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# THE SPIRITUAL WORLD

Christian Spiritual Journal – since 1965

## The Power of Forgiveness

He Who Does Not Forgive His Brother –  
Fulfillment of a Spiritual Law

“Forgive Us Our Debts,  
as We Also Forgive Our Debtors”

Near-Earth Spiritual Places  
of Reunion and Reconciliation





Beatrice Brunner (1910–1983)  
Deep-trance medium for the world beyond

In the course of 35 years, over 2,000 lectures were given by spirit-teachers through the Swiss medium Beatrice Brunner. This body of work constitutes a comprehensive source of Christian spiritual teaching, unique in its scope and scale. The spirit-teachers who communicated through Beatrice delivered an exceptional diversity of instruction, in which one can find insight, guidance, and support. They are testament to the fulfillment of Jesus Christ's promise to send the "spirit of truth" (John 14:26, 16:13), who would teach all things. *The Spiritual World*, the English-language counterpart of the Swiss journal *Geistige Welt*, contains a translated selection of these lectures, providing readers with answers to the fundamental questions of existence and knowledge of life in the beyond.

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## Contents

He Who Does Not Forgive His Brother – Fulfillment of a Spiritual Law Joseph, 14.6.1975	3
"Forgive Us Our Debts, as We Also Forgive Our Debtors" Joseph, 26.6.1965	9
Near-Earth Spiritual Places of Reunion and Reconciliation Joseph, 2.3.1974	14
Questions and Explanations Joseph, 1953 to 1961	20



Joseph, 14 June 1975

## He Who Does Not Forgive His Brother – Fulfillment of a Spiritual Law

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in the heavens" (Matthew 16:19). In this lecture, spirit-teacher Joseph explains a divine law that is of crucial importance for the spiritual progress of every human being. Using the example of two brothers who came into conflict, he shows how a lack of forgiveness binds two people together and hinders their further ascent.

Joseph: God bless you. Dear brothers and sisters, Christian teaching proclaims: "What is bound on this earth remains bound in the eternal realm; what is loosed here on earth is also loosed in the kingdom of heaven" (cf. Matthew 16:19). But I would also like to mention the following, and I come back to the prayer that Christians say daily, in which they pray as Christ taught: "Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). This should make it clear that a person's debts will be forgiven if they, too, are willing to forgive the debts, or the debt, of their fellow human beings. This is what Christians pray, but only a few think about its profound meaning: that if they ask God to forgive them, they must also forgive their fellow human beings. They also forget that God is the Father of everyone, and not just the Father of the suppliant; he is also the Father of the debtor. And whoever desires to be united with God has to be aware that all human beings must unite with God in love. It must, therefore, also become a matter of course that you forgive your neighbor, because they, too, are a child of God. It should go without saying that you cannot only expect the gracious Father to forgive the debt that you have incurred; rather, you must also be

prepared to forgive others. Indeed, you wish to be united with God in love. So this is what you should do.

What is bound here on earth remains bound in the divine world. Christians have their own particular notions of what this "bound" and "loosed" mean. But human beings cannot tell what remains bound, nor what may or can be loosed and what is loosed in the kingdom of heaven. People who have spiritual insights may well be able to sense when a debt they have incurred has been forgiven. And it is certainly the case that here and there someone incurred this or that debt, but later came to better and higher insights and felt sorry for it in the depths of their soul. If they really are sorry for it and begin to think differently, then God will certainly forgive them their debt. But if someone is unwilling and unable to forgive a fellow human being a debt in this world, to forgive them for the trouble they caused or the harm they inflicted, if they do not come to this higher insight, then they will certainly not be able to forgive them as a spirit in the world beyond either. And so this debt will remain with them after earthly life, and a spiritual bond will chain them to their debtor or to their debtors – because sometimes it is not just an individual but several people whom they do not want to forgive, with whom they are unable to reconcile during human life.

Someone might say to me, "Well, I'm ready to forgive, but the other person isn't." Here I would like to try to give you a spiritual explanation about how the laws are implemented, and how it comes to be that something remains bound on the one hand, and how something can be loosed on the other. But, as always, we want to tell you at this point: you must not generalize the things we explain to you, because every detail of each individual case must always be carefully considered; every aspect must be examined and scrutinized in order to discover the reason why such and such was done and what it was that



made it impossible for a particular human being to act differently in life. A homecomer, a deceased human being, will also have a spiritual intercessor at their side who will try to alleviate their situation as much as possible.

I would like to illustrate this for you by means of an example, and will now tell you about two brothers who came into conflict. I need not mention how it came to pass, but they fell out and one of the brothers developed a particularly strong hatred. One of the two was ready to forgive and forget, saying, "He is my brother, and I don't want to be reminded of it anymore; I will forgive him all the wrong he has done me." That was his point of view, and he said it from an inner conviction. His brother, however, was unable to overcome his hatred. He believed he had been incriminated and betrayed by his brother, and he could not forgive. And so this hatred remained in him.

Now, let us see how these two fared in the world beyond. One of them was prepared to forgive, the other was not – and they were bound together by their bond of kinship, this family bond. The first to cross over into the spiritual world was the forgiving brother. He had, in the eyes of the spirits of God, taken a step upward in life, and he would actually not have needed to return to the place from which he had entered his last earthly life; a better world would have received him. But he was now chained to his brother's hatred, and this better and more beautiful world remained closed to him. As I have often explained in recent times, there are intermediate stations in the world beyond, where deceased people are taken until certain issues have been resolved. Such was the fate of this brother. But I would again like to clearly state what I have emphasized many times before: every plane has various levels. There are various places into which spirit beings are led – some can experience a more pleasant existence, and others live in great hardship – yet all these places belong to one and the same plane or sphere.

So that is what happened with this brother. He was to wait outside of this plane until his brother was ready to forgive him, for they had been tied to each other for so long by this bond of togetherness. He lived in this intermediate plane, and from here he carried out the work he had been assigned. He absorbed the teachings he was given and was thus

guided by the spirits of God, and it was explained to him why he now had to wait here. Well, he also had parents in the spiritual world, and his father and mother visited their returned son, and they regretted the fact that the two brothers had not managed to settle this issue in human life.

The main reason they had not managed to resolve this unpleasant affair was because they had not seriously believed in life after death, they had not seriously thought about the hereafter, and they thus lacked a deep faith. If the people of this world were truly convinced in their innermost being of all that can happen to them after earthly death, they would most certainly resolve many things during their lives. Were they to recognize that hatred offers them no advantage or, better said, that such a falling-out can be to their detriment in the spiritual world, they would most certainly resolve these things in human life. That is precisely the point: human beings do not picture eternity as it is in reality. That is always the regrettable thing for us. Human beings pray to their God and expect his help; but they give absolutely no thought to where God is and the manner in which this help could come to them. They make no effort whatsoever to visualize this, and they also lack any particular wishes; instead, they just pray superficially, as they have been taught. This is all a sign of a weak faith and an absence of true conviction. In this respect, things are in a very bad state in Christianity. People celebrate the festivals in memory of Christ, but they neither reflect on them nor seriously believe that these events actually happened and that Christ lives and concerns himself with the human beings on this earth. Moreover, people do not believe that their own loved ones truly live on. This is a great discrepancy indeed, and it simply cannot be reconciled: on the one hand people pray to God, asking him for help, and on the other hand it does not occur to them to reflect more deeply on him.

