



SPIRITUALISM.

PUBLISHED BY

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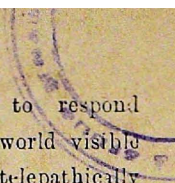
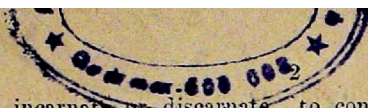
Spiritualism.

What is spiritualism?

In appropriate beautiful language, Dr. J. M. Peebles, the veteran Spiritualist, author and lecturer writes, 'I use the word Spiritualism in contradistinction from Materialism. The latter leads to death, while Spiritualism leads to life and demonstrates a future progressive existence.

'As there is continuity of force and life so is there a continuity of inspiration and psychic phenomena. All tribes and nations of antiquity believed not only in gods, but in an invisible supreme presence, and dreamed hopefully, if not knowingly of a future state of being.

'The very foundation of spiritualism, as every trained thinker must see, is spirit—spirit, pure, conscious, life imparting and eternal: spirit immanent alike in the infinitesimal cell, the unfolding bud, glittering star, and the human soul; and human beings, being 'made' *evolved* in the 'image of god' are necessarily spiritual beings, reciprocally related to the spirit-world. It is just as natural, therefore, for spiritual beings, whether



incarnate or discarnate, to converse, to respond one with the other, whether in the world visible or invisible, as it is for thought to telepathically respond to thought, or as it is for music to respond to music through the law of vibration.

The Divinity in Man.

Dr. Peebles writes "What is Man, essential man? Man is not an accretion of matter and force—not a come by chance—not an aggregate of elements or a walking bit of manufactured mechanism of diversities; but a unit, an indivisible, uncompounded entity, an *atman*, an ego, eternally related to the infinite life and energy of the universe called uncaused causation."

In all acts of daily life, Man receives direct revelation and inspiration from God and His Angels of the Ages. He can commune with the Deity and the Spiritual denizens at will. The power to enable him to do so, is latent in him. To unfold it is his mission in life. Man's life has its highest significance. It has relation with the physical, mental, moral, psychic and spiritual activities. To develop his Ego, to the highest possible Spiritual Nature so as to enjoy the conscious Bliss and the company of the Deity and His Angels is the veritable goal of life.

And this is the end and aim of all the popular philosophies we know of.

In all matters spiritual, man comes face to face with Truth--the eternal reality of life. When once man begins to move in this line he has the tendency to acquire Spiritual Knowledge, either by Study or Experience or by both. Self-study and self-experiences are always desirable especially in this field. This desire for self-research has always been manifested in Man in all ages, and in all climes; and the result is the world has witnessed in all ages many highly developed souls teaching and preaching the divine gospel truths of Spiritualism, which they gained by their intuition, inspiration and ecstasy. So much so, we see many religions, the result of the earnest researches and investigations into the spiritual Realms. The religious beliefs of all nations embody the truths of the spiritual Realm and God; but the naked truths of the One only Spirit are clothed in different vestures being as they were grasped from different stand-points. Founders of religions have grasped those sublime truths according to their temperament and the environmental conditions and the power behind such Inspirations. This surely accounts

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for the diversities of religious beliefs and doctrines. Truth remains ever as Truth and nobody can change it. And no religion need boast of its superiority over another. Each is great in its own place. Every religion has got its sublime Truths.

Truth is that which you consciously believe to exist and that is of God or Spirit-Eternal or Paramatma. Spirit is the source and centre of all Inspirations. Its sphere comprises the Brahmanda or the primordial Golden Egg of the Aryan Hindus. It is within the sphere of Spiritual influences all beings of the Universe do live, move and have their own conscious being. This sphere is the abode of Love, Purity, Good-will and all other Spiritual Attributes and they vibrate in unison with the great anthem of the Universe. This anthem is called by the Aryan Hindus as the Sabdha Brahman, Logos. To realize fully the grand secrets of Nature it may take you time. Poets, Painters, Philosophers, sages, saints and seers of all ages in all climes have realized to a great extent those sublime truths. It becomes you to do so.

Who is a Spiritualist?

He who believes that departed souls communicate freely with man on this plane, even after the change called DEATH. But he who develops his spiritual faculties and lives a life in complete harmony with the ethical, philosophical and scientific aspects of Spiritualism is a *true* Spiritualist. He is the one entitled to the name in its highest meaning.

