his perispirit (...)."*

Genesis, Allan Kardec, Ch. XIV, item 9

### Medium

*"He was a medium of God."*

Genesis, Allan Kardec, Ch. XIV, item 9

## GOOD PERSON

*"Truly good people comply with the laws of justice, love, and charity in their purest form."* - Ch. 17

*"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly father is perfect."*

- Matthew, 5:48

## GOOD SPIRITIST

*"True spiritists can be recognized by their moral transformation and by the efforts they make to overcome their bad tendencies."* - Ch. 17

## FAMILY TIES

*"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers? (...) For whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is my brother, sister and mother."*

- Mark 3:31-35



*"Real family ties are based on empathy and the affinity of ideas developed before, during and after incarnations."*

- Ch. 14, item 8

## REINCARNATION

*"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh. The spirit gives birth to spirit."*

- John 3:1-12



*"Water represents the essence of matter, just as Spirit represents the essence of intelligence."*

- Ch. 4, item 8

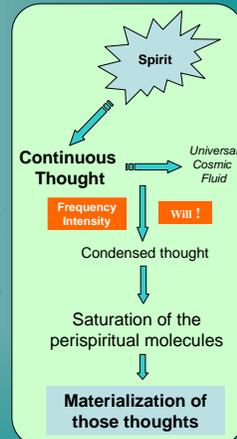
## PRAYER IS THOUGHT TRANSFER

*"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."* - Mark, 11:24

*"Prayer is an invocation. Through prayer we establish a mental relationship with the being we address. A prayer may have three purposes:*

- Ask
- Give thanks
- Praise"

- Ch. 27, item 9



*"Unshakable faith is that which can stand face to face with reason in all epochs of humanity."* - Allan Kardec



# Heaven and Hell

## Divine Justice According to Spiritism

### 1st Part - Doctrine

### 2nd Part - Examples

#### HEAVEN

#### HELL

"Heaven is everywhere; it has no fixed site, no place, no circumscribing limits - the planets, the stars, and all the highly evolved worlds are the last stations on the road which leads to it. Virtue opens the gate of that supreme abode; vice bars its entrance."

*Heaven and Hell, chapter 3, item 18*

"Suffering being indissolubly connected with imperfection, (...) the soul finds its own chastisement in itself, wherever it may be, and needs no circumscribed place as the scene of its suffering. Hell is, consequently, wherever there are souls that suffer..."

*Heaven and Hell, chapter 7, item 5*

#### What is to be understood by PURGATORY?

"Purgatory, according to Spiritism, is no longer a vague and uncertain hypothesis; it is a physical reality that we see and touch, and to which we are even now subjected; for Purgatory is nothing else than the worlds of tests and atonements and the Earth is one of those worlds. These are worlds in which the individuals atone their past and present, for the advancement of their future happiness."

*Heaven and Hell, chapter 5, item 4*

#### ANGELS

#### DEMONS

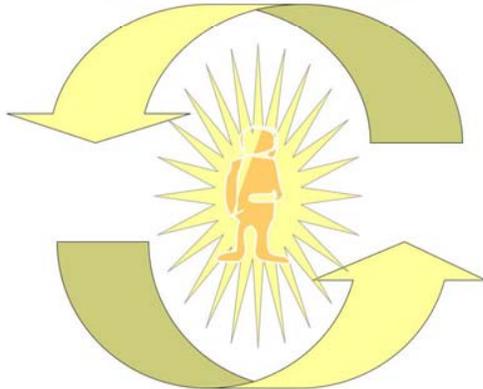
"Angels are the souls of human beings who have reached the highest degree of perfection attainable by them, and who have entered upon the full enjoyment of the felicity for which they were created."

*Heaven and Hell, Allan Kardec - Chapter 8, item 13*

"According to Spiritism demons are imperfect spirits who will grow better in the course of time; they are still at the foot of the ladder, but they will reach the top sooner or later."

*Heaven and Hell, Allan Kardec - Chapter 9, item 21*

#### Multitude of Existences



#### The Passage



Extinction of Organic Life → Rupture of Fluidic Link → Separation of soul and body

#### Happy Spirits



I felt myself to be in the enjoyment of the plenitude of health and strength!  
Mr. Sanson

#### Spirits in a Middle Condition



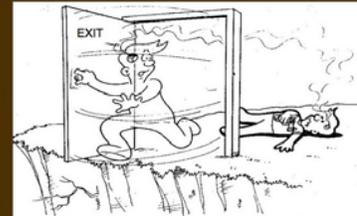
"I was not active in all good works as I ought to have been; my forgetfulness of God led me into other sorts of forgetfulness which, though not punishable by human laws, are nonetheless offences against the law of God." Joseph Bre

#### Suffering Spirits



"My spirit, held to my body by the bonds of materiality, had great difficulty in getting free; I had no idea I had been withdrawn from it. I searched for my body, and was both alarmed and astonished at finding myself lost in the midst of a crowd of shadows."  
Novel

#### Suicides



"Am I dead? Not at all! I inhabit my body and you cannot imagine how much I suffer! I fled from suffering to find torture!"  
The Suicide at the Samaritaine

#### Repentant Criminals

"I am punished by perceiving the true nature of my acts, for which I beg of God to grant me forgiveness. I now know that we ought not cut short the life of our brothers and sisters. I am punished by remorse for having delayed my advancement through taking the wrong road."  
Verger



#### Obdurate Spirits



"Crime? A mere word! Crime is everywhere! I reject your pity. I ask for nothing. I suffice to myself; and I shall be able to resist this odious light!"  
Lapommeray

#### Terrestrial Expiations



"The sorrows of Earth are a preparation for the joys of heaven. Suffering is only a bitter rind of a delectable fruit, when borne with courage and resignation. I had solicited my sufferings in order to finish the work of my purification."  
Marcel

"A dream, that I had several times, was that I would sacrifice my life to save others. After all, if I were going to die anyway, it might as well do some good."  
Stephen Hawking

"The road of happiness is equally open to all; the goals to be reached, and the conditions for reaching it, are the same for all."



# GENESIS

The miracles and the predictions according to Spiritism

Can one consider Spiritism as a revelation? By whom? What is its character?

## CHARACTER OF SPIRITIST REVELATION

### God

God is supreme and sovereign intelligence, eternal, unchangeable, immaterial, all-powerful, sovereignly just and good, infinitely perfect, unique.



### Good and Bad

Wickedness does not derive from either God or Satan. However, bad exists and has a cause rooted in human ignorance.



*"The special object of Spiritism is the knowledge of the laws of spiritual principles."*

- Chapter 1, item 16

Had we had, in the 19th century, sufficient scientific knowledge to answer the questions around Genesis?

## GENESIS

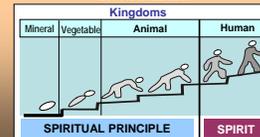
### Systems, Uranography, Theories

Hindu and Greek mythology, Thales of Miletus, Ptolemy, Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler



### Organic, Spiritual, and Mosaic Genesis

Spontaneous Generation, Spiritual Principle, Reincarnation, Adamic Race, Original Sin, The Six Days of Creation



*"Following step by step the series of beings, one can say that each species is a transformation of the species immediately below it."*

- Chapter 10, item 28

Does God perform miracles?

## MIRACLES AND PREDICTIONS

### Fluids

Spiritual Fluid, Perispirit, Second Sight, Cures, Apparitions, Somnambulism, Mediumship, Obsessions, Possessions



### Miracles, Prophecies, and Predictions of the Gospel

Resurrection, Transfiguration, Cures, Miracles, The Consoler, Last Judgment, The New Generation



*"The cure is performed by the substitution of an unhealthy molecule for a healthy one. The faculty to cure by the fluidic-influx is very common, and can develop itself by exercise."*

- Chapter 14, items 31-34

6 BC - 4BC birth of Jesus of Nazareth; death of Jesus circa the year 33

1473-1543 Nicolaus Copernicus, Polish astronomer and mathematician proponent of the view of an Earth in daily motion about its axis and in yearly motion around a stationary sun

1868 - Genesis, The miracles and the predictions according to Spiritism by Allan Kardec



October, 2006 First U.S. Medical Spiritist Congress in DC

4.5 billion BC Planet Earth formed

roman empire (27 BC - 385/395)

renaissance (14th - 16th century)

industrial revolution (18th century)

pre-history

ancient history

50 - 1400 AD

1500 - 1800

1800 - 1900

1900 - 2007

circa 3 million BC birth of the human race

624 - 547 BC Thales of Miletus, Greek philosopher and mathematician; sphericity of the Earth, cause of eclipses

85 -165 Claudius Ptolemy, Greek astronomer and geographer proposed the geocentric theory that prevailed for 1400 years

middle ages (500 - 14th century)

1564-1642 Galileo Galilei, Italian scientist, invented the telescope, espoused the Copernican cause

1571-1630 Johannes Kepler German mathematician and astronomer discovered that the Earth and planets travel about the sun in elliptical orbits

1804-1869 Allan Kardec 1857 - The Spirits' Book

1809-1882 Charles Darwin 1859 - The Origin of Species

April, 2007 150 years of Spiritism

1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Spiritist Symposium Baltimore, MD - USA



# G O D at H O M E



## 1) What is God at Home?

Weekly meeting at home when family members and friends get together to study the Spiritist teachings and pray together.

## 2) What are its purposes?

1. To create at home the healthy habit of getting together family members to practice spirituality;
2. To open the family's vibratory field to loving and kind Enlightened Spirits;
3. To prevent and/or treat individual and familial disturbances;
4. To cleanse our home's vibratory field through the elevation of our thoughts and feelings;
5. To expand spiritual knowledge and consciousness;
6. To strengthen family ties;
7. To elevate the vibrational pattern of the family to help the Spirit Benefactors build a better world;
8. To teach spirituality to children while practicing it at home;
9. To unite humanity through prayer.

## 3) How do we do it?

### A. *Choose a Day of the Week*



- Convenient to all participants;
- Gather at a comfortable place at home (living or dining room).

### B. *Be Consistent and Punctual*



- Avoid canceling or delaying these meetings unless absolutely necessary (travel, i.e.)
- Highly Evolved Spirits have other commitments to attend. Thus, if we want their presence and guidance, we need to be punctual and consistent.

### C. *Open it with a Heartfelt Prayer*



**Attune with God by:**

- praising for the blessings of life;
- asking for protection and guidance;
- giving thanks for the opportunity of getting together.

## D. *Read an Inspirational Message*

From books such as:



- The Spirits' Book
- The Gospel According to Spiritism
- Or any other enlightened book

Encourage participants to comment and discuss on the read messages.

## E. *Duration of the Meeting*



- 30 minutes to 1 hour
- If you have children at home keep the meeting shorter, but do include them.

## F. *Closing Prayer*



- Finish the meeting with another heartfelt prayer asking God for protection for your home, friends, relatives, neighbors and all the ones who suffer.

•You may also ask for world peace.

## G. *Spiritually Magnetized Water*



Before the meeting starts provide a glass or jar of water to be magnetized by the Spirit Benefactors during the meeting, who will kindly pour in the spiritual remedies that each family member needs to lead a balanced life.

## Additional Tips

- Prior to the opening prayer hold a silent period for a couple of minutes so everyone can tune in with the harmonious Spirit presences.
- Fifteen minutes before the meeting, you play light classical music to help the ambience.
- Try to keep interruptions to a minimum during the meeting.
- Encourage all members to participate.
- Respect all opinions and points of view. Avoid arguments.
- If someone opens up and shares his/hers personal life do not judge or criticize and keep everything in confidence.
- Avoid and control mediumistic phenomena.
- Invite your guests to join you in this meeting.



## If You Have Children

- Use coloring books with spiritual themes.
- Use techniques (play dough, puzzles) that may help them understand the topic.
- Ask them to write a short prayer or letter to God.

*The God-at-Home meeting is equivalent to a lamp shining onto the work of assistance and spiritual enlightenment. - In Disobsession by Andre Luiz, F.C. Xavier and W. Vieira*

# Inner Transformation

## 1. Who are we?



We are ever-progressing immortal spirits' destined to perfection and happiness.

