



# DISCERNING MINDS



Premiere Metaphysical Quarterly For The Abstract Enthusiast

SACRED SCIENCES \* ESOTERICISM \* CREATIVE THOUGHT \* PHILOSOPHIC TRENDS

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*What's Your Perspective?*



*Page Design By Kim Tsiang*

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# What's Your Perspective?

*Don't judge a book by its cover, rather, by what you uncover.*

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# MIND TEAM

## → TAKING AIM ←

Our Editorial and Managerial Teams are comprised of open minded people from different walks of life, professional backgrounds and divergent spiritual paths. Each team member brings to the table their own brand of expertise based upon educational accomplishment and practical life experience. They share their gifts and abilities as a team in order to present this E-Zine with the mindset of sharing information and uncovering truths.

Content contributors of Discerning Minds hail from all parts of the world with a desire to showcase and share their original thoughts, creativity, ideas, theories and speculations. If you would like to submit an article for possible publication please contact [editor.discerningminds@gmail.com](mailto:editor.discerningminds@gmail.com) with your proposal. Include a brief one paragraph summary of your work and why you would like it published. Up to two articles may be submitted for publication in a single issue. **Only original** articles/art/photography that fall into section category subject matter are considered for publication. The age requirement is 21 years and older. Accepted submissions are published gratis. Discerning Minds does not offer remuneration for published content.

Content sections are:

*The Human Condition* – Serious or humorous narratives, or prose about life, emotions and empathy based in life experiences, psychology of being, dream analysis, synchronicity, reincarnation, personal musings.

*A Matter of Spirit* – Esotericism, Higher Mind, Karma/Dharma, miracles, reincarnation, meditation, symbolic or religious/spiritual metaphoric accounts.

*Body Temple* – Alternative health, holistics, ancient and new healing, mind methods, auras.

*Phenomena Files* – Paranormal, extranormal, ultra-normal and unexplained experiences, Parapsychology, cryptids, UFOs, curses.

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*Creative Musings* – Original artwork and photography, poetry, prose, fantasy tales, stories with morals or messages.

*Odd-vant Guard* – Atypical, curious, paradox, eccentric or uncanny chronicles, yarns cartoons. Quirkology.



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# THE HUMAN CONDITION

**Life is full of traps; the most dangerous of these are the traps that you do not realize even after you are caught because if you do not realize that you are in the trap, you will remain in the trap.**

**Section Managing Editor –Dr. Daria Novicki**

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QUOTE from Mehmet Murat ildan @ Goodreads.com, Cover Design: Kim Tsiang

# Choosing Evil?

By Magia

*Evil is a construct based on individual morality. There is no such thing as good or evil, it is ALL based on intent and purpose.*<sup>1</sup> – James Lee Jeansonne

In today's world you can be good or you can be evil.

It is a choice.

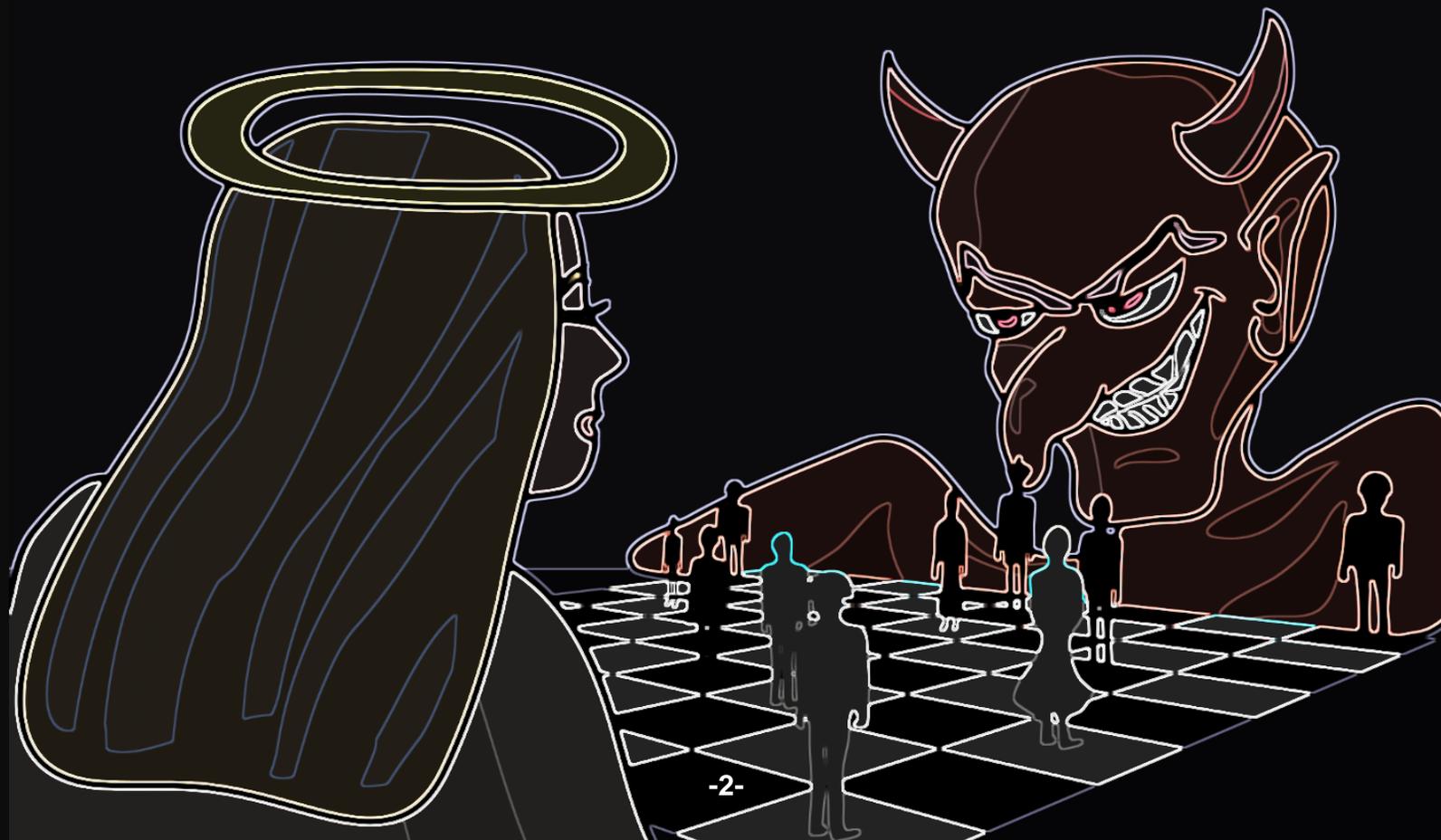
The term evil is a relative word. From your own perspective, you may feel you are good but you might also recognize evil.

A newborn child has – No morality - No ethics - No sense of Society

A child builds up basic moral values and ethics from his family environment. If basics are devoid, a desire for evil may be more prominent OR exactly the opposite. The individual may opt to better their station in life compared to early environment.

Some people may be more likely to make evil choices than others, but it is the choice to do evil that truly *makes* one evil. Evil is what you *do*. You can be altruistic by nature doing good deeds and helping others thus *good*. Conversely if you hurt people even with the best of intentions that's bad. Past a certain point no amount of good intentions stops you from being evil.

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*There is a wealth of scientific evidence that shows that people can be born lacking sufficient levels of certain chemicals produced by the brain to properly process empathy. There are also people who are born lacking basic brain functions. This lack of either chemicals or damage can cause behaviors that many could call “evil”.*

*There are also a whole host of individuals whose brains work differently than average. This is not a flaw, it is just different. They may look at the world from a very different perspective, such as sociopaths, or people with Asperger Syndrome. As we know, “different” is often mistaken for “bad”.*

*Behaviors are taught and reinforced throughout a person’s life. If the person experiences more positive reinforcement of negative behavior, those behaviors can become predominate.*

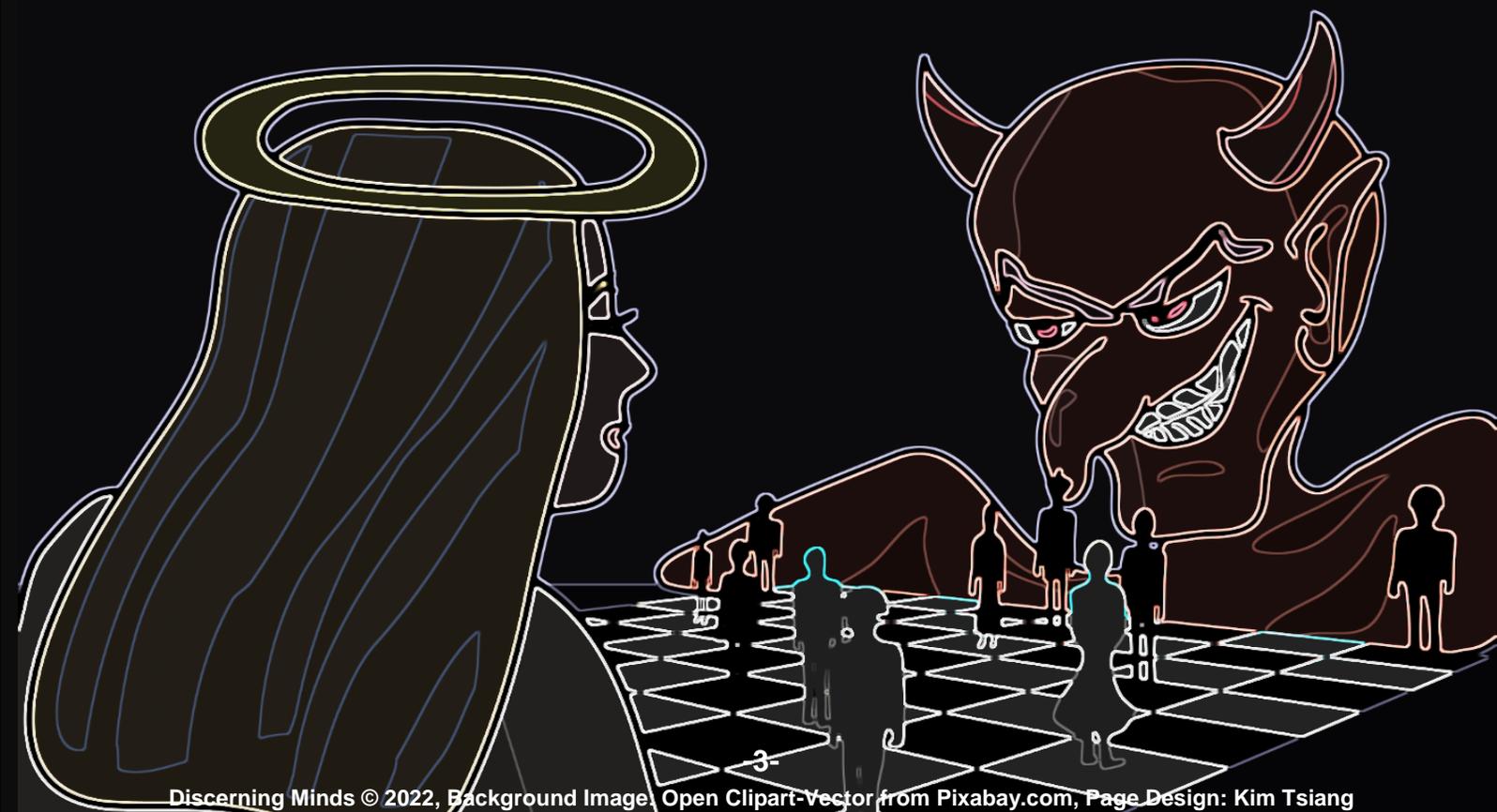
*In other words, there is no single cause for bad behavior, but there are reasons for why people behave badly, or may appear to be behaving badly, in comparison with the bulk of humanity and evil is sadly just a matter of perspective.<sup>2</sup> – Nina Walker*

*Even Darth Vader was innocent Anakin Skywalker once. It's the circumstances and your reaction to them that defines your nature. And nothing is pure evil, that's how we humans have sustained despite ourselves.<sup>3</sup> – Ritu Bisht*

Choices:

*“Constantly choosing the lesser of two evils is still choosing evil.” - Jerry Garcia*

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The **lesser of two evils principle**, also referred to as the **lesser evil principle** and **lesser-evilism**, is the principle that when faced with selecting from two immoral options, the least immoral one should be chosen. The principle is sometimes recalled in reference to binary political choices in democratic voting under a two party system. <sup>4</sup>

Remember - One of the most successful and seductive strategies of evil is to convince us our only choice is evil—that we must choose between the lesser of two evils.

No. We don't.

But you might justify doing so...

The moral dilemma behind these scenarios is the subject of a well-known argument in moral philosophy. Bernard Williams argued that you should care about maintaining integrity in your personal ideals – not necessarily at all costs, but at least a bit. That's because you have a special proprietary responsibility for acts you perform. Those choices and acts are, in some special sense, *yours*, distinct from outcomes that result from combining your choices and acts with everyone else's. <sup>5</sup>

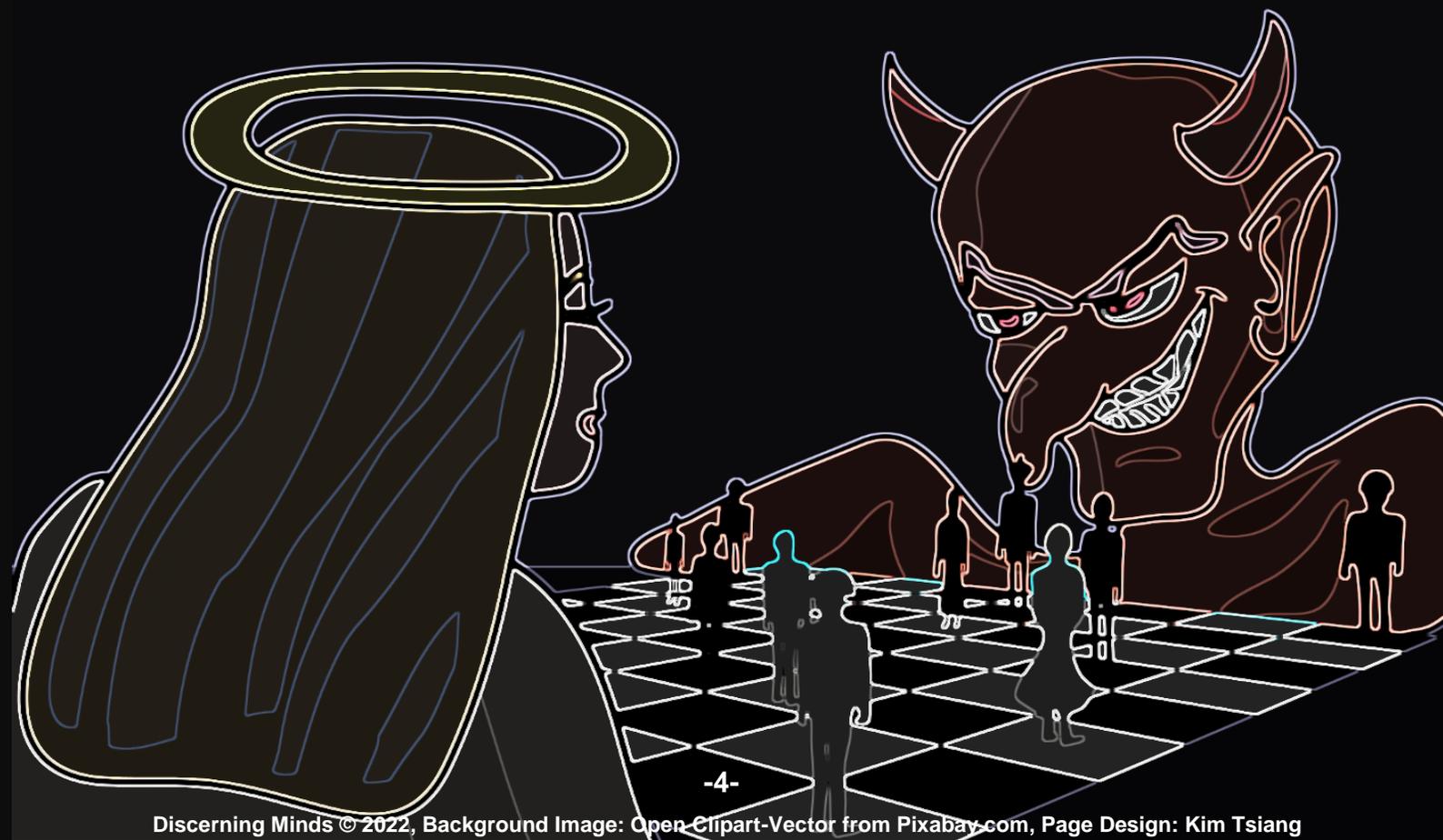
It's all you – your choice – your consequences.

Resources:

1-3 [www.quora.com](http://www.quora.com)

4 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lesser\\_of\\_two\\_evils\\_principle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lesser_of_two_evils_principle)

5 <https://psyche.co/ideas/when-is-it-ethical-to-vote-for-the-lesser-of-two-evils>





Street Angel



House Devil

## Street Angel House Devil

By Yvette Bonlesuer

My old Auntie used to have an expression: “street angel and house devil.” She used it in reference to her mother and always grimaced when she said it. Basically this refers to people who conduct themselves in the most pleasing, agreeable, charitable and exemplary manner out in public but who were hell on wheels - mean, nasty and ‘stick it to you’ abusive at home. Did you ever wonder why people act like that?

The *theory of moral licensing* might explain it: When humans are good, it says, we give ourselves license to be bad. Basically, people rationalize bad behavior. So what are they covering up?

“Humans are very good at finding reasons to be bad and making mountains of morality out of molehills of virtue.” - Daniel Effron

Below the surface:

Certainly a few ‘acts’ of public random kindness and friendly demeanor serving as a personality mask don’t make a difference at home with loved ones. So, is this actually narcissistic behavior? Or is it dual personality? Jekyll and Hyde syndrome in reverse?

Let’s say all of it. What is the MO?

- Narcissists appear to be powerful, confident and capable. BUT, this behavior is not consistent. This person can suddenly become accusatory, paranoid, childishly nasty, and even maliciously cruel.
- Yet, it’s very important to understand that people who are solid and healthy on the inside and do believe in their own self and capacity, don’t need to grandstand or publicize themselves.
- A narcissist is a self-promoter. A narcissist commonly will interject into conversations with what he or she has or hasn’t done, and thinks or believes, as if he or she is the authority on all topics.
- If a narcissist can’t assert their authority, or bring the attention back to themselves, he or she will usually change the subject, exit the scene or create some form of diversion or drama.
- People with healthy self-esteem who don’t suffer the dire insecurities that narcissists do, are comfortable to allow others to shine or know more than themselves, and can ask questions and be genuinely interested.

Continued...



Street Angel



House Devil

Continued...

- Narcissists, however, need to have centre stage complete with people seemingly being mesmerized by the narcissist's accomplishments, brilliance and talents.
- He or she will be deflated, sullen and moody if this is not the case, or even downright nasty, such as discrediting anybody who stole the attention that he or she so desperately needs in order to try to feel "normal". \*\*

Now what do all the SAHDs fail to understand?

The best indicator of real worldly success is how they act at home not on the street. If they were unmasked it would be curtains for them publically. Unfortunately unwitting people get sucked in by the mask because they can't take the time to look underneath.

*Nothing is more injurious to the progress of the world than judgments formed on the more fleeting glances which we obtain of the public life of any man. What counts is what he is at home when the mask has fallen off. A German saying has it: **Strass-Engel; Haus-Teufel** ("Street, angel; house, devil"). We are too prone to disassociate the "private" life of a man from his "public" life, forgetting all the time that if the former be evil, so will the expression in the latter be evil also. — Review: Bismarck's Letters to His Wife from the Seat of War. 1870—1871\**

\* (London: Jarrold and Sons, 1915)—review published in *The Herald* (London, England) of Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 1915

\*\* <https://family-court-corruption.com/narc>

Harper: In your experience of the world. How do people change?

