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THE CANDID CAMERA OF THE COSMOS

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It's a bit embarrassing, to look at that candid camera shot they took at the picnic. You hadn't realized how wrinkled your coat was that day. Or how your eyes squinted to half their size when you smiled like that. If only you hadn't been standing with such awkward posture! Is that how you always looked when you didn't remember to hold your shoulders straight? And you resolved that from now on you'd take a little more trouble with your appearance. You'd practice smiling in front of the mirror, for one thing. . .

But has it ever occurred to you that someone is always taking candid camera shots of you? Not merely in the sense that almost always someone is looking at you and your external is making an impression, for good or bad, on some receiving retina, on some critical intelligence. But in the sense that your every act, your every thought even, is being recorded on a great motion picture camera film - a film that someday you yourself may see projected, to your own infinite embarrassment or self-satisfaction. . .

The Akashic Records

The idea is not so fantastic as it might at first thought seem to be. According to the Hindu philosophers it is a reality. They call it *Akasha*, in Sanskrit. *Akasha* means the elementary substance of the universe - a vital ether, electro-spiritual in composition. Upon this *Akasha* - they claim - there remains impressed an indelible record of every sound, light, movement, or thought, since the beginning of the manifest universe.

The Akashic ether is not located in any one particular corner of the universe, but is everywhere present. Like a sensitive plate, it registers every slightest impression, and its accumulated store of records can well be referred to as the "Universal Mind" or as the "Book of God's Remembrance."

There have been many striking instances recorded in psychic annals of clairvoyant vision into the immediate or remote past. For the most part, however, these have been fragmentary instances - momentary glimpses on the part of a normal non-sensitive person who in the heightened emotional state of some crisis has been able to tap the records. Or else the more lengthy scrutiny on the part of developed clairvoyants, who can with conscious intention attune themselves to the appropriate wavelength of the Akashic ether.

The Aquarian Gospel

But in recent years there have occurred two very remarkable instances of lengthy and sustained reading of the Akashic records. One of these has been presented to the public in book form, under the title, "The Aquarian Gospel of

Jesus the Christ.' This book, which describes the hitherto unknown portions of Jesus' life from boyhood to the beginning of His ministry, is a document of great interest and beauty. It was presumably, transcribed directly from the Akashic records by Levi Dowling, a man who had devoted his life to sensitizing himself for receptivity to etheric vibrations. Whether one can believe in the origin claimed for the book or not, one cannot help but find both inspiration and poetic power in the Aquarian Gospel. The wisdom and poetry of it are on a par with 'The Prophet' of Khalil Gibran. The lover of Gibran will surely find a new love in this book, as well as will any student of the Ancient Wisdom.

The Work of Edgar Cayce

The other remarkable instance of Akashic transcription is seen in the work of the famous clairvoyant, Edgar Cayce, who from 1923 to 1945 gave over 2,500 life readings taken directly from the Akashic records.

The work of Edgar Cayce has become familiar to thousands of Americans through Thomas Sugrue's biography of him, published in 1942 under the title, 'There is a River'. The facts of his remarkable power are generally known: how he lay down on a studio couch, put himself to sleep, and on being given a suggestion - in the manner of a hypnotic suggestion - proceeded to give accurate diagnosis of sick bodies and suggestions for their cure. The afflicted people for whom he gave these diagnoses might be in the next room or they might be thousands of miles away; it made no difference. The diagnosis was always as accurate as if made with X-ray sight, or as if some universal physician had examined the patient with omniscient wisdom. These diagnoses - followed in so many cases by

cures as to preclude any possibility of "chance" accuracy - were made through some mechanism of the subconscious and the super-conscious mind which has not yet been fully investigated or explained.

The Life Readings and Reincarnation

But the life readings which he gave were made in a different manner, and had to do with reading the soul-history of the subject from the Akashic records.

In order to understand the life readings of Edgar Cayce one must necessarily understand the concept of reincarnation.

The word "reincarnation" is much misunderstood, due, in part, to confusion with the concept of the transmigration of souls. This confusion is regrettable. Reincarnation simply means the evolution of the soul through successive incarnations on earth, always in human form. Whether a soul gains or loses depends upon the uses to which he puts his talents and his intelligence, and the motives with which he sets causes in motion.