It was exactly the same with these two brothers; both of them had prayed, "Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors." Well, one of them had forgiven the other, but the other did not think to forgive his brother's debt or to settle the matter. So, our brother who was ready to forgive had to stay in this preliminary plane or preliminary stage. His mother, for her part, could only comfort this son and look for ways in which she might help



resolve this unpleasant affair. But she had no success with the other son who still lived on earth. He carried his hatred into death, and he awoke in the spiritual world with this hatred in his soul. Accordingly, he was also led into his world. At this point the following must be made clear: it may well be that a homecomer acquired significant spiritual merits in a previous life and is actually entitled to a beautiful heaven. But it would not be quite right if someone were able to return to this beautiful heaven after having grievously burdened their soul in their last life. Consequently, such a being will have to wait outside until the door to this beautiful world is opened to them – that is to say, they will remain in a preliminary stage of the same plane. This plane is so vast and has such scope to receive all these returnees and to direct each of them to the place they deserve.

Well, that is how it was with this brother. The forgiving brother was present at his reception and wanted to extend his hand in peace, for he was well aware: “If my brother is not willing to forgive me, I will be bound to him.” The mother was also in attendance; she wanted to put in a good word and to beg the newly-arrived brother to finally lay aside his anger. But he did not. If someone’s innermost is so filled with hatred in human life, they will not immediately be able to change their way of thinking once they have discarded their earthly body. So, he still felt he had been done wrong and suffered injury at the hands of his brother. He remained unforgiving, despite the fact that divine beings also tried speaking to him, saying, “It is not good for you if you are still unwilling to offer your brother your hand in peace.” But he could not do it, and the words were thus fulfilled: “What remains bound on earth will also be bound in the kingdom of heaven.” Even as a spirit, he was unable to summon the strength to extend his hand in peace. He still lived with the same opinion and attitude as in human life, and it would take time before he arrived at a better way of thinking.

You will certainly understand that the spirit world of God made him aware of the divine order. Since he was a believing Christian, the angels were also able to integrate him into the order. But despite the faith that he, in his own way, had maintained in human life, the spirit world was unable to influence him. For this new world was truly

unfamiliar to him and, moreover, he had returned as a spiritual debtor. According to the divine laws he was a debtor and, since he was unwilling to forgive, he was to remain so for an indefinite period of time. People are mistaken when they believe that all deceased human beings are immediately ready to come to better insight in the spiritual world because they see that God is the Sovereign over all things and that they are subject to him. No, that is not the case. It takes time, one must learn to think differently, because this stubbornness cannot simply be extinguished by one experience in the spiritual world.

So, this brother had to be taken into his purification, and this he accepted. Nevertheless, he still believed that his brother had done him such a grave injustice, and he simply could not forgive him. The mother, who had to witness this schism between her former sons, wondered how she could facilitate a reconciliation. Well, according to your human way of measuring time, I must say that it took several decades before the world of God, in response to the entreaties of the mother soul, came to a new resolution and set it in motion. I have given you similar examples before and explained how such things can happen. The mother tried to find out how she could possibly support these two former brothers in their spiritual ascent; for both of them had now come to a spiritual standstill.

This mother soul now tried to enter into conversation with the angels of God, asking them to facilitate a reconciliation in the following manner: she requested that they reunite these two in a new human life and make them dependent on one another in mutual love.

Now, a soul cannot simply make such a request and expect the spiritual world to fulfill it without further ado. This mother soul would herself have to take on an additional task, do something for the benefit of heaven, so that the angels would direct their attention to her and be willing to grant her request.

The mother soul was well aware that possibly only one brother would enter a new human existence while the other remained behind in the spiritual world. If the forgiving son were to enter earthly life, the one who had stayed in the spiritual world would want to exact vengeance; he would want to take revenge for the injustice that he still



felt the other had perpetrated against him. He would now want to pay him back in his human life, insofar as it was possible for him to make himself sufficiently free as a spirit to harm or harass this human being in life. And the spirit world of God does not intervene in such cases, because it sees an opportunity for the other, who does indeed also carry a burden of guilt, to atone for it in this way, in that their spirit is humiliated and humbled. But it is also possible that other blows of fate within the family could come upon such a person and make life hard for them. People who are spiritually ignorant have no idea how such fates come about. It is a source of constant regret for us that human beings have so few insights and do not strive for higher knowledge. Because if they did strive for these higher insights, they would be able to shape their current life, and thus also their future life, in a way that is considerably better and more pleasant.

But now back to this mother soul. She had accomplished something that was to her credit, and on account of this the angels listened to her. She asked them to lead the forgiving son into human existence and to let the one who had been unable to forgive be born into his family as the only son. Moreover, she begged that the love between the father and his only son be allowed to become so great that these two human beings would arrive at an intimate feeling of togetherness. Thanks to the mother's intercession, the angels of God arranged things accordingly and saw to it that this is what happened. So, the unforgiving brother was born into this family as the only child. He was dearly loved not only by his father but also by his mother. And the parents' great attentiveness and great love succeeded in influencing the inner being of the growing child, uniting him with his parents in love. They were united by the bond of earthly togetherness, and they were united by the bond of mutual love.

The fact that this opportunity could be created, and that this formerly unforgiving brother could be shown such leniency, had its reasons. Apart from the great burden he had incurred with regard to his own brother, he had not especially burdened himself in his previous human existence; and since he had acquired merits in earlier lives, he had actually reached an elevated level in spirit. In other

words, he was not a spirit who belonged to a very low spiritual level and who was unable to adopt a higher way of thinking in human life. He was open to positive influences, and he was brought up with love and attention in the family of his erstwhile brother. So, a great love developed between parents and son, a great mutual dependence, and this was of great advantage to the former debtor. The darkness that had burdened his soul was able to dissolve, for he was surrounded by love and raised with care. And he thus grew up to be an understanding and loving person, and he knew how to support and help his fellow human beings.

I must now take a big step forward. The parents, who were the first to return to the spiritual world, remained united in love with their son on earth and also with his family. The love they had given their son had managed to break the shackles of hate, and the newly-returned father neither knew nor suspected who his son had once been. If such a long time has passed by way of a human life, the bonds that once bound people and also spiritual beings are dissolved in the spiritual world, because one or the other will have developed entirely different interests and turned their attention toward them.

Such a bond can then dissolve, and one no longer knows anything about it. And that is important, because only if there is a special reason or a particular necessity will homecomers be told where they once came from, whom they lived with, and the nature of the bond they shared. This may be revealed at a later point in time, because when someone returns to the world beyond, they are not in a position to ask, "Why did I have to live with these people?" – they are instead concerned with themselves, they themselves have so much to do, and they are glad for any help they are offered. Only later, once their spiritual education has begun, is there the possibility that they will be enlightened. But this only happens when the spirit world of God considers it necessary.