Mormon Mother: Well it has something to do with God so it's not very nice.

God splits the skin with a jagged thumbnail from throat to belly and then plunges a huge filthy hand in, he grabs hold of your bloody tubes and they slip to evade his grasp but he squeezes hard, he insists, he pulls and pulls till all your innards are yanked out and the pain! We can't even talk about that. And then he stuffs them back, dirty, tangled and torn. It's up to you to do the stitching.

Harper: And then up you get. And walk around.

Mormon Mother: Just mangled guts pretending.

Harper: That's how people change.”



# **Dorian Gray and the Glamour of Evil**

By Rev. Dr. Loni Haas

The story of Dorian Gray, written by Oscar Wilde, is one of a distinguished young man who surrenders to the glamour of evil. Narcissistic by nature, the promise of everlasting youth, leads him into the dark side: every sin and imaginable depravity—the usual debauches of sex, drugs, and murder, etc.—in order to “cure the soul by means of the senses, and the senses by means of the soul.” In the story, a pact was made with unseen dark forces when after seeing his painted portrait and becoming overwhelmed by ‘his own beauty he utters with lament if only he could stay young and portrait age:

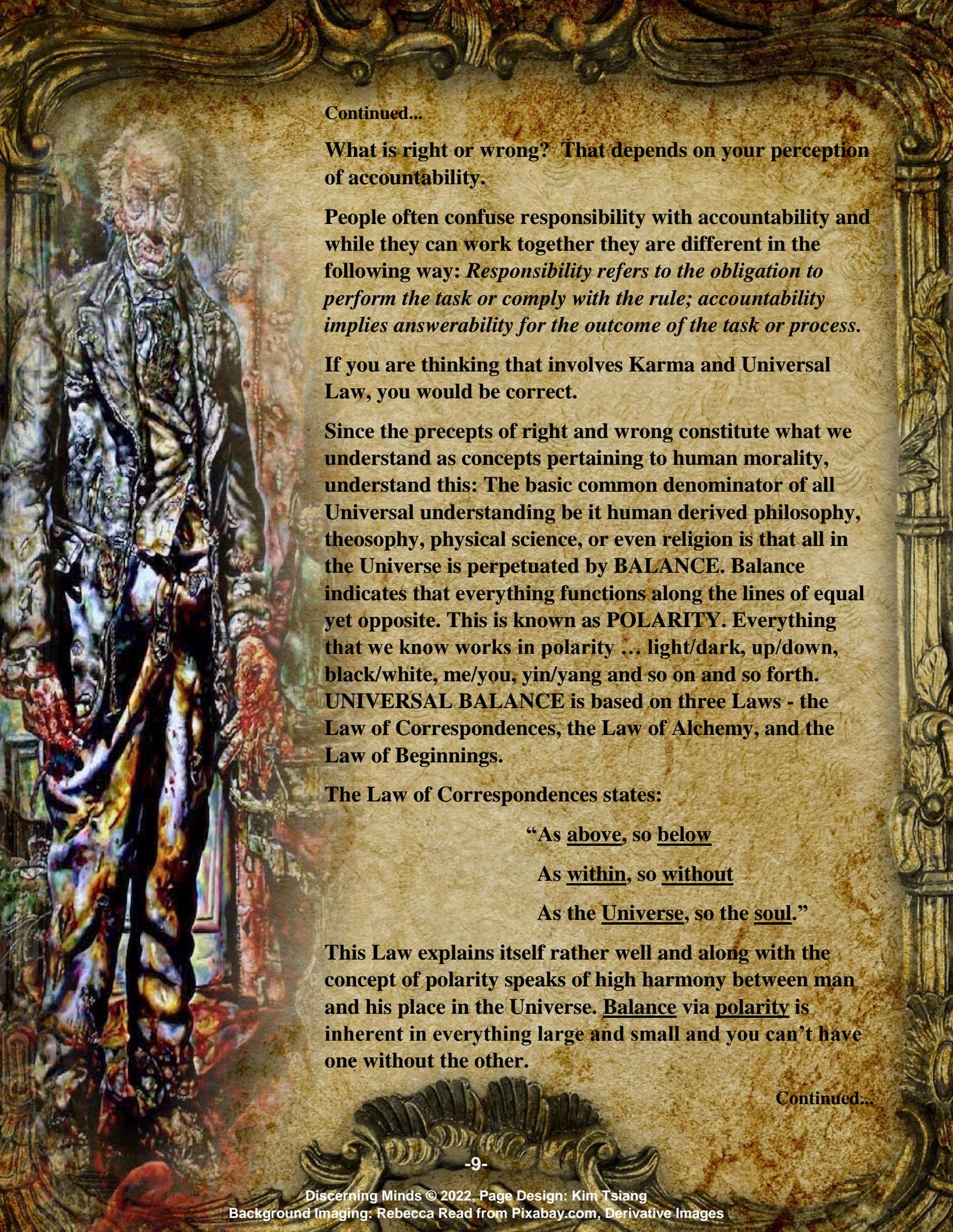
“How sad it is! I shall grow old, and horrible, and dreadful. But this picture will remain always young ... If it were only the other way! If it were I who was always to be young, and the picture that was to grow old! For that - for that I would give everything! Yes, there is nothing in the whole world I would not give! I would give my soul for that!”

He does indeed lose the goodness of his being by embracing a life of depravity and evil while his soul represented by the portrait grows old, deformed and hideous while he stays physically young and beautiful.

There is balance in the Universe and it is the foundation upon which it was created. There is a balance in all of humanity and each of us has the capacity for good or evil inherent within us and the ability to discern right and wrong. This is the balance of the human essence. Every day, we all make decisions based upon what is personally correct or incorrect for us. Without polarity and balance we would be no more than impassionate pawns void of responsibility strewn about a gray landscape lost with no direction. Do you choose to live your life in accordance with the Universal foundation of BALANCE?

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What is right or wrong? That depends on your perception of accountability.

People often confuse responsibility with accountability and while they can work together they are different in the following way: *Responsibility refers to the obligation to perform the task or comply with the rule; accountability implies answerability for the outcome of the task or process.*

If you are thinking that involves Karma and Universal Law, you would be correct.

Since the precepts of right and wrong constitute what we understand as concepts pertaining to human morality, understand this: The basic common denominator of all Universal understanding be it human derived philosophy, theosophy, physical science, or even religion is that all in the Universe is perpetuated by BALANCE. Balance indicates that everything functions along the lines of equal yet opposite. This is known as POLARITY. Everything that we know works in polarity ... light/dark, up/down, black/white, me/you, yin/yang and so on and so forth. UNIVERSAL BALANCE is based on three Laws - the Law of Correspondences, the Law of Alchemy, and the Law of Beginnings.

The Law of Correspondences states:

“As above, so below

As within, so without

As the Universe, so the soul.”

This Law explains itself rather well and along with the concept of polarity speaks of high harmony between man and his place in the Universe. Balance via polarity is inherent in everything large and small and you can't have one without the other.

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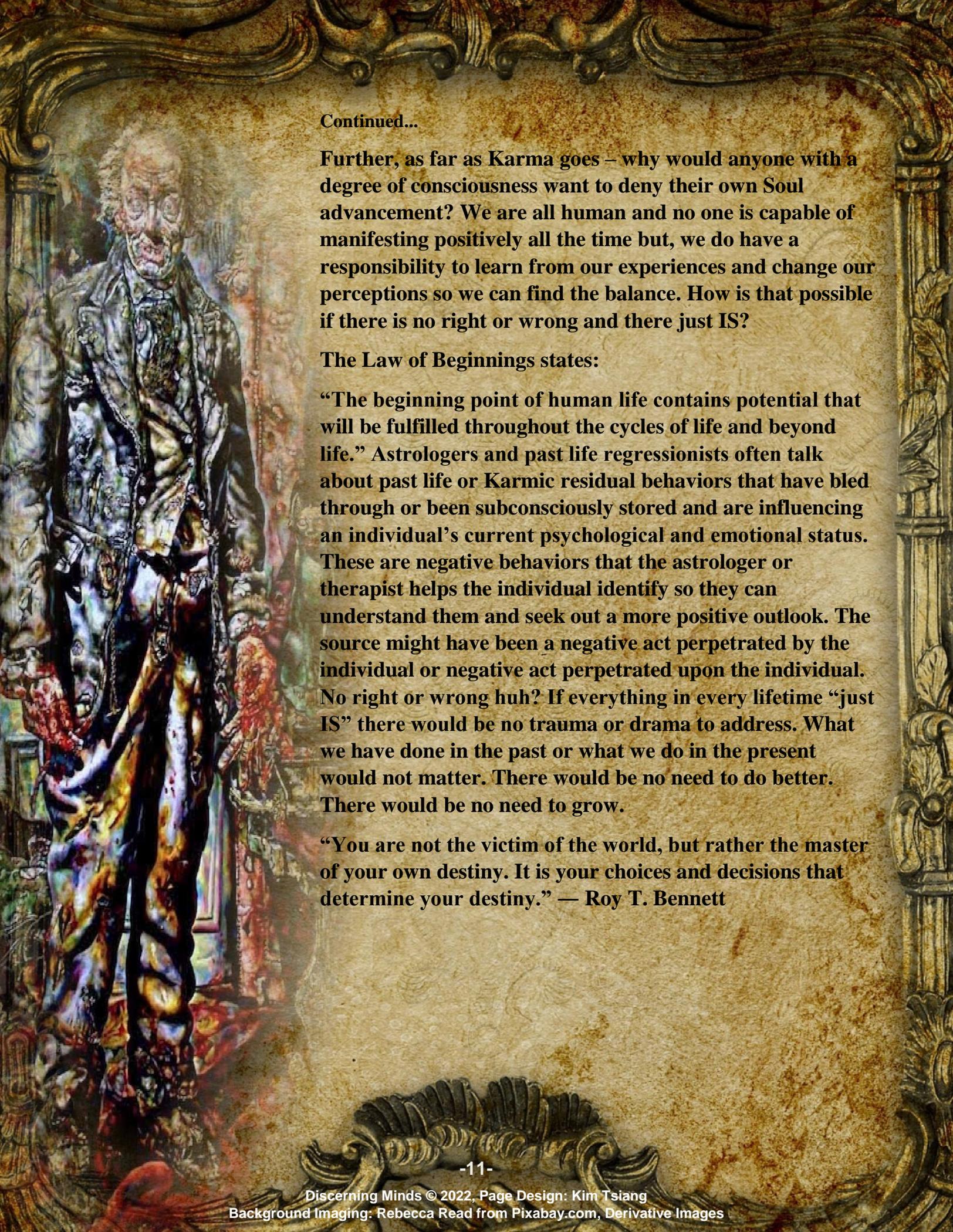
The Law of Alchemy states:

“All of the energies that are inside of us must manifest on the outside of us.” With this Law comes the expression of “responsibility.” The topic of responsibility is remiss in the “no right or wrong” concept. So, from this vantage point what does responsibility entail? Since all humans have freewill we ultimately “choose” how we learn the lessons of life. If we “choose” to be responsible for our actions and exhibit enough spiritual effort to overcome our fears we should be able to find balance both inside and outside of ourselves. This is known as positive manifestation. When we fail to do this, events will manifest on an external and disruptive scale. This is known as negative manifestation. According to our own conjecture, we have literally acted right or wrong. Some will argue that for certain individuals, negative manifestation is necessary because there is a tougher lesson that needs to be learned. Even when this is true and the lesson is harsh or even devastating there is no room for doubt that the individual will walk away at the very least thinking they could have “done it better.”

Another troublesome take on the “there is no right or wrong” dictum is another coined phrase, “You cannot do it wrong” which seems to be associated with Karma and Soul evolution. Soul growth is associated with and measured via Karma or how well an individual has been able to handle his/her own capacity for give and take in a given lifetime. If we are in full understanding of positive and negative manifestation, then we also understand that The Law of Alchemy says you most certainly can do it wrong and that you will suffer the consequences from your earthbound life in your spiritual evolution. Can anyone who has acted negatively say that they didn’t suffer from the consequences of choosing to act negatively in one way or another?

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Further, as far as Karma goes – why would anyone with a degree of consciousness want to deny their own Soul advancement? We are all human and no one is capable of manifesting positively all the time but, we do have a responsibility to learn from our experiences and change our perceptions so we can find the balance. How is that possible if there is no right or wrong and there just IS?

The Law of Beginnings states:

“The beginning point of human life contains potential that will be fulfilled throughout the cycles of life and beyond life.” Astrologers and past life regressionists often talk about past life or Karmic residual behaviors that have bled through or been subconsciously stored and are influencing an individual’s current psychological and emotional status. These are negative behaviors that the astrologer or therapist helps the individual identify so they can understand them and seek out a more positive outlook. The source might have been a negative act perpetrated by the individual or negative act perpetrated upon the individual. No right or wrong huh? If everything in every lifetime “just IS” there would be no trauma or drama to address. What we have done in the past or what we do in the present would not matter. There would be no need to do better. There would be no need to grow.

“You are not the victim of the world, but rather the master of your own destiny. It is your choices and decisions that determine your destiny.” — Roy T. Bennett

# Memories of a Dream

By Mikey Pierog

Maybe it's when we sleep someone asks "tonight you will know everything you need to know" but we are too scared and overwhelmed that before the night is over we give up and ask for our original lives back.

Memories torn from deep inside  
you will wonder if you've died  
because a part of you left inside  
you wonder did my head divide.

Remembering a dream is something new  
Because at that point it's all very true  
Changes the mold to a new hue  
Then you will see how much you grew  
Knowing what there is to know  
Will make your body start to glow  
Because you aware of down below  
Moments will pause and start to slow  
For the cloth that covers that of soul  
You wonder if your part of the whole  
And then you will ask am i in control  
Then you will see guards on patrol

"So tonight think deep think hard you can control the guards.

Then when you are waking to reality say no say i want more.

For dreams transcend time and you will awake at the right time anyways."





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**Marie “Magia” E.** (*Choosing Evil*, pg. 2)

Magia considers herself a lifelong student of the Metaphysical Arts and Arcane Sciences. She has several degrees in psychology and is currently on sabbatical from teaching and lecturing specialized courses in abnormal behavior in order to pursue what she considers well deserved time off to write a book on her life experiences. Magia lives in the northeast US with her cat Milo and her dog Zotz.

**Yvette Bonlesuer** (*Street Angel House Devil*, pg. 5)

Yvie is a young mother of two who loves to write about life as it concerns her and how it has impacted her. She enjoys watercolor painting and has had her artwork displayed in some local exhibitions and stores. She also has a penchant for metaphysics which she has studying for the past five years. Yvie and her husband Dale own and operate an art supply shop and art emporium in the southeast US.

**Terry Kushner QUOTE** (*Harper*, pg. 7)

Tony Kushner is an award-winning American playwright most famous for his play *Angels in America*, for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. He is also co-author, along with Eric Roth, of the screenplay of the 2005 film *Munich*, which was directed by Steven Spielberg and earned Kushner (along with Roth) an Academy Award nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay. The quote is from Goodreads.com from Kushner's [Angels in America](#).

**Rev. Dr. Loni Haas** (*Dorian Gray and the Glamour of Evil*, pg. 8)

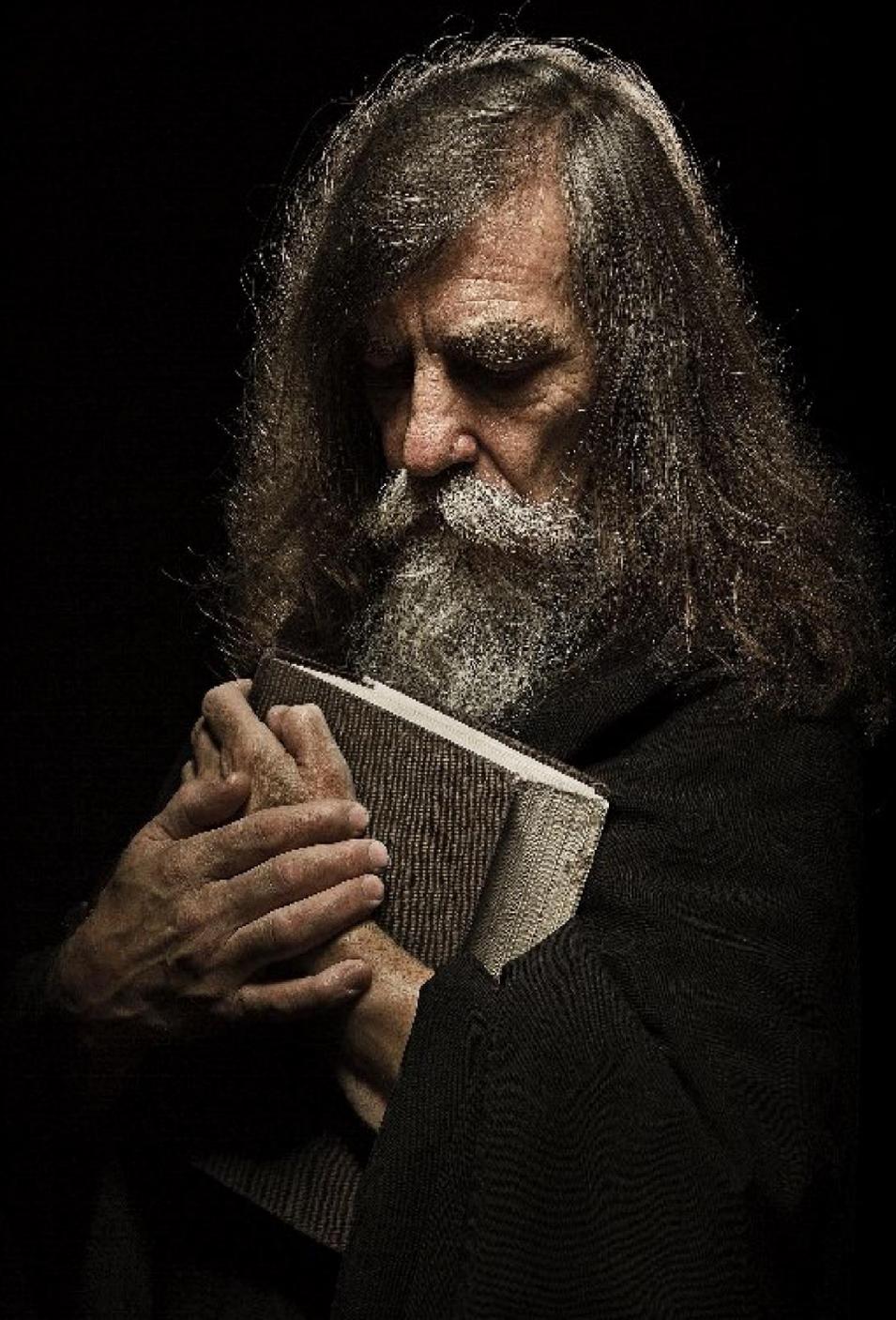
Loni Haas is a behavioral therapist, veteran exoteric and esoteric astrologer, research member of the American Federation of Astrologers (AFA), member of the National Council of Geocosmic Research (NCGR), as well as a lifetime member of the American Association of Behavioral Therapists. She is an ordained minister and Doctor of Divinity of the Universal Light Church of Cincinnati, Ohio where she is certified in several healing modalities.

**Mikey Pierog** (*Memories of a Dream*, pg.12)

Mikey hails from Canada. He says: “Living closer to nature was always my ideal life, from joining scouts as a teen and camping as a young adult, I found my peace there. I was never into writing as a kid but as I grew older I found there was an artistic beauty in poetry. That became a hobby in my spare time, while working or in play certain thoughts cross the mind and I try to save them either to share or grow from of them.” Mikey is an Administrator and Executive Manager on <https://www.lightforcenetwork.com/> .

# A Matter Of Spirit

Man approaches God most nearly when he is in one sense least like God.

