

Personal Responsibility

Hello from Tiger at Church of the Angels. This week I would like to address what I personally feel is the most important and possibly the most challenging facet of Spiritualism - "Personal Responsibility".

Many of you do not know the early origins of Spiritualism. This is an abridged version: We were originally Quackers. During the time proceeding the Civil War the Quaker Church refused to take any stand one way or another concerning Slavery. A significant number of Northern (US/Canada) Quakers were appalled by this, refusing to continue their Quaker affiliation.

These ex-Quakers began meeting instead at one another's homes one night a week for "Thought Exchange" and dining table hand holding prayer "Circles" to talk to Spirit aloud for Spiritual strength - to help one another stay focused on their Spiritual connections. They began calling themselves "Spiritualists". The four components of "Spiritualist Assembly" mimic the four parts of an old-fashioned Quaker Service where ALL are equals. There was never anything like Mediumship.

Many Spiritualists also became active Abolitionists. This cross-affiliation attracted more people to the Spiritualism movement - Mark Twain for instance and then Susan B. Anthony joined our ranks as the Abolitionist movement grew...

As some within the Spiritualist movement remained secretive to provide services such as soup kitchens, teaching slaves to read or conducting "Underground Railroads", others became more transparent - by providing open lecturing venues where anyone, even Women and People of Color were permitted to speak opinion in public for the first time without being arrested! Shocking! These open forum gatherings were of course ripe for the new Suffrage movement, occasionally leading to fisticuffs by outsiders before rules of engagement were set!

From these crossings between activism many more Spiritualists

additionally identified with Suffragettes or activists in other politically charged areas and vice versa. We have our Spiritualist Ancestors to thank not just for a Women's right to vote but for the abolishment of Child Labor and Women's first Rights to Birth Control. We helped write freedom laws after the Civil War with our new Spiritualist members of Color. We have always rooted for the oppressed, crusading for freedom and equality...

Mediumship, flying trumpets and Lily Dale came later. Spiritualism has always been completely about Spirit entanglement, movin'-n-shakin', was matriarchal driven, all-inclusive, and about balancing all that with a continual thirst for updated knowledge, while nurturing positivity and love... Sometimes our Ancestors zeal to right an oppressive wrong was seen by others as subversive!

🤔 Hmmmm...

I've been comparing all that history to the lunacy of our times. As we consider more than a century of heated American history we may agree with "Freedom for All", or not! We may agree with "Birth Control", or not! We may agree with "Nuclear Disarmament", or not! We may agree with "Climate Control", or not! We may agree with "QAnon", or not! These are but a few examples that have and are still shaping history...

I have no intention whatsoever of trying to sway you in any particular direction - my hope is to help you see that Spiritualist's are supposed to agree to disagree! Many of my Ancestors shaped my world while others quietly revolved within it.

I was raised a Spiritualist. I lead Congregations, council people, even usher individuals through the Gate as they pass to Spirit. I go to work, recycle, text my Friends... In what other ways should I get caught up in my world, or not?

My Father's Family was from Niagara Falls, both sides of Lake Erie are full of Spiritualists after originally coming here from Holland, fleeing "Religious Reformation" in the 1600's. My Dad was from a long line of hydraulic engineers but chose instead to be a Police Captain in Euclid, OH and a

Criminal Psychology Instructor at CASE. Being raised at least a third generation Spiritualist he drilled it into my head to always stick up for my beliefs. As a Policeman he also insisted it should never be at anyone else's expense.

Oh brother, I'm not always sure being caught up in a wave of events can guarantee that, so I look to my "Personal Responsibility". > I am ALWAYS responsible for my own behavior and the consequences there of, sooner or later... We have touched upon this issue before. If I had marched for a Women's right to vote and been arrested that would have been one of my consequences.

I need to "Walk my Talk", lead by example and I very much respect others who do as well, even if it opposes my viewpoint. I also will not waste my valuable energy on degradation while interacting. How do I then respond to the physical troublemakers I encounter?