So, in the case that I have been recounting, the hatred was overcome. When he eventually returned, he was received by his parents, and they greeted him with great joy and were delighted at his return. The son was also pleased, and he thanked his parents for taking such special care of him in life. He no longer knew anything of the



hatred he had once harbored. Thanks to the help of his former mother, it had become possible to dissolve these bonds. In living together on earth, the bonds of hatred were dissolved, and bonds of love were forged instead. These bonds of love unite spirits in the beyond with human beings on this earth, and they unite spirit beings with spirit beings. Through the bonds of love, one feels obligated to help the other. By making human beings dependent on one another, the divine world is able to offer help to its ascending brothers and sisters, as happened in this case, where a father was given a special joy and a feeling of togetherness through the birth of a child. And all this happened at the request of a spirit in the world beyond – it was thanks to that mother soul.

When we observe the lives of human beings, we see the many connections that have come into existence through the guidance of God's spirit world. But we also see a great deal of obstinacy on the part of human beings, we see much for which they themselves are to blame, because they simply refuse to let themselves be guided and instructed. Many a misfortune could be prevented if only they would listen to those persons who are able to give proper advice. This is where an individual's personality and their own will come to expression. They decide out of their own free will what appeals to them and what does not. For us spiritual beings it is often upsetting to see how obstinate human beings are and how they refuse to let themselves be instructed.

I would now like to return to something else that is of importance for the Christian faith, or for spiritual human beings in particular, and it is related to what one says in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors." But I would first like to explain that if a human being finds themselves with problems in daily life – it is entirely irrelevant what kind of problems they are – and they ask for help in prayer, then these issues must be of a kind that can be resolved according to the spiritual laws; the supplicant can only be supported if the spiritual laws permit it. After all, there are also things that human beings ask for in life that simply cannot be fulfilled, because to fulfill them is impossible either according to spiritual laws or according to earthly laws. Such things must also be taken

into consideration. But in most cases, the spiritual world can bring relief to people here and there – relief in that they better understand and more easily carry the problems or fates they have to endure. The spiritual world helps them to carry their problems, it supports them in life. The fact that spirits of God assist human beings in this way is also something significant. A person who has some kind of problem or fate to bear can ask God:

*"Forgive me all the wrongs I have done in my life,  
forgive me my debts.  
Support me through your holy spirit world,  
and let me understand what your holy will is.  
I want to be ready to forgive everyone  
who has wronged me in any way  
or burdened themselves in any way with regard to me.  
I want to be united with all human beings in divine love."*

If a person is able to implore this from the depths of their soul, and if they are truly repentant, then either they will be helped to carry their fate, or their fate will be softened, or – if it is at all possible and the circumstances or the law permits it – it will be lifted entirely. When people turn to God in this way, many can be helped or given relief in life. So, it is the human being who must first pass the great test that they have here in life by professing that they belong to God and being willing to live according to God's will, and by uniting and becoming one with him. You must learn what it means to become one with God. For God is the Forgiver, he forgives everyone; he also forgives the debtor if they turn to him in deep repentance – that is, if their debt is not of such a severity that they have to atone for it in a condition of bitter distress. For it is normally the case that when human beings have burdened themselves most grievously, they are also unable to see what they have done wrong. They feel that they are above everything. They elevate themselves above God and his laws. When human beings commit such grave offenses in their lives, they really are far from God. And it may only be in exceptional cases that they truly realize what they have done wrong and turn to God in deep repentance. You human beings cannot judge what constitutes a serious burden and a serious offense in human life. This judgment lies in the laws of God, which stipulate what must be punished



and in what manner. There are people who have done something in life and they believe that they incurred a great debt as a result and that God will disown them, even though for the rest of their life they ask God daily to forgive them. If they have often directed this petition to the heights from the bottom of their heart and soul, and if they have seen the error of their ways, then God will most certainly have forgiven them.

But I would again like to point out that human beings cannot know what God considers to be a serious offense for an individual. Often, such offenses are things that human beings do not regard as offenses at all; they believe they are allowed to act and live in such a way – and yet it is precisely in this way that they seriously burden their soul. There are then many surprises in the divine world. One individual is surprised that God is so merciful to them; another is surprised that they are not taken to an elevated plane and honored, and great is their disappointment and bitterness. Christians could prevent all this if they got to know the spiritual laws as they truly are, and aligned themselves with the will of God.

It is therefore recommended that human beings, insofar as they believe in God and in his goodness and justice, become one with God. For God looks down upon all human beings, and he wants to have everyone, every last one, back again. So, for his part, God is also prepared to provide them with assistance through his holy spirits to make their journey through life easier, and the spirit world thus tries to support them. Human beings, however, must be prepared to let themselves be led in accordance with the high, divine goals and to lead an upright, divine life. And it is certainly not easy for a human being to orient themselves in all of life's situations according to the high, divine goals.

Those who come to these higher insights in human life will be glad in the world beyond for what they have attained. For the years of a human life are so fleeting, and so soon will you find yourselves back in the divine world. And it really should be that you can then ascend, go higher, and not be obliged to wait until another has forgiven you your debts. You yourselves should play your part during life and try to get to know the will of God, to align yourselves with the will of God. And

if you have a true connection with the world of God, you will be guided in life in such a way that you always do and say the right thing in the right place. You should enter into such a connection, into such a higher life; and it is possible to achieve this if you are willing to strive for the spiritual heights.

So, dear brothers and sisters, I have once again tried to show you divine laws and explain them. And all this shall be of great value for your human life and accelerate your spiritual ascent.

Now, dear brothers and sisters, may God's blessing accompany you through all the days of your life, may you be guarded and protected, and may those of you who are sick, be that in body or in soul, find healing in trust, in faith, in shared love for the common Father of all. God bless you.

*Lecture by spirit-teacher Joseph, received in German through the medium Beatrice Brunner at the Academy of Music in Zurich, 14 June 1975*



Joseph, 26 June 1965

## “Forgive Us Our Debts, as We Also Forgive Our Debtors”

Words and outward gestures do not prove that one has forgiven another’s wrongdoing – it all depends on one’s inner attitude, on one’s goodwill.

In this lecture, spirit-teacher Joseph reports on the afterlife experience of a deceased human being who remained resentful toward his debtor even though he had officially given him his hand in peace.

Joseph: God bless you. Dear brothers and sisters, the spirit world of God is concerned that belief in the heavenly Father, in the Redeemer Jesus Christ, and in the whole spirit world of God increases and continues to develop. Today, even religious people are influenced by this mundane, mechanized world and unable to form an accurate picture of the world beyond, of the world of spirit. They cannot understand that this world of spirit possesses its forms and its vitality; they do not believe that life in the beyond has so much in common, so many similarities with their earthly world.

But once they shed their earthly body, they cross over into the realm of spirit. Upon awakening in the beyond, however, those who had been bound with body and soul to the earthly world are initially unaware that they really are in the realm of spirit. They are at first unable to recognize the realm of spirit because, after all, they still have a body, they can think, and so they believe that life goes on. They are not aware that they have passed through earthly death and now continue to live in the realm of spirit. It takes some time before they come to this realization, before they recognize that they continue to live in another world and that their spiritual body is not the same as the one they had in human life, that their limbs are spiritual in

nature, and that they must now live with others like themselves. But they may also see that they are given help by the world of God and instructed on the fact that they have died and now continue to live in the world beyond.