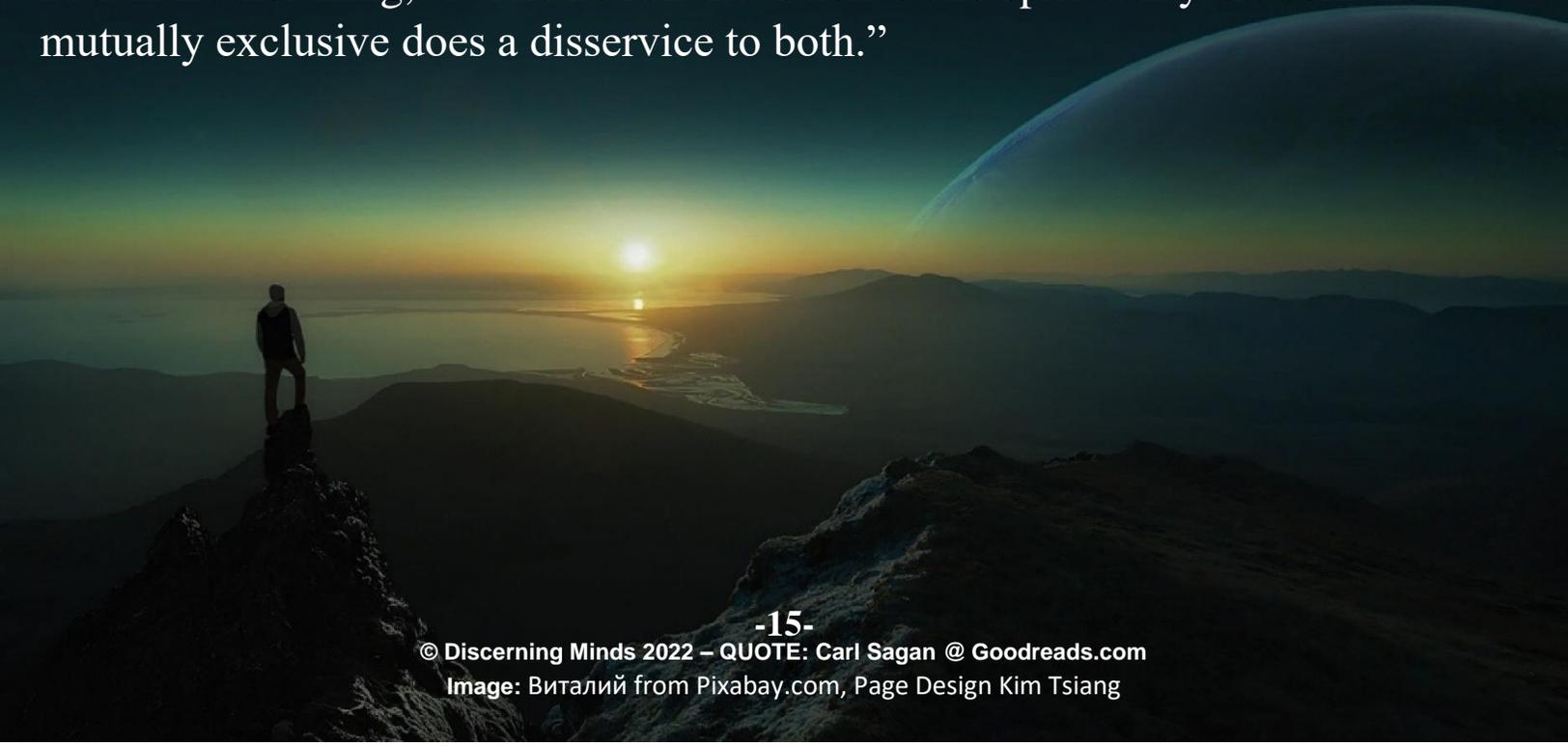


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“Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality. When we recognize our place in an immensity of light-years and in the passage of ages, when we grasp the intricacy, beauty, and subtlety of life, then that soaring feeling, that sense of elation and humility combined, is surely spiritual. So are our emotions in the presence of great art or music or literature, or acts of exemplary selfless courage such as those of Mohandas Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr. The notion that science and spirituality are somehow mutually exclusive does a disservice to both.”



# *Psychic Space and the Law of Non-Interference*

By Matt Sharpe

One thing that can often make for problematic situations amongst groups of people is the idea of, or lack of, recognized psychic space by which is meant the emotional and varying mental aspects of space, both on the inner planes and relating states of consciousness, as well as the inner states of every human being in the Physical Realm. The boundaries of these are often not recognized or shared between any group, and that only becomes harder between different groups of people, one often refusing to respect the space and freedom of choice, as well as the basic right to make a choice of any other. In Eckankar we refer to this as the Law of Non-Interference, which states "Anyone who uses any means of change or influence on another's mind, including prayer, is violating a law of spiritual consciousness." \*

A person's space is no different than a home owned by one, no one can enter it unless first invited or allowed by the owner, and any who enter under any other circumstance, is a criminal. And this works to the same extent in reverse. It can be said that a person's space extends right out to the point where another's begins. Any individual who is minding their own business, and is not stepping out into another's, may do as they see fit, so long as it harms no other. A situation where a person wants another to do a thing that they have said no to, who then proceeds to attempt to talk the person into doing that thing, is quite literally attempting mind control. There are no exceptions within that framework. Not many would recognize such a simple, everyday situation such as that as being an attempt at mind control until it is done to themselves, where it suddenly becomes far more obvious.

One who has perceptive "gifts", that can perceive more deeply than the average person must also be very careful not to invade another's space without first gaining permission. While they might well have a flow of information incoming that can be turned off, also if one hasn't yet learned how to do that, the very least they can do is be respectful and remain silent. Not everything that comes in necessarily needs to be said aloud. This is often a matter of self-control, and if one says something that causes a disturbance, they may find themselves rightfully to blame for that.

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In any such case where one's psychic space has been invaded, there will always be a karmic debt incurred. This is simply another way of saying that that individual that used the invasive behavior has chosen to learn the principles of the lesson in a harder way, one that is generally referred to as "bad" karma. When this happens, the individual themselves have made and are responsible for, the choice that brought the karma into being. Because of this, they and they alone can re-balance the scales, and in every case, the way this occurs is by completing the cycle of karma and learning the lesson, also putting into being a more evolved choice which proves the lesson has indeed been learned. Thenceforth the individual can recognize the same circumstances in a great many situations and have better options to deal with them and by doing that, avoid a cycle of repeating the same mistakes.

Where the psychic space of others and the Law of Non-Interference are concerned, the Golden Rule applies: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." And after applying the Law of Karma to it, one might add to the quote: "Because they WILL!" Those that consistently indulge themselves in following a double standard will undoubtedly find that karmic law is very detailed and accurate. It cannot be dodged or outrun, and it never falls victim to trickery and cannot be deceived.

A thing as simple as talking someone into something, is nothing less than an attempt at mind control as well as an invasion of another's space that might not seem so obvious at first glance. The fact that a person needs to be talked into a thing denotes that they are not willing to engage in it to begin with, and thus, an attempt to change that person's decision is invasive. Many have no idea of this fact. It is no different when a child seeks to talk a parent into giving them a liberty, they might otherwise not have available to them, however, in such a case generally no grudge is held and rightly so, however, after a certain age, such things will most often no longer be tolerated. It lasts as long as does that child's cuteness and is outgrown quickly.

One aspect of "space" in general that isn't often considered at all is whether a person is extending their own space outward to include things they would rather not include or be affected by. Often this can be causing a reaction unconsciously for one. A thing one had never thought of as having any effect on them can be having an unknown effect that isn't so easily recognized by all.

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It pays to become aware of all the things one's attention is extended to include. Some of the time problems can actually be drawn towards us by ourselves acting in an unconscious way. What I mean is that we don't always realize the true effect a thing might have upon us, so that we continue onward never realizing that a thing we have extended our attention in some way out to include might have a negative effect upon us, and the only way to remove that is to become aware of it, and removing our attention and thus our state of consciousness away from it, and in this way becoming better aware of the true effect a thing can have in this way, so that we can look out for this happening again. For example, one might think something not so nice or considerate about a friend, based on a prejudicial attitude on some aspect of that person's life, one which is completely within their rights to have. By not having been aware of in the first place, our mistake in judgment, and in the second place, the effect of said judgment, we can bring negativity into our purview that we would rather not have to deal with.

In this case a more honest and complete view of the self is needed, as well as the development of a less judgmental view of others and the choices some might make. Nothing less than adapting in this way will begin chipping away at the formation of a less than advantageous point of view of others. It is generally not a terrible way of looking at a situation, by placing ourselves in that other's position to gain a notion of what it would be like were positions reversed. This can go far for developing degrees of consideration that may not have been so easily come by before then.

The idea of psychic space is on one hand a very familiar concept to some, but on the other hand, almost unheard or thought of by many others, and because of this the rules regarding it are often unclear to many. Healing of any sort is a thing that falls very much within the area of an individual's space, and stands at risk to be possibly invaded by those unaware of the limits of their own free will, which are of course up to the point at which another's space begins. Any average doctor would never begin medical treatment until any potential patient came to them willingly, seeking medical help. This obvious situation is many times much less obvious in the area of psychic or spiritual healers, and most often this is the specific area where invasions occur. A happy Muslim isn't likely to enjoy having Jehovah's Witnesses coming to their door weekly attempting to "save" them by convincing them to change their religion.

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In the very same way, any healer will find it not only impossible to heal a person that hasn't yet asked to be healed, but also that if they go forward uninvited with such an action, there will be a heavy karmic burden to bear. These things, regardless of motivation, break spiritual law and bear a karmic price.

And on the positive side of this, if a person is unwell and asks for a healing, or for further information on a different spiritual path than the one they had been on, an interested person can certainly offer aid and information that they might have the capacity to perform. And the very same standard applies to inner spiritual teachings, one who considers themselves, or is considered by others to be a teacher, and who has the ability to channel spiritual teachings and experience to a student, cannot ever do so without first asking permission, or being invited to do so, this is a part of the Law of Non-Interference, the same law governs all three of those various but similar circumstances.

\* ECKANKAR - The Key to Secret Worlds - Paul Twitchell, p.219

For me, trees have always been the most penetrating preachers. I revere them when they live in tribes and families, in forests and groves. And even more I revere them when they stand alone. They are like lonely persons. Not like hermits who have stolen away out of some weakness, but like great, solitary men, like Beethoven and Nietzsche. In their highest boughs the world rustles, their roots rest in infinity; but they do not lose themselves there, they struggle with all the force of their lives for one thing only: to fulfil themselves according to their own laws, to build up their own form, to represent themselves. Nothing is holier, nothing is more exemplary than a beautiful, strong tree. When a tree is cut down and reveals its naked death-wound to the sun, one can read its whole history in the luminous, inscribed disk of its trunk: in the rings of its years, its scars, all the struggle, all the suffering, all the sickness, all the happiness and prosperity stand truly written, the narrow years and the luxurious years, the attacks withstood, the storms endured. And every young farmboy knows that the hardest and noblest wood has the narrowest rings, that high on the mountains and in continuing danger the most indestructible, the strongest, the ideal trees grow.

Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth. They do not preach learning and precepts, they preach, undeterred by particulars, the ancient law of life.

A tree says: A kernel is hidden in me, a spark, a thought, I am life from eternal life. The attempt and the risk that the eternal mother took with me is unique, unique the form and veins of my skin, unique the smallest play of leaves in my branches and the smallest scar on my bark. I was made to form and reveal the eternal in my smallest special detail.

A tree says: My strength is trust. I know nothing about my fathers, I know nothing about the thousand children that every year spring out of me. I live out the secret of my seed to the very end, and I care for nothing else. I trust that God is in me. I trust that my labor is holy. Out of this trust I live.

When we are stricken and cannot bear our lives any longer, then a tree has something to say to us: Be still! Be still! Look at me! Life is not easy, life is not difficult. Those are childish thoughts. Let God speak within you, and your thoughts will grow silent. You are anxious because your path leads away from mother and home. But every step and every day lead you back again to the mother. Home is neither here nor there. Home is within you, or home is nowhere at all.

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A longing to wander tears my heart when I hear trees rustling in the wind at evening. If one listens to them silently for a long time, this longing reveals its kernel, its meaning. It is not so much a matter of escaping from one's suffering, though it may seem to be so. It is a longing for home, for a memory of the mother, for new metaphors for life. It leads home. Every path leads homeward, every step is birth, every step is death, every grave is mother.

So the tree rustles in the evening, when we stand uneasy before our own childish thoughts: Trees have long thoughts, long-breathing and restful, just as they have longer lives than ours. They are wiser than we are, as long as we do not listen to them. But when we have learned how to listen to trees, then the brevity and the quickness and the childlike hastiness of our thoughts achieve an incomparable joy. Whoever has learned how to listen to trees no longer wants to be a tree.

He wants to be nothing except what he is. That is home. That is happiness.



## Shinto Prayer for Peace

Although the people living  
Across the ocean

Surrounding us, I believe,

They are all our brothers and  
sisters,

Why are there constant troubles  
in  
this world?

Why do winds and waves rise  
in the  
ocean surrounding us?

I only earnestly wish that the  
wind will

Soon puff away all the clouds  
which are

Hanging over the tops of the  
mountains.



*Hu, a Most Wondrous Prayer  
(With a Few Words about Non-Directed Prayer)*

By Matt Sharpe

First, we know that Hu is the name used by the Persians to speak of God which was later brought to India and we know it as Sanskrit, but there was more, this coming from Proto-Germany who used a very similar term. Etymologists have always debated which came first, but we'll leave that to them. It is the etymological source of the English word God and according to some, the word was used as the name of God in Persia, but here we want to think about prayer.

It was said in the late 1960's by Paul Twitchell that HU was different than a prayer as other religious groups might use, but it has still developed into becoming a prayer in the way of expressing the same gratitude, hope, and feeling in the modern day.

Spiritually speaking, HU is very real, and is one of the most powerful things that can be found though not all can witness the blessings it brings. It is originally, God's voice as IT sang the worlds and all in them into creation (John, 1:1). Even the Egyptians knew this and named the Sphinx HU or Hwl. This is where we find differences with prayer, but these are mostly a matter of understanding as to rightful or wrongful use. IT is deeply powerful and emanates from the Absolute that we call Sugmad, which is why it can never be used to influence anyone to do a thing that is against their will or to do negative. We humans use HU as a love song to God, so while it can be a prayer, it is much more than that too. It requires a balance of character and emotional self-control to keep from using it in a wrong way.

HU can be chanted inwardly or outwardly if alone to gain spiritual help or aid that you need and has a purifying power. One may also use it to help others, so long as they've asked you to do so. Chanting HU to get someone to join your religion is an example of the negative use and can never last long until the karma is brought about. Always allow all others to do as they choose freely. Otherwise, you earn your own karma, and if this course is chosen, the earner will learn from the hard experience. This too falls under the category of purification, which is most often not so easy to do.

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Now I must mention non-directed prayer, whether you use HU to do it, or any other method. Many humans will pray and not realize they're making demands that they don't necessarily deserve. Always let God be God. Don't encroach on ITS will or activities by insisting a thing be done your way. Accept what you're given and use it to learn from. There are always multiple lessons contained in each example.

When some pray, they can sometimes move into the area of personality more than they should, and this leads to being demanding or sometimes other ways of acting that tend to not be in the spirit of helping or giving which are best when they are a part of prayer. When one finds themselves acting this way, it can be hard or easy to change, depending on the person. Try to lighten up and let go of some of the troubles that weigh you down as well as any selfish desire for revenge, or the egotistical way of always winning. Instead, try being helpful to someone else who is in need. This can be very rewarding though it may not be expected. When it comes down to a non-directed prayer, one sentence can remind us of the nature of one, "not my will be done, but God's will be done." That point is the whole thing on non-directed prayer.

Practice it often, for no particular reason or gain, and you'll find the more times that you do it, the easier it becomes and it has some unexpected blessings that can happen, even if you didn't see them as being possible.



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## A MATTER OF SPIRIT

**Carl Sagan QUOTE** (*Science and Spirituality*, pg. 15)

**Carl Edward Sagan**, November 9, 1934 – December 20, 1996) was an American astronomer, planetary scientist, astronomer, cosmologist, astrophysicist, astrobiologist, and author and science communicator. His best known scientific contribution is research on extraterrestrial life, including experimental demonstration of the production of amino acids from basic chemicals by radiation. Sagan assembled the first physical messages sent into space, the Pioneer Plaque and the Voyager Golden Record, universal messages that could potentially be understood by any extraterrestrial intelligence that might find them. Sagan argued the hypothesis, accepted since, that the high surface temperatures of Venus can be attributed to, and calculated using, the greenhouse effect.

**Matt Sharpe** (*Psychic Space and the Law of Non-Interference*, pg. 16 and *HU, A most Wondrous Prayer*, pg.23)

Matt Sharpe lives in the Southwest US and enjoys writing about spiritual topics of all kinds, using his personal experiences as a reference. While never referring to himself as a shaman, he does work inwardly with many from various traditions. He also is a guitarist and singer/songwriter. He is a lead administrator and teacher on the Light Force Network.

**Hermann Hesse** (*Trees*, pg. 20)

Hermann Hesse (July 2, 1877-August 9, 1962) was a German-Swiss poet, novelist, and painter. In 1946, he received the Nobel Prize for Literature. His best known works include *Steppenwolf*, *Siddhartha*, and *The Glass Bead Game* (also known as *Magister Ludi*) which explore an individual's search for spirituality outside society.\

**Shinto Prayer for Peace** (pg. 22)

Prayer quote from [www.prayers.co.uk](http://www.prayers.co.uk)

# THE BODY TEMPLE

**Diseases of the soul are more dangerous and more numerous than those of the body.**

**Section Managing Editor – Lynda Lidel Harley**

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**QUOTE from Marcus Tullius Cicero @ AZQUOTES.com, Cover Design: Kim Tsiang**

## Exercise: Letting Go

*As you read this, take a deep breath and, as you exhale, allow all the tension to leave your body. Let your scalp and your forehead and your face relax. Your head does not need to be tense in order for you to read. Let your tongue and your throat and your shoulders relax. You can hold a book with relaxed arms and hands. Do that now. Let your back and your abdomen and your pelvis relax. Let your breathing be at peace as you relax your legs and feet. Is there a big change in your body since you began the previous paragraph? Notice how much you hold on. If you are doing it with your body, you are doing it with your mind. In this relaxed, comfortable position, say to yourself, "I am willing to let go. I release. I let go. I release all tension. I release all fear. I release all anger. I release all guilt. I release all sadness. I let go of all old limitations. I let go, and I am at peace. I am at peace with myself. I am at peace with the process of life. I am safe." Go over this exercise two or three times. Feel the ease of letting go.*



# If Your Dwelling Doesn't Feel Well, Neither Do You

By Dr. Marga

Most of us like to have a clean dwelling. We clean out physical clutter, open the windows to clear the air and/or even purchase expensive purifiers and humidifiers to make the spaces healthier. But what about energetic clutter? If the atmosphere is invaded by negative energy, we are surrounded by it and probably feel ill from it.

This negativity is usually human generated – you had a bad day and are feeling blue or angry, you had a fight with a family member, broke up with a partner or ended a long standing friendship, had a traumatic or transitional life change or, on the supernatural level dragged in a negative attachment from somewhere else. The energies created by all this can contribute to the temperament of the environment making it feel “heavy” and unwelcoming as soon as you step through the door.

Here are some suggestions to help “clear the air” and bring light and ease back into the space.

After you have cleared out physical clutter try the following:

1. It starts with you. Set an intention for your space and how you would like it to feel. Always remember that form follows thought. Try saying out loud, “My intention is to clear this space of all negativity so I am peaceful, safe and productive.” If you feel some of the negativity is based in another person who either lived or visited there, then vocalize specifically you are removing that energy as well. Stating intentions out loud is a key factor as it sets shifts in motion.

2. If it appeals to you, try some Feng Shui methods. Often rearranging furniture, art, mirrors etc. makes a big difference. There are plenty of sources on the internet where you can read about the process. Particularly pay attention to the color theory of Feng Shui. A fresh paint change can be very helpful.