Here are some fundamental principles on which the Spiritual philosophy rests.

Man is a dual being,—a physical structure and a spirit,—the spirit is the Ego manifesting through the physical form. When the Ego casts off its physical envelope in the change called DEATH, it continues to live in a new condition as a conscious entity, progressing on and on, retaining its memory of previous experiences, sympathies and aspirations. In this new life and surroundings it is enveloped in an organism of refined matter, ofcourse invariably similar (but subtler) in form to its mundane life, only subject to the direct influence of the laws of the Spiritual realms.

In this new condition the Ego receives the reward of right thinking and right living,

and suffers as much for his wrong thinking, and wrong living while in the previous plane of existence. There is no arbitrary decree, final judgment or atonement for wrong, except through the self-conscious suffering for the wrong doing. In short as an Ataman thinks, speaks and acts in the physical plane of life, so is he adapted to the Spiritual planes. The knowledge, the degree of unfoldment of the inner nature, and the earthly experiences of the Ego are really the materials so to speak, with which he has to work out his future life in the newly conditioned spiritual planes. Progressive evolution of intellectual and moral powers of the Atman marches him on and on along the souler spheres of Light. This degree of unfoldment of the spiritual faculties is vouchsafed even to all beings in this physical plane provided people live the life of the Master-Saints and Saviours such as Lord KRISHNA, BUDDHA, JESUS, ALLAH, ZÖRASTER and others of equal attainments, who *are* in fact, face to face with the Eternal Spirit or Paramatma in the highest Spiritual plane. The Spirit communions, manifestations and phenomena recorded in their life-Histories were quite natural. They are possible of

demonstration even in this age of the world drifting fast into materialism. Those Master-souls worked always unselfishly and for uplifting Humanity along spiritual lines; hence they were successful and spiritually powerful.

Ancient Spiritual Records.

People of all ages did not doubt the existence of life after what is known as the physio-psychical change—Death. They had some evidences of conscious life after death, and to a certain extent had opportunities of holding communion with the denizens of the Spiritual realms that lie beyond our physical vision. If you carefully analyse the historical ancient records of nations you can have innumerable references relating to spiritual manifestations. Take the Christian Bible, and it gives its own evidences in many places. The Koran of the Mohamadians has its own. The PURANAS, the ITHIHASAS, the Epic poems—the RAMAYANA and the MAHA-BHARATA, and the Lives of the Dravidian Saints namely the AZHVARS of South India, who are even to day regarded by the Srivaishnavite Order of Brahmins as Messiahs, record beautifully many spiritual phenomena. So is the sacred

historical ancient work of every race of the globe, giving accounts of spirit manifestations. These we refer here so that the reader may conveniently enquire and research in this field of the Spiritual Nature of Man.

What Constitutes Mediumship?

From one of DR. PEEBLES camp-meeting Lectures, we call below some beautiful paragraphs.

Knowledge of the spiritual realms comes through Spiritual "Mediums, psychological sensitives, called in ancient times, seers, visionists, oracles, and the "Lords anointed." Not understood, they were persecuted, hunted, and some went to the stake, testifying to the power of the divine spirit and immortality. And sad to say, the moral worth of mediumship is not appreciated in this Mammon time of materialism.

"Physiologically considered, it (mediumship) is organisation relating to the muscles, plexuses and the nervous system; and spiritually it is a gift, just so far as spiritual intelligences aid in unfolding it. And here I must repeat for the hundredth time that "medium" is not the proper word to use. As a word it neither

suggests nor enshrines any moral quality. It may mean a thousand things. The proper words to employ when referring to mind, or to a future life, are psychic, sensitive, psychic sensitive, or sensitive intermediary.

"The most satisfactory psychic influences are personal. Every man's house is his castle and in that castle should be a shrine--an altar for religious meditation, spiritual unfoldment and angelic converse. Within such consecrated walls is the place to develop sensitiveness and clairvoyant vision. Forget not that the highest sensitive unfoldment is from within. It is the coming--through aspiration in silence--into a conscious relation with the invisible host--the Mahatmas of the celestial realms. Reaching this state, psychics--while avoiding obsessions--become co-workers with the wisdom of the angels of eternity. Though all may be influenced more or less by environments, consciously or unconsciously, all can no more become sensitives for direct intercourse with the spiritual world than all can become mathematicians or musicians. The God know their own and they assign them their positions."