But now, dear brothers and sisters, I will once again try to give you an account of the experiences had by a particular individual, and to highlight a difference between those people who are willing to accept the divine laws, to live in accordance with them and to come closer to God, and those who are not. In doing so, I would also like to point out that the goodwill of a human being plays a significant role in their life; it is so important for their entire upward development. But I would like to begin by explaining what the good spirit world understands by goodwill.

If, for example, two human beings lived together in conflict and one of them did not manage to extend their hand in reconciliation, then from our point of view they lacked goodwill. Even after they have entered the world beyond, this goodwill will still be absent. You should not assume that people immediately come to higher insight when they cross the threshold of the beyond.

So, I would like to give you an example and tell you about two men who lived in conflict but who eventually reconciled with one another. But there was a big difference between the two: one of them had forgiven in a human way, in that he recounted the affair at every possible opportunity, complained about it, and thus made it clear that he had not forgiven the other’s debt at all. Every chance he got, he spoke about what he had been through, what he had had to endure. Yes, with his accounts he was able to elicit the sympathy of others on the one hand, and to justify himself on the other. What is more, he had also tried to harm the other, to take revenge. He took his revenge in a “discreet way”, as he said to those closest to him – officially, however, he had given his hand in reconciliation. The other man had also extended



his hand in reconciliation; but he, who was actually to blame for the conflict, regretted it with all his heart. He had begged God to forgive him. And he no longer mentioned this disagreement. For him it was settled; he had given his hand in reconciliation.

Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us consider the lives of these two in the spiritual world. As we do so, think about your own lives, about things that have happened in the course of your lives, and draw your lessons from the account I will now present to you.

The first to enter the spiritual world was the one who had been unable to forgive the debt. When the spirits of God came to meet him, they said, "You have not forgiven the other's debt." But he retorted, "Yes I did, I gave him my hand in reconciliation." The spirits of God replied, "You have not forgiven him his debt; so the debt will remain bound in the world of spirit. God has not forgiven your debt either." But he claimed that he had officially extended his hand in reconciliation, but the spirits of God said to him, "How often did you speak about it, complaining that you had to endure so much injustice at the hands of the other? You spoke ill of him; indeed, you did him harm. You wanted to take revenge for the injustice he did you. You did this after having reconciled; you did not, therefore, extend your hand in reconciliation." So spoke the angel of God who stood facing him, and he was told, "God has not forgiven your debt either." And it was also revealed to him, "Let it be known to you that this debt will be inscribed in your book of life, and that you will be given the opportunity to make amends in a new earthly life." He was then led into his world. His spirit was shrouded in darkness, and he lived in his world with others like himself, who were all burdened in a similar way.

Well, this spirit did not change his way of thinking, even though the angel had drawn his attention to it and recommended that he do so. He continued to complain. Everyone who had anything to do with him had to listen to what he had had to endure in human life, how he had been done wrong. He told everyone about it, but he did not mention the fact that he had officially given the other his hand in peace and that after this gesture of peace he had caused injury, taken revenge. But

it was recorded in his book of life and was visible to all the spirits of heaven who would visit these unfortunates and bring them consolation. With each of them, their debt could be seen in their book of life. And so it was with this spirit: his debt was recorded, and the way in which he would have to atone for it in his next life was not concealed from him. He was told, "You will be accused of a crime you did not commit. You shall then demonstrate whether you have learned something in the spiritual world, whether humility and modesty have permeated you. This is how you will have to atone. You will be humiliated in your new life, and it will then depend on the way in which you are able to bear this fate. If you manage to bear the fate, you will be given the opportunity to take a great leap upward in your spiritual development. But if you are unable to fulfill your task, you will once more return to the same point and will have to experience the same fate again and again until you succeed."

Well, this soul or this spirit was unable to understand the justice and goodness of God that was at work here. Just as he had complained and been discontent as a human being in life, he did the same as a spirit in the world beyond. He was not prepared to change, he lacked the necessary strength. So, he talked with his peers, and each of them spoke of their own fate, and all of them believed they were being treated unfairly.

This spirit was now given the news that the neighbor with whom he had lived in conflict had returned, and it happened to be precisely he who was summoned to go and greet the homecomer; he was to be present at his reception. The spirits of God collected him, and he was to listen to the words that were spoken to the homecomer – he who back then had actually been more to blame for the conflict but who, in contrast to the other, had been able to forgive. He had to listen to the reproaches of the divine world that were directed at this returned brother for his stumbles in daily life. However, the spirit of God who stood facing the homecomer said to him, "In the great conflict that you had with your neighbor, you once gave him your hand in peace. With all of your heart you begged God to forgive you your debt. And you forgave all the unpleasantness that this brother caused you. So God has forgiven you your



debt." This is what the spirit of God said to the homecomer, and the other one had to listen to it.

The spirit of God now summoned the other brother and said to him, "Listen carefully: Christ died for the redemption of humankind. He was nailed to the cross. Christ has cleared the path to the Father for humankind, and God has taken away the great sin of the fall from his children. He accepted the sacrifice of his Son for the redemption, and the way to the Father has been opened. God did not constantly reproach his children for their rebellion, for this defection – the laws have ordered everything, and God has let the way to him be paved and preserved. In spite of the great guilt of the peoples of earth, God has left open this path of return. He has kept his word, he has forgiven his children. And God and his holy spirit world are only interested in how they can more quickly return home. He does not hold a grudge against them. He has kept the path open for them, and he also sends them holy spirits as beings of consolation, as helpers, as guides and teachers, so that their path of suffering toward the heights may be shortened and accelerated."

The brother who had been unable to forgive had to listen to the brief lecture given by this divine being – the spirit of God had said it for the instruction of both of them. One of them had forgiven in human life, and he was told, "Since you have forgiven, God has also forgiven your debt. You forgave the other, so you shall also be forgiven." But the other could not forgive, and so God did not forgive him either. And the spirit of God further admonished this indebted brother, "In your daily prayer in life you said, 'Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors' – yet you did not forgive."

It was to be made clear to this brother that those who are of goodwill are able to forgive the debt of another, but those who carry malice in the depths of their soul are unable to forgive. Through this malice, individuals distance themselves from God, and God does not forgive them either.

So, for this burdened, obstinate spirit, God allowed time to be the healing factor, whereas the other spirit was able to ascend. He, too, had to be led into the world of purification for his human stumbles. But since he was full of goodwill, he could be given tasks. He was willing to change,

and he was thus able to fulfill his tasks in the kingdom of heaven. He was ready to participate in fulfilling God's will in the realm of spirit as well as among human beings in the earthly realm. He could be assigned higher tasks. Even this spirit, who had incurred a heavy debt in human life, was forgiven by God because he was truly repentant. And this debt was no longer spoken of in the spiritual world. He was repentant. So, he was received by the good spirit world, and it was explained to him, "You have the opportunity to gain the world of bliss, happiness, and joy if you carry out the work you are given, if you pass the tests we assign you."