3. Sage. Saging is a time tested method in clearing spaces. It “smokes” out negativity. If you cannot sage for health reasons then try some live green houseplants as they are great absorbers.

4. Crystals. A few crystals placed strategically around the space keep energy moving and also absorb negativity. Dark stones like Hematite or Black Tourmaline are literally known for absorbing negative energy. A piece of Citrine coupled with clear quartz can work wonders in the kitchen in the food prep area. Family rooms or living rooms benefit from Amethyst while entryways and foyers benefit from Rose Quartz, Pyrite or Carnelian. Selenite is beneficial for bedrooms while Celestite does well for kids’ rooms.

5. Crazy as this sounds, make noise. If you have a sing bowl, use it. Use gongs or try drumming. If you have none of these tools simply walk through the space and clap your hands. Sounds especially melodious tones drive negativity out. The difference between these methods and simply playing music is that they are made intentionally and pack more of a punch.

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6. Salt. This is a very old but effective measure.

- Dissolve *sea salt* in a spray bottle filled with spring water and mist the air of every room. You don't need to use a lot of salt. Remember it can be corrosive.
- Place a thin line of sea salt in front of your home's entrance or around the perimeter of your property.
- Use Himalayan Salt Lamps.

There is always debate about salt. Kosher salt, Sea salt or Himalayan salt work best.

7. Diffusers. Many people like to use essential oils and waxes in diffusers and burners. I would caution that if you have pets these items can be harmful. Otherwise have at it. A safe substitute is to simply simmer some lemon peels in a pan so the steam can cleanse the area.

Try out the methods that suit you and your space and live happier and healthier. You'll like the way it feels



## *Herbs that Heal Topical Wounds*

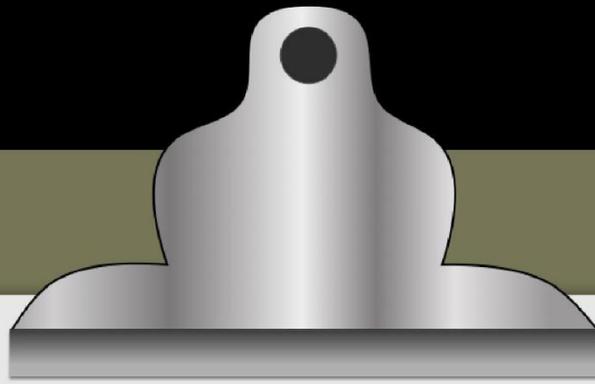
By Leigh Ward Wadan

We all experienced cuts, scrapes, bumps and bruises. Certain herbal remedies may offer relief from symptoms and help topical wounds heal faster. Herbs are generally available as dried extracts (pills, capsules, or tablets), teas, or tinctures. Follow directions on these products.

### **Applied to skin wounds only:**

Note: Never apply herbs to open wounds unless under a doctor's supervision.

- **Aloe** (*Aloe Vera*), as a cream or gel. Aloe has been used traditionally to treat minor wounds and burns, but scientific studies about its effectiveness are mixed. In one study, aloe seemed to extend the time needed for surgical wounds to heal.
- **Calendula** (*Calendula officinalis*), or pot marigold, as an ointment or a tea applied topically. To make tea from tincture, use 1/2 to 1 tsp. diluted in 1/4 cup water. You can also steep 1 tsp. of flowers in one cup of boiling water for 15 minutes, then strain and cool. Test skin first for any allergic reaction.
- **Marshmallow** (*Althaea officinalis*) as a topical ointment to help wounds heal and fight inflammation.
- **Tea tree oil** (*Melaleuca alternifolia*) as oil or cream. Apply 2 times per day to reduce inflammation. **DO NOT** use tea tree oil to treat burns.
- **Gotu kola** (*Centella asiatica*) as a cream containing 1% of the herb, to help heal wounds.
- **Chamomile** (*Matricaria recutita* or *Chamaemelum Nobile*), as an ointment or cream, to help heal wounds.
- **Echinacea or coneflower** (*Echinacea spp.*) as a gel or ointment containing 15% of the juice of the herb.
- **Slippery elm bark** (*Ulmus rubra* or *fulva*) as a poultice. Mix 1 tsp. dried powder in one of cup of boiling water. Cool and apply to a clean, soft cloth. Place on affected area.



Trauma victims cannot recover until they become familiar with and befriend the sensations in their bodies. Being frightened means that you live in a body that is always on guard. Angry people live in angry bodies. The bodies of child-abuse victims are tense and defensive until they find a way to relax and feel safe. In order to change, people need to become aware of their sensations and the way that their bodies interact with the world around them. Physical self-awareness is the first step in releasing the tyranny of the past.

In my practice I begin the process by helping my patients to first notice and then describe the feelings in their bodies—not emotions such as anger or anxiety or fear but the physical sensations beneath the emotions: pressure, heat, muscular tension, tingling, caving in, feeling hollow, and so on. I also work on identifying the sensations associated with relaxation or pleasure. I help them become aware of their breath, their gestures and movements.

All too often, however, drugs such as Abilify, Zyprexa, and Seroquel, are prescribed instead of teaching people the skills to deal with such distressing physical reactions. Of course, medications only blunt sensations and do nothing to resolve them or transform them from toxic agents into allies.

The mind needs to be reeducated to feel physical sensations, and the body needs to be helped to tolerate and enjoy the comforts of touch. Individuals who lack emotional awareness are able, with practice, to connect their physical sensations to psychological events. Then they can slowly reconnect with themselves.

# Druidic Healing

By Wyn Nordstrom

Druidic Healing can be considered an alternate healing method. Contemporary Druids of today would include both physical and spiritual health through diet, exercise and energy manipulation. Some may also include reiki, healing spells or rituals, and herbalism. The ancient Druids were the priest class of the Gallic and Celtic cultures, and contemporary groups such as the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids, and the Ár nDraiocht Fein (ADF) base their contemporary system of Druidry on aspects of ancient Celtic practices and knowledge.

Herbal Remedies were a mainstay amongst the Celts and included St. John's wort and vervain, which were taken internally as teas or tinctures. Other plants were used symbolically in rituals such as Mistletoe which is highly poisonous and never taken internally. Mistletoe was a particular favorite of the Ancient Druids and can be found in use throughout their history. Exactly how it was used is unknown since the original Druid adhered to oral history where nothing was ever written and handed down.

*Druid healing spells and rituals usually combine some form of incantation as a request for healing and the visualization of healing energy or light being sent to the person being healed. Healing herbs may also be burned as incense or strewn around the area to increase the strength of the spell. Many Druids also practice forms of meditation that are helpful for lowering stress and releasing unwanted energy that can lead to health problems.* - Jessica Kolifrath - <https://www.wise-geek.com/what-is-druid-healing.htm>

Druidism as a religion puts a great emphasis on attunement with Nature so it stands to reason that a healthy diet and outside activities are highly relevant. Druids believe in preserving and protecting Nature so it is common sense that for an individual to do his/her part being healthy themselves is the first step in that partnership.



*It's the blood of the Ancients  
That runs through our veins.  
And the forms change,  
But the Circle of Life remains.*  
*Isaac Bonewits*



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## BODY TEMPLE

**Louise Hay QUOTE** (*Exercise: Letting Go, pg. 27*)

Louise Lynn Hay was an American motivational author and the founder of Hay House. She authored several New Thought self-help books, including the 1984 book *You Can Heal Your Life*.

**Dr. Marga Bosclair** (*If Your Dwelling Doesn't Feel Well, Neither Do You, Pg. 28*)

Dr. Marga is a practicing clinical psychologist who hails from New England. She works with both individuals and couples to help them overcome their personal obstacles in order to lead happier lives. Dr. Marga employs metaphysical practices in her work that adds a spiritual dimension which she believes more readily helps individuals to discover underlying core issues and resolve them thus restoring balance. In her free time, Dr. Marga enjoys canoeing and oil painting.

**Leigh Ward Wadan** (*Herbs that Heal Topical Wounds, pg.30*)

Leigh considers herself a "new scientist" and does not consider crystal healing a pseudoscience by any measure. She has a MA in geology from Rani Durgavati University in India. She has been an alternative energy healer for 30 years. Fifteen years ago she became interested in Galactic Healing and became acquainted with the Seven Rays and Angelic Healing. She decided to combine that knowledge with her own knowledge of crystal properties and energy effects on the human body. She has also done extensive research into the effects of color on the human body and psyche and is all about healthy diets.

**Bessel van der Kolk MD QUOTE** (*Befriending the Body, pg. 31*)

Bessel van der Kolk MD spends his career studying how children and adults adapt to traumatic experiences, and has translated emerging findings from neuroscience and attachment research to develop and study a range of treatments for traumatic stress in children and adults. In 1984, he set up one of the first clinical/research centers in the US dedicated to study and treatment of traumatic stress in civilian populations, which has trained numerous researchers and clinicians specializing in the study and treatment of traumatic stress, and which has been continually funded to research the impact of traumatic stress and effective treatment interventions. He did the first studies on the effects of SSRIs on PTSD; was a member of the first neuroimaging team to investigate how trauma changes brain processes, and did the first research linking BPD and deliberate self-injury to trauma and neglect in early childhood.

**Wynn Nordstrom** (*Druidic Healing, pg. 32*)

Wyn was literally named after the Rune of Joy. She has been working with the runes for about ten years and is close to achieving the title of Runemaster. She also has an earnest interest in Ancient Druidry. She was born in Denmark and moved to the US when she was five years old. She is a nature lover and spends as much time in the outdoors as possible. Her favorite pass time is to go fly fishing with her husband. Her favorite creative hobby is tapestry weaving, an old time skill taught to her by her grandmother.

# PHENOMENA FILES

There are black zones of shadow close to our daily paths, and now and then some evil soul breaks a passage through. When that happens, the man who knows must strike before reckoning the consequences.



**Section Managing Editor – John Holbrook PSI**

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QUOTE: H.P. Lovecraft @ Goodreads.com



**“Monster” is derived from the Latin noun monstrum, “divine portent,” itself formed on the root of the verb monere, “to warn.”**

**It came to refer to living things of anomalous shape or structure, or to fabulous creatures like the sphinx who were composed of strikingly incongruous parts, because the ancients considered the appearance of such beings to be a sign of some impending supernatural event. Monsters, like angels, functioned as messengers and heralds of the extraordinary.**

**They served to announce impending revelation, saying, in effect:**

**“Pay attention; something of profound importance is happening.”**

# Warnings

By John Holbrook, Holbrook PSI

I have always protected myself whenever I go on an investigation and there was once that I think that I was protected from going on an investigation. The story begins with an investigation that was planned for a Saturday afternoon that was several hours away by location. I did not set up the investigation but was invited to take part in the investigation by another paranormal investigator. The background story that I was told was that the site used to be a plantation that housed many slaves most of who were killed on the property during the Civil War. The investigator who invited me to assist on the investigation also said that the client was being very pesky about having the location investigated.

We made all the arrangements to meet at a local restaurant that was on the way to the investigation site. We had planned to meet up there and all ride in the same car to the site. I was the farthest one away from the meeting place and the site of the investigation and was going to have to leave at 10 am to get to the meeting place by 12 pm. So I set my alarm for 8 am and had all my equipment ready and in my vehicle before bed. I went to bed early because it was going to be a long day and I did not think that I would be home before 2 or 3 am.

It was around 6 am when I was awakened with the need to go to the bathroom and after I finished I went back to bed. Then at 7 am I was suddenly awakened feeling very sick. It was hard to sit up or even get to the bathroom. So for the next three hours I was so sick that I decided that I was not going to be able to go on the investigation. I called the investigator and cancelled and went back to bed. Then around 12 pm I woke up feeling really good like I had not been sick at all, no ill effects or fever. I knew that I could not get to the meeting point as I did not have the directions to the site of the investigation. I did not have any clue to why I had been so sick and then was suddenly feeling better. I did some work around the house, I had my meals and felt really good, now when I say I felt really good that includes not feeling depressed or guilty about missing out on the investigation. I was also in a very upbeat mood.

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On Sunday I contacted the investigator and was invited to look over photos taken on the site. I was also told that it was a 'really weird place' and that everyone who was on the team agreed on the way home that the place gave them the creeps.

The very next Saturday I met up with the team and they all had some interesting pictures - lots of orbs some of which were red. I did look at all the pictures and listened to each person's story of the investigation (most of the people that went on the investigation were hobby hunters and were not very objective). So when the rest of the group left, I sat down with the lead investigator and went over the pictures while asking questions. I noticed that most of the orbs were dust but there were some shadows that were out of place. From what I could tell the orbs that were red were from the redeye light that some cameras have or from a laser thermometer that they were using to take temperature readings. Then I saw something that caught my eye - there were red spots on some of the pictures that were taken outside/outdoors. The lead investigator took several pictures that had these spots. They were not orbs and always appeared in twos. I asked questions about the area outside and could find no natural or manmade reason for the red dots. The investigator did not even notice the dots until I pointed them out. There were other pictures of the same area taken at a different time and the dots were not evident.

The lead investigator said that the lady (client) that had originally contacted her was calling her every day for information asking when the team would come back out to the site. We discussed the psychology of the lady and decided that she was not mentally 'stable' and that it would not be a good idea to go back out there. The lead investigator received a call from the lady before I left and I did hear the lead investigator say that she would send a copy of the pictures but that the team would not be coming back out to the site. The lead investigator had a hard time getting off the phone and said the lady did go a little 'psycho.' We called it a night and I went home.

The next day the investigator called me and said that she had a tough night with bad dreams about the lady and that lady had called an additional two times. I advised the investigator to tell the lady that if necessary a harassment complaint would be filed if she did not quit calling the agency.

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The investigator said that she did ask the lady if she had seen the red dots before. She said that the lady got upset again and then asked who in the group had seen them. The investigator advised her that she had shown me the pictures but that I had not visited the site. The lady wanted to talk to me but the investigator advised her that she was the contact person for the group and it would not be OK to call me.

That night after we had talked, I had some bad dreams about the area that I had seen in the pictures. The red dots were not dots but eyes and they followed me everywhere I went and I felt very threatened. I awoke from the dream with the feeling that someone was in my room at the foot of my bed. I tried to turn and look to see who it was but I could not move - I could move my eyes but I could not move my body. Then I felt a pressure like something was on top of me trying to push me through the bed. I could not speak but I was still breathing and could only scream in my mind. The pressure changed from holding me down - it seemed to get colder and smaller and was trying to get inside me. I could tell that I could not stop this by myself; it was like I could tell by the way it was starting to feel that my willpower was not enough. Just my telling it to stop was not going to work so I started to pray and ask for Divine help.

As soon as I started doing this, the feeling of cold stopped and turned into a feeling of pressure and then it was off me and I could move again. I sat up looking around my room and could see a shadow that was in the corner of the room where there was nothing to make the shadow. So I continued to pray and called for it to leave and to never return but now that I could move I said it out loud. I got out of bed and again in prayer demanded it to leave and never return. Then the shadow just faded away and the feeling in the room became more angelic. I turned on some light and looked at the clock and it was 3:05 am,\* so I then got out my sage and smudged the room before I went back to bed. I did not turn off all the lights and did not go to sleep right away. I did not wake up till late morning feeling sore and drained.

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I called the lead investigator later that day to see how the team was doing; they said that they all had a tough night with nightmares. I told them of my experience and said they should do a clearing also just like I was going to do and that any equipment that they had used on the site should be cleared also. I did my clearing and did not have any other problems but the lead investigator had many different problems even after the clearing. I think that they were still having problems because the lady from the site continued to call the investigator.

Sometime later that year, I was talking to one of my personal spiritual mentors about the incident. My mentor believed that one of my guides or Angels kept me from going on the investigation because of what was there. My mentor thought that there were evil entities on the site and that because of the nature of the clearings that I had to do that it would have been bad to have gone there with the team. It would have caused more problems than actually happened and that the investigator's problems continued because of the contact with the lady. After talking with my mentor and doing some reading I came to believe that my mystery illness that morning before the investigation was to keep me at home. So my guides or Angel were trying to protect me from whatever was out at the site. It was my own continued involvement in the investigation after the fact that caused the attack. . It is important to have protection when dealing with the supernatural and it is important to remember that the paranormal is not always 'Casper the friendly ghost' but something that may want to cause harm."

\*Note: 3:00 am - 4:00 am is considered 'The Devil's Hour' or 'Dead Time' by some paranormal investigators and is believed to be a time when paranormal activity and occurrence is at its height.





## Moon Phases and the Paranormal

Did you know that the energy connected to paranormal events is often connected to the phase of the Moon?

**NEW MOON:** (0-45 degrees ahead of Sun): Occult energies may be impulsive, and aggressive, wanting “attention.” There is a “reach out and touch response” where investigators sometimes feel a brush, tickle, or pressure from unknown sources.

**BLACK MOON:** (Second NEW MOON in the course of a single calendar month): Highly occult energy that opens a portal to other dimensions including everything from the Faerie Kingdom to the Realm of the Ascended Masters as well as the spectral world. Altered states of awareness and higher consciousness are present.

**CRESCENT MOON:** (45-90 degrees ahead of Sun): Occult energies may seem to occur in “slow motion” because they are subject to a lack of momentum.

**FIRST QUARTER MOON:** (90-135 degrees ahead of Sun): Occult energies are “challenging” and looking for a “power-up.”

**GIBBOUS MOON:** (135-180 degrees ahead of Sun): Occult energies are strong, moving toward full response and very perceivable.

**FULL MOON:** (180-135 degrees behind Sun): Occult energies are in “full” response and a variety of conditions are possible. The most powerful occult situations occur during the Full Moon.

**DISSEMINATING MOON:** (135-190 behind Sun): Occult energies are “perceivable” but may be hard to pin down.

**THIRD QUARTER MOON:** (90-45 degrees behind Sun): Occult energies will try to “alienate” or hide themselves from the environment and contact although they are still perceivable.

**BALSAMIC MOON:** (45-0 degrees behind Sun): Occult energies are not in full response and may show up erratically in a teasing fashion. A variety of conditions are possible.

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**BLUE MOON:** (If a second Full Moon occurs in the same month): Troubled energies. Investigators will be confronted with full response energies but are very likely to have more than normal problems with equipment, team members and the spirits themselves!

By sign:

**ARIES:** Spirits can be temperamental, angry or boisterous such as in poltergeist attack. Physical harm can come to investigators.

**TAURUS:** Spirits will hold their ground and may force expulsion or not allow entry. (“Get Out!”)

**GEMINI:** Spirits are communicative-good for detection of messages by EVP or spirit to light meter response.

**CANCER :** Spirit activity is tied to residual emotion. Spirits might respond to mediums they feel are understanding.

**LEO:** Spirit activity can be playful or pushy. Full spectromatic color or tones may be visible in manifestation. Restored scenes can play out like a motion picture.

**VIRGO:** Dark colored or indefinite spectors. Investigators can experience sickness or nausea during investigations due to residual energies or warnings.

**LIBRA:** Good for investigation of haunted objects such as furniture, artwork or personal belongings.

**SCORPIO:** Lower realm entities or demonics can be present. Good for investigation of cemeteries and matters connected to the dead. Also good for investigation using psychometry.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Good for exploration of layered spiritual realms and getting to the truth of unsolved mysteries.

**CAPRICORN:** Good for investigation in churchyards, mortuaries, enclosed, underground or dark places and for contact with those who have recently passed over.

**AQUARIUS:** Good for detection results with high tech paranormal equipment. Investigators may experience a touch or brush sensation from spirits.

**PISCES:** Spiritual channels/floodgates are open – good for release of spirits to a higher realm and seances.

# PARANORMAL Q & A

## FROM THE FILES OF HOLBROOK PSI

### QUERY:

My friends and I were messing around and decided to go hang out in a graveyard after midnight about 12:30. The graveyard has a really old section that everyone says is haunted so we went there. We did not destroy or mess anything up and we did not do any drugs. My friend dared me to lie on a grave and I really didn't want to but I did. I laid down for about 30 seconds and then got up. It felt weird but everyone was laughing so I thought it was OK. We stayed in the graveyard for about an hour then left because we didn't want to get caught by the cops. When I went to bed, I could not sleep and was creeped out. After I went to sleep I woke up because it felt like something was poking me.