SPIRIT HIERARCHY <sup>2</sup>	
FIRST ORDER:	
<b>Pure Spirits</b> <small>(No influence from matter)</small>	1 <sup>st</sup> class: Pure Spirits
SECOND ORDER:	
<b>Good Spirits</b> <small>(Predominance of spirit over Matter)</small>	2 <sup>nd</sup> class: Superior Spirits 3 <sup>rd</sup> class: Wise Spirits 4 <sup>th</sup> class: Scholar Spirits 5 <sup>th</sup> class: Benevolent Spirits
THIRD ORDER:	
<b>Imperfect Spirits</b> <small>(Predominance of matter over Spirit)</small>	6 <sup>th</sup> class: Disturbing Spirits 7 <sup>th</sup> class: Neutral Spirits 8 <sup>th</sup> class: Pseudo-wise Spirits 9 <sup>th</sup> class: Frivolous Spirits 10 <sup>th</sup> class: Impure Spirits

## 2. Where do we find the key to our destination?



In our conscience<sup>3</sup>.

## 3. Since we carry God's law in our conscience, why does it have to be revealed to us?



We have forgotten and disregarded it, but God has willed for us to remember it through missionary spirits who have instructed humankind in every age<sup>4</sup>.

## 4. How do we get to our ultimate destination?

By acquiring experiences and knowledge that are in synchronicity with God's laws.

## 5. What are the means to those acquisitions?



The soul undoubtedly undergoes a transformation, which shall happen through many lives (reincarnations)<sup>5</sup>.

Transformation therefore can only be realized with time, gradually, little by little<sup>6</sup>.

## 6. What is the most profound transformation we need to make?



Self-centeredness<sup>7</sup>. The highest virtue consists in the sacrifice of self-interest for the good of one's neighbor without ulterior motives<sup>8</sup>.

## 7. How can disinterestedness and detachment foster our progress?



Attachment to material things is a notorious indication of imperfection, because the more humans are attached to the things of this world, the less they understand their true destiny.

Through disinterestedness, however, we show that we see the future from a more evolved point of view<sup>7</sup>.

## 8. What is the most effective means for transforming and improving ourselves?



A sage of antiquity has told you: *'Know thyself'*<sup>9</sup>.

## 9. By what means can we get to know of ourselves?

1. At the end of each day let us examine our conscience, review what we had done and ask ourselves whether or not we had failed to fulfill some duty and whether or not anyone had had reason to complain about us<sup>9</sup>. (See Benjamin Franklin's method)



2. Praying to God and our guardian angels to enlighten us<sup>9</sup>.



Benjamin Franklin's 13 Virtue Program<sup>10</sup>

1. **TEMPERANCE.** Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.
2. **SILENCE.** Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.
3. **ORDER.** Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.
4. **RESOLUTION.** Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.
5. **FRUGALITY.** Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; i.e., waste nothing.
6. **INDUSTRY.** Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.
7. **SINCERITY.** Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly.
8. **JUSTICE.** Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty.
9. **MODERATION.** Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.
10. **CLEANLINESS.** Tolerate no uncleanness in body, cloths, or habitation.
11. **TRANQUILLITY.** Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.
12. **CHASTITY.** Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dulness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.
13. **HUMILITY.** Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

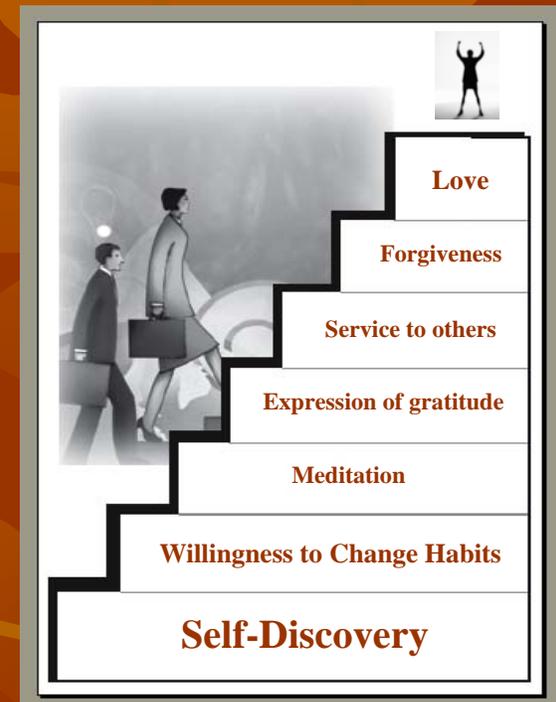
## 10. What are the characteristics of the good person?

The good person<sup>11</sup>:

- \* Places their faith in God;
- \* Do all the good it was possible to do;
- \* When faced with life's struggles, accepts them without protest;
- \* Never disapprove of someone because that person happens to think differently;
- \* Forgive and forget wrongs and only remember the good they have received;
- \* Tolerate others' frailties;
- \* Study their own imperfections and constantly battle against them;
- \* Always respect the rights of their fellow human beings.

These aren't all the qualities that distinguish the good person, but anyone who tries diligently to possess them will find themselves on the road that leads to all the rest.

## 7. Steps to Inner Transformation



Happiness does not come from possessions or power, but rather from a wise and dedicated heart.<sup>12</sup>



## References:

1. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, part III, Conclusion.
2. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 100-113.
3. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 621.
4. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 621-622.
5. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 166.
6. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 800.
7. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 895.
8. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 893.
9. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 919.
10. The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin by Benjamin Franklin.
11. The Gospel According to Spiritism, item 3, Chapter 17.
12. Endearing Gems from Chico Xavier, J. Korngold.

*Self-knowledge is the key to individual improvement<sup>9</sup>.*

# INTELLIGENT SLEEP

The sleep state has a stronger influence on one's life than one can imagine<sup>1</sup>.

## What happens during sleep?

body — perispirit — Spirit

We are *Spirits*. The Spirit is enveloped by a vaporous substance fine as a mist, which is called the *perispirit*. It connects us to our physical body<sup>2</sup>.

### EMANCIPATION

While our body sleeps, we, Spirits, enjoy other faculties we are unaware of in the waking state. Our abilities expand markedly. Sleep causes a partial liberation of our souls from the body. When we sleep, our body is, for a time, in the same condition that we will confront after death<sup>3</sup>.



During sleep the common mass of spirits seek the lower spheres, to which we are attracted by old affections or our own primitive inclinations; and once there, we indulge in every sensual pleasure. On these visits, we also receive vile suggestions, often baser than we conceive of when awake<sup>3</sup>.

### Caution

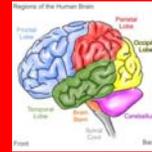
“Watch and Pray” Matthew 26:41

- 1. PREPARATION:**
  - Good thoughts
  - Edifying books
- 2. PRAYER (at bedtime):**
  - Direct your prayer to God
  - A heartfelt prayer is an unflinching means of obtaining spiritual assistance.
- 3. SPIRITUALLY MAGNETIZED WATER:**
  - In the next Morning, drink a glass of water (left at bedside) that good Spirits have magnetized during the night to help you rebalance your energies.

## What are dreams?

### PHYSICALLY:

Dreams are the images, thoughts and feelings experienced while **asleep**, particularly strongly associated with **rapid eye movement sleep**.



### What occurs during REM:

- Stability of brain synapses
- Memory consolidation
- Brain's internal communication system

### SPIRITUALLY:

Dreams are a product of the freeing of the soul, which become more energetic as the activities of daily life are suspended. In the dream state the soul enjoys an all-penetrating clairvoyance which extends to far away and unknown places, and even other realms of life. <sup>3</sup>.



### TYPES OF DREAMS <sup>6</sup>:

1. Memory of the past
2. Presentiment of the future
3. Communication with other incarnated or discarnated spirits
4. Sometimes they are the reflex of the confusion that accompanies our departure or our return mingled with vague memories of what we have done or of what occupied our thoughts in our waking state.
5. Prophetic Dreams: Joan of Arc, Bible, etc.

## Why don't we recall our dreams?

In what we call sleep, only the body rests. The Spirit is always in motion. During sleep, it recovers part of its freedom and contacts those closest to it, on this or other realms. But the body's matter is heavy and it is difficult for the spirit, on waking, to retain the impressions it received during sleep, since these did not come through its physical organs<sup>4</sup>.

However, as Spirit, we will remember the advices received during sleep at the appropriate time.



## INTELLIGENT USE OF SLEEP

### THERAPY

We can do all sorts of therapy during sleep. In particular, we may use our time in the spiritual realm to reconcile with our enemies. While in this state, the Spirit reveals its true identity, making it impossible to conceal its feelings. All we need is strong will and ask for our Spirit Mentor's guidance.



### SEEKING ADVICE

During sleep, Spirits who have attained reasonable progress often seek the company of more advanced Spirits, talk with them and receive their advice<sup>5</sup>.



To achieve this level, we need to lead a balanced life during the day.

### HEALING THE PAST

The state of freedom during sleep may produce recollection of events from present and prior lives<sup>3</sup>.

Spontaneous recollection of the past through dreams may be very useful to those who suffer from inexplicable problems.

### REVELATIONS



### PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

This type of dream allows you to foresee the future. The dream may be a foresight of what will happen later in this life, or even a future life<sup>6</sup>.

In the Bible, we see many prophetic dreams preparing humanity for future events.

### SPIRITUAL WORK

Andre Luiz's books show us many examples of work that we are invited to do in the spiritual realm.

Depending on the Spirit's advancement, it can help in guiding others, in mediumistic services, lectures and courses for discarnate as well as incarnate spirits.



### COURSES AND TRAINING

According to Andre Luiz in *Missionários da Luz*, the spiritual realm has also many rooms for trainings and courses of all sorts, but very few incarnate people attend these lectures. There are courses about any subject we are interested in. If we ask our spiritual mentors, we can attend courses to improve ourselves in all sorts of needs.

### REFERENCES

1. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 401
2. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 102
3. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 402
4. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 403
5. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 410
6. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 404

*We can learn a lot about our true identity through our dreams.*

# PRAYER: a source of happiness<sup>1</sup>

## PRAYER IS...

Thought transmission<sup>2</sup>

to praise



to thank

to ask



**PAID PRAYERS**



Prayer is an act of charity, an ecstasy of the heart. To charge someone for the prayers we direct to God in their name, is to transform oneself into a paid intermediary<sup>3</sup>.

## QUALITY OF PRAYER

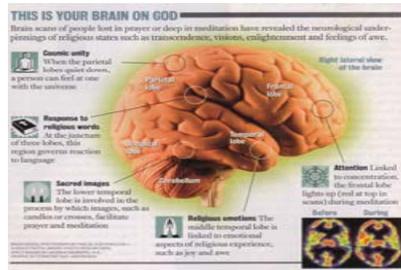
clear

sincere

concise

The more fervent and sincere a prayer is, the more effect it will have<sup>4</sup>.

## EFFECTS OF PRAYER



## DYNAMICS OF PRAYER<sup>5</sup>

Universal Cosmic Fluid



will power impulse (thought current)

answer according to God's will

Our thoughts are like the tones of a bell, which make all the molecules of the ambient air vibrate<sup>6</sup>.