Almost all persons possess a phase of Psychic Sensitiveness, which is in fact a degree of unfoldment along spiritual lines. The human family is being slowly evolved in that direction which is a welcoming sign. It is true, man can quicken or slaken his evolution as he pleases. The quickening of the unfoldment is a highly desirable factor.

There are different types of mediumship and to develop to the highest would mean to unfold all the faculties inherent in Man. Every one should try his utmost to develop and utilize his spiritual powers and then should look to God and His Angels for Guidance and Soul-Bliss.

Spiritual Meditation is the key to such a development. Directly and indirectly, Meditation will enable you to realize God and his Angels.

Dr. Austin, one of the American Spiritual Researchers suggests: "If we would develop impressional or other phases of mediumship we should sit a few moments daily in the silence, relaxing the body and freeing the mind from care or worry, cultivating a contented, optimistic frame of mind, and lightly poising the attention on some object or thought,

sending out our desires and hopes for the true, the beautiful and the good. Listen to the still small voice. Make a note of the impressions that come to you, especially any that are new and strange.

"One good thing to do in developing any particular phase of mediumship is to concentrate attention upon the sense organ of the physical relating to that phase. Let us suppose it is clairaudience you are hoping to unfold. Sit in the silence under the best conditions you can command and listen not with the outward ear alone—but with the soul. Fix your undivided attention on the inner ear and listen as though life depended on the hearing of the finest and most delicate sound vibrating. This should not be too protracted. The result will be along the line of unfoldment of clairaudience.

"The philosophy of this is very simple. When our thoughts are directed to an organ there is a flow of the magnetic forces of the whole being to that organ and a consequent growth and development not only of the ordinary sense of hearing, but a growing sensitiveness to the finer vibrations. Clairvoyance, Clairaudience, Clairsentience, are only heightened and perfected

powers of the sense organs of physical."

These suggestions are not new to Aryans of India. The Great Rishi Patanjali, the Inventor of Yoga, has advised 'Samyama' or restraint to several physical organs, and the result is the development of several Siddhic powers.

How to form Spirit Circles?

When you have made up your mind to try experiments along this line assuredly there is one of your Spirit-friends or relatives or any humanitarian in Spirit life ready to attend your seance and to guide and help you in your psychic researches. Patiently the spirit awaits the time of your spiritual prayer to open your spiritual eyes and give hearing to your spiritual ears. As you know already, the Spirits are in the borderland of your physical conditions and to enable them to communicate to you or to speak to you in an audible manner or to materialize in actual physical form similar to the one it possessed during earth life, it is necessary you should create some atmosphere congenial to the spiritual environments.

To do so, the first step is to form a Spirit Circle. A spiritual seance or circle is a

gathering of persons who wish to establish relations with spiritual realms and to receive communications therefrom.

A spirit decarnate or in other words one who has passed over, or is *dead*, as people wrongly say, can easily inform us through the sensitive what is going on in the life of a friend or relative on earth, or beings in our neighbour planets. For such spirit communications and communions many conditions are necessary. Development ought to be given its own time. Regularity, punctuality and earnest applications are the main points to be attended to.

A circle should be formed of at least 5 persons. Get a round table in a well ventilated room, having sufficient light. There should be no intrusions from outside. Flowers, music and prayers add inspiration to the assembly, and are productive of quicker results; in the selection of members, be careful that they are persons who evince a great interest in the development of mediumship. Friday and Tuesday evenings are days adapted for spiritual Magnetic rapport. Always prefer 7 to 8 p. m. Let the members assemble and discuss some spiritual subject without debate devoid of the element of

discord. Music and prayer to the Deity will establish the Spiritual bond of rapport or communication. Let the members now sit around the table with their hands lightly resting on the table, palms downwards, and remain thus passive for some time say 15 minutes. In a short time a peculiar magnetic vibration will be felt by all the members. This is an evidence of a Spirit presence in the room. It is admitted on all hands that a person of light complexion is of the negative order and those of dark complexions are positive. This has reference to their spiritual magnetism. As a rule a light person should sit next to a dark one, or a lady next to a gentleman.