I put on the light and saw a book get thrown off my dresser. It freaked me out but I ignored it and thought maybe it was my imagination and went back to sleep. I found out the next day that my friend who dared me had some weird stuff happen to him too. No one else had anything happen to them. This lasted for about four days and we think it is because of what we did. One night I just said out loud that I was sorry and all the weird stuff stopped. What was this and is it over? If you can help, thank-you. (Ryan P., CT)

### RESPONSE:

Ryan, the good news is you're not alone in your experience and in most of the cases of this type, it does not last very long. This would be different if there was desecration or disrespect for the graves or anything in the graveyard. Some would say that the act of lying on a grave is disrespectful but the way you described the event it sounds more like you had a "hitchhiker." Some spirits or entities are attracted to the energy or presence of some people and will "attach" to them for a short time. This is all according to the strength of the spirit or entity which dictates how long they stay with no action on the person's part to get rid of them. The way you described what happened and your actions, I do not believe this to be an evil or malevolent spirit entity. You may be one of the people who attracts spirits or entities due to your energy and may have to take some steps to keep this or something worse from happening in the future. If you have future problems of this nature, feel free to request procedural information.

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## QUERY:

I am in my mid-twenties but during my teens I was very caught up in the dark side. I worked with black magic which I thought was very cool until I brought harm to someone else. It was part of a group spell. It wasn't really bad but the person took a bad fall and was hurt with banged up legs. It scared me to see a direct result happen. After that I stopped doing spells on other people but I was wondering if what I did when I was younger is having repercussions on me now. I am not very happy and don't seem to have much luck. If my past is affecting me, is there any way I can undo any of it? I think this is more than just a guilty conscience. Nicholas K., SC

## RESPONSE:

First, I would like to thank you for your honesty with your question. It shows that you have a good idea that there is a fine line you crossed in your past. The tell-tale sign is that you know that you were in the wrong and that it is a real problem for you now and more than a guilty conscience.

Why I started my response with this statement is because you need to look within yourself and see if you have asked for forgiveness and have tried to make amends for your part in hurting another. There are many people that believe that an individual will reap what he/she has sown in his/her life. There are others who believe in Karma and the principles that our actions now will affect our next life and that our past life actions are affecting us in our current life. I believe it is a little of both and that a lot of your problems now come from the path you were on. I will not preach to you or ask you to believe as I do ... it is up to you to know what is right for you.

This is how I see my life working. Life is like a long road that has many cross roads intersecting it and we each have our own journey to travel. Sometimes we are alone on our road and at other times we have many people on the road at the same time and same mile marker. We have choices to make all along the way and when you were younger you took a road on the dark side and while on this road your actions or intent hurt another. So, you saw the error in your actions and decided to take another road and have turned away from this dark path. What you will need to do now is to look at yourself and make sure that you are on the right road for you. If things are not going well for you, it may be an uphill place in your road or you may have not totally stepped off the dark side road.

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Has your road led you to help others and have you grown spiritually or does it seem that everything is against you and nothing is going right? These are questions you have to ask yourself and only you can truly know your own heart and soul. We do sometimes have to go back and clean our house of all the things from our past to move on with our journey so that we do not have anything holding us back. This would be touching on forgiveness - we have to forgive ourselves before we can expect others to forgive us. With this we can feel a weight lifted from us and we are able to see our part in things more clearly and what we will need to do to make amends. In cleaning our house we need to see if we have any items from our past that are keeping us connected to that past. These items could be books, jewelry and friends that we need to let go so we move forward. If you still have any of the items you used in your black magic spells, they will need to go or at least be cleared. We have all outgrown friends in our lives and if you still have people in your life from that group that cast the spell you may still be unknowingly aiding them with your energy. I know that letting go of friends can be hard but if they are into black magic and you are not, why take a chance that you could be drawn back in to the dark side.

You seem to have a good head on your shoulders and a heavy heart which shows that you don't want to be a part of hurting others. You may have a tough time as part of your Karmic debt but as your deeds for the light grow you will erase that debt. If you want to be strong in your spiritual beliefs, read up on some psychic protection because when you start cleaning your house and your life, you may come under some spiritual attacks. Keep in the light and this will pass also as you cut the strings that keep you connected to the past. I hope that my response to your letter helps you in your journey.





*This was to be my last trip. Sailing great distances was dangerous, and not very profitable in today's world. I walked down the worn wooden step to the captain's cabin, the creaking of the ship keeping time with my steps. Opening the door I found him bent over an old map.*

*"Where are we captain?" I asked, hoping it was close to home.*

*"See this spot, where it says "Here there be monsters"?" he said pointing to an image of a horrid beast.*

*"Certainly, but you and I both know such creatures don't exist!!"*

*The captain laughed, and looking up at me with an evil glint in his eye said, "Who's talking about sea monsters?" As he spoke the skin from one corner of his mouth fell loose, exposing a yellow reptilian skin beneath.*

*"What?" I yelled, and as I turned to run for the cabin door I heard screams and loud moans coming from the deck, and the crew quarters below.*

*I felt fetid breath on the back of my neck, "Aye matey, here there be monsters"*



# AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES



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## PHENOMENA FILES

### **Susan O'Neal Stryker QUOTE** (*Monster, pg.35*)

Susan O'Neal Stryker is an American professor, author, filmmaker, and theorist whose work focuses on gender and human sexuality. She is an associate professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Arizona, and is the director of the university's Institute for LGBT Studies. She has served as a visiting professor at Harvard University, University of California, Santa Cruz, and Simon Fraser University. The quote is from Goodreads.com.

### **John Holbrook, PSI** (*Warnings, pg.36*)

John has been a paranormal investigator for over 35 years. He holds a MS in parapsychic science. He is a highly gifted intuit and experienced spiritual counselor who specializes in crisis intervention including current life paranormal dramas and past life residual traumas. His friends tend to think of him as the "earth bound Michael" because he is always willing to help others overcome their fear of the darkness by showing them how to discern the truth of a matter.

### **Star Logic Astrodynamics** (*Moon Phases and the Paranormal, pg.40*)

This article was published with explicit permission from Star Logic Astrodynamics . It was first published on The Galaxy Express which is now incorporated into the Light Force Network website.

### **Paranormal Q & A** (*Holbrook PSI Files, pg. 42*)

The Paranormal Q & A comes courtesy of John Holbrook with shared queries and responses from the files of Holbrook PSI. The public may contact Mr. Holbrook via this magazine by writing to [editor.discerningminds@gmail.com](mailto:editor.discerningminds@gmail.com) .

### **Neil Leckman QUOTE** (*Here There Be Monsters, 45*)

Neil Leckman Lives in Colorado, where he writes and draws daily, drawing from his writing and writing from his drawings. Every road he takes leads to a new place he has never seen before. On the way there if the light is right and the ink fresh you may see some of those places here.

# *Arcanus Obscurum*

And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it.

Section Managing Editors: Eliana Rosini Mascolo and Marco X. Mascolo

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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt and a black jacket, is sitting in a dark, misty forest. A crow is perched on her head. The background is a dense forest of bare trees.

## Der Krähe

This poem is for the crow,  
A great bird dressed in black feathers,  
Like the raven of Poe,  
With an eerie black countenance about it

Some view the crow as a sign of death,  
Except it is only just another animal,  
One of a higher intelligence than most,  
Who keeps himself high above the ground

The crow who is all black,  
Absorbing all colors of our spectrum,  
His countenance is a thing of some  
nightmares,  
But through my eyes he is a thing of beauty

I see crows daily,  
Looking full of wisdom,  
Appearing many places I go,  
As they seem to follow me about

The crow is solitary,  
Or else he is in a small group of friends,  
He is much like myself,  
Solitary, intelligent, and covered all in black

# *Don't Step on a Crack - Superstitions*

By Holyman Preter

Superstitions have always been a part of culture. We find them humorous and at times even scary. What compels people to believe in them and act upon them?

For many people, engaging with superstitious behaviors provides a sense of control and reduces anxiety—which is why levels of superstition increase at times of stress and angst.

Although there is no single definition of superstition, it generally means a belief in supernatural forces—such as fate—the desire to influence unpredictable factors and a need to resolve uncertainty. In this way then, individual beliefs and experiences drive superstitions, which explains why they are generally irrational and often defy current scientific wisdom.

Superstitions have different connotations – some based in religion, others in folklore and still others in practical origins.

Examining superstition:

**It is bad luck to walk under a ladder:** A leaning ladder forms a triangle with the wall and ground. Triangles represent the Holy Trinity, and violating the Trinity by breaking it (walking through it) would put you in league with the devil himself. Considering what Christians did to those who were considered to be in league with the devil, it's hardly surprising that leaning ladders were avoided at all cost.

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**Friday the Thirteenth:** The idea that this day would bring bad luck has its roots in both Norse and Christian beliefs. The Scandinavian's believed that the number 13 was unlucky due to the mythological 12 demigods being joined by a 13th, an evil one, who brought misfortune upon humans. Christ was said to have been crucified on Friday and the number of guests at the party of the Last Supper was 13, with the 13th guest being Judas, the traitor.

**God Bless You:** The blessing of those who sneeze started when the great plague took hold of Europe. Sufferers began sneezing violently, and as such, were bound to die. The Pope therefore passed a law requiring people to bless the sneezer. At the same time, it was expected that anybody sneezing would cover their mouth with a cloth or their hand. This was obviously to stop the spreading of the disease, but many believed that it was to keep the soul intact. Sneezing 'into the air' would allow the soul to escape and death would be imminent. Up until this time, the opposite was true. Those who sneezed were congratulated as it was believed that a violent sneeze would expel evil from their bodies.

**Black Cats:** In ancient Egypt, the Goddess Bast was a black, female cat. Christians, wanting to rid society of all traces of other religions, convinced the ignorant that black cats were demons in disguise and should thus be destroyed. In the process, they also destroyed the kindly ladies who cared for the cats, believing them to be witches. Being demons, a black cat crossing your path would create a barrier of evil, cutting you off from God and blocking the entrance to heaven.

**Spilling Salt:** Salt was, during the middle ages, a very expensive commodity used mainly for medicinal purposes. For this reason, spillage was to be avoided at all costs. The idea that it is unlucky to do so probably stems from the belief that Judas spilt salt during the last supper. Throwing spilt salt over the left shoulder is linked to its medicinal use. If it could not be administered, the next best thing was to throw it into the eye of the evil spirits that brought sickness upon us. These spirits were thought to lurk behind your shoulder, waiting for an opportunity to strike.

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**Fingers Crossed:** This is probably the superstition that is most widely used today. By making the sign of the Christian faith with our fingers, evil spirits would be prevented from destroying our chances of good fortune.

**Knock on Wood:** This goes back to the days before Christianity made its entrance. It was believed that good spirits lived in trees, and that by knocking on anything made from wood, we could call upon these spirits for protection against misfortune

### More Superstitions

**ACORN** - Carrying an acorn on your person will ensure good luck & longevity!

**APPLE** - You have to eat at least 1 apple every day to guard against ill-health, an apple a day, keeps the doctor away! "

**BED** - You must never put a hat on a bed. Also you must get out of bed the same side you got in otherwise you bring bad luck upon yourself!

**BEE** - If a bee flies into your home then you will get a visitor, but if you kill the bee then the visitor will turn nasty!

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**BIRD** - If a bird flies into your home then it is an omen of death!

**BRIDGE** - If you want to see a friend again, then don't ever say goodbye to them on a bridge!

**BROOM** - Never take a broom with you when moving house - buy a new one!

**CAT** - If a black cat walks towards you then it brings very good luck to you - but if it walks away from you, then it takes its good luck with it!

**CHEEKS** - If all of a sudden your cheeks feel as if they're burning, then someone, somewhere is flattering you!

**CHIMNEY SWEEP** - These are regarded as very lucky - so if you see one then shake his hand so that some of his good luck rubs off onto you!

**CLOVER** - To find a four leaf clover means immense good luck, so keep it safe, if you lose it then you also lose the luck!

**CROWS** - To see a single crow is very unlucky! But 2 mean good luck! 3 mean health, 4 means wealth, 5 is sickness & 6 mean death!

**DOG** - If a dog suddenly barks for no apparent reason in a house that has a sick person then it means that death is coming.

**EARS** - If your ear is burning, then someone is talking about you! To determine whether what they are saying is good or bad, remember this rhyme, - "Left for love, Right for spite!"

**EASTER** - You must wear new clothes at Easter or you will have bad luck.

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**FINGER NAILS** - Never cut your finger-nails on a Friday or a Sunday as this is unlucky.

**HAND** - If the palm of your right hand is itchy, then it foretells that money is coming to you, but **DON'T** scratch it as that stops the money from coming! If its your left palm that is itchy, then scratch away, as that means that you'll soon be paying out money for something!

**HORSE-SHOE** - A horse-shoe must be hung above a doorway turned upwards otherwise the luck will run out!

**KNIFE** - There will be an argument if knives are crossed at a table. Also, if a lover gives you a knife as a present you will soon split up!

**LADDER** - Bad things will happen if you walk under a ladder!

**MAGPIES** - If you see these birds, remember this rhyme - " One for sorrow, Two for joy, Three for a girl, Four for a boy, Five for silver, Six for gold, Seven for a secret, Never to be told. "

**MIRROR** - Breaking a mirror means 7 years of bad luck, unless you take the pieces outside & bury them in moonlight. Also, an undisturbed mirror in a house suddenly fall & smashes then it means that there will soon be a death!

**NEW YEAR** - How you start the year is how you will end it, so you must ensure that you are wearing new clothes & looking your best, have paid off all your debts & are with your partner ( to ensure that you are still with them at the next New year!). Also you must open a window to let the old year out & the new one in.

**OPAL** - Unless you were born in October, the wearing of an Opal will be ill-fated!

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**PEPPER** - If pepper is spilt, then you will have a serious argument with a friend.

**SALT** - If you sprinkle some salt on the doorway to a **NEW** house then no evil can enter it! Also, if you spill some salt then you must take a pinch of the spilt salt & throw it over your left shoulder as the devil waits there & by throwing the salt you are driving him away!

**SCISSORS** - Dropping a pair of scissors is said to warn that a lover is unfaithful.

**SHOES** - Never place shoes on a table as it means bad luck for the remainder of the day.

**SNEEZE** - Always say "Bless You" after someone sneezes to ensure that the devil hasn't entered their body!

**SPARROW'S** - These little birds are said to carry the souls of the deceased to the after-life. To kill one means that you will be cursed.

**SWAN** - A bride must sew a swan's feather into her husband's pillow to ensure fidelity!

**UMBRELLA** - It is extremely unlucky to open an umbrella inside a house.

**WEDDING** - If a groom drops the ring during the ceremony then the marriage is doomed to failure.

**WOOD** - You must knock on wood 3 times after mentioning good fortune or the evil spirits will ruin things for you.



# The History of Crystal Gazing

By Mystic Marlo

Crystal gazing was once thought to be a branch of magic but now is generally accepted as an important phase of experimental psychology. History and romance, ancient and modern, contains many interesting legends and stories about magic mirrors and magic crystals. Some date back to the Greece of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The practice was traced among the natives of North and South America, Asia, Australia and Africa. In all countries, the crystal was used for the purpose of divination and the process usually explained as the result of Spirit, Angel or Devil. Those who visited India know of the use made of the round mass of roughhewn, polished glass and the superstitious awe with which it is regarded.

In former days, the High Priest of the Buddhist or Hindu temples, when attired in the consecrated robes for festive ceremonies, wore one or more small crystals of dazzling brilliancy suspended from his neck on a chain of great value. It was believed that through their power he was able to commune with the Spirit or Spirits to whom he and his followers showed great reverence and to whom they interceded for solutions to their problems. The crystal served much as the famous oracle of Apollo at Delphi, which is said to have given responses in answer to inquiries of worshippers.

Among the Ancients, the Seer muttered certain prayers over the crystal and then gave it into the hands of a youth or virgin. They taught the importance of purity. When crystal gazing or any occult ceremony was performed, young boys and girls were employed in divination, as no others were deemed pure enough for spiritual revelations. In instances of crystal gazing, particularly, it was they who read in the brilliant ball of glass the answers to questions asked, usually conveyed by means of written characters on the crystal. Sometimes, the Spirits called upon were supposed to appear in the crystal and respond to questions put to them.

Many savage races gazed into the water's depth or any clear depth to foresee distant events for enlightenment on immediate problems. In bygone days the ceremony of crystal gazing for divination purposes was elaborate and spectacular, including Lamens or Holy Table, the use of swords, wax candles in highly polished gilt or brass candle sticks, compasses, and many other accompaniments identified with magical functions.

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These rites were performed by priests or other personally trained by those who understood the invisible forces of the world unseen. They resorted to frequent washing and prayers three to four days prior to consulting the crystal.

They sought its help, counsel or advice most generally when the Moon was in increase going toward full. Every preparation for gazing was made when the Moon was increasing. The room and everything pertaining to the ceremony was immaculately clean and void of anything likely to disturb or detract attention. The object then was to bring the actual presence in the crystal of certain Spirits and to evoke from them answers to questions presented to them. Nowadays, we use the crystal, or any other medium for that matter to develop the clairvoyant power of the individual gazer. Through it he is brought into the world of the unseen.

The word crystal is derived from the Greek meaning “clear ice” or “frozen water.” As early as the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C., the Greeks supposed it to be a hard substance from frozen water. This belief persisted until the end of the sixteenth century, when the name crystal was applied only to ordinary quartz or rock crystal. Later, it was more generally applied to “any symmetrically formed mineral, solid, transparent or opaque, contained or bounded by plane surfaces.” Its smooth, even surfaces were noted by the ancients but were regarded as accidents or as “pleasing to the gods.”

Crystals are distinguished from other bodies by the sameness of internal structure. Their physical properties are the same in parallel directions and are generally different in direction not parallel. Globes or eggs for crystal gazing purposes can be made of beryl, rock crystal or glass. There is no such thing as genuine “rock crystal” although quartz glass is frequently referred to as “rock crystal.” The few specimens of real rock crystal in the world are priceless. An irregular mass of some three inches in diameter is valued upwards of twenty five thousand dollars, and the only piece in existence of that size is in a museum.

Real rock crystal means a piece of glass formed by volcanic action. Commercially there is a term “rock crystal” applied to exceptionally clear glass – but it is still artificial glass, no more or less. The Ancients sought to use crystal only when the Moon was on its increase, so it seems logical to conclude that a strong link between the crystal and the spirit world is magnetism.

Continued...



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This magnetism is attracted to and is in the crystal because of its iron properties. Many authorities advanced the theory that the greater the increase of the Moon, the greater the supply of the Moon's magnetism in the crystal. In Astrology, crystals are said to be influenced by the Moon as are the intuitive powers of mind and brain.