## The Lord's Prayer explained<sup>7</sup>



- "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name"
- **We recognize and praise the importance of God in our lives.**
- "Thy kingdom come"
- **We accept God's providence.**
- "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"
- **We submit ourselves to the laws of God.**
- "Give us this day our daily bread"
- **God provides us with both physical and spiritual nourishment.**
- "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us"
- **It is vital to forgive ourselves and others.**
- "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from all evil"
- **We recognize our limitations and the protection of God.**
- "So be it"
- **We acknowledge and worship the wisdom of God.**

## We may pray...

For ourselves



For others



For the world



At any age



Anywhere at any time



Alone



With family



With friends



In groups



In any faith



## References

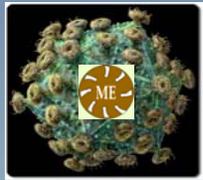
1. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, chapter 27, item 23
2. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, chapter 27, item 9
3. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, chapter 26, item 4
4. The Mediums' Book, Allan Kardec, item 132, question 8
5. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, chapter 27, item 10
6. Genesis, Allan Kardec, chapter 17, item 30
7. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, Chapter 28, item 3
8. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 663

"Prayer calls to your help good spirits who give you strength to bear them with courage, so that they seem to you less severe"<sup>8</sup>

# The Therapeutics of Charity

## THE DISEASE

What is the greatest obstacle to progress?  
- Pride and selfishness.<sup>1</sup>



Selfishness and Pride  
(THE VIRUS)

Greed  
Wrath  
Lust  
Sloth  
Gluttony  
Envy  
Pride

Reinforce our  
material/animal  
nature



Less ethereal,  
denser  
perispirit

Opens doors for  
**Obsession**  
(Negative and persistent  
influence of spirit onto other\*)



Emotional,  
Mental and/or  
Physical  
Imbalance



ALTERED  
HEALTH

## THE REMEDY



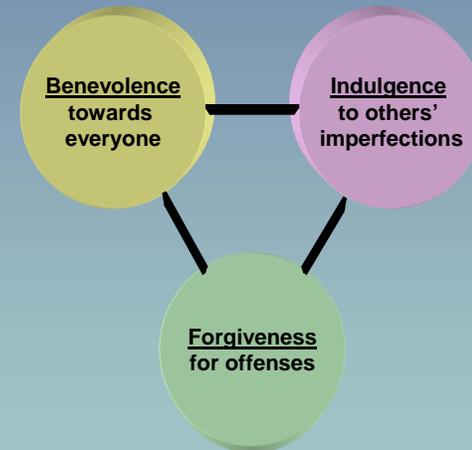
Generic name: Love in action

Product description: Effective against  
the virus of selfishness and pride. It  
also serves to promote progress.

Directions: Use it as often as possible,  
especially when challenged by  
the selfishness and pride virus.

Side effects: May experience  
excessive happiness.

## CHARITY<sup>3</sup> MOLECULE



## CHARITY PROMOTES HEALTHIER SOCIETY

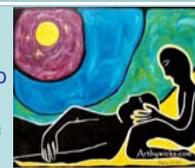
### MATH OF CHARITY<sup>2</sup>

(-) uncharitable action  
(+) charitable action  
(0) no action

(-1) Uncharitable Action	+	(-1) Uncharitable Action	=	(-2) Double Damage
(-1) Uncharitable Action	+	(0) No Action	=	-1 REMAINING Uncharitable Action
(-1) Uncharitable Action	+	(+1) Charitable Action	=	0 CANCELLED Uncharitable Action



True Expression of Charity  
"To love your neighbor as yourself: to do  
unto others as you would have them do unto  
you," expresses the most complete form of  
charity because it summarizes all of human  
beings' obligations towards humankind.<sup>5</sup>



### MEANS OF PRACTISING CHARITY<sup>6</sup>



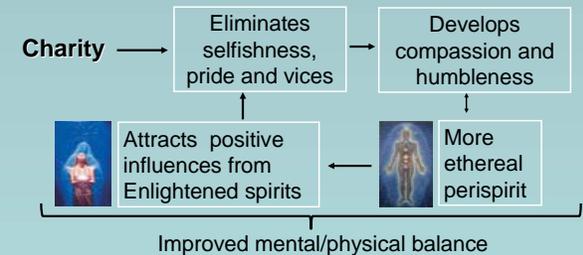
→ A heartfelt prayer to alleviate  
someone's suffering



→ A good advice to your daily  
companions, to those who are  
desperate



→ To lessen the burden of  
a fellow being



Better overall health

References:

1. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, C/A 785.
2. Sabe doras do Evangelho, C. T. Paternino, vol. 2, p. 153/154 (Revelations).
3. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, C/A 888.
4. The Mediums' Book, Allan Kardec, Chapter 23.
5. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, chapter 11, item 4.
6. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, chapter 13, item 10.

# Obsession & Disobsession

## What is Obsession ?



The negative persistent action which a less evolved spirit exercises over an individual<sup>1</sup>.

## Who is the obsessor?



The obsessor is someone who is disturbed due to sufferings and deceptions likely caused by the obsessed individual<sup>2</sup>.

## Types of Obsession

### Simple



When (incarnate or discarnate) spirits attach themselves to those who solicit them with their desires, or who attract them with their thoughts<sup>3</sup>.

### Fascination



When a malicious (incarnate or discarnate) spirit exerts such a powerful influence upon individuals that it paralyzes their judgment<sup>4</sup>.

### Subjugation



When a malicious (incarnate or discarnate) spirit paralyzes the will of individuals making them act in spite of themselves. Subjugation may be moral or corporeal<sup>4</sup>.

## Dynamics of Obsession<sup>5</sup>

Incarnate ⇌ Incarnate  
 Discarnate ⇌ Discarnate  
 Incarnate ⇌ Discarnate  
 Discarnate ⇌ Incarnate



## Causes of Obsession

Moral imperfections of both obsessing and obsessed individuals who have had a relationship in this or a past reincarnation and have their minds still tuned to one another in an emotional state characterized by dispositions such as:



hatred vengeance addictions



vanity jealousy attachment

## Signs of obsession



- Emotional oscillations
- Any form of physical or mental coercion that dominates the will
- Involuntary behaviors
- Persistent negativity
- Excessive pride
- Ideas of grandiosity
- Irritability
- Avoidance of healthy situations



## Self-Obsession

Human beings are often their own obsessors<sup>6</sup>.

## Obsession Aftermath

Mental and/or physical disorders



These do not originate in any physiological pathology, but come from suffering entities exerting influence on certain individuals, causing the appearance of mental and/or physical disease<sup>7</sup>.

## Preventing Obsession



Inner transformation

Practice of Charity (Love in Action)

**Watch and Pray**

- Matthew 26:41

## Disobsession: Treatment for Obsession



## Inner Transformation

Inner transformation promotes a positive attitude and, thus, fortifies the soul<sup>8</sup>.

## Passes & Spiritually Magnetized Water

Passes and spiritually magnetized water help to remove the unhealthy fluids (energies) that envelope the obsessed individual<sup>8</sup>.

## Counseling the Obsessor

It is necessary to counsel the obsessing spirit to renounce his unhealthy designs; to awaken with him a desire to do good, and true repentance, by the aid of cleverly directed instructions<sup>8</sup>.

## Disobsession Meetings

**Location:** Spiritist Center

**Needed Requirements<sup>9</sup>:**

- Training
- Mediumistic Team
- Meeting day<sup>9</sup>:**
- Preparation
- Punctuality
- Opening and Closing Prayers
- Spirit Manifestation
- Spirit Counseling
- Passes



### OUTCOME

The entities that are enlightened during these specialized Spiritist meetings will reincarnate in better moral conditions and be able to count on stronger inner resources.<sup>10</sup>

- References**
1. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, Chapter 28, item 81.
  2. Obsessao e Desobsessao, Suelly C. Schubert, Chapter 13.
  3. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, OJA 467.
  4. The Mediums' Book, Allan Kardec, item 239-240.
  5. Obsessao e Desobsessao, Suelly C. Schubert, Chapter 5.
  6. Posthumous Work, Allan Kardec, item 58.
  7. Introduction to the Spiritist Philosophy, Allan Kardec, page 76.
  8. Genesis, Allan Kardec, Chapter 14, item 46.
  9. Disobsession, Andre Luiz/Francoise Xavier.
  10. Getting to the Light: The Spiritist Therapy for Discarnate Spirits, Nilson S. Pereira.



# THE THERAPY OF PASSES

## 1. Passes

Donation of spiritual energies or vital fluids from a pass-giver and/or a spirit to a person.



David J. Hess - *Spirits and Scientists - Ideology, Spiritism and Brazilian Culture* - 1991. The Pennsylvania State University

## 2. Facts

### PASSES

- ❖ NOT a modern concept
- ❖ NOT a Spiritist ritual
- ❖ Used by many Spiritualists (including Christians)



## 3. Purpose

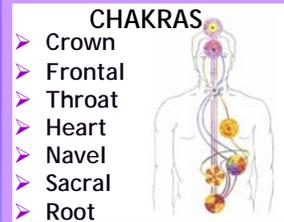
- ❖ FLUID-THERAPY : therapeutic aid to all kinds of conditions
- ❖ RESTORES the balance of spirit-perispirit-body



## 4. Passes and the Bible

For thousands of years the Bible described the "laying on of hands" being performed on the sick to restore health.

*"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is you through the laying on of my hands."* (2 Tim. 1:6)



Our entire body is a big energy field.

*"...every person is the center of a fluidic wave that extends according to his/her will power."*  
Jacob Melo



Important requirements for Pass-givers:

- Tranquility
- Habit of Prayer
- Good Health
- Knowledge of Passes
- Discernment
- Service attitude

## Pass-Giver

Pass-Giver is an instrument for the transfusion of healthy spiritual fluids, which are manipulated and offered by Spirit Benefactors.



## Patient

is the one who seeks assistance and guidance in regard to his/her spiritual, mental, emotional, and/or physical conditions.

## Three Types of Passes

- ❖ Magnetic Passes
- ❖ Spiritual Passes
- ❖ Combined Passes



Magnetic Passes are applied by the pass giver, who provides his/her own personal magnetic fluids through the irradiation of his/her personal energy.



Spiritual Passes are applied by Spirit Benefactors onto one or more persons at the same time, with or without the direct assistance of a pass giver.



Combined Passes is applied through the joint efforts of Spirit Benefactors and pass-giver. It contains both magnetic and spiritual fluids. It is more common than the other two types.

## Receptivity is key for healing



The patient must be receptive to passes and well disposed to spiritual improvement. If the patient is unwilling to collaborate in the general process, the results may be temporary.

Practical Guide for Magnetic and Spiritual Healing

*"Passes are not simply a transfusion of psychic energies. It is the ideal tool to balance the mind, and an effective aid to all kinds of treatments."* Andre Luiz (Spirit) - Francisco C. Xavier (medium)





# Fraternal Counseling

## Fraternal Counseling is...

- A social service that welcomes all who come to the Spiritist center and may be in need of psychotherapeutic approach due to physical, psychological and/or spiritual imbalance.



## Its Characteristics



1. Compassionate listening;
2. Freeing, respectful help;
3. Secure spiritual counseling;
4. Does not create dependency;
5. Non-judgmental approach;
6. Clear guidance.

## Patients

Immortal individuals who present disturbances in one or more of the following areas of life: spiritual, emotional, social, mental, and physical.

Most common disturbances:

- Relationship Conflicts
- Mental Disturbances
- 'Loss' of Loved One
- Physical Diseases
- Sexual Disturbances
- Mediumistic Imbalances



## Spiritist Counselors

Good-willed and well trained Spiritist practitioners who fulfill the following requirements:

### a) Good Moral/Ethical Standards

It attracts good and enlightened spirits.

*Good people study their own imperfections and work unceasingly to combat them, using all their strength, so that tomorrow they will be able to say that they are just a little better than they were the day before.<sup>2</sup>*

This includes:



### b) Knowledge of Spiritism

Kardec's basic works are the minimum requirement for a Spiritist counselor. Understanding about spiritual progress, reincarnation and interaction between spirit and material planes are essential for an efficient fraternal counseling.



### c) Psychological knowledge and experience

The understanding of the human nature and a tactful approach are also key elements for an adequate fraternal counseling.

## Compassionate Listening

Empathy is founded in charity<sup>3</sup>.



*Listen with your heart everything that others tell you.*



## Insights for Spiritist Counselors

- ✓ **Do not promise any healing.**  
It does not depend on you, but on God's will and the individual's merit.
- ✓ **Do not accept gratifications, gifts, special attention from patient.**  
Give freely, what you have freely received.
- ✓ **Avoid giving your personal opinion.**  
Offer the Spiritist teachings instead
- ✓ **Do not interfere with the patient's medical treatment.**  
Instead, refer to competent health professionals whenever needed.
- ✓ **Safeguard patient's privacy**  
Do to others what you would like others do to you.
- ✓ **Speak with kindness and simplicity.**  
Make sure you are clear to the patient.
- ✓ **Do not tell the patient "You are obsessed".**  
Patients may not understand it. If they do, they may get even more distressed.
- ✓ **Do not counsel obsessing spirits during patient's counseling.**  
Instead call the patient to regain control of his/her own body. Give passes if needed.
- ✓ **Do not tell patients "You are a medium".**  
Receiving proper spiritual care and learning about Spiritism, patients may figure it out by themselves in the future.