Goodwill was in his being, it lay in the depths of his soul. His feelings were permeated by this goodwill, which enabled his spirit to enter into light; but the other one had shrouded himself in darkness through his enmity, through obstinacy and malice, and thus distanced himself from God. The good-willed spirit was able to step closer to God because he was of goodwill, because this goodwill had also been present in his human life. Indeed, the kind of will an individual possesses is of great significance for their entire spiritual development. Since he was subject to those stumbles in human life and had committed a reprehensible deed, he had temporarily burdened himself. But he had arrived at insight and repented, so God forgave him his debt. For the remainder of his human life, however, he was to avoid incurring any more debts of a similar nature. And this he managed. So the good spirit world took in this burdened brother, for God had forgiven him, and this debt was no longer spoken of. In the spiritual world, he was given the opportunity to do what was necessary for his further development, and the spirits of God took special care of him.

But the other one remained obstinate. And what did the high spirit world have to do? It prepared him for his new earthly life; after all, it wanted to accelerate his ascent and give him the chance in his new earthly life to pay off his debt.

Let us now jump forward in time to this being's new life on earth. His fate had been set down in his book of life. No one could change it; no spirit of God could annul this fate. It had been written in the book of life by the being himself, and it could not be erased; the spirit world of God had



confirmed it. So, it remained inscribed in him, as I said to you, in the book of his life. But I could also say that a spirit of God would recognize a person's fate even without seeing their book of life; they would be able to identify their fate just by looking at the human being's hand, because the unavoidable fate that an individual must experience is written on their hand. But it is not just the hand alone that depicts their fate; it is also the forehead, it is the cheeks, it is the human being's whole body: a spirit of God is able to read the fate all over.

This fate was now to be fulfilled in his new life on earth. The manner in which this would happen was not specified in precise detail, but it was certain that he would be falsely accused. Whether he was to be accused of a theft, or whether he would be held responsible for causing another person's death – this was irrelevant to the spirit world. At the appropriate moment, the spirit world would intervene in his life according to the opportunity that presented itself; according to the circumstances of his life in general, it would activate his fate.

And this is what happened with him. He grew to adulthood in earthly life, and one day he went hiking in the mountains with a friend, and it was then that it happened: his friend fell to his death. He was blamed for his friend's fall. He was innocent. But he was accused, and the people found him guilty. For the casualty victim himself, the fall was his own fate, for which he had been marked, and it was the other's fate to be held responsible for the fatality – the two of them had been brought together.

The blame weighed heavily on this man for the rest of his life. He knew he was innocent; God knew it as well. But the people would not believe it. Now, what kind of position would this man take with regard to his spiritual life? He had been raised as a Christian – would he now quarrel with God, would he accuse God of injustice for not allowing light to illuminate this darkness? God could have done so. It now depended on the strength of his faith, on his whole, true being, on the kind of spirit that lived in this earthly body.

He could not, however, say yes to his fate. He felt resentful toward people and toward God. He had suffered an injustice, and he blamed people

and God. He had achieved nothing. The world of God had indeed seen what he had to endure in human life, and once he had returned to the spiritual realm and been received by it, he was told, "We are well aware that you were innocent. But you should have shown repentance; human life gave you the opportunity to do penance. But you did not achieve the atonement that we expected of you. You will, therefore, have to pay off the remainder of your debt in your next life. This reparation will not be of the same severity, but still hard enough for a human life."

He had to return to the same place in the world beyond from which he had set out into earthly life; but he was now able to think a little differently. Even though he was still filled with resentment and feelings of hate, he was more willing to give his hand to a spirit of God and to be led. He asked, "Take me by the hand; give me the strength, that I may understand and overcome." Indeed, he showed a willingness to come closer to these spirits of God. Even though he was not yet fully permeated by goodwill and would at times sink back into the feeling that he had suffered so much injustice, he was still willing to be guided.

After a certain period of hardship, the spirit world of God took him out of that plane and led him to those divine beings who would give him instruction. He was to enter a new life, and his fate had to be marked once again, as confirmed by the spirits of God. But in this new earthly life it was to take the following course: he would again be falsely accused, but this time his innocence would eventually be proven, and he would experience justice. In this way, his attitude, his strength of faith, could be tested anew.

But he is currently still in the spiritual world. He is still being taught, he is still being taken to human beings – he is to learn from them. He is to see how other brothers and sisters are faring. He is to hear something about the higher goal of life. He is to become aware of the meaning of human life. He must recognize that every spirit has to work toward the heights. So, he will be educated on the laws, and the holy spirit world would like to assume that his next earthly life will be a success. Once he has become strong in faith and his will has become good, he will be able to count on the help of God's spirits. For the spirits of God will try



to give him the strength to find the right attitude in life. But this requires his goodwill. Without this goodwill, the high spirit world is unable to do anything with human beings.

So, dear brothers and sisters, every human being who incurs a great debt in life will have to atone for it. And you really should bear that in mind. You should realize that life does not end when you lay aside your earthly body; life goes on, and in the other world one does not change one's nature so quickly. Those who are helpful, kind, forgiving, and good in human life will be the same in the beyond. Those who speak harshly, those who are unforgiving and self-centered, they will also take these flaws with them into the world beyond. One's nature does not change that quickly after earthly death. It is merely the earthly body that is set aside; but the *I* is not set aside, that which I was on earth, that which I did on earth – it is the spirit that is meant by the “I”. At death, everything has been drawn into and penetrated this spirit. Now as a spirit being in the other world, an individual will express their whole personality just as it was when they were a human being. It is the same personality.

So, dear brothers and sisters, may God's blessing permeate you all, may you all find the right attitude to life. May you all stretch out your hands, that you may be led by the angels of heaven, that you may remain blessed and protected from trouble and distress. God bless you.

*Lecture by spirit-teacher Joseph, received in German through the medium Beatrice Brunner at the Academy of Music in Zurich, 26 June 1965*



Joseph, 2 March 1974

## Near-Earth Spiritual Places of Reunion and Reconciliation

Where homecomers are given the opportunity to greet deceased loved ones and friends and, if necessary, reconcile with them.

Joseph: God bless you. Dear brothers and sisters, it occasionally happens that listeners do not quite understand what is said here – after all, they are not familiar with every aspect of the divine laws and their order. They then make their remarks, or they are disappointed because they do not properly understand this or that. Well, I would like to say that we feel the same way. That is to say, we are very often disappointed with you. Over the years you have learned much about the order and the laws of God, as well as about the plan of salvation and redemption, and we believe that one should know how to conduct oneself. But that does not appear to be the case. One does not know, one does not want to know. But we are also disappointed with human beings, for they have their commandments, and these make it clear what they must and must not do. Fundamentally, they know what they are not allowed to do, and yet they do it anyway. So, we too have reason – or rather, it is *we* who have reason – to be disappointed when one does not know how to behave.

