

My dear Friends,

I am still in the warm part of the States, thus escaping the snow and ice of Chicago. I am back again near New Orleans, one of the most fascinating old cities I know. If you walk up Royal Street you come across numerous little shops full of all sorts of pretty things you never see anywhere else, and of course there are always the famous "pralines", the nutty sweet of New Orleans. Yesterday we went there to see Walt Disney's "Sleeping Beauty." I do not think he ever made a film which came up to his "Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs". Best of all I love his nature films, especially "The Living Desert". I call Walt Disney a public benefactor. He is teaching everybody to love nature and all animals.

This is quite a good preface to the continuation of my talk about the Angelic Orders. You will remember that we talked last time about the soul of the elements. The next higher division I call the soul of organised nature, by which I mean the soul of the flowers and trees and mountains. Somewhere an ancient Jewish teacher says "Every flower is appropriate to an angel." The plant is the expression of the fairy mind. Here lies the explanation of "spontaneous variation". The fairy guardian got a "brain wave"! I have met many people who can see the fairy world, grown-ups and children. In England there is a "fairy society" which invited me to join their ranks but I could not qualify for membership because I do not see them myself.

I used to broadcast a great deal when I was in Australia. Once I gave a broadcast called "Do you believe in fairies?" I got several letters written in, describing what the writers had themselves seen. The accounts were similar. The flower fairies are diaphanous creatures who take on the colours of their flowers and seem to have wings. The spirits of trees are lovely things. They are sad when we cut down their trees. The great baobab tree in Adyar has a wonderful soul, female in form. The spirits of the hills and mountains are still and stately, though not quite so substantial as the famous picture by Lord Leighton. I once visited the famous mountain in Clonmel, Ireland, where legend says that four mighty devas keep watch, and that if a man sleeps a night on the summit he will awake either mad or a poet. I also met in Ireland, up North in Donegal, a mother and family who all saw the fairies. The mother was a lady doctor. They had a pet leprechaun in the house and their great game was to try and catch him which they had never done yet. They told me he was speckled black and white and jumped like a rabbit. Then I remembered what C.W. Leadbeater had said that the fairies of Northern Ireland were speckled black and white. The mother used to hear a voice which seemed to come out of a mountain repeating poems. She wrote some of these down. They were very unearthly.

I mentioned last time that the lower devas can acquire an immortal soul through devotion to a higher deva. I knew two old ladies in S. Africa who were driving one day through some mountains in the Transvaal. Crossing one lonely valley they both saw a shining angel surrounded by many little fairies. Knowing nothing of the occult teaching they decided that they had been specially blessed by God and should speak of it to no one. But they soon found that their native driver had also seen it and was telling all the other servants about it.

There are the angels of sound who inspire all musicians and sometimes in lonely mountains and places their music can be heard. One man I know joined our Society on the spot when he heard me mention them, for he had heard it when making roads in Rhodesia. One of my sisters could hear it. I asked her what was the difference between our music and the angelic music. She replied that with us there is always the sound of an instrument like the tap of a piano, the scrape of a bow, the timbre of a human voice: whereas with the angel there were no musical "intervals" but flowing liquid sound which seemed to well out of the whole body of the deva. I knew the leading cellist in the famous Halle orchestra and he could also hear angel music. He tried to write it down but as there are no intervals I expect this was very difficult. It sounded something like the wind in the trees. Doesn't Cardinal Manning's famous hymn, "Lead, Kindly Light", speak of angel music leading us home?

The higher devas are connected with man. Some are the angel Guardians of the nations. They sum up in themselves the qualities which are the ideal to which their nation should strive. Perhaps this has given rise to the idea of national Patron Saints, such as St. George for England, St. Nicholas for Russia, etc. Three times in my life I have been spoken to by a complete stranger, who in each case refused

to give me his name, and who spoke to me of inner things. The last time occurred a year ago when I was visiting Hatfield House, the residence of the Marquis of Salisbury. The stranger told me that the soul of the great English admiral, Lord Nelson, had joined the deva evolution and was now the deva Guardian of the British Commonwealth.

There are also great devas connected with the working out of the Karmic law. This idea is in our Bible, forexample, when "the angel of the Lord stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it." The greatest of the karmic angels are the four devarajas or Archangels who keep the universal karmic records. In our scriptures this is called the "Book of Life". They are so far away and so great that we can hardly picture them. When a soul returns to earth they decree his body and surroundings and also how much of his past karma he may deal with in the coming life. As the Moslem scriptures say, "the fate of every man is hung around his neck at birth." I suppose a really great astrologer could more or less see this. It can be altered. When a man lives to his highest he is challenging them and they respond by giving him more to deal with. They do not look upon us as individuals. They are only aware of the forces we generate, which to them are like a gigantic sum to be worked out. We generate such forces all the time by thought, desire, word and deed. These resound from sphere to sphere until they finally inscribe themselves upon that final fine film of matter the "akasha." Thus we all write our own fate in the Book of Life. Says the prophet Dan'el, "The matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones."

One very beautiful aspect of these beings is the Guardian Angel. Every child, before his own Ego takes on the duty, generally about the age of six or seven, has such a guardian. Hugh Benson, in his lovely mystical book "the Light Invisible" describes these. In one story he tells how such a one deliberately placed a child beneath the wheels of an advancing car. In another he tells how some thoughtless boys shot two little sparrows and as their frightened little souls left their little bodies an angel swooped down and took them in her hands. Yet another story of his tells of a lonely little boy who had lost his mother being visited every night by a beautiful lady who was the Mother of God. We know that the Mother of the Master Jesus did join the angel evolution and therefore became "Queen of the Angels." Man has immortalised the truth of the Guardian angels and artists have drawn pictures of them. I cannot do better than close this letter with the lovely words of Robert Browning written about a picture in Florence which depicts such a one:--

"Dear and great Angel, wouldst thou only leave
That child, when thou hast done with him, for me!
How soon all worldly wrong would be repaired!
I think how I should view the earth and skies
And sea, when once again my brow was bared
After thy healing, with such different eyes.
O world, as God has made it! All is beauty:
And knowing this is love, and love is duty,
What further may be sought for or declared?"

Your affectionate friend,

Clara Codd

From your secretary: Those bits you send in for postage, etc., made possible a \$35.00 check to Miss Codd in November, and another \$20.00 in December and of course she was most appreciative of it!