### References

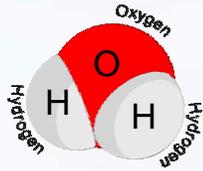
1. Atendimento Fraternal, Projeto Manoel P. Miranda.
2. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, Chapter 17, Item 3.
3. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, Q/A 886.
4. Happy Life, Joanna de Angelis / Divaldo Franco.



Practice kindness and gratitude with everyone.<sup>4</sup>

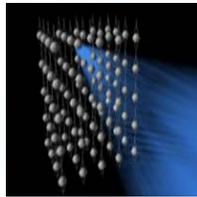
# Spiritually Magnetized Water

## Water



- It is an inorganic substance.
- It is also the universal solvent.
- Water covers 71% of the Earth's surface.
- Where there is water, there is life.

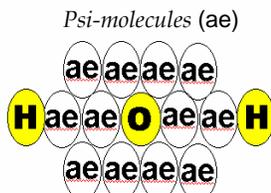
## Will Power and Faith



- Due to its molecular constitution, water absorbs and conducts bioenergy (magnetism).<sup>1</sup>

- Under the action of will and faith, water can be impregnated with bioenergy.<sup>2</sup>

## Changes at Molecular Level<sup>3</sup>



**Spiritually Magnetized Water** is a therapeutic element loaded with spiritually-impregnated remedy that is used to balance *spirit-perispirit-physical body*.

## Types of Magnetization<sup>4</sup>



Magnetizer



Spirit



Combined

through

Prayer - Laying on of hands - Affirmations

## General Recommendations

1. Water must potable.
2. Person must be receptive.



## Thoughts and Words Change Water Crystals<sup>5</sup>



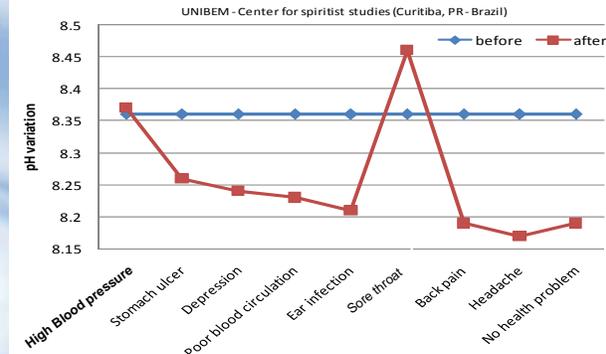
Thank you!



I will kill you!

## EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE

### Effects of spiritual magnetization onto water pH



## MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- Spiritual magnetization of water alters its characteristics;
- Such changes are specific to each type of disease;
- This water absorbs the specialized healthy fluids that are being transfused, becoming a true remedy.

### References:

1. *Loucura e Obsessao*, Manoel P. Miranda / Divaldo Franco, chap. 3, p. 40.
2. *Magnetismo Espiritual*, Michaelus, chapter 15, p. 140.
3. O Passe, Jacob Melo, p. 259.
4. O Passe, Jacob Melo, p. 261.
5. *Messages from Water*, Massaru Emoto.

# SPIRITISM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*"It is through education rather than instruction that the world will be transformed."* ALLAN KARDEC

## Childhood

The child who we receive in our arms today is the spirit who reincarnates on Earth for a new evolutionary step. This child brings with him/her an immense baggage of his/her millennial past<sup>1</sup>.



All children are an incarnated spirit. Childhood is a necessity. It's a time of repose for the spirit. A spirit reincarnates to progress and to contribute to the general work in God's creation.<sup>2</sup>



Reincarnation is a process that begins at conception, when its educational process shall also begin. According to Pestalozzi, from conception to the age of 7 the spirit is still adapting to its new body.

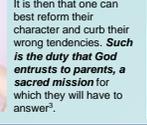
The fragility of the body inspires our love. Such love would be weakened if faced with a bad-tempered character. The bad tendencies being dormant facilitates the educational process.<sup>3</sup>



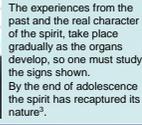
A spirit incarnates in order to perfect itself, and it is more accessible during childhood to the impressions it receives, and which may assist in its progress.<sup>2</sup>



It is then that one can best reform their character and curb their wrong tendencies. **Such is the duty that God entrusts to parents, a sacred mission** for which they will have to answer<sup>2</sup>.



The experiences from the past and the real character of the spirit, take place gradually as the organs develop, so one must study the signs shown. By the end of adolescence the spirit has recaptured its nature<sup>3</sup>.



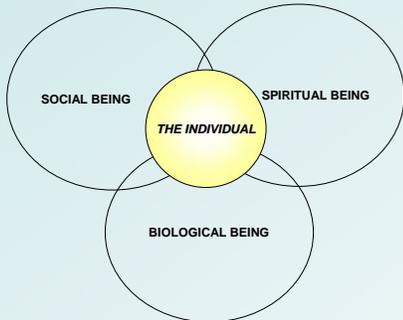
Each spirit builds itself with the experiences lived throughout the millennia. Whatever its present situation may be, this spirit brings, deep within itself, **THE GERM OF PERFECTION**, because it is a child of God.

Here lies the objective of education in its true meaning: To aid the spirit to develop its inner potential, its dormant faculties, in one word: **THE GERM OF PERFECTION**.<sup>1</sup>

## Threefold Constitution of Children

To better understand children's educational needs, Spiritism explains their threefold constitution<sup>1</sup>:

- **Spiritual:** Children bring formed personalities from past experiences with unique characteristics, which lie dormant during infancy.
- **Social:** Children have a new personality in development, which will be formed and influenced by the environment, education, and all stimuli in the present existence.
- **Biological:** Children are also representatives of the human species and must necessarily obey to certain instinctive patterns of development, which are common to the species.



The understanding of this interaction should lead us to a revolution in the way we see child development. The greatest educators of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, among them Rousseau and Pestalozzi, stated that children develop themselves by responding to an inner impulse (the germ of perfection), while being also influenced by the social and biological conditions.<sup>4</sup>

## Spiritist Education

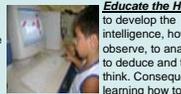
### Integral Education

Integral education must encompass feelings, intelligence, and the application of what is learned, in order to awake all the powers of the soul in a balanced and integrated way.

### Spiritist Educational Triad (based on Pestalozzi's idea)



**Educate the Heart** to help bring about the love for God and the neighbor.



**Educate the Head** to develop the intelligence, how to observe, to analyze, to deduce and to think. Consequently learning how to tell good from bad.



**Educate the Hands** to stimulate manual activities and work in general, as much to cultivate agility, health and harmony of the body.

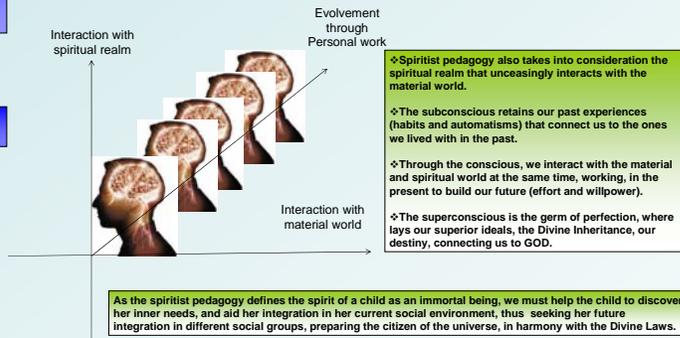
### HEART

### INTEGRAL EDUCATION

### HEAD

### HANDS

## Spiritist Pedagogy<sup>1</sup>



## Goals of Spiritism for children and youth

- Understand God as the all-loving Creator;
- Understand our threefold nature: physical body, spiritual body (perispirit), and Spirit;
- Understand the value of prayer and make it a habit;
- Understand the relationship between the material and spiritual worlds;
- Better understand Jesus' teachings and practice them in daily life;
- Understand the death as a normal process of evolution.



When a body is produced the soul which incarnates in it has come from space in order to progress. So acquaint yourselves with your duty and then put all your love into bringing this soul nearer to God. This is the mission with which you have been entrusted and for which you will receive just reward if you fulfill your trust faithfully. The care and education given by you to this child will help in its improvement and future well-being.<sup>5</sup>

## Educational Environments

Education is every influence exerted by one person onto another, in a way to stimulate an evolutionary process. It may occur in any relationship. Every time a human being awakens a good feeling in another one, that becomes an educational action.<sup>4</sup>

### HOME



### HOME IS OUR FIRST SCHOOL

In the modest or wealthy home, the soul of a child receives her first lessons of sensibility and affection, the first manifestations of nobility and understanding.<sup>6</sup>

### SCHOOL

To achieve its goal, schools must provide integral education. They have to educate, not only instruct. Schools have to be beautiful, exciting and enjoyable places, where students work, interact, and discuss. There, they exercise their freedom in a constructive way, while being stimulated by creative and enthusiastic teachers.



### SPIRITIST CENTER



The spiritist center plays the role of sublime school that enlighten the mind and the heart. This is the place where we learn Jesus' teachings revisited by Spiritism in its three aspects: scientific, philosophical and religious, while focusing on its application in our daily lives.

True love is always educational and the true education is always an act of love. The relationship between love and education is intrinsic, inseparable.

## Visionary Education

The current educational model with its short-term view of life, with emphasis in the wild competition and the insane search for success and social approval, drives humanity to the paradox of great material comfort and great moral and spiritual discomfort. While technology surprises each day, social inequalities increase, generating anxiety, violence, depression, fear, insecurity, aggressiveness, etc. This leads individuals to having and accumulating in detriment to the values of being, sharing and feeling.



With its visionary view of life, Spiritism brings a different educational proposal that fosters our self-improvement and long-term goals for immortal life. Therefore, it aims at the perpetual being and not simply the secular being. Studying its origin, nature and destiny, it guides humanity to the age of regeneration in which we are already entering.



References:  
 1. Education of the Spirit, Walter O. Alves.  
 2. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, O/A 382.  
 3. The Spirits' Book, Allan Kardec, O/A 385.  
 4. Education According to Spiritism, Dora Incantri.  
 5. The Gospel According to Spiritism, Allan Kardec, chapter 14, Item 9.  
 6. Emmanuel

## **Empowering the English-Speaking Spiritist Movement in the USA**

Following a tradition that started in 2007 after the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Spiritist Symposium, U.S. Spiritist directors and coordinators met on April 20, 2008 (the day after the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Spiritist Symposium in NY) to discuss the progress of the English-speaking Spiritist movement, while empowering and uniting it in the United States.

Representatives of 13 U.S. Spiritist centers<sup>1</sup> gathered together at the headquarters of the Spiritist Group of New York to discuss new strategies to help disseminate Spiritism in English. A representative of the Canada spiritualist movement and the representative of the International Spiritist Council also participated.

### **SUMMARY OF INSIGHTS AT THE MEETING**

#### **1) Promote local English-speaking events at least once a year.**

- ❖ Organizing local, regional or State Spiritist events in the English language may advantageously bring:
  - newcomers to Spiritist centers
  - expose potential local speakers and coordinators
  - spread Spiritism beyond Spiritist Centers
  - unite participating local, regional, State-wide Spiritist centers
  
- ❖ We shall not depend on International Spiritist speakers to run our national spiritist movement. We need to empower our national resources.
  
- ❖ Having yearly national symposia is not enough to boost the movement.

---

<sup>1</sup>The following were the participants in this meeting on April 20, 2008:

João Korngold, Jussara Korngold, Frederico Gouveia, Elmo Deslandes, Livia Sandoval - SGNY (NY)  
 Vanessa Anseloni, Daniel Santos, Fabiana F. Moura, Carol Strosnider, Isabela Vieira, Leonardo Vieira – SSB (MD)  
 Bernadete Leal - AKC (San Diego, CA)  
 Renata Taveira - JASS (Pittsburgh, PA)  
 Suzana Simões, Marcelo Netto - CLSG (North Miami, FL)  
 Mauricio Cisneiros Filho - CSSC (Pompano Beach, FL)  
 Eduardo Guimarães, Helder Martins, Hugo Melo - IESS (NY)  
 Ricardo Mastroleo - Allan Kardec Spiritist Educational (TX)  
 Judith Peterschmitt, Stephen Honton - AKSSMA (MA)  
 Anisio Resem, Susana Resem - SSSD (San Diego, CA)  
 Daniel Assisi - Blossom (Los Angeles, CA)  
 Livia Trevisani - AKCSCO (Orlando, FL)  
 Patricia Estwood - Toronto  
 Aramando Velez - SISC (NJ)  
 Junara Araujo - CXSC (San Rafael, CA)  
 Antonio Cesar Perri de Carvalho – International Spiritist Council (ISC)

## 2) Build peace by disseminating Spiritism in the U.S.A.

We have been informed that the Spiritist dissemination is somewhat delayed in the USA. One of the main reasons is the avoidance of sharing the Spiritist knowledge in the English language. Also, Spirit communications to the International Spiritist Council have brought the information that the dissemination of the Spiritist movement is delayed in the world as well.

