

Michael Tymn's blog on White Crow Books website
(containing much reference to *Spiritual Light*)
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Evidence vs. Enlightenment

Many people complain that we get nothing but trivialities from mediums. They ask why the purported spirits don't tell us what life is like on their side of the veil, why we are here, what life is all about, something really meaningful.

William James, one of the pioneers of psychology and psychical research, questioned the "extreme triviality" of most of the communication coming through Leonora Piper, the renowned Boston medium studied by the Society for Psychical Research for more than two decades. "What real spirit, at last able to revisit his wife on this earth, but would find something better to say than that she had changed the place of his photograph?" James asked, stating that most communication was confined to such remarks.

The fact is that there were considerable "teachings" coming through Mrs. Piper, the best example being that detailed in Chapter 8 of my book, *Resurrecting Leonora Piper* – communication coming from Augustus P. Martin, a former mayor of Boston, Mass., to Anne Manning Robbins. James makes no mention of those messages in any of his writings. Nor does he even allude to the volumes of spirit teachings that were recorded and published by Judge John Edmonds and Dr. George Dexter in their 1853 book, *Spiritualism*, by French educator Allan Kardec in his 1857 book, *The Spirits' Book*, or by William Stainton Moses in his 1883 book, *Spirit Teachings*. Those three books provide answers for just about any questions a person might have relative to the meaning of life and the nature of the afterlife.

Certainly, James realized that the *teachings* set forth in these books were not evidential in the same way that the "trivialities" coming through Mrs. Piper were. So, what was his problem? Is it possible he didn't even know about the works of Edmonds, Dexter, Kardec, and Moses? My guess is that they were too "unscientific" for him to mention in public writings? His "know-nothing" peers would have scoffed at him.

Since James's day, we have received the wisdom of Silver Birch, the Greber messages, the Seth material, the Course in Miracles, the Martha Barham books, the Afterlife Teaching from Stephen the Martyr, and a number of other channeled books. And now, just released, we have a book, *Spiritual Light*, by Michael Flagg and John Finnemore possibly outdoing all the others in addressing questions and concerns we might have relative to this life and the afterlife. It has more than 600 pages of wisdom, enlightenment, higher truths – whatever it might be called – purportedly coming from advanced spirits.

Born in 1903, Michael Flagg was a composer, writer, and editor. Soon after he started exploring spiritualism, mediumship, and spiritual philosophy taught by spirit guides, he began receiving much spiritual philosophy through various trance mediums. "Michael would enter each sitting with dozens of questions, which the spirit visitors usually answered before he could ask them,"

John Finnemore, who completed the book for Flagg, states. “They explained that their visiting from such high realms was extremely difficult due to the great difference in the levels of vibrations. This has made such high-level communication extremely rare. But once in a long while, as in this case, they set up the special conditions that enable them to directly communicate their teachings to someone on earth.”

The spirit visitors told Flagg that their mission together was to promote on earth a higher consciousness, which would lead to a better way of life, where people live united in love, peace, and harmony, in universal spiritual brother-and-sisterhood. “They were very concerned about present life on earth: its lagging spiritual development, the widespread chaos and suffering caused by greed and hunger for power, and the threats that occur from time to time to all or most life on earth,” Finnemore adds. “As one distinguished guide told him, ‘You have been chosen to help humanity out of this darkened state.’”

Here are some random teachings from the book:

Justice: “The Law of Cause and Effect and The Law of Compensation together form the Law of Justice. Because of this Law there is not, and cannot be, any injustice in the long run.”

Attraction: “The greater our spirituality, the nobler our character, ideals, aspirations and efforts, the higher is the caliber of those spirits people who come to us for one reason or another, often as guides and teachers. Like attracts like. That is the law of attraction.”

Affinity: “The Law of Affinity is a closer, more delicate, more soul-satisfying Law than the Law of Attraction. For while we may attract or be attracted to many, *we have only one affinity – our twin soul*, whom few of us meet on earth.”

Consciousness: “Consciousness of an individual is the sum total of what one is, *what one has become*. Each of us is in a continuous state of becoming. The more evolved one is, the greater is our consciousness, and the higher the level of our consciousness.”

Thought: “Thought is vibration – that is, energy in motion – either within our own mentality, or directed from one mentality to another...Whether or not a thought reaches its destination in the precise form in which it is projected, or whether it reaches its destination at all, depends on several things: the *intensity* of the thought; the conscious or unconscious *receptivity* of the person to whom it is directed; the degree of *attunement* of the two mentalities; and whether the thought is *relayed*, in which case there is always the risk of distortion, however unintentional.”

Wisdom: “The wiser people are, the humbler they are; for the more they know, the more they realize the immensity of what is still a closed book to them.”

