THE UNIVERSAL SPIRITUAL BROTHER & SISTERHOOD, INC.

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Dear sisters and brothers:

This nonreligious e-publication goes out with blessings of love and peace to those who are dedicated to the universal spiritual brother-and-sisterhood of all humanity—the ideal of this organization. Please share this with those you know who are interested in the spiritual development of individuals and our world. For access to past issues or to <u>sign</u> <u>up to receive future editions</u> via email (all free), please <u>visit our online archive</u>. We always welcome your impressions, questions, or topic suggestions via email at **staff@theusb.org**.

Most importantly, we remind readers that the USB Illumined Inspirers would always have us bear in mind to accept *nothing*—not even of what *they* say—that your reason does not wholeheartedly embrace *and* that your inner being does not unreservedly sense is true.

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Our Previous Newsletters:

Find our past issues <u>here</u>. These topics were covered in our prior issue, <u>eNL-29</u>:

Are the USB Teachings for You?

Michael's Corner—Who Is Michael?

Spirit Communication and Rescue Circles

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Reflecting on the Past; Looking to the Future

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Encouragement from an Illumined Soul

In our August 2021 issue, <u>eNL-24</u>, we discussed the topic of *Social Disruption* on earth. The challenges we wrote about then continue unabated, and, in fact, are intensifying in increasingly evident ways. In that earlier article, we noted that there is one thing we can *always* rely on to help us through these challenges, and that is *Eternal Truth*.

Representatives of the USB in spirit have communicated on several occasions in the past that they want the USB teachings to provide a safe haven and an anchor amid this earthly turmoil. Their teachings, as compiled in the USB's book <u>Spiritual Light</u> (SL), explain that the path of calm through these earthly storms is to follow spiritual principles, and to take to heart the reality that we are all part of one spiritual brother-and-sisterhood.

At a small group sitting with spirit leaders of the USB on earth on February 14, 2023, we were blessed to receive an inspiring message of great comfort and encouragement from a visiting Illumined Soul, High Mountain. As you may be aware, High Mountain has already spoken to the USB on earth during its early years. Two of those addresses are recorded in *Spiritual Light*, Appendix A (A01, A02).

In his most recent communication, High Mountain graciously offered this message:

You on the earth plane are teetering on the edge of momentous changes some of which cannot even be described. No matter where you find yourself, wherever you land, remember that we (in the spirit realms) are here to support you. When human beings get stirred up, they try to find ways to cope, and many choose to focus only on earthly things. The bond between the earth and spirit worlds may be forgotten, or ignored.

No matter where you find yourself and how you feel about it, remember to refocus yourself on spirit—your own spirit and that of your spirit friends. It is not always easy to do this. Ask for help, call spirit friends and guides by name. Responses may take a while or they may be instantaneous.





If you make this your priority whenever you feel troubled, getting through these difficulties will become smoother and easier for you. Anyone doing this will be helped by it. I encourage you to come to us first during challenging times. Practicing this as a regular habit will be most helpful to you, even for smaller issues. It will strengthen your connection to spirit, and prepare you for those times when you face greater challenges. We will advise and support you through what you need to do on earth. However, we cannot *fix* things for you—spirit leaders and guides must be careful not to do too much for you; we must allow people on earth to have their own experiences and thereby to grow spiritually.

On Spirit Blindness

You might be thinking, "What do you mean by spirit blindness? How could spirits possibly be blind, especially because *Spiritual Light (SL)* teaches us that spirit bodies have no imperfections?" (*SL* 1309). That is true. But a fuller understanding of spirit life, taught mainly in *SL* Chapter 13, explains an important impact of the immensely greater power of the mind there (*SL* 1323). Thus, if a spirit is convinced that spirits cannot see people on earth or earthly objects with their spirit eyes, they may not be conscious that they actually *do* see them (*SL* 1228:5). This is the explanation for what is known as spirit blindness.

A similar blindness can occur when someone who had a limb missing in earth life believes that it must still be missing in spirit life (*SL* 1228:9), and a similar spirit deafness occurs when spirit people are convinced that they cannot hear something (*SL* 1324:3).

The intention of this article is to help people avoid possible serious difficulties due to spirit blindness when they pass on to the next life (i.e., "die"). Large numbers of people in spirit life, and some on earth, devote much time to assisting people with such difficulties.

There are two factors which combine to create this problem:

- 1. The power of the mind in spirit life; and
- 2. The determined belief of some that spirit life does not exist.