In the book *Entre Irmaos de Outras Terras* (pages 29-30, chapter 5, FEB), Andre Luiz asked William James when Spiritism will be known worldwide. And he replied, “It is a matter of time and it depends also on the goodwill of human beings (...) We have learned that no stable construction happens at the impulse of improvisation. The Spiritist harvest requires the sowing of Spiritist principles. And there is no efficient sowing without dedicated sowers. Let us increase our individual contribution and elevate our level of understanding in regard to our responsibility with the dissemination of Spiritism. (...) Each individual, each group and each country will get from Spiritism what they do with it. We believe it is possible to summarize the guidelines for all of us in the following program: balanced feelings; elevated thoughts; constructive conversations; study always; and serve more.”

For Spiritists living in the USA, a country that is in the turmoil of a war, we ask:

- What are we, Spiritists, doing to help in the state of affairs of this nation?
- Do we also have responsibility in the current situation by delaying to disseminate the Spiritist message?

## 3) Start Spiritist meetings and centers

Here are some tips:

- ❖ Revisit the list of insights from last year’s meeting (available at [www.spiritistsymposium.org](http://www.spiritistsymposium.org)).
- ❖ Do not get discouraged by the number of participants in the meetings. If the number of people is low, most likely it serves the purpose to improve the quality of the meetings, materials and practitioners. The concern regarding the number of people distracts from the core work.
- ❖ Do not mix Portuguese and English meeting in one day. English-speaking people do not feel welcomed in an environment where the majority is speaking another unknown language. It is better to open a meeting in another location where only English-Speaking meetings are held.
- ❖ You may use tools to gather new people such as Meet up.com.
- ❖ Having a welcome package for newcomers with a CD introducing teachings and messages, inspirational notes and a brochure (like in Unity and Religious Science churches or other organizations). The Spiritist Society of Baltimore is preparing a welcome kit that includes an introductory DVD on Spiritism.
- ❖ Implementing different dynamics such as shorter lectures (30 minutes) followed by discussion may be more appealing to the American public. Short lectures

format assist practitioners who are just starting to become more comfortable speaking Spiritism in English.

- ❖ There is need of Spiritist materials to guide small groups.
- ❖ We shall not call Spiritist volunteers 'workers'. It would be best to call them Spiritist practitioners (people who are practicing Spiritism, but do not have compensation).
- ❖ Also, Spiritist centers should have their volunteers and practitioners sign consent forms in order to avoid having the spiritist group or center sued in the future. Centers have been sued in Brazil seeking for volunteers who wanted compensation. The SSB has designed a working consent form for all types of volunteers and practitioners.

#### 4) Spiritist materials available and needed

##### Available materials:

- ❖ There are audio books already available by Divaldo Franco and Raul Teixeira. The recently launched audio book *Unfolding our Spiritual nature: Path of Harmony* by Raul Teixeira is a great way to share Spiritism with newcomers.
- ❖ The TVCEI and the SSB offer Spiritist workshops and talks in the English language 24/7 through their websites.
- ❖ All the 20 posters exhibited at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Spiritist Symposia will soon be available at [www.spiritistsymposia.org](http://www.spiritistsymposia.org). Spiritist meetings and events may use poster sessions as another educational tool to disseminate Spiritism.
- ❖ The SSB has recently launched the Roadmap Program for Spiritist Study and Practice which provides workbooks and lessons in DVD. See more at their website.
- ❖ There are free downloadable books and materials at [www.sgny.org](http://www.sgny.org) and [www.ssbaltimore.org](http://www.ssbaltimore.org)
- ❖ The Spiritist Magazine ([www.thespiritistmagazine.com](http://www.thespiritistmagazine.com)) is also available.

##### Needed materials:

- ❖ More audiobooks, mp3, and podcast files may help in the dissemination of Spiritism.
- ❖ Having Spiritist books at hand may also help to disseminate Spiritism while outside Spiritist centers.
- ❖ There is need of translation of other core Spiritist books such as the ones by Andre Luiz/Francisco Xavier.

#### 5) Understanding our American Audience

- ❖ The article *Why American Spirituality Needs Spiritism* (in The Spiritist Magazine) brings lots of insights on this parallel between Spiritism and the American Culture.
- ❖ Also, listen to the suggested audiobook *The Sacred Contract of America* by Carolyn Myss, one of the most prominent Spiritual speakers in the U.S.A.

- ❖ Most Americans who are currently drawn to Spiritism are open-minded and have already experienced New Thought/New Age philosophies. Many of them find out about Spiritism through John of God.
- ❖ People may be drawn to the centers because of the phenomena, messages and passes therapy. Some may not be so interested in studying Spiritism. Thus, it is very important that Spiritist directors and coordinators be serious and consistent in their task to educate the public about the seriousness of mediumship and the need to study and have discipline.
- ❖ It is important to be familiarized with Spiritualist literature in the U.S.A. in order to be able to bridge it with Spiritism. However, there is no need to know everything that is out there in order to begin Spiritist meetings. As Spiritist speakers become more confident about their Spiritist knowledge, people will start to come.
- ❖ Revisiting our role model in the Spiritist dissemination, Allan Kardec, we observe that he was open-minded and easily made parallels between Spiritism and other philosophies and sciences.
- ❖ We shall not mold our meetings and centers in the same way that it happens in Brazil, for instance. We need a culturally-fit Spiritist movement. Thus, knowing the American culture and its history may help.
- ❖ We shall not be afraid to do our work.
- ❖ We shall also consider the public that consider themselves Christian and are unhappy with fundamentalist religions.

#### **6) English-speaking Spiritist meetings and centers empower immigrants as well**

- ❖ Despite language barriers, running Spiritist meetings may empower immigrants and improve their lives, as it boosts their communication skills and propel their cultural knowledge.
- ❖ Centers may offer English lessons for immigrant public and community.

#### **7) To foster English-Speaking Spiritist meetings is charity.**

- ❖ Emmanuel: Spiritism requires from us one important charity: the charity of the dissemination of Spiritism.
- ❖ If we do not offer public meetings in English, American people feel left out. We need to be inclusive, not exclusive.
- ❖ It also reaches out to children and youth groups in Spiritist centers that actually do not read other languages, but English.

#### **8) Beyond language, there is love, understanding and commitment.**

- ❖ Spirituality goes beyond language. It is not all about language. We all have different lives and experiences. The exchange of common ideas comes with the language of the heart as well.

- ❖ If there is a will, there is a way. There is immense work ahead of us and we need committed people.

**9) There is need of investment and support in the English-Speaking movement**

- ❖ It is important to support and invest in English-speaking Spiritist groups.
- ❖ Also, there is need to raise funds for American Spiritist movement.

**10) Spiritist immigrants in the U.S. were prepared to contribute in this transition.**

- ❖ Divaldo Franco has recently mentioned that Brazilians and other Latin American Spiritists were actually prepared to promote the English speaking movement in the United States. We may not recall the commitment. All we need is faith, a positive attitude, no hesitation. And just do it.

Dear friends,

Last weekend, many of us were in Baltimore for the First Spiritist Symposium in the US. It was a great event, with lots of lessons to be learned.

One of the main highlights was that there are many people ready to disseminate Spiritism in English in the USA.

In the morning of April 15, 2007 (the day after the symposium), representatives of 11 Spiritist centers<sup>1</sup> in the U.S. gathered together at the Spiritist Society of Baltimore headquarter to discuss about strategies to help disseminate Spiritism in English, which I would like to share with you, so that we may bring some of these points up in our next meetings.

### **INSIGHTS ON SPREADING SPIRITISM IN THE U.S.A.**

#### ***1) Don't worry about accent.***

Many non-native English speakers are insecure about how to express the Spiritist ideas in English. No question. It is a job that requires a lot of responsibility, since we are representing the Spiritist ideas. But most Americans care less about our accents. On the contrary, our American friends find it charming and are in awe with it for the fact that we speak their language, and can convey such notions of spirituality to them. See Deepak Chopra for instance. He has a very strong accent. Still, he is extremely popular in America. Furthermore, Americans have no idea on the role of this country in the Spirituality of the World, and for that reason, they seek for Spirituality abroad. That's why people like Dalai Lama are in such demand. Our accent, in a way, is a positive point for the dissemination of Spiritism in the U.S.

#### ***2) Don't wait. Transition is now.***

We may not be 100% ready, as the group of Baltimore wasn't, when it began its work in the English language. They had one weekly meeting in Portuguese back then. When they decided to make Spiritism more public, they voted to begin with one monthly meeting in English. Then, on those monthly meetings the SSB put a lot of effort and attention, making them look and sound a bigger deal than the ones in Portuguese. The SSB also

---

<sup>1</sup>The following were the participants in this meeting on April 15, 2007:  
Daniel Santos, Vanessa Anseloni, Stephanie Melo - Spiritist Society of Baltimore, MD;  
Jussara Korngold, João Korngold, Junara Araújo - Spiritist Group of New York, NY;  
Maurício Cisneiros, Andreia Marshall, Gus Pinto - Christian Spiritist Study Center, FL;  
Nahur Fonseca, Fernanda Ferreira - Allan Kardec Spiritist Society of Massachusetts, MA;  
Ricardo Mastroleo – Allan Kardec Spiritist Educational Center, TX;  
Suzana Simões – Home of Ehlael Kardecian Spiritist Center, FL  
Ézio Oliveira, Alessandra - Regeneration Spiritist Society, GA;  
Ronny La'Mar - Spiritist Group of Davis, CA;  
Eduardo Guimarães – Allan Kardec Spiritist Center of New York, NY  
Akemi Adams, Daniel Assis – Blossom Spiritist Society, CA  
Anisio Resem, Suzana Resem – Spiritist Group of San Diego, CA

faced challenges among Brazilians who did not want to leave their comfort zone. Initially, only Brazilians would come to the English-speaking meetings. There were no Americans. Some Brazilians would sarcastically ask, 'where are the americans?' And they would hear the answer: 'did you invite anyone? Well, so, how do you expect to see any Americans, if you haven't invited any?'

Once those meetings got momentum, the SSB had to make a decision. Either make a 100% transition into English or keep the double effort in English and Portuguese.

The group came to the conclusion that dividing the works in Portuguese/English was not the best option once they really wanted to disseminate Spiritism in America. The reasons that led to that decision were:

- 1) There would be two separate groups in the center. Unity would hardly be achieved if kept in that way;
- 2) One of the groups would be bigger than the other, and thus interactions not be evenly fair;
- 3) The smaller group would stay stuck in progress, as it is still the case of the majority of Spiritist nuclei in the U.S. The English-speaking meetings would never take off, and would progressively feel uninteresting and die.

To avoid all that, the SSB decided to make a step-by-step transition to 100% English-speaking meetings.

### ***3) Don't be afraid of asking for donations.***

Although we say that money is not as important as people think, surprisingly we spent a lot of time at our meeting talking about different ways of receiving donations at the spiritist centers.

Everybody agreed that a discrete box with the label "love donation" is a good strategy. But it should also be possible to accept donations for which a receipt is given, so that this donation can be deductible in the tax return.

It is important to highlight to the public, however, that all the services and activities offered in the Spiritist center are entirely free of charge. Many people, not used to the spirit of charity and service, when faced with this, will ask 'where is the catch?'. And we should make it clear that there is no catch. Maybe the only one is the expectation on seeing people get better, paying attention to what is being said, and trying to practice the teachings in their lives.