Contentment: “There are a number of reasons for the widespread discontent in the world today. One is the common confusion of *desires* and *needs*, as we have pointed out, and seeking to acquire more and more of material things, not heeding the truth that to have *simple* wants is the secret of contentment.”

Spirit Population: “There are several reasons for the immense growth in the world population; but to catch any glimpse of the picture, we must first realize that even the thousands of millions of souls on earth today are only a very small percentage of the souls that exist – for there are many, *many* times as many souls in the spirit world as there are on earth.”

Ectoplasm: “Ectoplasm plays a vital role in many psychic phenomena. It usually emanates from the physical body in waves. At sittings or circles (séances) held in the dark or in subdued light, the semi-fluidic substance, which is then more visible, may be molded by skilled spirit chemists into rigid rods, often with finger-like endings. With these rods, which they can easily manipulate, they can move objects about, or suspend objects, notably the ‘voice box’ – the artificial larynx they construct for spirit communicators to use in speaking instead of the medium’s vocal cords.”

Time: “Those who on earth are always conscious of the time, will remain conscious of it when they pass on (return) to spirit life – until they realize that time (as they have known it) is useless to them, and discard that conception, just as they will discard some other conceptions. Some spirit people use a calendar or clock, or both, to help them adjust their activities to those of loved ones on earth, to remind them to be with them on special occasions...”

Travel: “A too common and surprising misteaching by many, on both sides of life, is that those living in the spirit world need only to *think* of being in another place to be instantly and automatically there. This is just not so. Thought alone is *not* enough. One must know the *mechanics* of such incredibly speedy movement. Just as almost all infants on earth need help in their first attempts to walk, so do almost all new arrivals in spirit life need help in learning how to transport themselves in a trice from one place to another.”

Various Bodies: “In the long journey of progression, we occupy more than five bodies – *physical, astral, psychic, spiritual, and celestial*, and after these, still others. We possess all these bodies while on earth. All of them are dwelling places for the real self, with the habitations becoming increasingly fine – that is of a more rapid rate of vibration. At all times, our outermost body is the one in which we are most comfortable, most at home in, and which, as a rule, is the only one we are aware of then.”

Aura: “Our auras record the sum total of what we have been and what we are – our character, our personality, our mental (which includes our spiritual) levels, our present state of consciousness, in fact *everything* about us.”

Transitioning: “When we pass on, we gravitate to the precise spot in the precise plane that we have prepared for ourselves by all we have done or not done while on earth – so perfect is Justice, as is every thing else that is of God, of course.”

Suicides: “Suicides may be completely earthbound. They may be tied to earth to a certain degree only. Or they may not be tied to earth at all. Much depends on their motive, on their sanity, and on the sum total of their entire life – *not* on just the final act alone.”

Lost animals: “Many theories have been advanced [for lost animals finding their way back to their owners], but we have yet to note the most common reason – that the animals were

successfully impressed and directed by spirit people aware of the grief caused by the separation...”

Other subjects addressed include reincarnation, alien life, dowsing, capital punishment, fate of animals, acupuncture, prayer, birth control, healing, glossolalia, identical twins, karma, levitations, materializations, miracles, precognition, sleepwalking, possession, spirit guides, malevolent spirits, clothing in the afterlife, telepathy, you-name-it.

Of course there is no way to scientifically test, measure, or validate such teachings, but to the extent that they appeal to reason and can be reconciled with a fair, just, and loving Creator, they are certainly worth considering. Moreover, such teachings seem to be consistent in the various references mentioned above, the difference being minor and apparently due, as suggested, to distortion in the communication.

It amazes me that that such books are not better known and appreciated by the public. The only answer I can come up with to explain this indifference is that the *light* emanating from these books is so *dazzling* that most people are blinded by it or simply not ready for it. The *Harry Potter* series seems like more than enough enlightenment for most. How sad!

A 1958 graduate in journalism, Michael Tymn (1937–) is a former nationally-ranked distance runner and US Marine Corps officer. As a journalist he has contributed over 1600 articles to some 40 publications in the past 60 years. He serves as the editor-in-chief of *The Journal for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies* and as editor of *The Searchlight*, both published by The Academy for Spiritual and Consciousness Studies.

Tymn is the author of seven books: *The Articulate Dead* (2008), *Running on Third Wind* (2009), *The Afterlife Revealed: What Happens After We Die* (White Crow Books, 2011), *Transcending the Titanic: Beyond Death's Door* (2012), *The Afterlife Explorers: Vol. 1: The Pioneers of Psychical Research* (2012), *Resurrecting Leonora Piper: How Science Discovered the Afterlife* (2013), and *Dead Men Talking: Afterlife Communication from World War I* (White Crow Books, 2014).