

To the Editor:

### **Higher Teachings from Mediumistic Sources**

In the latter half of the last century, a very unusual event occurred in mediumship and channeling. Information was given, directly and specifically, to humanity on earth by the most spiritually advanced beings, which is extremely difficult and rare. This united group, of the greatest prophets, enlightened beings, and noble souls known to our world and the spirit world, known to followers as Illumined Souls, leads and has long led two great spirit organizations, one for service and the other for teaching.

The information given, from such a high, unbiased, and therefore reliable source, is intended to raise the spiritual level of our lives and so should be of interest of all who wish to reduce the extensive discord, chaos, and suffering on earth. (Here, by "spiritual" I mean having nobility of character, ideals, aspiration, and efforts, with a high level of moral consciousness.) But I believe this information should also be of interest to investigators of paranormal phenomena because it also addresses many areas they investigate. I cannot recall reading many reports by investigators who indicate they have considered what authoritative spirit leaders have taught on paranormal subjects. I will mention some areas of possible interest shortly.

The Illumined Souls shared and helped to compose these extensive teachings through 25 years of collaboration, by discussion not dictation, using the most highly spiritual and skilled mediums available; in the early years these included Estelle Roberts and Leslie Flint. These teachers ask us to accept only what our inner being tells us is true and our reason completely embraces. They arranged for one of their own (Michael Flagg) to live on earth and receive their knowledge; they asked him to form a nonprofit organization, The Universal Spiritual Brother&Sisterhood [sic] (USB), and to spread their teachings, initially as free newsletters and subsequently in the book *Spiritual Light* (Flagg & Finnemore, 2014). The SPR library was given a copy of the book, which is therefore available for lending to members. The USB has also created an extensive website and a Facebook page for more current events, both at theusb.org.

The beautiful and inspiring teachings in *Spiritual Light* are extraordinarily pure and for these times. They are not a religion but are presented for all people, regardless of their beliefs, in a down-to-earth, clear, and simple way. They address truth, spiritual laws, love, responsibility, spiritual progress, psychic phenomena, life on earth and in the spirit realms, and many related subjects.

The evidence for the truthfulness of *Spiritual Light* lies primarily in the wisdom and spirituality of its content. Teachings by highly spiritual afterlife authorities have occasionally been presented before, in mostly older books, (e.g., Austen, 1938 and Moses, 1949). But *Spiritual Light* is very extensive and addresses more "technical" and specific areas that may be of interest. In addition, as these teachings are agreed by a group, they are

more reliable. At their request, the book does not name the illumined spirit teachers, among other reasons because they want people to accept teachings for their content and not because of the teachers' names.

The primary interest of Illumined Souls is to spread on Earth a better understanding of spiritual truth and to improve our ways of living. However, they are concerned that ill-intentioned spirits, often very determined and persistent, are pushing many spirit/paranormal phenomena and other mysteries to interest and divert us from studying spiritual truth from high and reliable spirit sources (Flagg & Finnemore, 2014, topic 1124:8–10) . They are also concerned that, without such studies, too many people cross over to spirit life with earthly misconceptions and so suffer unpleasant consequences like spirit deafness or blindness.

Subjects that these wise teachers have told us about, that could be of interest to psychical researchers, include *déjà vu*, stigmata, dowsing, apports, spoon bending, exorcism, glossolalia, and fire walking. Areas that could — and I think should — be of interest include the mechanics of mediumship, of spirit communication, of materialization, of unorthodox healing, of prophesy, and of reincarnation. Some of their teachings, which relate to particularly popular and specific areas of psychical research, include:

- That devices may be able to assist human mediumship but can never replace it; successful cases of spirit communication using devices require experimenters in time to develop a certain degree of mediumship (Flagg & Finnemore, 2014, topic 1215);
- That all mediums of consequence, and especially those devoting their lives to serving others, will have spirit co-workers ("guides") whose level of responsibility and integrity, etc., will in time usually be commensurate with the medium and the relevance to humanity of the project at hand. But for inexperienced or self-interested mediums, and for short-term investigations like the occasional use of the ouija board, mischievous and even malevolent spirits can have a gala time producing misleading results or communications and spreading dangerous untruths (Flagg & Finnemore, 2014, see index).
- That in the lower spirit realms there are so many spiritually unevolved beings, many of them "earth-bound", who are resentful or angry and seek to mislead, trouble, or oppose us; the well-recorded cases of poltergeists are good examples. And among those beings there will be spirit scientists who are capable of cleverly interfering with our experiments and are anxious to mislead or obstruct us.

I suggest that investigations of the paranormal need to be executed with such issues in mind.

From the history of psychical research, spirit phenomena, and spirit communication, it seems rather apparent that spirit world authorities have been reluctant to provide our world with incontrovertible evidence of their existence. Questions, concerns, and issues always

seem to arise around major evidence, presumably in order to encourage believers to think for themselves and perhaps to give disbelievers the “out” they want. It seems that spirit leaders are in this way encouraging us to investigate for ourselves and to not accept anything unthinkingly from anyone, which they advocate so often (Flagg & Finnemore, 2014, Intro:43 & topics 110:6, 316:5).

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