Visions in crystals may be classified as follows:

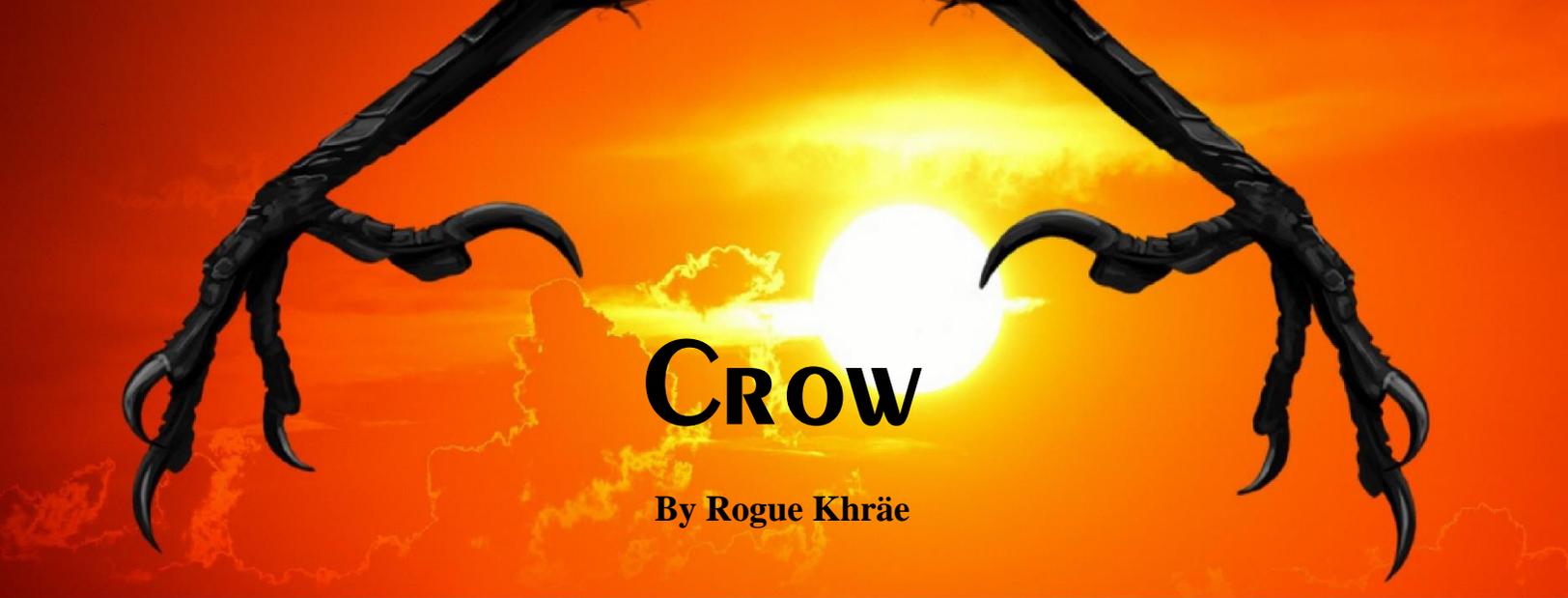
1. Images of something unconsciously observed. New reproduction, voluntary or spontaneous, and bringing no fresh knowledge to the mind.

2. Images of ideas unconsciously acquired from others by telepathy or otherwise. Some memory or imaginative effect which does not come from the gazer's ordinary self. Revivals of memory. Illustrations of thought.

3. Images, clairvoyant or prophetic. Pictures bringing information as to something past, present or future which the gazer has no other chance of knowing.

Resource: The Encyclopedia of Ancient and Forbidden Knowledge – pgs. 301-304; 311-312





# CROW

By Rogue Khräe

*My Grandfather once told me that the crow was the smartest of all the birds. What's more, it even knew it was the smartest of the birds and enjoyed it to the fullest. In fact, it was so smart that it chose to stay a crow, rather than move on to some other area of evolution. It has the unique ability to outwit most birds, animals and even humans at times. They make for themselves a wonderful living ... Crows intrigue and aggravate us. – Ted Andrews, *Animal Speak**

Throughout history, the crow has been associated with both positive and negative symbolic meanings. The most common are:

- Life magic; mystery of creation
- Destiny, personal transformation, alchemy
- Intelligence
- Higher perspective
- Being fearless, audacious
- Flexibility, adaptability
- Trickster, manipulative, mischievous

Additional Associations for Crow...

- Guardian of the place before existence
- Manifestation
- Law of Attraction
- Life and Death
- Rebirth
- Transition magic
- Watchfulness
- New opportunities coming up
- Fair Trade and Barter
- Ability to move in space and time
- Honoring ancestors
- Ethics and Ethical behavior

Continued...



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- **Carrier of souls from darkness into light**
- **Working without fear in darkness**
- **Guidance while working in shadow**
- **Moves freely in the void**
- **Understands all things related to ethics**
- **Shape Shifter**

Many cultures consider crows to be the keepers of the Sacred Law, for nothing escapes their keen sight. Crow medicine signifies a firsthand knowledge of a higher order of right and wrong than that indicated by the laws created in human culture.

“Native Americans had great respect for this bird. Several southwestern tribes heralded the Raven as the bringer of light that escaped from the darkness of the cosmos. Thus, they associate this bird with creation because it brought light where there was none. Other tribes looked upon this bird as a trickster or even a shape-shifter because of its high intelligence and ability to adapt to different situations.”<sup>7</sup>

*The relationship with war and death also underlies the crow’s connection to the Otherworld. The crow is sometimes perceived as a harbinger of death as well. The Scots have a term for death: “going away up the Crow Road.” In Hindu belief, crows serve as intermediaries who bring offerings of food and water to deceased ancestors on the anniversary of the relative’s death, a practice of expressing gratitude known as ‘Sr̄addha. In ancient Egypt, however, the crow was a symbol of faithful love because of the bird’s monogamous nature.* <sup>2</sup>

“Greeks pegged the crow as a white bird initially. But the white crow gave Apollo (Greek god of prophecy, healing and much more) some bad news and Apollo turned it black as a mark of displeasure. From that day on, the crow kept her secrets to herself in an effort to protect her brood, and her knowledge.

Continued...



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**The Latin term "Corvid" identifies the crow family. This word is derived, in part, from the word "cunning". This is oh-so-true with the crow. These birds have been known to outsmart other birds, many animals, and even more humans at times. They are masters at tactical maneuvers, and cunning is definitely the name of their game.**

**The crow is associated with many a god and goddess. Research it, and you'll discover that's true. Morrigan, Shani, Odin, Badb...these and more deities are aligned with the crow. In my studies, it's rare to have a creature shared by so many deities. Why is that? My guess is the power of the crow. There's something majestic and magnetic about the crow that tempts a god or goddess to affiliate themselves with this bird.**

**The crow can be monogamous (having one partner), but this isn't always the case. The Egyptians noticed their tendency to keep one mate and deemed this bird as a symbol of devotion and faithfulness.**

**Chinese Lore places the crow on a throne of masculine rule. In ancient Asian legend, the crow was said to be the father of the Asian race. As a result, the crow is respected and given great devotion (at least it was back in the day) as the parent of humankind.” – Avia (<http://www.whats-your-sign.com>).**

**A number of verses appear in American and European folklore to describe the crow's influence. In North America, "Crow on the fence, rain will go hence" is an often cited expression. In Maryland the following verse is found:**

**One crow--sorrow  
Two crows--mirth  
Three crows--wedding  
Four crows--birth**

**The English version is as follows:**

**One bad luck  
Two luck  
Three health**

Continued...



**Continued...**

**Four wealth  
Five sickness  
And six is death  
Still another version goes like this:  
One means anger  
Two means mirth  
Three a wedding  
Four a birth  
Five is heaven  
Six is hell  
But seven is the Devil's ownself.**

**What if a crow catches your attention?**

**Personal Integrity are your watchwords and your guide in Life. How is that working for you? If you have a Crow totem, your prime path is to be mindful of your opinions and actions throughout your life. You must be willing to walk your talk, to speak your truth and to know your life's mission.**

**CAW, CAW!**

Resources:

- 1) *Animal Speak* – Ted Andrews
- 2) <http://www.spiritanimal.info/crow-spirit-animal/>
- 3) <http://www.beliefnet.com/Wellness/Environment/Galleries/A-Spiritual-Field-Guide-to-Birds.aspx?p=3>
- 4) <http://www.universeofsymbolism.com/symbolic-crow-meaning.html>
- 5) <http://www.whats-your-sign.com/crow-symbolism.html>
- 6) <http://spirit-animals.com/crow/>

# THE APOTHECARY'S

By: George Sterling

*ITS red and emerald beacons from the night  
Draw human moths in melancholy flight,  
With beams whose gaudy glories point the way  
To safety or destruction--choose who may!  
Crystal and powder, oils or tincture clear,  
Such the dim sight of man beholds, but here  
Await, indisputable in their pow'r,  
Great Presences, abiding each his hour;  
And for a little price rash man attains  
This council of the perils and the pains--  
This parliament of death, and brotherhood  
Omnipotent for evil and for good.*

*Venoms of vision, myrrh of splendid swoons,  
They wait us past the green and scarlet moons.  
Here prisoned rest the tender hands of Peace,  
And there an angel at whose bidding cease  
The clamors of the tortured sense, the strife  
Of nerves confounded in the war of life.  
Within this vial pallid Sleep is caught,  
In that, the sleep eternal. Here are sought  
Such webs as in their agonizing mesh  
Draw back from doom the half-reluctant flesh.  
There beck the traitor joys to him who buys,  
And Death sits panoplied in gorgeous guise.*

*The dusts of hell, the dews of heavenly sods,  
Water of Lethe or the wine of gods,  
Purchase who will, but, ere his task begin,  
Beware the service that you set the djinn!  
Each hath his mercy, each his certain law,  
And each his Lord behind the veil of awe;  
But ponder well the ministry you crave,  
Lest he be final master, you the slave.  
Each hath a price, and each a tribute gives  
To him who turns from life and him who lives.  
If so you win from Pain a swift release,  
His face shall haunt you in the house of Peace;  
If so from Pain you scorn an anodyne,  
Peace shall repay you with a draft divine.  
Tho' toil and time be now by them surpast,  
Exact the recompense they take at last--  
These genii of the vials, wreaking still  
Their sorceries on human sense and will.*





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## ARCANUS OBSCURUM

**Der Khräe** (*Der Khräe*, pg. 48)

Der Krähe is anonymous. The poem may be found at <https://allpoetry.com/poem/8987517-Der-Kr-he-by-Der-Kr%C3%A4he>

**Holyman Preter** (*Don't Step on a Crack*, pg. 49)

Preter 'Holyman' Pawalajie considers himself more of a spiritual investigator which he feels canvases more of the supernatural realms and everything from ghosts to demons to angels. He has total dedication to God, the great creator and believes part of his path is to discern and fight evil in all forms. Preter lives in the US but travels to his birthplace Poland often.

**Marlo Meizner** (*The History of Crystal Gazing*, pg. 55)

Mystic Marlo is a long time scryer, Tarot reader and magical practitioner. She lives in New England where she teaches classes in Tarot, scrying and arcane history. She also teaches weaving and rudimentary looming. When the weather permits she enjoys gardening and rock collecting.

**Rogue Khräe** (*Crow*, pg. 58)

Rogue Khräe is the other penname of X. Orienstes (which is also a penname) who wishes to remain anonymous like all good mysteries.

**George Sterling** (*The Apothecary's* pg.62)

George Sterling, (December 1, 1869 – November 17, 1926) was an American writer based in the San Francisco, California Bay Area and [Carmel-by-the-Sea](#). He was considered a prominent poet and playwright and proponent of [Bohemianism](#) during the first quarter of the twentieth century. His work was admired by writers as diverse as [Ambrose Bierce](#), [Robinson Jeffers](#), [Jack London](#), [Upton Sinclair](#), [Theodore Dreiser](#), and [Sinclair Lewis](#). *The Apothecary's* is reprinted from *The House of Orchids and Other Poems*. George Sterling. San Francisco: A.M. Robertson, 1911.

# Sacred Sciences

Follow reason but don't ignore that gut feeling. We create reasons with our limited knowledge and experience, but gut feelings often come from universal knowledge.



**Section Managing Editor – Anne Drake Sydney**

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QUOTE: Debasish Mridha @ Goodreads.com

I was born into  
A religion of Light,  
But with so many other  
Religions and  
Philosophies,  
How do I know which  
ONE  
Is right?

Is it not  
My birthright  
To seek out the light?  
To find Truth  
After surveying all the proof,  
Am I supposed  
To love  
Or fight?  
And why do all those who  
Try to guide me,  
Always start by dividing  
And multiplying me –  
From what they consider  
Wrong or right?  
I thought,  
There were no walls  
For whoever beams truth and light.  
And how can one speak on Light's behalf,  
If all they do  
Is act black,  
But talk WHITE?"

# What about Astrology and Daniel?

By Rev. Dr. Loni Haas

*Let there be lights in the heaven and let them be for Signs. Genesis 1:14*

**Things run in cycles. So does human interest in things. So it goes with the Art of Astrology – interest waxes and wanes over the years and over the generations according to what is accepted as “in” or “out” of social vogue and the influence of religion and in some cases even politics.**

Licensed clinical social worker *Author Carmen Turner-Schott, MSW, LISW* says the following:

“I will never forget sitting in Sunday school while the preacher taught us about the three wise men. I wondered how they could have known that Jesus would be born just by following the special shining star in the sky that was guiding them. It was years later when I realized that the three wise men were astrologers. This information brought me peace as I began my astrological counseling journey. I once worked for a devout Christian who was a little leery of me because she had heard of my interest in astrology. She knew I was notorious for incorporating it into my counseling sessions with teens and families. One day she approached me and said, “I was teaching Sunday school for the first time this weekend and I was shocked when I found out that the three wise men were astrologers.” I remember smiling as she asked me if I would look at her natal chart. After our counseling session she told me, “Everything you said just validated all of my life experiences and how my personality is.” Her mind was opened up for the first time simply by allowing me to interpret her birth chart and life experiences. Many Christians are opening up their minds to things that they have never dreamed of before.

According to a recent study, nearly 30 percent of Catholics stated that they believed in astrology. Among white evangelicals there was 13 percent that professed a belief in astrology. From my personal experiences working as a licensed clinical social worker, I find that many of my clients are becoming more interested in astrology as a tool for self-awareness.” — read more at <https://www.liveabout.com/astrology-from-a-christians-perspective-207246>

Point taken.

A Biblical Celebrity who often comes up in the astrology gossip is Daniel. He most known for being thrown in the lion’s den but Daniel the Astrologer is what the Babylonians called him. He was honored in Babylon and Persia above all his contemporary Astrologers, Magicians, and Dream-interpreters. The Book of Daniel 1-7 is loaded with his imagery showing he had full understanding of the stars and constellations. Take a look yourself in your time off or check this website for a quickie analysis: <http://www.newagegod.com/healthark/danmedia/daniel11.htm> .

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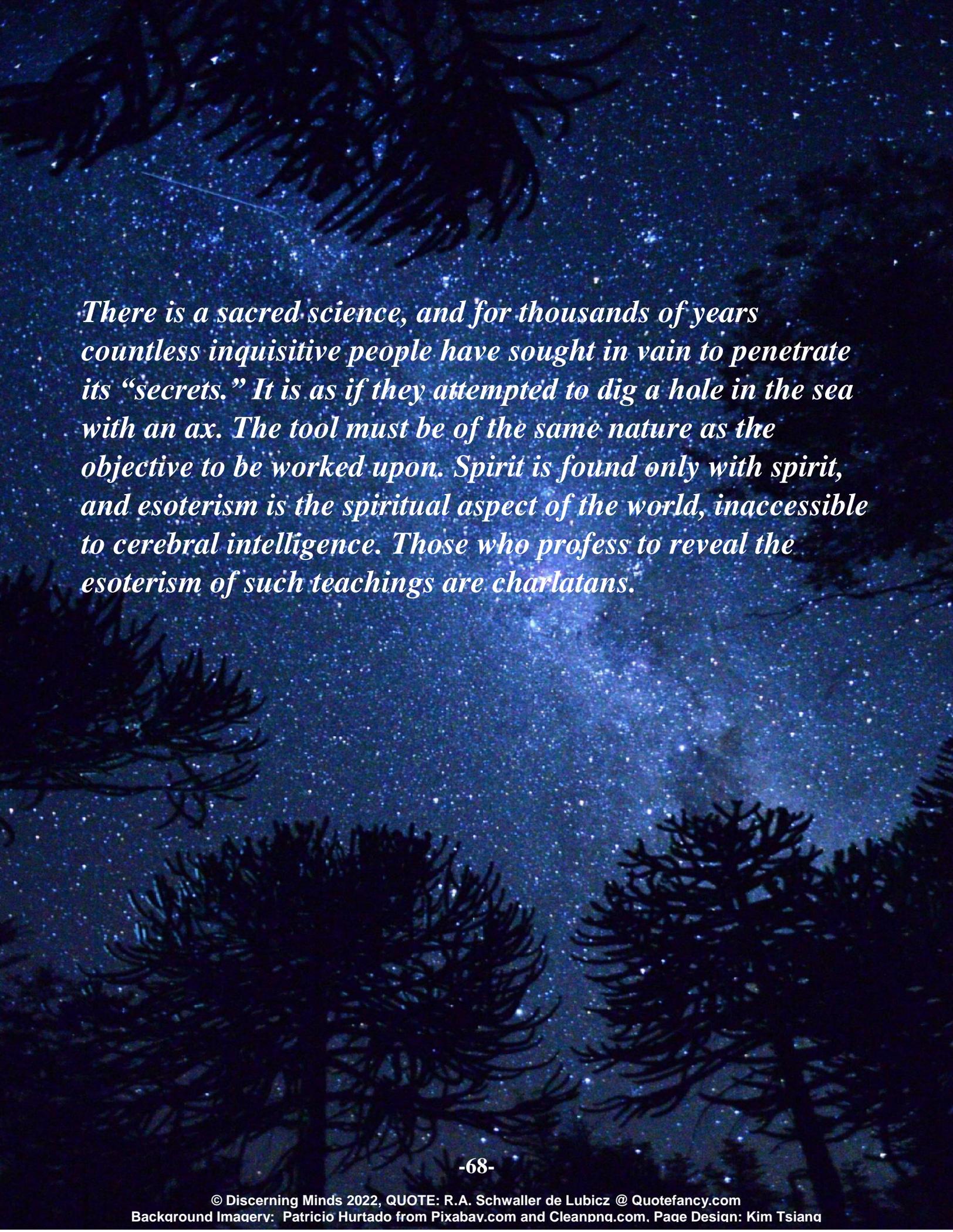
Of course they are an equal amount of naysayers who will argue Daniel was **absolutely not an astrologer** (BUZZER: he was trained as one). There are many, what appear to be clever arguments and of course individuals are free to state their opinions and ideas but unfortunately they cannot seem to do so without slings and digs and nasty name-calling. Astrologers, they say are ‘Godless intelligentsia’ or ‘New Age’ deceivers. To them I say you cannot make a viable argument that way folks – a little too left wing for *aware* people to accept it. And btw, naysayers you might start your arguments by ceasing to associate Astrology with the term ‘New Age.’ It has nothing to do with ‘New Age’ and shows a lack of, well, intelligence on your part. Try to do your research better before you hit the keyboard.

The naysayers are basically trying to attempt to dismantle the beauty and mysticism of all God’s creations and one could venture to guess, they have absolutely no understanding of the Art and Science of Astrology. They post their proof from Biblical sources and throw out convenient wordage as though it were gospel (pun intended) with absolutely NO awareness that they are motivated by their childhood conditioning and personal psychology to which, oddly enough, astrology could lend a helping hand. Why? Because ALL astrology is really about understanding the **Self** better. To understand how to be better and function better and EVOLVE. Now hold onto your hats, when you evolve, you are led to what? The Higher Power which is God, the Ultimate Source of All Creation. So, it all seems to come down to personal psychology doesn’t it? What you believe shapes what you do and how you act – even how evolved you are as a human being. God created us to be able to think and hopefully learn to discern as we grow in wisdom.

Heaven knows there are plenty of dark forces at work today trying distort reality and dupe us into believing the new and glittering version of they have created. That perversion is all around us. Even Daniel knew it and he predicted it. If you are an astute well-read person you will notice that ALL the biblical arguments are highly dependent upon fortune-telling and diving. Before the human race wised up Astrology had its day in that as well – it was misused. In today’s age it is a tool for human evolvment. So if you didn’t get that, I suggest you go back and read the previous passages because it is a deal clincher. Daniel served under **five** kings: Nebuchadnezzar, Evil-merodach, Belshazzar, Darius, and Cyrus and there was plenty of razzle-dazzle. Daniel was eventually made the *chief* of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. They all answered to Daniel or Belteshazzar as he was renamed by the Babylonians but they did not all share his dedication to God. So one might say that Daniel was attempting to exist in a Godless societal environment as we are fast creating ourselves today. Anyone who was accepted into that society was indoctrinated to the ways of that society. Starting to sound familiar?

