

FILLING THE GAP WHEN PASSING OCCURS

Mediumship is at the very heart of Spiritualism, proving, as it does, that physical death is not the end of human existence, but the entry to life in a higher realm.

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In this specially written feature, Ronald looks at Other Side communication, stating the "Cold, hard fact does not fill the gap left by our loved ones."

After many years of experience as a medium, the standard of mediumship appears to be lacking in many ways. The performance of the medium, so easily criticized by the public, and in many cases rightly so, raises many questions as why we only seem to be given Christian names of communicators, sometimes the odd surname, even part of an address, yet nothing complete seems to come through. Before it is possible to consider any answers, we must first ask the question, "What do we know about the spirit world?"

It would seem obvious that wherever this other world may be, it must in be in a totally new and different dimension, and beyond our normal comprehension. We feel it exists by virtue of the evidence of life after death that we receive, but it is purely evidence since nothing can be proof positive until we ourselves are in the position to see and experience for ourselves.

From my vast experience of communication, it would seem there is no law which says anyone must communicate after passing. If people want to try, no doubt there is an art to communication which must be learnt, Some may find this easy to master, others difficult, and some almost impossible. One of the most natural reactions, in finding oneself alive and in another world, is to want to get back to those left behind. Therefore, so much will depend on the ability and desire of the communicator. It is possible that some may not wish to communicate, having got away from it all so to speak, and preferring to explore the new dimension.

It is impossible to say how big the spirit world may be; it could be larger than our earth plane, or even smaller. It might be close to this world, or millions of miles away. If it is in a new dimension, then presumably it must be a timeless dimension, as rarely do communicators get the time right. It

must be like being suspended in timelessness, or in space, and would naturally create a different view of everything.

When we decide to travel, be it in our own country or abroad, we remove ourselves from the normal scene, and find new pastures. At first, we tend to think of home, work and those we have left behind yet once we begin to relax and adapt to the new circumstances and time passes, we begin to feel different and take on new perspectives. The further away we are, the more distant the old scene becomes. We leave it all behind and enjoy new things. In foreign countries we are surrounded by different ways of life and so experience new sensations. It does not usually take long to get into the swing of it. So we realise that when people pass on, they enter into a new atmosphere, and what would seem to be a more progressive one. Whilst busy on their new course, it is not that they forget us - far from it - but they need to apply themselves to the new situation, which they have every right to enjoy.

Communication can be likened to a telephone call between two worlds. Sometimes there may be interference on the line, or the connection could be poor, and possibly all sorts of things may go wrong, affected by atmospherics. There is no doubt in my mind that those who try to communicate do their best under the prevailing circumstances. Our problem is that we cannot fully comprehend those circumstances.

Mediums can only work according to the measure of their gift, which certainly varies amongst the many practitioners. It is doubtful whether many actually see spirit forms beside them or hear voices. It is possible in a few cases, but mostly the form of communications is effected by mental images and impressions. In my opinion, it happens through a form of telepathy, which exists in our world also, but not to any great degree. The success of relaying messages from the Beyond therefore, depends on the strength of the telepathic communications, which, if we opened our minds to so much more, could make it possible to get clearer and better evidence.

We do not experiment with the subject enough. Far too many mediums are content with the pattern of first names, in quoting guides and giving out philosophy. This is only of value once evidential contact has been made. It is up to the medium to try to get as much information as is possible; nothing ventured, nothing gained. "Our pioneers did wonderful work in the discovery of communications, but alas we do little to advance our knowledge. If it is possible to make contact with this other world, then it should be possible to improve on it all the time.

From my experience, when people try to communicate, they do not expect to produce a passport, in effect, since they would naturally expect their

loved ones to know them. They are eager to let them know they are alive and well, and that they have not been forgotten, no matter what the new circumstances may be.

It is not an excuse for poor mediumship to say this, but neither will it be a satisfactory explanation to many as to why more information does not appear to come through.

We should try to put ourselves in the position of imagining what it may be like in that other dimension. Since there is so much we do not know, it is doubtful we could. Only when we ourselves enter into it through so-called death, will we comprehend completely. Even then, there may be more to it than we know.

The fact that we get any communications at all is quite remarkable. We cannot go to any Orthodox church and demand explanations as to what it will be like when we pass on to let alone hope to communicate with the "Angels." Mediums are supposed to be able to do this, and to some extent it appears to happen. No doubt it could happen more so if mediums would take a more intelligent approach to the subject. Not to place any demand on those in another world, but to co-operate, experience and explore all possibilities. In my opinion, one can never say one knows it all, or has reached a point of perfection. Every sitting and demonstration is an experiment to test the possibility of communication with the spirit world. If it is good one time, then why not better the next?

There must be answers we can find. If we take a determined and intelligent approach, without placing a high demand on that which we do not know, but using that which we do, it should be possible to uncover so much more, and most of all to get clearer and more satisfying evidence of survival. What pleases some does not please others, and evidence from my experience seems to be a very personal thing.

So are surnames, road names, and telephone numbers really necessary? A good characteristic description of the personality which has survived, with things that only they and the recipients of the messages will know, can be more impressive - except that this inevitably leads to the question of mind reading and telepathy, which to me is too minute to have much effect anyway. Cold, hard fact does not fill the gap left by our loved ones. We need a degree of comfort and reassurance, but we need evidence more so. Some survival evidence may be sketchy, but with the right approach, we can begin to fill in the details.