The members of the circle need not necessarily have any physical contact between themselves, but sometimes quicker results follow when hands and fingers are in contact by light touching. The lights should be subdued, and darkness should never be the case.

With these preliminary conditions fulfilled, await the manifestations of the Spirit-presence. You may have results on the first day or it may take some more days. If after a dozen sittings, there is no evidence of any

spiritual manifestation, it is a fact that the presence of any of the members may not be good material or magnetism and that may repel any spiritual rapport. Then it is necessary to reform the circle many times before the right people have been selected.

Manifestations will not take place all on a sudden. The initial phenomena will most likely take the form of raps, tilts or movements of the table. Prior to raps or tilts all the members can notice a quivering of vibrations in the material of the table. It is a good sign. Do not exhibit any curiosity at such occasions. Be calm and passive as before. Raps will generally follow this. The raps do not always come on the table; but often come under the table or on the walls of the room. These signs indicate the success of the circle.

Some-times instead of the rappings, manifestations may take the form of the tippings of the table. The sensations will be the same as prior to the rappings. Even the heaviest tables often move from side to side and sometimes the table is carried several feet off the sitters. The power to do so comes of the spirit wishing to manifest, and this power is called *Spiritual Magnetism*.

The tilts or movements can be made to serve as a method of communication between the spirits and mortals for forming a code of signals. Researchers have adopted the following in answering questions. One rap or tilt to mean "NO," two raps to indicate "DOUBTFUL;" three raps or tilts as "YES;" and 4 raps as "Good night." Now you may put any question to the spirit and see what answer you receive. One of the sitters should act as a spokesman and address the invisible presiding spirit in clear language.

If any member shows a desire to write, as indicated by the movements of the hand and arm, supply the person so influenced with a sheet of paper and a pencil and await results.

If any sitter all of a sudden passes into a Trance (a psychological condition akin to the mesmeric sleep) the parties around should never exhibit nervousness or fear. It is this phase of Spiritualism that is good for perfect communication with the Spiritual realm. The entranced one passes into the realm of communication with spirits without any warning of any kind. At such occasions the sitters around should entertain purity of thought. During trance, the

medium or the member under the control of the spirit, grows pale. The manifestations following this phase are many and different. In trance, the medium's body is the temporary dwelling place of the Spirit decarnate, and in this state, the spirit, through the agency of the medium may deliver addresses, describe spirits present, and also scenes in the spirit realms. The medium may also personate the character of departed friends, and imitate the characteristic actions and personal incidents—names, dates etc,—connected therewith and with the aid of the Planchette,—a writing machine, made of an oval shaped wooden board with small wheels and a lead pencil, can write out the messages on paper. The spirit of a departed friend often becomes the "GUIDE," and other departed persons and beings often converse through that guide. A pure hearted soul is always a good guide.

Physical Manifestations.

For Materialization of Spirit forms, which is a phase of physical phenomena, cabinets ought to be arranged to assist the phenomena. For this kind of manifestation a separate atmosphere from those of the sitters is necessary.

This is to be of a subtle atmosphere and it is the desirable one for spirits to produce a physical body, while the medium is in the Trance state. Darkness is an essential requisite for Materializations. In the room the members sit, arrange a cabinet as follows. Take a black shawl and have it strunged across one corner of the room. The medium should sit in this closet. The top need not be covered. The light in the room should be left dimly burning. Leave the medium alone to be entranced by the Spirit Guide. The other members may be seated at various parts of the room and they can be engaged in Prayer and Music which are essential elements for Spiritual Magnetism. You may not have manifestations all at once but good results will follow in time.

When conditions are all satisfactory, the sitters may see hazy lights in and around the curtain. They will appear to be glittering stars and at once will disappear. Various coloured clouds and lights will float about the room and gradually vanish. These are astral conditions, and as the sitters are earnest in their prayers and in purity of thought, these spirits will form a complete Body akin to their physical counterpart.

Long white clouds will appear and these will assume the crudest shapes of the human beings. Those unfolding Clair-voyant phases can notice faces of departed spirits, and recognise such. These forms must not be frightened away by the timidity of the sitters as they will not favour you with their presences.