For the organization of the Symposium, the Spiritist Society of Baltimore had to raise almost 8,000 dollars to host the event. As per previous agreement, 50% of the total expenses were to be paid by the SSB as the hosting organization, but the other 50% was split among other 12 spiritist centers in the U.S. The SSB alone needed to raise 4,000 dollars. Then, they decided to take the American way of fundraising. They started an internal campaign to raise the money, where they would offer exposure to possible

sponsors in their newsletter (SpiritistNews), website, local newspaper and radio ads, and event program flyers. A 'budget thermometer' was adopted and placed near their bookstore. Coordinators would tell the public about this opportunity of sponsorship and contributions. Mostly, Americans joined the campaign and the money was raised in less than 3 months.

#### ***4) Learn the American culture and history.***

To be more effective in our interaction with the American public, it is integral to understand their culture and, therefore, their history. Thus, it was recommended that we, Spiritists in the United States, read spiritual books written by either Americans or others who became popular in America. Thus, we are learning the way they express their spirituality. This will facilitate our conversation about Spiritism starting from where they know and, gradually, bridging that to the Spiritist concepts. As stated in The Gospel According to Spiritism, there is a universal control of the Spiritist Ideas, meaning that they are not only under the label "Spiritism", but everywhere, "spread from pole to pole".

Examples: Life after Death by Deepak Chopra; The Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle, The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz, The Science of Mind by Ernest Holmes, Children Who Remember Previous Lives by Ian Stevenson; Heaven and Earth by James Van Praagh; and many, many others.

Visit and take workshops that American spirituality has to offer increases our success rate in preparing our Spiritist services and talks. For example, it is interesting to visit the meetings and services at Religious Science churches, the Association for Research and Enlightenment founded by Edgar Cacey (Virginia Beach), the city of Lily Dale (mecca of Spiritualism) - NY, etc.

Mostly, it was discussed that we should also read, or re-read, the Spiritist books that have been translated from Portuguese to English in order to acquire the Spiritist vocabulary in English. One American has pointed out that she loved to read 'Nosso Lar'. She also said that Americans love stories, movies (see Hollywood) and that once Spiritism hit that media, Americans will learn about it. Books like 'Nosso Lar', 'And Life Goes On' are a great way to learn more about the things we study in the Spiritist Center.

#### ***5) Make it more invitational and conversational.***

We observed that when Spiritism got to Brazil it went through an adaptation process. In a way, its approach conformed to the Catholic habits of many of its newly Spiritists. Today, it is possible to trace many of the characteristics of the Spiritist Movement in Brazil to that of the Catholic churches. One of the most remarkable ones is the 'Preaching' aspect of it.

In the U.S., we will also need to adapt the movement, not the Doctrine itself, which is untouchable and unchangeable. Therefore, one of the aspects that we should strive to avoid is preaching when talking about Spiritism. Expressions such as “You have to do this in order to evolve” or “You must do that to avoid spending time in the lower zones” should be avoided at all times. After all, Spiritism is not a cult. Americans have aversion for cults. And we should avoid making it look like a cult. Cults have rites and are not clearly understood.

Thus, one strategy to avoid this "cult" appearance is to make our meetings in English. Once in English, anyone can participate and see with their eyes that Spiritism is not a cult. If Americans get to know that we meet in another language other than theirs, there is a strong chance that they will assume that we want to hide something from them or even be working on something illegal. With the increasing rates of xenophobia in America, we should certainly avoid this potential issue and the possible risk of compromising the dissemination of Spiritism in the U.S.A.

Another important point is to make our meetings and services less a preaching experience and more conversational. Workshops are an example of how to do so, because they provide an interactive approach with the workshop leader. Study groups do provide that feeling as well, once there is no role of a 'preacher' but more of a class mate. The poster session in the First Symposium was an example of that interaction, conversational level of experience.

#### ***6) Be More Universalist.***

"Spiritism is not the religion of the future, but the future of all religions." This has been the adopted approach by great Spiritists such as Divaldo Franco, one of the most successful disseminators of Spiritism in the World. When talking about Spiritism, he adapts its approach to convey the message in a more effective way. America, the Melting Pot, as it is also named, has a great diversity of beliefs. For instance, there are many Jews who do not have familiarity with Jesus' deep teachings, and still they are seeking for a new type of Spirituality such as the one brought by Spiritism. Likewise, Muslims, Buddhists, and others, may also seek for spirituality in our Spiritist centers.

Then, we need to be gentle when talking to this audience in order to not be hurtful, or offensive. Being universalist goes back to the point that we need to learn more about their culture, and use the universal knowledge of Truth, that has been available to Humankind as whole and not only to Spiritists.

Of course we will not change Spiritism neither contradict, nor hide its principles. It is just a matter of wrapping it, presenting it to the public, so that people from backgrounds other than Brazilian Spiritists can understand and partake in it.

At the SSB, for example, they have weekly meetings named “Therapeutic Moments” on The Gospel According to Spiritism. Those meetings are held in a conversational format,

and promote an experiential level of understanding Jesus's teachings by ending the meeting with a visualization of the teachings read in that day's passage.

***7) Americans are also searching for spiritual guidance.***

Usually, the Americans who are doing well in their religious organizations do not usually seek for other spiritual sources such as Spiritism. Most of the ones who get to be interested have had disappointments in their religious belief systems and already searched for Spirituality in the New Age movement in general. So, when they come to the Spiritist center, they have already had some reference about the concepts we work in Spiritism, although not within its framework.

So, when publicizing/advertising about our Spiritist meetings and events, we can achieve more success if advertising them in magazines of spiritual and mental health, yoga institutes, alternative medicine clinics and centers.

Furthermore, our meetings should be prepared to receive these already prepared American friends. Certainly, the passes service and the spiritually-blessed water should also be offered at our meetings.

***8) Location matters.***

Many spiritist centers in America have been placed in Latin communities, which in a way may be another impeding factor in the spreading of the Spiritist news in the American land. Prejudices exist and mainstream Americans may avoid coming to a Spiritist Center in those locations.

A representative from a Spiritist center in California mentioned that they had a Spiritist center which was located in a Spanish-speaking community. They observed that they were having a hard time attracting Americans, even though they offered meetings in English. Recently, they decided to move the center to a another neighborhood, where those stumbling blocks would not exist.

***9) Don't wait for the next generation.***

It is common to hear Brazilian Spiritist residents in the U.S. say, "Our children will disseminate Spiritism in English in the U.S." Well, they certainly will. But we cannot wait for them to do our part. Providing Spiritist Education for children is not enough, once we observe that after they become young adults they do not identify themselves with Spiritist centers any more. Some of them even say, "Spiritism is my mom/dad's religion from Brazil", which is not true, but that is they way they interpret those Portuguese-spaeking meetings. Psychology explains that identification is integral to mental health. And we need to promote that by giving our children, later adults, the opportunity of culturally identifying themselves with the Spiritist teachings.

Therefore, we need to promote meetings in English to help the next generation identify more easily with Spiritism.

***10) Don't worry about which translation is the best.***

At this point, we have different translated versions of Kardec's and Andre Luiz's books. And many more will certainly come, just like it happened to the Bible and the Spiritist books in Brazil. Does that matter? No. As long as those translations are faithful to the Spiritist teachings, we do not need to sweat on this issue.

# SpiritistNews

Year 5, Issue 2, March/April 2007



## In this issue:

150 Years later.....	1
U.S. Tribute to Spiritism...	1
Linked to the Divine.....	3
Spiritist Facts.....	3
Spiritist Youth Activity.....	4
Move Ahead.....	5
Spirits in Sync.....	5
Accomplished Work.....	6
The Day After.....	6
Let the Healing Begin.....	6
New Books Release.....	7
SSB activities.....	8

Published by



All rights reserved

Mailing Address:  
Spiritist Society of Baltimore, Inc.  
115 S. High Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
Tel: 410-382-5328  
e-mail: [ssb@ssbaltimore.org](mailto:ssb@ssbaltimore.org)  
web site: [www.ssbaltimore.org](http://www.ssbaltimore.org)

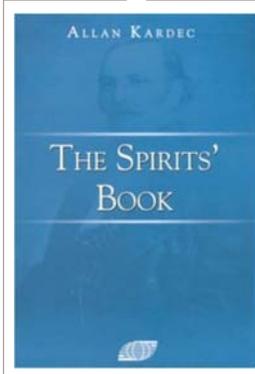
EDITORS:  
Daniel Santos, Ph.D.  
Vanessa Anseloni, Ph.D.

## 150 years later...

Published in Paris, on April 18th, 1857, *The Spirits' Book* is the initial mark for a new phase in humankind's history.

Spiritism is based on the solidity of this book, on the credibility and wisdom of its spiritual teachings, and on the purity of the ethical principles that it proposes. *The Spirits' book* contains 1019 questions and answers. The questions were formulated by Allan Kardec and the answers were brought in (through mediums) by Enlightened Spirits among which were John the Evangelist, St. Augustine, St. Vicent De Paul, St. Louis, Socrates, Plato, Fenelon, Emmanuel Swendeborg, Benjamin Franklin and The Spirit of Truth.

This phenomenal book can be considered the tree of life because it sheds light onto all subjects of life. It is didactically divided in four parts: Part I – God and the Universe; Part II – The Spirit World; Part III – Ethico-Moral Laws; Part IV – Hopes and Solaces.



Besides *The Spirits' Book*, other basic works compose the Spiritist Codification: *The Mediums' Book*, *The Gospel According to Spiritism*, *Heaven and Hell*, and *Genesis*, develop deepen and consolidate the principles of Spiritism.

These were the seeds of love and light which have been spreading throughout the last 150 years from Paris, France to the whole world. Since then, Spiritism has been promoting spiritual education, spiritual healing and comfort to people of all walks of life. It has also been leading several social community outreach programs that have been transforming lives in many countries, especially in Brazil. At-risk children, youth and families have been assisted through the phenomenal work done by Spiritist organizations.

On April 18 2007, we celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Spiritism!

- The Editors

## The U.S. Spiritist Movement paid tribute to Spiritism



"I have a dream," said Martin Luther King Jr. And we also had a dream. Our dream came true on April 14, 2007, when the U.S. Spiritist movement paid a national tribute to the 150 years of Spiritism. For the first time in North American history, we had a national spiritist event all in the English language. It seems trivial, but till then all the national spiritist meetings happened either in Portuguese or Spanish, due to the fact that the majority of Spiritist centers are run by Latin American leaders.

The U.S. Spiritist movement finally took its shape and identity. As Divaldo Franco said in his greeting email message for the event, "we finally transfer the Spiritist knowledge to the American hands. A new Era has arrived." The sense of identification with America was also "coincidentally" shown in the number of centers which sponsored the event. Just like the 13 colonies of America, 13 were the Spiritist centers who sponsored the dream that came true. Besides the Spiritist

Society of Baltimore (SSB), the following 12 spiritist societies nationwide sponsored the memorable event: Spiritist Group of New York (NY), Christian Study Spiritist Center (FL), Allan Kardec Society of Danbury (CT), Allan Kardec Educational Society (AZ, PA), Allan Kardec Spiritist Society of MA, Allan Kardec Spiritist Society of Marlboro (MA), Spiritist Society Love and Light (NJ), Kardecian Spiritist Federation of Florida, Spiritist Center Divine Light (NJ), Spiritist Group Regeneration (GA), Home of Ehlael Kardecian Spiritist Center (FL) and, Bezerra de Menezes Spiritist Society (MD). Other 7 spiritist organizations gave their moral support to the event: Blossom Spiritist Society (CA), Spiritist Group of Davis (CA), Allan Kardec Spiritist Society of MD, Allan Kardec Spiritist Center of NY, Caritas Spiritist Center (CO), Long Island Spiritist Doctrine Study Group and, the United States Spiritist Council. Other local sponsors also honored the event with their sponsorship. Thanks to this group effort the event was a veritable success.

- cont. next page

## SPEAKERS



Mauricio Cisneiro (CSSC-FL)



Jussara Korngold (SGNY-NY)



Sonia Doi (AKSS-MD)



Daniel Benjamin (AKES-AZ,PA)



Daniel Assis (BSC-CA)



Elza D'Agosto (L&L-NJ)



Vanessa Anseloni (SSB-MD)

The SSB was deeply honored to fulfill its task as the hosting organization and also partner with the other Spiritist organizations who also took the challenge of organizing a national tribute to the 150 years in less than 4 months. This national collaboration opened a new phase in the U.S. Spiritist movement.