Now, it is the case that a human being's vices remain in existence after death. And if a deceased person is given the chance to indulge them, they will do so. I give you these various accounts of individuals' experiences precisely because they help you understand this other world. By hearing how these homecomers fare, you learn that those who do wrong are punished and that those who do good are rewarded. If, in some measure, one possesses higher insights in life, one should orient oneself according to these higher insights. One would then benefit from this knowledge when one crosses over into the spiritual world. Indeed, you know that special value is attached to homecomers

who possess higher insights and that they are given additional teachings – the continuation of what they have heard here.

In this hour, I would once again like to give you one such account of an individual's experiences, and I want to repeat what has been explained to you before. In your air space there are spiritual spheres or planes, and these spiritual planes differentiate themselves from one another. There are villages, valleys, and even towns that are very modest, and there are some that are magnificent – and both exist in the vicinity of earth. There are spiritual planes here that are inhabited solely by exalted divine beings – these, too, are in the vicinity of earth. It is generally the case that human beings enter these near-earth planes after death and remain there initially. They are way stations for them or they represent a preliminary heaven for them, because they are still too bound to that which is earthly and it is not yet possible for them to ascend into higher planes; so they remain bound in this proximity to earth.

But the spirits of God who dwell in these beautiful near-earth valleys and villages want to be close to human beings. Even though distance is irrelevant in spirit, there is a reason why such planes in their splendor and glory also exist in the vicinity of human beings. The spiritual beings who concern themselves with human beings and their well-being meet here with other exalted spirit brothers and sisters whom they have invited into their homes as guests. That is to say, one visits this or that spirit of God for discussions, one dwells with these divine beings for a certain time. There truly is a great deal to deliberate and discuss. Devout people in particular desire to be seen by the world of God; they would also like their prayers to be heard. So, the divine beings are also close to human beings and, when necessary, they can be with them in no time at all.

These glorious valleys and villages are a magnificent world. And not far from this magnificent



world there may be a very modest village. There can be locations inhabited solely by spirit beings who are not integrated into any order. This does not trouble the world of God, because their place, their village, their town, or their valley, whatever it may be, is demarcated. It is not possible for those in these neighboring locations to enter the beautiful planes. Great obstacles stand in the way that make entry impossible. But glorious places do exist that one can see from afar – it is merely a glimpse into a distant horizon, and one knows that higher angels reside there. It is generally the case that this proximity to earth is inhabited by those spirit beings who are still so bound to that which is human, to that which is worldly and transient. And as I said, these planes differentiate themselves from one another. There are both very low levels and higher levels, and these locations are considered places of transition, as preliminary heavens, as meeting places.

And now I would like to give you an explanation and an account of an individual's experiences. I would first like to speak about a human being who constantly told lies throughout his life. He was forever telling lies; he did not know the truth, so to speak. I may well say that he had no relationship to the truth, so he made use of lies at every opportunity. And this also involved cheating other people, accusing others. And so it was that this man burdened himself heavily in his dealings with his fellow human beings. He especially burdened himself with regard to one man, for he had made an accusation against him in a particular matter, and the man was punished as a result – unjustly. This never came to light, but everything was to be revealed in the spiritual world.

I said that there are meeting places, spiritual planes in the vicinity of earth. What I wish to explain with that is the greatness of God and Christ in their mercy, in their goodness, and in their benevolence, that they give homecomers – if it is at all possible and permitted [in accordance with the law] – the opportunity to recognize their mistakes and to arrive at better insight. But what I am now explaining to you is not a given. It is something granted to those with whom it is expected that something better will result from it, that it will be of advantage, and that the upward development of the one as well as of the other can be accelerated

by it. Now, this man who had told lies his whole life and severely burdened his soul as a result was led by the angelic world into this meeting place after his death. I would also like to mention that this meeting place was not particularly beautiful. On the one hand it served those who had to journey from above to below, and on the other hand it served those heavily-burdened beings in crossing over into another plane.

This deceased human being had, before his spirit had completely detached itself from the earthly body, seen his parents with his spiritual eyes. They had come to meet him, and this memory accompanied him into the other world.

I neglected to say that this man had acted as though he were a devout and very religious person. He did have a belief. With him it was exactly as I mentioned at the beginning: he knew the laws of God, what he should and should not do, but despite knowing this, he did what benefited him, what pleased him. He did not trouble about these commandments, he did not concern himself with them, he gave them no further thought – fundamentally, he did not take them seriously.

He was now in the spiritual world, in a plane that was unfamiliar to him. He had been led into this meeting place. There was a bustle of activity; it was a great square, and there were many spirit beings. He immediately had the feeling that others were also looking for acquaintances or friends, for it was the same with him – he also wanted to find his parents. He had seen them briefly, but they had vanished from his sight again. Yet the memory remained, he knew: "I saw them." He still did not really understand how it would be possible to meet and talk with them.

The angelic world had led this spirit into this meeting place without many words of explanation. He would now have to pave his own way. He wanted to look for his parents, for it was immediately clear to him that his earthly life had ended and his spiritual life had now begun. But he was not worried, because he did not feel abandoned. After all, there were so many spirit beings, and he found comfort with the others. He also hoped for company should he not find his parents. And so he did what the others were doing: he walked back and forth. He saw spiritual beings who were unfamiliar to him. He stood in silence here and there



and listened to the conversations being held. He realized that reunions were taking place between acquaintances or even relatives. He was able to observe how others greeted their loved ones.

Well, for the time being, he did not find his parents. But after having spent a longer period of time in this meeting place, he suddenly recognized deceased human beings who had lived in the same place as he had. And he was forced to realize that some were not willing to speak with him and walked away from him. And the man whom he had cheated and deceived and accused, thereby burdening himself heavily, he was there too. He, too, had been called back to the spiritual world and now stood facing him. The burdened spirit now had a guilty conscience and did not want anything to do with this homecomer, and he tried to distance himself by walking through the rows. It was clear to him that he might be held to account by the other. And so it was: this homecomer approached him, stopped him and said, "You treated me badly, do you know that? Do you know that I was punished for something I never did? And are you aware that you were known for your lies? God will punish you for that." But he did not take these words seriously and again tried to get away, and succeeded in doing so. But the other was better informed about what would now happen. He had been told, "This place gives you the opportunity to confront the other, to resolve the whole affair, and to show him what he did wrong. He will face judgment." This he knew, and so he was able to wait.

In the meantime, this debtor looked around for acquaintances against whom he had not transgressed. But he now noticed that among these many beings there were some offering small gifts. These were angels of God. Some had very beautiful and precious spiritual flowers, others had vessels and carved objects that had been made in the spiritual workshops; there were all kinds of small things. And the beings could help themselves to such a gift, that is to say, they would ask, "May I have a flower? Or may I have this or that object?" This object or flower was meant to delight the friends or loved ones whom they sought, to give them a surprise. So, in order to give their loved ones a token of recognition, to give them a little joy on the occasion of their meeting, the female spirit

beings mostly helped themselves to the flowers, while the male spirit beings chose from the other objects.