If nothing else Daniel was a psychologist not a prophet. Or maybe he was just an astrologist.





*There is a sacred science, and for thousands of years countless inquisitive people have sought in vain to penetrate its “secrets.” It is as if they attempted to dig a hole in the sea with an ax. The tool must be of the same nature as the objective to be worked upon. Spirit is found only with spirit, and esoterism is the spiritual aspect of the world, inaccessible to cerebral intelligence. Those who profess to reveal the esoterism of such teachings are charlatans.*

# *Life and Death*

*By. Rev. Dr. Loni Haas*

*We are truly infinite beings whose mode of existence goes through many transformations with death and a new incarnation all part of a greater cycle. How is this determined from an astrological lens?*

The actual death or final shut down of the body or physical form is announced by Saturn since the body is the structure which houses the soul/spirit. Pluto then takes charge to shut down the mental processes. This makes sense since as humans we are governed by our thoughts and our capacity for understanding - in other words, the mind must understand that the physical vehicle of the body can no longer house the control panel or brain. The silver chord that attaches the soul/spirit to the body is governed by Neptune so it is the job of Neptune to sever the silver chord so the soul/spirit can be released. In a near death experience, the soul/spirit leaves the body but is still attached by the silver chord. The mind has not yet been shut down by Pluto so the soul/spirit understands the process of reentry. The circumstances surrounding one's demise are described by the activity in the 4<sup>th</sup> house of the chart and the type of death is described by the 8<sup>th</sup> house which is considered the Gate of Death.

The Imum Colei or IC is the most hidden point in a chart. It lies at the cusp of the 4<sup>th</sup> house. It is believed to be the place where we experience our connection to the Universe. Our cell memory lies here as does our understanding that we are all a part of creation and the collective. This is the point associated with endings and beginnings where we finish a "life term" and begin another. It is the point where the soul enters the physical body. The Soul Essence can be gleaned from the sign on the North Angle and from any planets that are in "applying" conjunct aspect (one degree or less) to the North Angle.

If a Mutable sign, Gemini, Virgo, or Sagittarius occupies the 4th House cusp, the individual will approach basic needs with adaptability. Life is a continuing series of impacts because he/she is easily influenced by others and the environment.

A Fixed sign, Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, or Aquarius occupying the 4th House Cusp signifies a life of testing, purging and cleansing. These individuals are subject to quiet periods interrupted by sudden upsets. These will either be initiated by the individual or come from outside influences. How much the individual suffers these experiences depends upon how much information they need to move forward.

A Cardinal sign, Aries, Cancer, Libra or Capricorn on the 4th House cusp indicates a spiritual warrior who views the lessons of the current lifetime as an initiation in moving closer to Source or God. These individuals will be a constant state of flux and movement intellectually.

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Planets conjunct the Imum Colei by applying aspect from the 3rd House at birth relate to additional gifts brought in through the spirit.

**SUN:** The individual will relay a need to entertain others either through verbal expression or physical expression. They will need to overcome material hurdles in order to bring the total sum of self-expression to fruition since there is a strong need for distinction in some area of life. The Sun connected to this point signifies intellectual brilliance and a desire to investigate new things.

**MOON:** This is a strong position for the Moon. Individuals tend to be happiest when they are around water - lakes, rivers, or the ocean. There is often a tendency to wander from place to place because of incessant curiosity. Thought patterns are greatly affected by emotions and the imagination.

**MERCURY:** The predisposition of Mercury conjunct this point indicates that the individual has brought forth superior intellectual ability from past lifetimes from both experience and heredity. There is often a love of books and/or libraries. Originality and mental agility is often expressed via writing and/or speaking. The individuals are also adept at problem solving. Retrograde Mercury indicates past life lessons surrounding "speaking before thinking" which led to trouble. The individual tends to be more pensive and takes the time to discern words rather than blurting things out.

**VENUS:** The individual has a great love of and need for harmony. He or she is also very concerned with self-improvement. There is an innate love of literature, poetry and art and there is great ability in these categories. Social contacts are scrutinized in an intellectual manner. Retrograde Venus indicates a need for discernment when connecting to others so that relationships can be sustained in a mature and productive manner.

**MARS:** Individualism is taken to new heights with this placement. The individual has a strong tie to the Earth and is often a "do-it-yourself" type. The intellect is very aggressive, the speech direct, and the nature resourceful. There may be a tendency to jump to conclusions however, fast thinking makes this person good in emergency situations. Some will express a desire for politics. Retrograde Mars here indicates past lives connected to the military where discipline sometimes required regrettable acts perpetrated upon others so there exists a need to overcome guilt.

**JUPITER:** This placement indicates need for religious/spiritual and/or educational activity. The individual often comes across to others as "lucky." The mental outlook is often optimistic, philosophic, perceptive, social/political and spiritual. There is also an interest and tolerance for different belief systems and cultural communication modes. Retrograde Jupiter indicates some past lifetimes of persecution and the individual come full circle in this lifetime to overcome fear when expressing innate wisdom and trusting the inner self.

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**SATURN:** The individual struggles with balance usually when it comes to personal and professional needs because of a strong drive and a need for accomplishment. The mental outlook is disciplined, practical, and a bit judgmental. A gift for methodology is highly apparent often expressed through powerful and innate ability for mathematics and/or form. Retrograde Saturn indicates negative thinking patterns from past lifetimes of difficulty with authority figures and power struggles which call for a need to overcome impatience with others who are less gifted.

**URANUS:** The mental outlook is that of a visionary who has a penchant for the contemporary including artifacts of unusual origin. The individual tends to be open minded with concern for the facts and a distaste for anything that requires "approval." He/she comes into the current incarnation with an innate sense of brotherhood and with the Truth regarding Universal laws and principles. There is often past life ability for the sciences and/or the occult. Retrograde Uranus indicates rebel energy that runs with a strong stubborn streak and a need for appreciation of structure and compromise.

**NEPTUNE:** This is a highly mystical and spiritual placement and the individual has a strong attunement with the Earth and the forces of nature. Psychic ability and a grand imagination need to be put to good use because the individual is subject to "downloads" from higher planes of existence. The capacity for visualization is highly developed and the individual sometimes expressed a need to be connected to the mass media. If the individual has a penchant for writing a pseudonym will often be used. Retrograde Neptune indicates past lifetimes of escapism and fear of independence so the challenge is to become more self-reliant in the current incarnation while using creative abilities to the fullest.

**PLUTO:** Higher spiritual faculties become more apparent as the individual ages and matures in the current incarnation. There is an innate ability for the occult and a strong connection to the Earth and what lies beneath the Earth. The mental capacity is penetrating, scientific and resourceful with great comprehension of fundamentals. Personal beliefs are strong and unyielding unless factual concrete evidence to the contrary has been presented. Retrograde Pluto indicates past lifetimes where the individual had experiences that promoted distrust in others based upon blame for deeds and crimes uncommitted by the individual. The soul essence is learning to trust the "self" in the current life so trusting others can follow.

If you believe in reincarnation, the circumstances surrounding a return fall under the jurisdiction of the 8<sup>th</sup> house. The description of the incarnated being lies in the 1<sup>st</sup> house. Karmic responsibilities for a particular lifetime are spelled out in the 12<sup>th</sup> house and by the Nodal Axis.

“All the world’s a stage,” so the man said.  
Blithely he asked, “Have you mastered it yet?”  
“No,” I answered, “It’s experimental theater.”  
“Ah!” said the man, “It’s all in the interpretation ...”  
“Arrogance will enter stage right to show you how it’s done.”  
“What of stage left?” I queried.  
“We boo the has-beens off stage left,” he replied.  
“But every seat is taken, even the balcony is filled.” I retorted.  
“Yes,” the man said as he smiled. “They laugh at the comedy of errors.”  
“It doesn’t matter,” I said, “It’s only an audition.”  
“No,” said the man, “It’s a screen test that no one has passed yet.”  
“Why?” I asked.  
“Because the new genre plagiarizes the acts of old,” said the man.  
“No one has made it through the seventh act,” he continued, “because no one submits a new screenplay.”  
“We just need to wait for some new talent,” he sighs.  
The stage lights go dark.  
The man hangs a sign on the theater door ...

<CLOSED FOR REFURBISHMENT>



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## SACRED SCIENCES

**Suzy Kassem QUOTE** (*Black and White*, pg. 65)

Suzy Kassem is an American writer, poet, philosopher, and artist of Egyptian origin. The granddaughter of a respected sage in 19th century Cairo, mysticism and wisdom run through her blood just as the water of the Nile flows through her veins

**Rev. Dr. Loni Haas** (*What about Astrology and Daniel?* pg. 66, *AND Life and Death*, pg. 69)

Loni Haas is a respected behavioral therapist, veteran exoteric and esoteric astrologer, research member of the American Federation of Astrologers (AFA), member of the National Council of Geocosmic Research (NCGR), as well as a lifetime member of the American Association of Behavioral Therapists. She is an ordained minister and Doctor of Divinity of the Universal Light Church of Cincinnati, Ohio where she is certified in several healing modalities.

**R.A. Schwaller de Lubicz QUOTE** (*The Temple in Man*, pg.68)

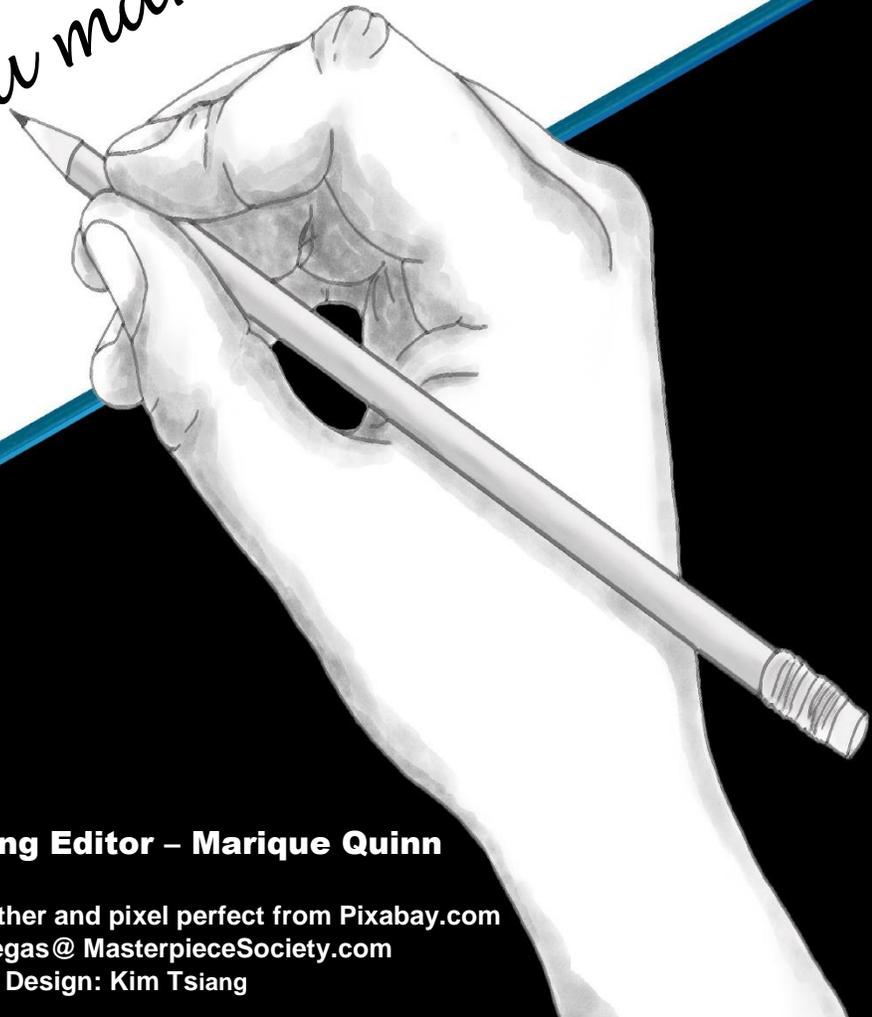
**René Adolphe Schwaller de Lubicz** (December 7, 1887 – 1961) was a French occultist, student of sacred geometry and Egyptologist known for his twelve-year study of the art and architecture of the Temple of Luxor in Egypt and his subsequent book *The Temple in Man*. The quote is from Quotefancy.com

**Light Force Network** (*Stage Dialog*, pg.72)

*Stage Dialog* was graciously contributed by The Light Force Network <https://lightforcenetwork.com/> with permission.

# Creative Musings

Art is not what you see, but  
what you make others see.



**Section Managing Editor – Marique Quinn**

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Cover Design: Kim Tsiang



Marc Eden  
DIGITAL ART GALLERY

*"Awakening"*



marc eden



Marc Eden  
DIGITAL ART GALLERY  
*"Awakening to Cosmic Truths"*



Marc Eden  
DIGITAL ART GALLERY  
*"Activating Christ Consciousness"*



Dani Baty-Barrera Art Gallery

*“My Bloody Valentine”*



Dani Baty-Barrera Art Gallery

*"Bodhi"*



Dani Baty-Barrera Art Gallery

*"Frankie"*



Renata Baillie "Precious Creations" Art Doll Gallery  
*"Baby Journee"*





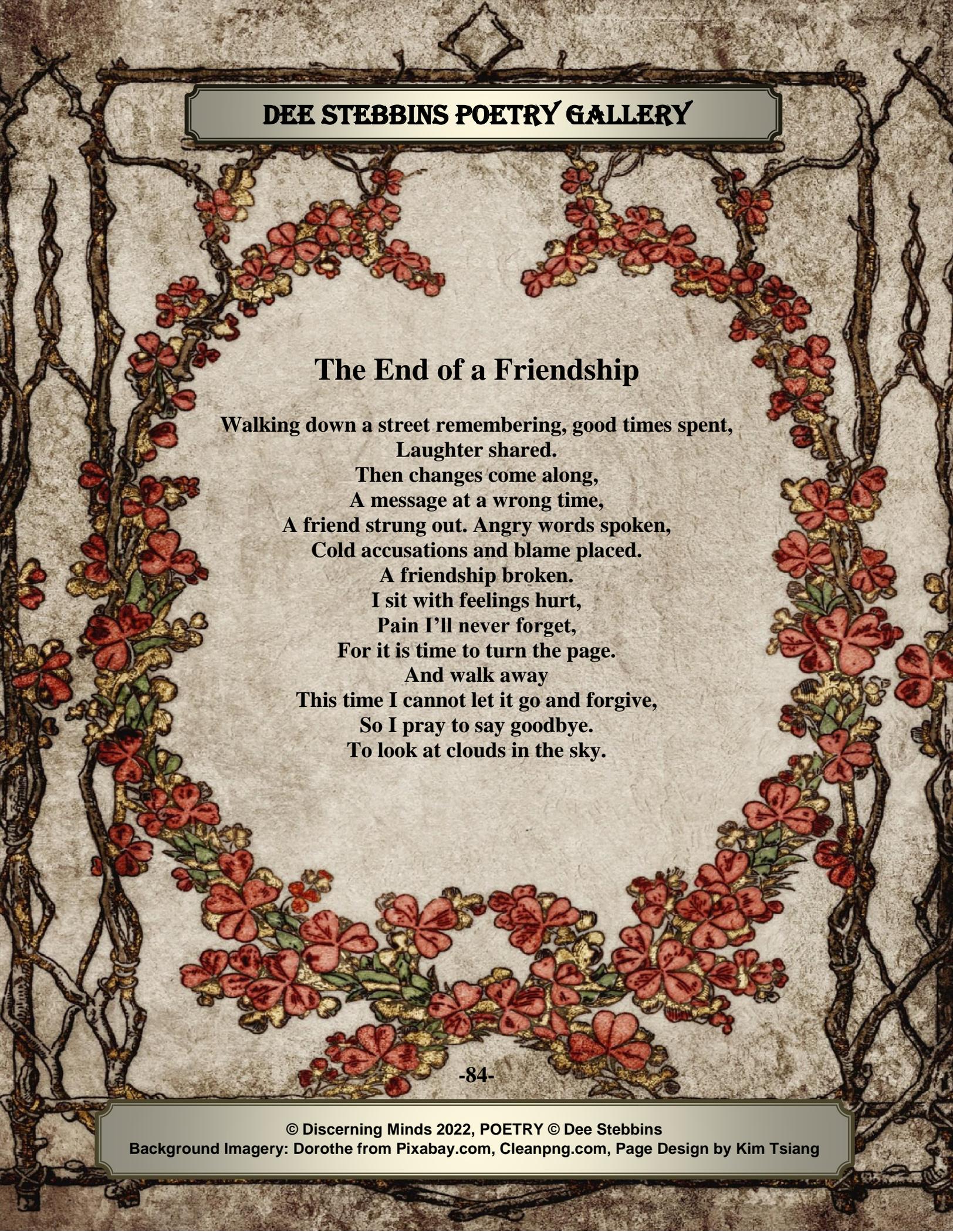
Renata Baillie "Precious Creations" Art Doll Gallery  
*"Baby Mira"*





Renata Baillie “Precious Creations” Art Doll Gallery  
*“Baby Truth”*





**DEE STEBBINS POETRY GALLERY**

## **The End of a Friendship**

**Walking down a street remembering, good times spent,  
Laughter shared.**

**Then changes come along,  
A message at a wrong time,  
A friend strung out. Angry words spoken,  
Cold accusations and blame placed.**

**A friendship broken.  
I sit with feelings hurt,  
Pain I'll never forget,  
For it is time to turn the page.**

**And walk away  
This time I cannot let it go and forgive,  
So I pray to say goodbye.  
To look at clouds in the sky.**



**DEE STEBBINS POETRY GALLERY**

**Love is music**

**For everyone**

**The night rains tell me of things gone by. Of things to  
come.**

**A sigh a memory. A face to await. The touch of someone  
anticipated.**

**So carry me on the thunder, let the rain wash over me.**

**Let what comes lead me.**

**With songs of the brook, sounding**

**Like a harp. The rain fills the night.**

**-85-**



**DEE STEBBINS POETRY GALLERY**

**Kaleidoscope!**

Whispers of an essence riding down the line,

A prism of light pointing beyond.

A dark Crystal down through the depth of one's mind,

The shadows of a memory.

Faster than time.

Then light piercing through a vortex of sound.

Swirling all around.

Did the sun come first? Did the water come first?

Was it this god?

The Universe, the all living, light, and Energy!

Where did it all come from?

A black flat object? A Monolith of knowledge?

Continued..



**DEE STEBBINS POETRY GALLERY**

Continued...