Before materialization of faces, people sometimes see manifestations of spirit hands. On all these occasions the members as a whole should be conversing on such topics as pertain to the manifestations. The medium may now be asked to come out of the cabinet and sit in the circle. More phenomena will follow as of material articles being taken away by invisible agencies to the other parts of the room, or some objects of the sitters may be taken away and *dematerialized* in their own presence, and afterwards returned in the proper form.

Returning again to the cabinet, the medium will soon be entranced as before and as the seances continue regularly, more marked and advanced results will follow; so much so the materialized spirit forms will go by the sitters and talk on matters as would please them. They can be touched and spoken to, just the

same as you would with your friends, but before doing so, you should have the approval and co-operation of the will of the Medium; else such forms will dematerialize and vanish. To prove that such are actual physical forms etherialized, you can have them photographed, and the results will be quite satisfactory.

For all practical purposes you can rely upon the messages of good spirit Guides.

Spiritual Phenomena.

Here is a list of phenomena which take place in every developed spiritual circle.

Rappings; tippings; playing upon musical instruments; direct or independent voices through trumpets or other instruments; voices without any instruments; writing upon slates or paper to our questions; operating telegraphic instruments without any human contact; type-writing under similar conditions; levitations of human bodies or other objects; Materialization partial or full; etherealization, transfiguration of the face of the medium to resemble that of the spirit control; spirit photography; painting in light by invisible agency; automatic writing; writing through planchette, automatic drawing; automatic singing and address; trance-control;

clair-voyance, clair-audience and clair-sentience; psychometry; spiritual Healing without drugs or any doctor's contact, etc.

All these are spiritual gifts and they are developed as we bestow our time, attention and earnestness in this field of research.

Healing the Obsessed.

Men and women, boys and girls and even animals "may be obsessed by hypnotic empowered mortals as well as by immortals." Demonical obsessions, forms of "psychical influences are from evil disposed spirits." A demon is 'a selfish, undeveloped spirit.' It is a 'low order of the invisible presences,' ever seeking an opportunity to become enrapport with the earthly conditions to satisfy its cravings upon human beings in this plane. The Ghosts are disembodied spirits and are clothed in the black and red dress or aura. Their auric impressions are repellent to the pure-minded clair-voyant-sensitive. These disembodied beings are "ignorant, malignant and discontented," "wandering in the invisible intermediate state, intent upon mirth, mischief and annoyance to mortals, chiefly by means of obsession, selfish possession, or wicked inspirations exemplifying the doctrine of

transference of thought and of transmigration and reincarnation."

Modern doctors of medicine, who are not versed in psychical and spiritual sciences, treat cases of 'Obsession' as some thing else and go to attribute causes—physical instead of psychical.

There are many dangers attending upon the obsessed. The victims are 'devoid of will-power, and self-consciousness; they easily fall a victim to the mischievous deeds of these haunting spirits, and 'the patients are mere automata.' To heal such and to relieve the sufferings of such afflicted souls is a duty incumbent upon each and every Spiritualist.

How to heal the obsessed? The obsessing spirit is unaware of the injury his contact has done upon the body and the mind of the patient. A good Hypnotic-Spiritualist can heal such cases. The operator should have his self-confidence, and employ slowly but effectively his resolute Will and "Suggestion" or "Mantras" if preferred. Fear should be rooted out of the patient; and Hopes of regaining Health, should be slowly instilled.

Dr. AUSTIN suggests: "If the obsessing

spirit refuses to depart or is unable--which is sometimes the case--summon a group of harmonious, magnetic and spiritual people (of one accord and one mind) and form the group in the shape of a horseshoe, placing the patient, if possible between the two open ends of the shoe. Concentrate your will forces on the obsessing intelligence. Let someone lead in earnest invocation for angelic help. Not only ask for it--demand it as you have a right, and continue the sittings until relief comes."

Writes Dr. PEEBLES: "The highly developed harmonial man is immune from demon influences. When lived in moral purity, spiritualism is the safeguard against--the happy preventive of obsessions, for it wards off and puts up electro-etheric bars against all low insidious influences from the Tartarean spheres of dark-

"This age is one of transition. " as well as climate is changing. That "rap" has echoed around the world, worlds, visible and invisible are our mental and moral contact is at the helm. Opportunity therhood are the magic words. The wise seeing and hearing accordingly."