But one would have to approach such an angel and ask them, "May I have one of these?" With searching eyes the angel would then consider the entire spirit being standing before them, and allow or deny it. Well, this brother was denied. He had also wanted one of these small objects to give his parents as a memento of their reunion. There was a considerable number of these angels offering gifts, for there were many spiritual beings in this place of reunion searching for relatives, loved ones, and friends. And this burdened spirit – or this brother, as I would like to call him – naturally went from one angel to the next, convinced that he would acquire some small object. He went to the angels with the flowers as well as to those who had the most varied objects. But each in turn considered him in the same way, and all of them said no. He got nothing, nor did he deserve anything. Since the very purpose of this place was to serve in facilitating reunions between the aforementioned spirit brothers and sisters, this burdened brother was naturally displeased not to have been allowed such an object.

He now came across another acquaintance who was very well dressed. In human life he had been humble, little respected by those around him, but he was a devout and upright man; he had silently done good deeds, and so his soul was not heavily burdened. But he also had a task to fulfill in this place. Since none of the burdened brother's other acquaintances wanted to speak with him, he now tried to converse with this spirit being, whom he had indeed seen in life but not respected either. He said to him, "You are so beautifully dressed. You surely wouldn't mind giving me your cloak." But this spirit being did not agree to give him his cloak. The burdened brother was so insistent, however, saying, "It'll certainly make no difference to you if you just lend me your cloak for a while." But he did not agree to this either. The burdened spirit now became angry, and he tried to remove the other's cloak by force. As soon as he attempted this, a divine being appeared, took him by the hand and led him away. The divine being told him that this was not the intended purpose – this was a place of reunion and reconciliation, where returned spirit



brothers and sisters were given the opportunity to speak with one another, and to achieve a reconciliation if they had lived in conflict or parted ways acrimoniously. It would actually have been his task to reconcile with that other one, and with all the others as well. He should have gone to them and asked for forgiveness. But this he did not want; consequently, he was led away from this place of reunion and taken to another location. And all the others who had had anything to do with him in life were also brought there.

He now stood facing all of them. All those whom he had deceived, to whom he had lied, held one such gift in their spiritual hands. They had been given it. Indeed, these spirit brothers and sisters also desired a reunion with their loved ones, and if it had been necessary, if they had lived in conflict with someone, they would have sought out a conversation with the being in question and made peace. But none of them had such a wish, for in their cases it was unnecessary. So, they were looking for their own loved ones.

But they had been led away and taken to this location, where the encounter with this burdened brother was to take place and where he would be brought to justice. It was presided over by two stern angels of God. Now there would be no more lies. The past was now brought into the spiritual present. Everything that had really happened back then was presented to the spiritual eyes of all. And so the truth was seen as it really was. And this brother, now deeply ashamed, had to admit that he had lied. He had to admit that he had acted so badly toward his fellow human beings. And the others were asked, "Can you forgive him for what he did to you?" And they were all in agreement; they wanted to place everything in God's hands, and they themselves wanted to hold no grudge against this being.

So, they were dismissed, and returned once more to this meeting place to look for their loved ones. They then found them, and they exchanged these little gifts with one another, which they took with them into their own world, into the house in which they would live. Each individual cherishes this little object; they rejoice in the fact that the other thought of them in love and with consideration. I would like to compare this to what you do: if you go away for a time, you also wish to bring

back a small memento for your loved ones, and these are often gifts of various kinds. You wish to remind your fellow human beings that you did not forget them, that you thought of them, and, from a feeling of appreciation or gratitude, you also wish to bring back a piece of the joy that you yourself experienced. In this way, you try to surprise and delight your loved ones. Indeed, there is nothing on earth that is not also present in spirit, and this also applies to what one does in this regard. It is a joy, a surprise, a gesture of love. In the spiritual world, the gifts given to one's loved ones are appreciated and treasured, for the spiritual object they receive was made in these spiritual workshops and crafted by spiritual hands. It was produced in a school where a great master is at work and where they instruct and teach their students.

There these little objects are made by spiritual beings whose work occupies them in this manner. In the spiritual world, one is not immediately tasked with great works; rather, many small things are also made. These, however, are not the property of the artisan, but the property of God. Every single artisan rejoices in having completed something, for they know that their work will surprise and delight other spirit brothers and sisters – it is a small enrichment of spiritual life. And they rejoice to know that what has been formed by their spiritual hands will one day be cherished by a spirit being. There is also the possibility that the owners of these small valuable objects will at a later time meet those artisans who in the meantime have worked their way up from apprentice to master. These are all surprises that can be experienced in the heavenly world, and they are a source of great joy. This somewhat more precise explanation just in passing.

Now back to our brother who had been brought to justice by these angels of God. It was made clear to him that a hard purification lay ahead, that he had burdened his soul heavily and would now be given the chance to atone for some of his burden. He was segregated and had to undergo a severe punishment for all the wrongs he had done his fellow human beings. And he was also marked to make amends in a following life; it was inscribed in his soul that, according to the circumstances of the life into which he would be led, the most suitable karma was to be chosen for him, which he



would then have to endure – for the punishment, for the making amends of his great debt.

I do not want to speak further on this, but would instead like to say a few more words about the reunions of spirit beings in this meeting place. Here, a spirit being has the opportunity to find someone with whom they did not get along in life and to talk with them. Homecomers are also called upon by the world of God to do so. Among them are many helping spirit brothers and sisters who attend to them. Those who are primarily looking for their loved ones shall find them, but they are also supposed to find the others who played a role in their life; they are also meant to come together with those whom they wronged. They are to talk things out. They are to reconcile with one another.

So, one's stay in this place lasts for a certain period of time, which is determined by the world of God. These spiritual beings are then prompted to leave this place, and they are led to where they belong according to their level of development. It is not the case that they can simply remain for as long as they like and leave whenever they wish – it is an enclosed place of reunion. And everyone is thus given the opportunity to do something for their spiritual ascent. And these reunions are only possible because of God's great goodness and mercy – that he allows these spirit beings to meet in this way, to reconcile, to make peace with one another, so that each may continue on their own path of spiritual ascent. That such a thing is made possible is truly a great act of kindness on the part of the world of God. But, as I have already emphasized, this is not something commonplace, something to be taken for granted. Homecomers are selected for this; the opportunity to enter this place is given to those with whom it is expected that something better will result from it, that the upward development of the one as well as of the other can be accelerated by it. Such a meeting must have a purpose. And those who do not make use of this opportunity to reconcile will have a hard purification ahead of them.

Now, dear brothers and sisters, there are also spirit beings who are given the opportunity to come together in a different way, that is, not in one of these larger places that are specially designated for such meetings – opportunities are also created in smaller settings. And so it can also happen that

the world of God brings together homecomers in a house, confines them to a room, so to speak, and leaves them together for a certain amount of time. Here they have to talk things out, and the world of God waits for a reconciliation. When two homecomers are brought together in this way, the presence of a spirit of God is not required. The two are alone. Lacking the assistance and encouragement that is given in the place of reunion, they have to find the way to settle things between themselves, the way to reconciliation.

The world of God is glad when a reconciliation is achieved, and saddened when it is not. And here, too, it is not the case that the beings in question are left alone indefinitely, for there is also a spiritual time. This is determined in advance, and if the allotted time elapses without a reconciliation having been achieved, then each individual will receive the just punishment for their wrongdoing, and they will be led into their purification. It is made clear to each of them that they wasted a great opportunity: they were given the chance to reconcile and to lay aside their soul's burden. The fact that they did not make use of the opportunity is to their own detriment. It then requires more instruction and a more severe purification.