**A cloud, a shooting star as it falls & burns.  
In such beauty,**

**How can a bud form?**

**Into a rose so brilliant in its petals**

**In undulating shades.**

**Alas too soon it begins to drop its silken petals.  
Becoming the dark red rose hip.**

**Then back to the earth.**

**So shall we all go.**



*Lisa Barnthouse*  
**POETRY GALLERY**

**Set Free**

**In this world an invisible prison;  
Out of nowhere you came and set me free.**

**Like the waters of the sea  
You set me free.**

**No longer bound in conformity;  
Out of nowhere you came and set me free.**

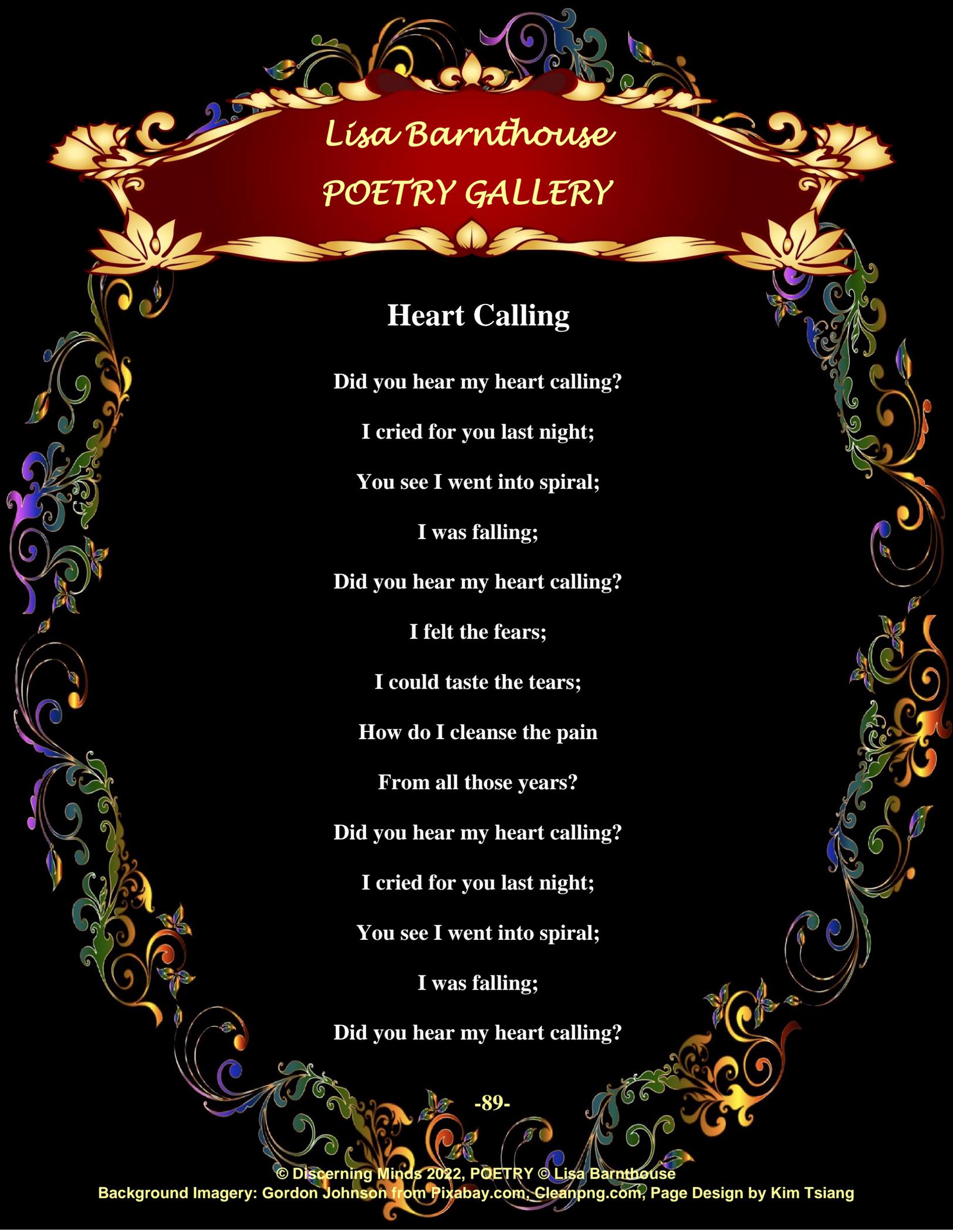
**Like the waters of the sea  
You set me free.**

**I found my shed feathers and put them in place.**

**I took flight you were my light.  
Out of nowhere you came and set me free.**

**Like the water of the sea  
You set me free.**

**Dreams no longer hindered;  
Fixated entranced by your radiance;  
I exhaled and the walls tumbled;  
Out of nowhere you came and Set Free...**



*Lisa Barnthouse*  
**POETRY GALLERY**

**Heart Calling**

**Did you hear my heart calling?**

**I cried for you last night;**

**You see I went into spiral;**

**I was falling;**

**Did you hear my heart calling?**

**I felt the fears;**

**I could taste the tears;**

**How do I cleanse the pain**

**From all those years?**

**Did you hear my heart calling?**

**I cried for you last night;**

**You see I went into spiral;**

**I was falling;**

**Did you hear my heart calling?**



*Lisa Barnthouse*  
**POETRY GALLERY**

**Remember Heaven is calling  
Heaven heard you calling  
They knew you were falling  
The angels did take flight  
With them came Heavens might  
You are not alone  
You are surrounded by your true home  
Do not fear the angels dry the lonely tear  
In this world where there's much pain  
It seems only sadness to gain  
Do not lose faith but lose the hate  
We are nearing Heaven's gate.  
They are hear they answered the call  
To save you from this fall  
They are here to save life  
To finally end this strife**

Continued...

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*Lisa Barnthouse*  
**POETRY GALLERY**

Continued...

**Do not lose sight  
Remember who we are  
Beloved of creator prized in Heaven  
Remember and soon home you  
Will take flight...**



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## CREATIVE MUSINGS

**Marc Eden** (Digital Art Gallery, *pgs. 75-77*)

Marc lives in [Johannesburg, Gauteng](#). He is an honored member of the Light Force Network Art Community

"I believe that I have been blessed with a creative eye and in expressing my creativity I am able to share a small part of my soul with you. Expressing my creativity through music, writing, art, cooking, jewelry making, I have created a few albums with my own art and a few of various other artists. Going through my albums would be like traveling to different dimensions (abstract, surreal, fantasy, photography 3d, landscapes inspiration, illusion) and along your journey discover the creativity of some truly incredible souls I believe in the arts and that it is essential to our way of life, as it is an expression of who we are as a species." You can find Marc's on sale artwork via:

<https://www.facebook.com/7thdimensionenergy>

**Dani Baty-Barrera** (*Art Gallery - Dani Baty Art Studio, pgs.78-80*)

I was born in CA and grew up living in the Lake Tahoe area. I started doing art for my kids' rooms in 2012 and have not stopped since. Now living on the eastern coast of Florida, in New Smyrna Beach, I continue to do my own original art and other designs on everything from watercolor paper to ceramics, tee shirts and decals. I usually use acrylic paint and archival ink pens but I also use other mediums. Inspiration comes from many places but the day of the dead has always been my biggest source of inspiration. I love the soul and colors it brings fourth. My artwork can be found at: [www.Facebook.com/DaniBatyArtStudio](http://www.Facebook.com/DaniBatyArtStudio) and the other is: <https://www.facebook.com/rogueowlart/>

**Renata Baillie** ("*Precious Creations*" Art Doll Gallery, *pgs. 81-83*)

I was born and raised in Hungary but I have been living in the United States for the past 20 years. I am a self- taught sculptor, silicone caster and silicone artist. I focus on hyper-realism in movement, paint and special effects artistry during the creation of my dolls. I sculpt my dolls from clay then mold them, cast them into silicone finally finish them with paint and micro root their hair, eyelashes and other special effects to push the boundaries of realism. All of my dolls are unique and "life like" not only visually but also the way they feel to the touch and their movement reflects a real life infant's movements. I can be reached at: [http://Facebook.com/ Precious-Creations-103505614772215/](http://Facebook.com/Precious-Creations-103505614772215/) and [PreciousCreations@ gmail.com](mailto:PreciousCreations@gmail.com)

**Dee Stebbins** (*Poetry Gallery, pgs. 84-87*)

I started writing poetry in my early 20s, life motivated me to write. I love flowers and doing floral arrangements, I love to plant things. I like walking, reading, sci-fi and romance novels and mysteries. I like movies. I grew up in a small town in Illinois, and am an only child. I have diamond doves which I am raising. They are very small doves the size of parakeets. They are bluish gray with white dots on their wings and orange eye circles around their red eyes. I love raising doves, they are so cute. I love to bird watch as well, and walk on the trails birdwatching. Birds are my favorite of God's creatures.



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Continued ...

**Lisa Barnthouse** (*Poetry Gallery, pgs.88-91*)

My name is Lisa Barnthouse aka Eoran. I have been writing and also winning prizes for my poetry since childhood. I'm also into photography. Words to me are like weaving threads into beautiful patterns that become poetry. Thank you for reading much love to all.

# *Odd VANT GUARDE*

THAT'S WHY CRAZY PEOPLE ARE SO DANGEROUS.

YOU THINK THEY'RE *NICE* UNTIL THEY'RE CHAINING YOU UP IN THE GARAGE.



**Managing Editor: Oscar "Trashman" Corelli**

Background Imagery: [NicePng.com](http://NicePng.com) and [pingkegg.com](http://pingkegg.com)

QUOTE: Michael Buckley @ [Goodreads.com](http://Goodreads.com)

Cover Design: Kim Tsiang

**Fools despise understanding and sound knowledge, they are neither teachable nor coachable but proud to be ignorant and hate discretion.**

**On the other hand the simple are both teachable and coachable, unfortunately they throw away caution, sound judgement and discernment as they believe in every word, story, or false promise imposed on them.**

**That makes them gullible, easily manipulated, brainwashed, deceived or taken advantage of. Unlike the wise, though teachable and coachable but have their guards on to only learn and do what is right.**



# Asshole

By Old Goatman

Are you an asshole?

- To be an asshole is a moral deficit.
- Aside from being male, researchers found that assholes are thought of as self-centered, aggressive, and manipulative.
- Existentialist philosophy says that we are not simply the product of our past. We each have the power to stop being an asshole.\*

Assholery is a character flaw and it concerns the entire nature of a person. When you think about it, really think about it, Assholes actually run the world. And most of them have what in common? Narcissism.

A narcissist Asshole basically thinks all people are shitty which might be acceptable if they did not care what other people think but you see, the assholery part of them DOES CARE what other people think. They don't want other people to think they are wrong or less than. They want to be admired and placed on a pedestal for all to worship. And feelings? Do they care about feelings? Well, they certainly care about their own feelings which almost always leads to self-righteous behaviors. They don't even realize this because they haven't stopped to think about it. If they allow their life to be dictated by feelings, then they're going to be stuck in a shithole forever. But they don't realize that either. They are willing to upset other people as long as they feel good about themselves. And there are rules for this:

1. Get good a feeling bad when unsure. This gives an excellent excuse to assert one's position regardless the cost. Remember, if you get good at feeling bad and you'll become okay at making others feel bad when necessary. It's all about that goal of pushing your thoughts, ideas and conclusions down others' throats.
2. Delude oneself into thinking one is altruistic – the Universal Progressive Citizen who wants only the best but mostly for oneself. After all think of the admiration it could bring.

Continued...



Continued...

3. Be an overbearing bully but don't forget to whine and complain even strike out at those who have been deemed offensive. You don't have to listen to anyone's opinion because only you know the truth and they just need to listen.
4. Don't care about any friends, colleagues, co-workers or family who end up disavowing you or disowning you. You have all you need according to "me, myself and I."
5. Make up any rule as you go along that suits you and your agenda. Lie, twist information, paint any picture you want as it's bound to convince others sooner or later.
6. (Aka 666) - Most importantly – NEVER ask yourself if this is the kind of life you want to live or if you might seriously need some psychiatric help. That would blow the whole ballgame.

\* <https://bigthink.com/neuropsych/assholes-psychology/>



# FREE-Dumb

By Jonathan H. Corelli

F.Y.I. ... **Metaphysics** is the branch of philosophy that examines the fundamental nature of reality, including the relationship between mind and matter, between substance and attribute, and between potentiality and actuality. – Wikipedia

When you think about it, no one is exempt from realizing these things but many do exempt themselves because metaphysical concepts do require critical thinking to suss out the truth of matters. That ability is fast disappearing from the human condition. They also do not want to be reminded of higher thoughts and principles because it might stir up feelings of guilt or lack and, unfortunately in today's society, wrongdoing. Besides, arbitrary and degenerative thought it is the absolute "*in way to be*" and herd mentality seems like a "*safe place to be.*" It's the best roller coaster ride in the FREE-DUMB amusement park.

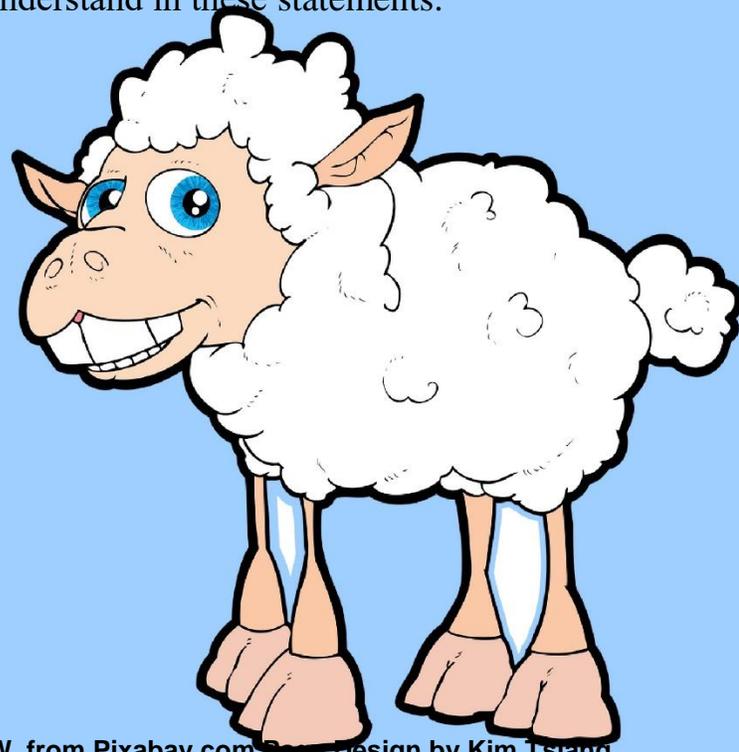
Perhaps they have simply devolved into apathists and simply don't give a damn that they have already lost the game. It is all not likely to bode well in the end. It never bodes well for anyone who has lost their ability to think for themselves and allowed themselves to be brainwashed and inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Easily Duped. This is a great place to be built on a foundation of opinions du juor and surrounded by the strong walls of 'rights to do and say as I please'. No thinking necessary – No need to do some research – No need to consider the thoughts or ideas of others – just follow along and believe and repeat, repeat, repeat what you have been told. This is all reminiscent of a line from Stephen King's *Storm of the Century* – "Hell is repetition" AND from the poem by Thomas Gray, "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise" more popularly known as "Ignorance is bliss." Not to worry Dupees, it doesn't matter that there are massive gaps in your cultural and general knowledge. Just jump over those holes and do what you are told because you were always better off not knowing in the first place. "What you don't know won't hurt you." – Margaret Atwood – Right? "A dubious maxim: sometimes what you don't know can hurt you very much." – Margaret Atwood

NOTE: In light of the virtues of equality and fairness, Dupees reading this will be allowed an extra 48 hours to look up any words or author quotes they don't understand in these statements.

On a more visionary note, perhaps all this strife is simply where we are on the evolutionary ladder. Perhaps the pendulum is favoring the darkside once again like it did in the Dark Ages of history. Perhaps men and women are truly being separated from the sheep and sheepettes ... as Neil Armstrong so astutely put it, "That's one small step for mankind, one giant leap for mankind." Perhaps there will be some lessons learned if even they are learned the hard way, after all that IS human nature.

The question remains: **Will we ever learn?**

And that folks is metaphysical.





# ***Fake***

By Dr. Daria

“Are you sincere? Are you yourself? Are you as you look? You don’t have a mask on your face? You speak what you think? Then you are real, then you are not fake!” — Mehmet Murat ildan

The human race has become very adept over time in hiding or disguising fake agendas. That's correct: 'fake agendas' because a human being can't literally be 'fake' but their modus operandi based in ego needs certainly can and are fake AND destructive. Fake news for example which has been causing major disruptions and even destruction is generated by fake people for ego purposes of power and control. So you can spend a good deal of time perusing psychology books looking for those dark motivations and the reasons for them or you can simply use your own discernment buoyed by a few very obvious human personality traits.

The most blatant sign is someone who is constantly looking for attention. The proverbial 'show off'. Depending upon degree of severity this can qualify as what is known as Histrionic personality disorder or HPD. Someone with histrionic personality disorder wants to be the center of attention in any group of people at all times, and they feel uncomfortable when they are not. The pattern is generally long standing. People with histrionic personality disorder will crave novelty, stimulation, and excitement and have a tendency to become bored with their usual routine. These individuals are often intolerant of, or frustrated by, situations that involve delayed gratification, and their actions are often directed at obtaining immediate satisfaction. At first this may all seem rather amusing but it gets old rather quickly.

Fakes will also generally try very hard to get people to like them, however this does not apply to ALL people but rather to people they respect. Wait a minute - can't that statement be true of most people? Surely to get ahead in business a person would sure want their boss to like them so they could get ahead. The answer is yes but, the difference is the office buddy you thought my be a work ally will have no trouble stepping on you and might go as far to lie and ruin your reputation in achieving his or her goal. Aren't all work environments dog eat dog you ask? Perhaps but you will also notice that in most cases the dog eater falls almost as quickly as he has risen. It might take a while or happen rather quickly. All of this applies to social situations as well. The Universe is funny like that. You might also notice that fakes are only "nice" when they have a hidden agenda and want something. This will become apparent when they try to draw others into gossip. They can spin a whale of a tale and be very persuasive. Once they have captivated your attention to their soap opera you can also expect to hear criticism of others and situations as they close the net on what used to be your good judgment. They will have you thinking they are the best thing to come along since the Hershey Bar and anyone else involved is dog meat. If you drink that Kool-Aid in very short order you will notice the fake not keeping any commitments or promises. Why should they honor that? After all you took it in hook, line and sinker. Remember: “When you see the genuine, you don't deal with the fakes anymore.” — Nima davani

**Who can doubt that this is Planet Dumb?**

**Who can deny that this is the dumbest planet in the cosmos?**

**It's the planet that willfully chose to go Full Retard. Aren't you sick of being a dumbo, one of the dim legions of dunces? Don't you want to be on the smart side, the side of intelligent people?**

**This could be a rational, logical world, if we had the will to make it so. Sadly, we seem to lack the desire for sanity and rationality. Humans are a Mythos species. They love their crazy stories. They reject Logos.**

**Humanity will not live happily ever after. Its stupidity will kill it.**

**Ignorance is fatal. Old Humanity chose to go Full Retard.**

**New humanity – HyperHumanity – will go Full Smart**





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## ODD VANT GUARDE

**Dr. Lucas D. Shallua QUOTE** (*Fools*, pg.95)

Dr. Lucas D. Shallua is a Chancellor and President of Mount Eagle College & University, trained as a veterinary doctor & surgeon and has doctorate degree in the medical field and related discipline of cellular biology, anatomy and endocrinology. He is a dynamic motivational speaker, a university professor, an avid entrepreneur in education, technology and health industry. As a speaker he challenges his audience in practical ways to be engaged in the marketplace and to lead an exemplary life that can be imitated as a vicarious model. He is an academician, a scholar, author and an adventurous world traveler seeking to learn cultures, human behavior and places by firsthand experience. The quote is sourced @ Goodreads.com

**Old Goatman** (*Asshole*, pg. 96)

Old Goatman operates a goat farm in the upper northeast USA. He is an amateur historian and writer. He prefers to remain anonymous about anything else.

**Jonathan H. Corelli** (*FREE-Dumb*, pg.98)

Jonathan lives in New York and in Montana during the summer months. He is a freelance writer and part time comedian who loves to travel as much as possible (have pen, will travel!). He likes to say, "Writing is not perfection unless it has a humor injection" so even the most serious of topics are infused with a dose of the literary giggles. According to Jonathan it all makes "perfect sense in every sense of the term sense."

**Dr. Daria** (*Fake*, pg.99)

Dr. Daria Novicki is a practicing psychologist specializing in trauma cases. She is a history buff who enjoys the mysteries connected to the past. Daria lives in New England with her dog Shogun and her Siamese cat Ling. She believes that her healthy brand of skepticism is one of her best assets. She is a managing editor of *The Human Condition* section for Discerning Minds E-Zine and a staff consultant for all other categories.

**Ranty McRanterson QUOTE** (*The Planet is Dumb*, pg. 100)

Ranty is a politiranter. "I am here to cause trouble...and point out how undemocratic our little democracy is." The quote is sourced @ Goodreads.com