In spirit life, people who have sufficiently progressed spiritually, and so have earned the right, can create objects mentally, by exercising their powers of thought. For example, groups of such volunteers build houses and other structures there in that way. Similarly, they create landscapes and flowers and toys. Likewise, spirit people who have earned the right and have been taught how, can travel anywhere, including to distant planets, by



merely thinking themselves there. These are some examples of the tremendous power of the mind in spirit life. The spiritualist literature gives many more examples.

However, this power can create a serious problem when individuals believe very determinedly, for example, that there is no such thing as spirits or spirit life. For when such people pass on, instead of seeing their deceased loved ones greeting them, they do not see them or any spirits. Because of their strong belief and the power of their minds as spirits, they will not see other spirits. In these cases, they are suffering from spirit blindness (*SL* 1322:3).

Spirits can usually see humans living on earth. And recently-arrived spirits can normally also see us because they expect to. But because spirits suffering from spirit blindness can only see people living on earth, not those in spirit life, volunteers on a spirit team somehow arrange for such sufferers to meet or see members of the cooperating earth team, who then try to explain what has happened and what sufferers need to do.

Some spirits stubbornly hold on to their problematic beliefs, sometimes for hundreds of years or more. It is clearly important to have an appropriate attitude to spirit life. Belief in it is not necessary, but belief against it can be very problematic. Having an open mind to the outcome is very acceptable, for new arrivals will then usually discover the truth quickly. If a new arrival feels "lost," the best thing they could do is to mentally ask for help, for it will surely come.

Spiritual Effects of Capital Punishment

Prayers for peace on earth are so frequent and common, yet their remarkable failure is not generally understood to be due to our support or tolerance of the practice of capital punishment.

When we execute evil-doers for their crimes, we set them free in the spirit realms, often harboring much resentment and vengefulness, to join the forces of darkness in



influencing whoever they can on earth to bring about disruption, misery, and wars. This has a major negative impact on our lives here.

As human understanding of an afterlife spreads, through growing evidence of near-death, out-ofbody, and many other experiences, let us support compliance with the commandment "Thou shalt not kill." Offenders should instead be humanely constrained and re-educated as far as possible. We can learn more about this from spirit-world authors, such as Robert Hugh Benson, in the last chapter of his book, *Heaven and Earth*, which was recorded and published in 1948 by his friend, Anthony Borgia. More information on this and other books by Anthony Borgia is available <u>here</u>.

Concern for Others

Many people love to talk about themselves, about what they have done, their experiences or their plans and desires for the future. When we stop to consider, this is probably something each of us has done on occasion.

While there is nothing inherently wrong with sharing about ourselves with family and friends, it is a far more spiritual uplifting trait to focus less on ourselves, to practice humility, and to show greater concern for *others*!

A wonderful list of spiritual characteristics, useful for our own self-examination and as a guide for personal spiritual development, can be found in topic *SL* 608, *Excerpts on Spirituality*, including the following ...

Someone who is spiritual:

- shows consideration for others (*SL* 608:12)
- is humble, sincere, and serves selflessly in the ways at hand (SL 608:20)



USB Teachings in Friday Afterlife Reports

We are pleased to highlight recent USB articles as presented in Victor and Wendy Zammit's <u>Friday Afterlife Report</u> online newsletters. We hope you enjoy them.

- When Does the Soul Enter the Physical Body?—An explanation. (Oct 14, 2022)
- The Power Behind a Simple Smile—Spreading good cheer. (Dec 9, 2022)
- Humor Here and in the Hereafter—Humor is a spiritual quality. (Jan 13, 2023)
- **Returning Home After Fighting the Good Fight**—Transitioning to spirit life, includes an inspiring poem authored by Michael Flagg, founder of the USB on earth. (Feb 10, 2023)

Ways to Help the USB

In our last e-newsletter, we suggested an optional way that you might consider supporting us financially through the Amazon Smile program. This is no longer a viable option since Amazon has ended the program as of February 20, 2023. A heartfelt thank you to all those who so kindly supported the USB this way in the past.



While the USB does not solicit anyone's help, financial or other, there are several ways you may offer to assist us, should you so wish. Please visit the <u>Helping the USB</u> section of our website for a more extensive review of this topic.

In light, love, and brother-and-sisterhood, *Your USB e-newsletter team* If any teaching and/or philosophy in this USB document is in conflict with or is not supported by *Spiritual Light* (ISBN 978-0-9912422-1-4 deluxe flex-cover, 978-0-9912422-2-1 paperback), which contains the only complete *official* teachings and philosophy of the USB, then *Spiritual Light* governs. The inclusion of this statement, in a box in a prominent position, and worded as in *Spiritual Light*, is required on every authentic USB publication containing its teachings and/or philosophy.

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