So, in the world of God, each case is dealt with on an individual basis. It may also happen that two homecomers who need to reconcile with one another are brought together in the presence of a divine being, with whose help a reconciliation is meant to take place. The divine being tries to persuade the homecomers, to intervene, and to make them understand that reconciliation is a necessity. But you should not imagine that it is an injustice if one of them is permitted the support of the divine world. This support is for both of them. The divine being explains God's commandments, they are both told what is right and what is wrong, but they are not told in advance what awaits them if they fail to reconcile. The divine being speaks of the love of God, and they speak of the love that Christ gave humankind, and they thus try to educate them. If this is of no avail, then each of them will go to face their own punishment.

If a returnee lacks higher spiritual insights about this heavenly world, then they will have no appreciation for such a spirit of God, and will pay no attention to what they have to say. But it is a



different situation with deceased human beings who were believers in life and who came to the realization that there is a just, divine world and that God demands justice. Such homecomers gain a greater understanding of God's commandments when an angel of God tells them what they must and must not do, and when this angel recites the Lord's Prayer for them and elucidates the meaning of the words. The believer begins to think and reflect, and is more willing to give the other their hand in reconciliation. And, as I occasionally mention, these are the advantages you can benefit from by having a spiritual knowledge. For none of you know where you will one day be led, where you will open your spiritual eye; in human life, no one knows where their first encounter in spirit will take place. But if you have such insights, even if only to a small degree, they are of great advantage; if all that has been said is grasped in the depths of the soul, it is of benefit to each of you.

Now, dear brothers and sisters, I would like to leave you all with the blessing of God. This blessing of God shall guard and protect you on all your paths. And those who feel sick shall recover under this blessing of God, recover in body and soul. God bless you.

*Lecture by spirit-teacher Joseph, received in German through the medium Beatrice Brunner at the Academy of Music in Zurich, 2 March 1974*



Joseph, Questions and Answers from 1953 to 1961

## Questions and Explanations

*Dear Joseph, how is it when a person has to forgive someone for something? Does it matter if it takes them a long time to overcome and forgive?*

Joseph: Of course, that is of great significance – that is, the longer you wait to forgive, because you do not find the time to forgive or because you have not yet overcome, the longer it will take God to forgive you. Those who need such a long time to forgive others are at a great disadvantage. You should be able to forgive at all times, so that you too can be forgiven as quickly as possible.

You know that you yourselves incur a debt when you do not forgive another. Your own wrongdoings will then remain in existence. Such burdens of the soul often emerge as disease. That is why it is so worthwhile to reflect again and again and to forgive all people, such that you do not speak badly of anyone and wish ill on no one. This also belongs to forgiveness.

It certainly cannot be expected of a person to go to their neighbor with gushing expressions of emotion and to forgive them in this manner, for that would be mere pretense. They should much rather forgive them with all their heart, which does not require any particular flattery. I would like to say that you must have the strength to forgive everyone from within. (1953)

*Dear friend Joseph, one question is as follows: in the beyond must we personally ask for forgiveness from those whom we wronged or hurt during human life?*

Joseph: Yes, that may be possible, but perhaps not. If the one whom you caused suffering does not want to forgive, it is possible that you will then be taken to them to ask for their pardon, and you will have to step before them for as long as it takes them to forgive you.

But it is also the case that you come into contact with others during the time in which your body rests and your spirit steps out. You then meet, for instance, with a spirit – I would like to state this clearly: you meet with a human spirit whom you have wronged but who is not angry with you, who is not resentful, and who says, “This arose

out of the situation. It happened because of the weaknesses and the many circumstances that the person has in their life.” Indeed, the spirit is much more understanding – for the most part, but not always. If a grudge or a hatred goes so deep in an individual, then this grudge and this hatred will also be in the spirit. It can then happen that you are taken to them and must ask for pardon.

There are various possibilities here. It depends entirely on a human being’s spiritual guides and teachers – what they consider to be good and how they direct the human spirit. So, two such human spirits may already have made peace between themselves long ago – but perhaps not. (11.7.1958)

*Dear Joseph, you have told us that no human being is treated unjustly. But how do you explain the many, often blatant, injustices that we can see everywhere on this earth?*

Joseph: Dear brothers and sisters, when I tell you that no human being is treated unjustly, this is first and foremost meant with regard to the divine side. Human beings do not have to shoulder an injustice from the spirit world of God – it will not treat them unjustly, it will not condemn them unjustly. You must draw a clear distinction when it comes to all that is done by human beings who are spiritually far from God, all that they do through their own imperfection of heart and soul. Through their envious feelings, they are able to inflict harm upon their fellow human beings. This is cause and effect among human beings.

An elevated person will never upset or hurt another human being in any way. There may be moments when, in agitation, they perhaps say an inconsiderate word or make some kind of disparaging gesture or suchlike. But they will immediately realize what they said, and they will immediately try to correct themselves or apologize. This is the spiritually-elevated human being. Lower human beings spread evil. In such cases, one cannot hold the spirit world of God responsible for this and say, “No one has to suffer injustice” – that would not be correct; an individual would suffer injustice because of these human



beings. You dwell in this world, surrounded by people who stand on a low spiritual level as well as by those who are spiritually elevated. It is, as such, a colorful patchwork. Inevitably, those on a low level are the troublesome ones who spread unpleasantness.

If you believe you have been insulted by someone, you have the right to confront them and to tell them what you think. This has been explained to you many times before. You should ask those close to you for their opinion of you. You could say, "What do you think of me? What am I like?" But there are few people who can handle the truth.

But to return: if you believe you have been insulted or that others are really causing you obvious injury, you have the right to defend yourselves against the injustice that is done to you. You do not simply have to let everything wash over you and say, "Well, I'm spiritually minded, I'll just put up with it – I won't say anything." This can also have its limits. You can, let us say, think this way about trivial things: "This will pass, and it doesn't bother me." But when it comes to significant matters in which you are treated unjustly, then you are allowed to defend yourselves. You are allowed to speak your mind. Should you not defend yourselves, then the other person will, in a certain sense, become more and more impertinent, to express it in your language. They will try to get away with more and more.

The divine world also banishes those spirits who do not integrate into an order – it makes it impossible for them to continue being active. They are segregated. So, in a certain sense, human beings also have a right to do this. But this should not be done on account of minor things; it has to be something significant. It is then better when the person who believes they have been treated unjustly turns inward and asks God, "Show me the right way to behave toward this person." They should not act rashly, but should pray for this often. The spiritual world then has the possibility to perhaps smooth that which is uneven. When one asks in this manner, the good spirit world can do what is in its power to resolve matters. It may be able to bring about a reconciliation. This is always assessed on a case-by-case basis. That is why one should ask the spirit world of

God, "Make things clear. Show me the way." But one should not map out one's own way and say to oneself, "This is my way" – rather, one should let oneself be shown it by the spirit world of God. (4.10.1961)