This subject hovers close to my heart at the moment. One of my closest lifelong (BFF) Friends has become caught up in a questionable political movement. I don't know who this person is anymore. I think a Space Alien must have kidnapped her Soul and filled her body with someone else! She has totally gone against everything she used to stand for (oh peace, oh love, oh Woodstock). I finally had to issue her an ultimatum - "please call me anytime to continue the lovely visits we have always shared but I do not wish to talk politics with you", I left the door ajar... I texted her a short message at Christmas and she replied with "Merry Christmas" so at least she hasn't ghosted. She must still be busy marching is my guess - no time for anything but politics at the moment presumably...

This situation has been very painful for me. It has forced me however to thoroughly reexamine my belief system as it has run the gambit in my personal Spiritualist genetic history. I think self-reevaluation is a good thing to do periodically. What makes me right and her wrong about any particular subject? Maybe we both are both, and neither... We simply need to agree to disagree and honor each other as individuals.

I am in charge of me only. She is in charge of herself only. I think in order

for each of our Souls to progress we need to advance at our own pace wading through every emotion in order to understand life... Some Karmic proponents say being both murderer and victim need to be experienced in order to truly understand both, provocative! How about wrapping our head around the subject mentally, emotional, spiritually to understand it and only visualizing the physical part? I don't have a concrete answer for you...

I have personally made the decision to be nonviolent in this life. My Friend sees her behavior as Patriotic, like a Suffragette! So, how do I interact with individuals who seem to be on a totally different wavelength without becoming defensive or irate myself? My answer is: Practice! Yes, this all piggybacks onto a previous weeks topic that rides the wave.

It is my experience that most five year olds will choose PB&J over a gourmet meal. A teenager will overdose on a current song opposing a varied program. Most elderly will choose to watch a sports TV game instead of participating in an activity. My point: If a person is acting like a five-year-old I talk to them like I would a five year old! When a college student won't take the time to visit their dying Relative, I try to help the student's Family understand it is age appropriate, 'invincible mind set' behavior. I encourage bluehairs to actually wheel themselves over to the live soccer tournament down the street and root their neighbor kids on in person.

I try to be open to the world around me. I try to tread with kindness. It takes a lot to get me mad, but I will tell you right away when I do - I can be extremely blunt and raise my voice, they call me Tiger for a reason. What you see is what you get. I like to just clear the air and get on with it or go seek more information to make sense of it for my personal betterment and that of the energy I am projecting to the Universe.

I wish I could say this strategy always worked for me. I'd like to say I figured out a way to always turn that case of lemons that shows up on a regular basis into wonderful things like lemonade or pie. Well, I'm still taking baking classes... I like to remain open to new navigational strategies, do you have some to share?

I am personally responsible for my own happiness, my own behavior, my

own consequences... It is my observation from Hospice work that those who are NOT afraid of dying have NOT been afraid to bite big chunks out of life!

As a young Adult I was quite a "Wild, Rock-n-Roll Flower Child". At the moment goodness and light seem like the easiest way to tread my path. I still have tons to experience... Am I just a big chicken, or have I maybe already been there and done that and learned a few things?

This is MY life but I'm still in a connection with Spirit weather I like it or not, along with you, with my cat, Saudi Arabia, weather I find it comfortable or rock the boat is entirely up to me as are the consequences I will reap... If I am causing irritation, I have noticed however that I continue to feel irritated. When I project calm, I feel at peace.

It's a Pandemic overload! I need a vacation - no TV, palm trees, sand and a tall Mai Tai would be refreshing (maybe three 🍹🍹🍹) - oh, I forget we're still sequestered! I will just imagine it instead, take a deep breath and dig into a new project like writing it out of my system weekly and sharing it with you... Thank You.

Next week we tackle "Manifestation".

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Today's invocation:

Oh Great Spirit of conscious goodness and light, illuminate a benevolent path for me. Guide me to enhance or to change as I become better versed in that which sorely tempts me...

Safe Journey,

📍 Rev. Tiger