The atmosphere was of unity and enthusiasm. It was a true spirit of celebration on the efforts taken by many Spiritists throughout the last 150 years. Among the almost 300 attendees, 40% were American-born and there were people from 16 States of the U.S. Majority of the leaders of the U.S. Spiritist movement were present, including representatives of the United State Spiritist Council.

*"Revisiting the past, engineering the future"*, the title given to the event, was originally customized to the American style and it had many highlights, among which were:

- (1) The ingrained potential of our U.S. Spiritist movement to work on the dissemination of the Spiritist message. Well-prepared speakers and poster presenters from coast to coast of the U.S. showed their readiness and preparation to continue this work without hesitation;
- (2) New, effective ways of communicating Spiritism. Inspired on academic meetings, the poster session brought a new venue to learn about Spiritism at a one-on-one level.

(3) Spiritism touches everyone's soul. American-born Spiritists touched the public's hearts when they shared their personal interest and experience in Spiritism.

(4) There is an interested youth in America awaiting the opportunity to learn and practice the Spiritist teachings. Several 12- to 18-year old participants experienced an especially customized 4-hour workshop.

(5) A 12-minute movie made by SSB recapitulated the history of Spiritism and its progress throughout the last 150 years.

(6) The use of visualization to boost our fluidic communion and close the spiritist event with deep inner peace.

The First United States Spiritist Symposium had a great brain-heart balance. The first part expressed the profound rationale of the Spiritist thoughts, while the second one showed the depth of the emotional work that is provided by Spiritism.

*"Build and they [our American brothers and sisters] will come,"* a Spiritist friend from NY reminded us while paraphrasing a line from the movie *Field of Dreams*. And this event was the true expression of the veracity of this saying. May we continue building the Spiritist edifice in America by making its inspirational teachings and practices available to everyone! ■

## TESTIMONIALS

The impact of Spiritism in my life



Roni La'mar (CA)



Greg Stewart (MD)

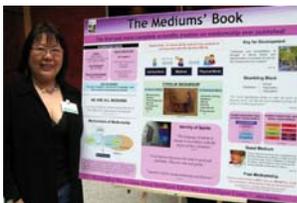


Becky Stafford (MD)

## Poster Presenters



The Spirits' Book  
Flavio Zanetti (AKSS-MA)



The Mediums' Book  
Akemi Adams (BSC-CA)



The Gospel According to Spiritism  
Julio Carvalho (SCDL-NJ)



Heaven and Hell  
Elmo Delandes/ Joao Korngold (SGNY-NY)



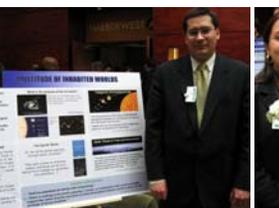
Genesis  
Junara Araujo (SGNY-NY)



Existence of God  
Judith Peterschmidt (AKSS-MA)



Immortality of the soul  
Marcone Vieira (AKSS-CT)



Multitude of the Inhabited Planets  
Luis Almeida (SSB-MD)



Reincarnation  
Carolina Stronsnider (SSB-MD)



Communication of the Spirits  
Ezio Oliveira (SGR-GA)

# Linked to the Divine

The Spirits' Book, the foundational work by Allan Kardec, discusses in detail everything a person needs to know to orient to the purpose of life and to conduct oneself in accordance with Divine Law. It answers the questions:

- Who am I?
- Where did I come?
- Where shall I go?
- What are the consequences of my actions?
- What do I do with my life on Earth?
- How do I relate to others?
- How do I fit with others in the grand scheme of things?

Amidst the richness of this book is one small area which stands far above the others, in my opinion, in its clarity and promise for us – the relationship between humans and their Guardian Angels. It is that relationship which I should like to explore in these short article.

The concept of Guardian Angels was present in ancient Greek philosophy, alluded to in the Old Testament, discussed by Plato, mentioned by Jesus but really got its “codification” in the fifth Century AD. Honorius of Auton noted each person received a Guardian Angel when the soul entered a body. Interestingly, his view presupposed the existence of the soul prior to its entrance into the body.

Guardian Angels are important to Catholic belief and the Church even set aside Oct. 2 to celebrate

those high beings which accept the mission to protect and to guide souls encased in a human body.

What does The Spirits' Book add to the discussion of Guardian Angels? Question 491 of The Spirits' Book states that the purpose of Guardian Angels is to aid us with their counsel, to console us in our afflictions and to sustain our courage throughout the trials of our earthly life. A Guardian Angel may follow its “ward” through successive lives, so long as the need for such guidance persists. When we advance enough to make decisions which abide by Universal Law, we no longer need the protection and guidance of our Angels, and they go on to other things.

Interestingly, The Spirits' Book mentions that we shall develop as mediums through our attention to our Guardian Angels. This suggests that mediumship is a learned, voluntary act, brought on by sincere attention to the very subtle still, small voice within each of us that is our Guardian Angel.

In The Spirits' Book we learn that all spirits are destined to progress and achieve the level of pure spirits. Guardian Angels are spirits of high degree who accept an assignment to guide the advancement of a soul.

The Spirits' Book says that good Spirits and Guardian Angels never tire of our questions, they

attempt to maintain and to realize the relationship. In other parts of the book, it is noted that Spirits communicate with humans through thoughts, desires, impulses, feelings, hunches and so forth (embellishment mine). At this very moment, your Guardian Angel may be trying to reach you.

Open your heart, that you might receive. Rejoice in the sweetest of all relationships, for your Guardian Angel sees the Face of God and is your direct link to the Supreme Intelligence and source of all that is Good.

Offer your gratitude daily to your Guardian Angel. Practice its presence, that you might know it is with you. Feel its prodding. Notice just for once that it guided you to a “correct” decision in light of your advancement and you will be hooked – dancing in the most harmonious movement with the Divine.

There are many Spirits which may aid you at certain times. But only your Guardian Angel is present at all times, to pick you up when you fall, to help maintain you on the path of advancement. Rejoice and sing the praises of your Guardian Angel's loyalty and affection for you. Doing so just might get you that much closer to God on your path back to the Source of All (God). ■

- by Jim Pursley

*"Reason requires that an intelligent effect must have an intelligent force as a cause."*

- The Spirits' Book by Allan Kardec

## Spiritist Facts



**1855** - Prof. Rivaill is introduced to the Baudin family, then living at Rue Rochechouart. Invited by Mr. Baudin, Rivaill begins to attend the weekly sessions that take place in his house. The mediums, the Baudin couple's daughters Caroline and Julie, start to write with the aid of a small basket.

**1856** - Rivaill starts to also attend meetings at Mr. Roustan's residence, located on 14 Rue Tiquetonne. The medium was the somnambulist Mrs. Japhet, through whom the Spirits help Rivaill completely revise the texts obtained through the mediumship of the Baudin girls.

**1856** - On April 30, through the mediumship of Mrs. Japhet, Rivaill first receives information concerning his mission. Further communications of a more definitive nature would follow.

**1857** - The first manuscript of *Le Livre des Esprits* [The Spirits' Book] is ready at the beginning of the year. The editor, E. Dentu, has it printed at the *Imprimerie de Beau*, in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 15 miles west of Paris. All expenses are funded by Rivaill. The Rivaill couple then lived at 8 Rue des Martyrs, on the second floor.

*The Spiritist Review* – special edition celebrating Allan Kardec's bicentenary (1804 – 2004) - Published by the International Spiritist Council –ISC.





## Youth activity at the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Symposium

“What is Intelligent Principle? What is the Spiritist view of Evolution?” With these questions, Nahur Fonseca (AKSS, MA) opened the First Spiritist Symposium’s activities for youth with a brainstorm. Nine teenagers, between 11 and 16 years old, from the States of Maryland, New York and New Jersey, compared the theories of Evolutionism, Creationism, Intelligent Design, and the Spirits’ theory of evolution, which fills in the gaps that Science still cannot explain.

Moving on, they talked about the Universal Trinity: God, matter and spirit; discussed about the attributes of God, its perfection, and how both matter and spirit have to progress for “everything in Nature is linked together, from the primitive atom to the archangel, who himself began at the atom.” (*The Spirits’ Book q 540*).

Next, they watched a video showing the development of a zebra fish egg, and learned the importance of the perispit on the formation of the body, and as a live record of the progress made by the Spirit, during its internships as Intelligent Principle throughout the three kingdoms of life – minerals, plants and animals – till it reaches the human stage, to progress in the axes of reason and love, intelligence and moral, in one word, as Gabriel put it, the ‘virtues’ that will lead us in the pathway to be pure spirits.

This part of the youth workshop was closed with a song about the legacy of the inferior kingdoms to the Spirit in its evolutionary journey, and an invitation: “Be god for them, as God is for you”, as Jesus once replied to the Pharisees: “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said, YOU ARE GODS’” (John 10:34).

In the second part of the workshop, Eduardo Vasconcellos (AKSCenter, NY) led a creative game. The teenagers formed pairs in order to write about the lives of four spirits through a series of three reincarnations, in Egypt circa 1857 BC, in Jerusalem circa 33 AD, and Paris circa 1527 AD. Each team played the role as the group of Spirits who guided the quartet. In the end, they had to plan the reincarnation of the four spirits in the same family. They analyzed the similarities of the stories they’ve created with their owns.

The group was very excited, and Kayla, 11, admitted that she was afraid at the beginning since she was amongst the youngest, with Vanessa and Zachary as well. All of them did great, as they demonstrated the laws of progress, and cause and effect acting upon the lives they were supervising.

At the end of the symposium, the youth group presented a short play to the general, adult public. Daniel, Dominique, Eduardo, Gabriel, Lucas, Nahur, Samuel, and Sebastian acted out the reincarnations of two spirits. The audience applauded in acknowledgment for the great work that the youngsters have done during that special afternoon.

Finally, the youth group was reunited with the adults for the last talk presented by Vanessa Anseloni (SSB, Maryland). ■

- Nahur Fonseca

(Fernanda Ferreira and Eduardo Vasconcellos contributed with this article)

## Carolina Strosnider talks about spiritist activities for children



*Carolina Strosnider has been the children-youth coordinator at the Spiritist Society of Baltimore for the last 4 years. Born in a Spiritist family, she has been very active in the work of disseminating Spiritism to youth and children. Here, Carolina tells us about the impact of Spiritist Education in her life.*

### 1) When did you become a Spiritist?

I was born a Spiritist. My grandma introduced my mom, who introduced me. I have been going to the spirits center since I remember. My mom would take me with her to volunteer cooking for the homeless and many other activities since I was young. I remember one time, I went with all the children from the center to distribute presents the day before Christmas to less fortunate children. Spiritism has always been a part of my life.

### 2) What has been the impact of Spiritist education for children and youth in your life?

Since, I do not have children, I can only talk about the impact of spiritism education on me. I think it is much easier to learn the spiritist concepts when young, because they become part of your life without even thinking. The basic spiritism concepts are second nature to me now. I know that I

still have a long way to go and learn, but I believe I have a good foundation to base it on.

### 3) What does Spiritism represent to you?

To me Spiritism is a way of life. It influences all my decision, but most importantly it gives me awareness of what my decisions means. Spiritism provides me the knowledge I need to understand why my life is the way it is and not some other way.

### 4) Tell us about the SSB Spiritist education for children.

About 4 years ago, we started the SSB children educational activities during our monthly workshops. Nowadays, we provide activities for children between the ages of 4 and 10, as well as a youth group (11-18). In the beginning, we did not have many children, but now we have many and many more that would like to participate. We hope to expand the children activities this year. Our first step will be to train more Spiritist educators for children and youth so we can expand our program. Second, this summer we would like to have a mini summer camp for the older children. The camp would consist of weekly 2 to 3 hours class. However, in order to expand our children activities we need more volunteers. **We need volunteers to teach the children, to assist the day of and many other things.** The SSB looks forward to the day were we will have weekly activities for several age groups, drama and music classes among many other activities. I am confident that step-by-step, with your help and support, the SSB will get there very soon.

## “MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT HESITATION!”

To open the American tribute to the 150th anniversary of Spiritism, we presented the greeting messages from two of the greatest Spiritist mediums of the present time, Divaldo Franco and Raul Teixeira.

Divaldo Franco is a worldwide renowned medium and speaker. He has delivered over 14,000 lectures and spoken in 56 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Through his mediumship Mr. Franco has published more than 200 books, 70 of which have already been translated in 15 languages. Together with Nilson Pereira, Divaldo Franco founded the “Mansão do Caminho” (“Mansion of the Way”), a philanthropic organization that supports and educates at-risk children and youth, as well as their parents. To date over 20,000 people have received free medical, dental and psychological care from the Mansion of the Way.

Divaldo Franco sent to the SSB an email message saying, “I am certain that this event [First U.S. Spiritist Symposium] will be a mark in the history of the Spiritist movement in the U.S.A., as it will finally be inserted in the American culture. I wish you my best wishes of success and gratitude for this great initiative in celebration of the 150 years of The Spirits’ Book.”

A touching video message from Raul Teixeira was presented to the public therein. Dr. Teixeira is one of the most prominent Spiritist leaders in the world nowadays, Dr. Teixeira has a B.S. in Physics and his Ph.D. in Education. He is a Spiritist medium, speaker and writer who founded the Fraternal Retreat, a foundation to help and educate at-risk youth and children in Rio de Janeiro. Here is the transcription of his words:

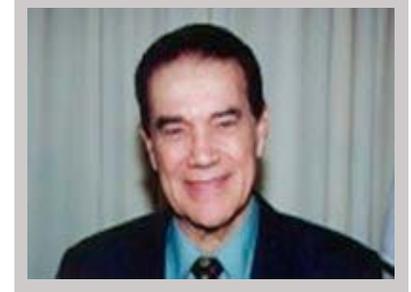
*“Dear brothers and sisters, workers of the Spiritist movement in the USA, I would like to congratulate you for taking this new step in the dissemination of the Spiritist Thought in America, as you promote the [First U.S. Spiritist] Symposium in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Spiritism and The Spirits’ Book.*

*America needs vibrant and responsible people like you, so Christ’s plan for the dissemination of Spiritism can be implemented. Moved by a spirit of humbleness, knowledge and goodwill, you will be considered as loyal servants of Jesus. Thus, you will deserve the trust of our Spirit Benefactors who are investing their time and effort in the spiritual advancement of the American people.*

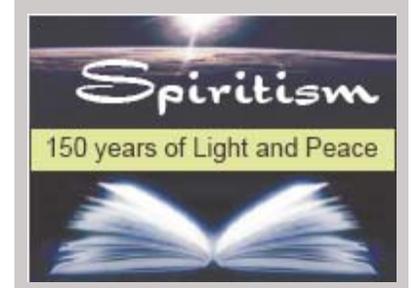
*Move ahead without hesitation, because your time is now! Congratulations!”*



**Prof. Raul Teixeira**  
Spiritist Medium and Speaker



**Divaldo Franco**  
Spiritist Medium and Speaker



## Spirits in Sync

On last April 14, American and Brazilian hearts were united in their national tributes to the 150th anniversary of Spiritism. And Divaldo Franco was the bridge once again, while serving as a medium to bring forth a spirit message in the English-language during the Brazilian Spiritist Meeting in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. Thousands of people witnessed the unique *specular* mediumistic moment that brought to light the greetings from the spirit realm which was written backwards. That particular moment happened on the same day of the First U.S. Spiritist Symposium. See Joanna de Angelis’ message on The Spirits’ Book aside...



### The Spirits’ Book

*The human race of our days has drawn upon itself violence, delinquency and dissatisfaction, as a result of advanced technology and wrong perception of many concepts.*

*However men’s urgent problems within find an answer within the spiritist principles.*

*The Spirit’s Book is the key to counter balance the disturbing questions on social and emotional behavior prevailing on our planet.*

*The Spirit’s Book makes many people aware of their responsibilities through a rational faith well founded upon facts.*

*This search will bring about a revival of Christianity in all its purity, therefore the Spirit’s Book is the synthesis of science, philosophy and religion bringing God’s answers to men’s questions. The comforter promised by Jesus.*

- Joanna de Angelis



**The Spiritist medium Divaldo Franco** psychographs Joanna de Angelis’ message during the Brazilian Spiritist Congress held in Brasilia-Brazil, on April 14, 2007.

## Accomplished Work!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The work that has been accomplished here today is the result of the combined efforts of spirits from both planes of life.

We are deeply honored to participate with you in this celebration, and to pay our sincere homage to the one [Kardec] who had not hesitated to serve in the name of God.

My dear beloved, for many eras, we have been together, and the inspiration from on high has been present at each and every step. However, only now we are able to value the knowledge that has been given to us in so many occasions. Let us join in a true fraternal spirit and work for the dissemination of the eternal teachings that are finally engraved in our hearts.

With great humbleness, we thank our Divine Creator and the divine representatives that are gathered here today in such a historic moment in our lives.

May God bless you,

- Joseph

(in the name of the group of spirits herein present)

Message received by Jussara Korngold during the closing ceremony of the First U.S. Spiritist Symposium on April 14, 2007 at the Pier V Hotel in Baltimore, MD – USA

# 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Spiritist Symposium

In celebration of the 140 years  
of the book **Genesis** by Allan Kardec

April 19, 2008  
NEW YORK CITY

Mark your calendar!!!



## The Day After...

On the day after the First US Spiritist Symposium, there was an informal meeting with several Spiritist directors. The goal was to share insights and build strategies on how to disseminate Spiritism on the English language in America.

Representatives of 11 Spiritist Centers were present. The meeting was very delightful and productive. Everyone left with great enthusiasm to pursue the conquest. A summary of the achieved insights can be read at [www.ssbaltimore.org/Resources.html](http://www.ssbaltimore.org/Resources.html)



Spiritists got together to build strategies on how to be more effective in the dissemination of Spiritism in America. See more photos at [www.ssbaltimore.org/Photos/2007/Symposium/symp07.html](http://www.ssbaltimore.org/Photos/2007/Symposium/symp07.html)

## Let the Healing Begin!

Once again America was challenged at the core of its youth. The Virginia Tech massacre brought deep sadness and many questions in the mind of the American people. Why did that happen? Could we have prevented it? What do we do now? No one should be presumptuous to say or assume they know all the answers. But, there are elements that can certainly be addressed.

Spiritism explains that each planet evolves once its population does as well. In our case, the planet Earth is currently transitioning from a planet of trials and atonements to a planet of regeneration. In the first one, “the number of vices to which they are subject also shows their great moral imperfections”, while the second one “is liberated from the ungoverned passions to which human beings are slaves, freed from pride which silences the heart, envy which tortures and hate which suffocates. On all sides the word ‘love’ is written; perfect equity resides over all social relationships; everyone recognizes God and tries to travel in His direction by fulfilling His laws.”

In a world of probations such as ours, catastrophes, disasters happen as a consequence of our needed collective growth. It does not mean that we deserve to suffer, but suffering is a part of a transformative process. Of course there are natural and man-made events. And, to understand the second one, it is important to know that there are many disturbed souls that were given their last opportunity to reincarnate on our planet. After all, reincarnation is a tool of progress. However, if they do not adjust themselves to the overall Earth’s evolutive spiritual step, then, they will be compelled to continue their unpostponable growth on other worlds. In this rationale, there will inevitably be shocks between the more and the less evolved souls living in our planet. And the above mentioned tragedy is an expression of it all.

So, what should we do then? Overall, healing is what is needed. The healing of the mind and the soul. So let the healing begin. Based on the Spiritist teachings, we provide you with 3 major steps to help us in this collective healing process:

1. Promote spirituality in your community. Man-made tragedies happen due to a materialistic mentality. Once humanity as a whole accepts the understanding of God’s existence and the concept on the immortality of the soul, the actions produced by a materialistic mind will disappear.
2. Send your heartfelt prayers to all involved in the unfortunate event, including the criminal mind. As Jesus said, we shall love our enemies as well, which does not mean we approve of the act, but we exercise compassion and forgiveness. A compassionate, forgiving heart is a healthier heart.
3. Teach the new generations the true value of friendship and importance of friendliness. The Gospel According to Spiritism states that “without charity, there is no salvation.” Charity, in its root meaning, is love in action. Despise and isolationism are opposites of charitable actions. We shall strive to be ever more caring to one another. ■

- by Vanessa Anseloni





Special Event - Workshop

# Safe-and-sound mediumship

by Miguel Sardano

Saturday May 26, 2007

6:00 pm - 9:30 pm



Terezinha & Miguel Sardano

Miguel Sardano will explain how to work on mediumship in the light of Spiritism. Dr. Sardano is a retired lawyer from Brazil who has more than 55 years of experience in coordinating mediumship meetings. He is also a writer and collaborator of Divaldo Franco's works. Together with his lovely wife, Teresa Sardano, he founded the Educational Institute Amelia Rodrigues which greatly assists at-risk children and youth in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

**Location:**

***SPiritWORKS Resource Center***  
1300 York Rd - Building C, Suite 300  
LUTHERVILLE, MD 21093

**Free Admission!!!**

**(No registration required)**

This event is sponsored by the *Spiritist Society of Baltimore, Inc.*  
For more information, please call 410-382-5328

Special workshop

## Astral cities, our spiritual homes

by Vanessa Anseloni

*"The spirit-world is like a great city where individuals of all ranks and conditions see and meet each other...As in a city, circles are formed by similarities in tastes, and good and bad spirits share the same space without having to interact." - Allan Kardec*

In this workshop, we will understand more about:

- The spirit life
- Time between reincarnations
- Organization of the spiritual cities
- Linkage between the material and the spiritual cities

Saturday May 19, 2007

7:30pm -9:15pm

**Location:**

***SPiritWORKS Resource Center***  
1300 York Rd - Building C, Suite 300  
LUTHERVILLE, MD 21093

This event is sponsored by the  
*Spiritist Society of Baltimore, Inc.*  
For more information, please call 410-382-5328

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 2007 WORKSHOP SERIES

**Mar 31-** The Spiritist ABC's of anxiety, stress and depression

**Apr 28** - Reincarnation, path to freedom

**May 19** - Astral Cities, our spiritual homes.

**Free Admission !!!**

Spiritist activities for CHILDREN (above 4 years old) are provided, while parents are at Workshop

Time: 7:30 pm - 9:15 pm



**Watch it**

every  
**Thursday and Saturday**  
from 7:30PM

at:

[www.ssbaltimore.org](http://www.ssbaltimore.org)

### 2007 Workshop Series on Spiritism

March 31st

The Spiritist ABC's of anxiety, stress and depression

April 28th

Reincarnation, path to freedom

May 19th

Astral cities, our spiritual homes

June 30th

Feeding the body and the soul

July 28th

The dynamics of our sixth sense

August 25th

Spiritual influence: who is in control?

September 29th

Sleep, dreams and the whole nine yards of the soul's emancipation

October 27th

Decoding the Bible with a Spiritist key

November 17th

Environmentally savvy, Spiritually wise

December 15th

Learning with the Masters, making the difference

*\*Spiritist Education for children above 4 years old are provided during the workshop*

OUR SERVICES  
LOCATION →

**SpiritWorks Resource Center**  
1300 York Rd - Building C, 3rd Floor  
Lutherville, MD 21093

### JOIN OUR ACTIVITIES

#### FRATERNAL COUNSELING & SPIRITUAL TREATMENT

These services are offered every **Monday** from 7pm to 7:45pm.

#### Mediumship Educational Meetings

*(by invitation only)*

These meetings take place every **Monday** from 8:00pm to 9:30pm for the study and practice of mediumship according to Spiritism.

#### TALKS on THE SPIRITS' BOOK

A tribute to the 150th anniversary to help us deepen our knowledge on Spiritism. - Open to the public, every **Thursday** from 8:00pm to 9:30pm.

#### Therapeutic Moments

*Every Saturday 7-8pm, except on the day of our monthly workshops*

Please, contact us for more info.  
Phone: 410 - 382-5328 or 410-837-0991  
e-mail: [ssb@ssbaltimore.org](mailto:ssb@ssbaltimore.org)

**Activities are free of charge !!!**