He himself creates his own future under the law of cause and effect which the Hindus call karma. Jesus Himself formulated this law when He said, "Judge not that ye be not judged, for with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged, and with what measure ye mete it shall be measured unto you again." Evil conduct results in limitation of body, mind, or circumstances - a limitation which is not merely punitive but educative in purpose. Good conduct and constructive effort result in favorable body-structure, talent, and fortunate environment.

The record of all one's lifetimes on earth, then, together with the record of the periods between earth lives spent in

other dimensions, remains legible and distinct upon the Akashic substance. And it was these records that Edgar Cayce was able to read while lying asleep on his studio couch. Only his voice and his superconscious mind were active. After waking he had no idea of what he had said.

Interesting Cases

Some of the most striking cases in the Cayce files are those in which afflicted individuals are told what has caused their suffering. A crippled girl had commanded that Christians be maimed in the Roman arena. A blind professor had been a member of a barbaric Persian tribe and had seared the eyes of his captives with a hot iron. Not all of the readings have to do with physical disfigurements, however. Many give explanations for psychological difficulties and problems of marital adjustment. People are often bound together by karmic ties from one lifetime to another. The readings frequently repeat that no major relationship with a fellow-man is the result of chance, but is born of mutual need and responsibility.

Two people found marriage increasingly difficult because of the husband's marked tendency to dominate. It was learned through a life reading that in a previous life they had been associated as father and wayward daughter in Fort Dearborn (now Chicago), where a pattern of dominance and resentment had been set up. The situation had not been met in love and understanding; hence the two were brought together once again in order to dissolve the debts contracted and to redeem the flaws of character that made their friction possible. With this new understanding both husband and wife were able to regard themselves with detachment and a sense of humor; problems which previously loomed large

were now seen as opportunities upon which to exercise their spiritual muscle. The marriage has become harmonious, with both partners seeking to cooperate in building soul-qualities, rather than to compete for ego satisfactions. (Case No. 2301-L-1 and 2175-L-1.)

An interesting example of psychological karma is seen in the case of a young aviation instructor who was suffering from an inferiority complex. In his life reading he learned that his self doubt in the present was due to his activities as an eminent English critic in the past. Having been hypercritical of others, given to causing hurt and rousing self doubt, he was born now into circumstances which caused him to be doubtful of himself. (Case No. 4035-1.)

On the positive side of physical karma is seen the case of a very lovely New York model whose extraordinarily beautiful hands bring her into much demand for advertisements of jewelry, nail polish, and hand lotions. Her life reading revealed that in her preceding incarnation in England she had been a recluse in a convent, Her whole life had been spent in menial service performed with her hands. So loving had been the dedication with which she used them, in the roughest and dirtiest of tasks, that her consecration of spirit had externalized itself this time in the unusual beauty of her hands. (Case No. 1286-1).

Nothing escapes the sensitive plate of that vast camera. One woman when interviewed - a lovely person, whose tragic difficulties with a drunken and faithless husband were resolved as she came to understand their karma source in ancient Persia - made an interesting comment on her life reading.

"Did it actually describe your temperament and character and Psychological problems accurately?" she

was asked. She nodded emphatically, "Indeed it did."

"But didn't Mr. Cayce know you personally, so that he could have based the life reading on shrewd analysis and deft imagination?"

"Not at the time I got the life reading," she answered. "I came to know him personally later on, when I became a member of the Association and the study groups."

"Well, how did you feel when you got the reading?"

She thought for a moment. Then she explained: "Suppose you had lived all your life and had never seen yourself in a mirror or even in a pool of water, and so you had no idea what you looked like. Then one day someone handed you a mirror - and for the first time in your life you saw yourself as you actually were. The mirror told you frankly, 'You've got nice eyes, but why don't you comb your hair?' That's the way a Cayce life reading was. When you got one you felt as if your soul were stripped and stood naked before the eyes of some all-wise observer. The reading said things about you that you thought were concealed so deeply that nobody ever guessed they were there - as well as things you had never even guessed about yourself." (Case No. 845-1.)

You're Being Photographed!

The cumulative effect of studying one life reading after the other is that of complete conviction of the reality of soul-evolution. The panorama into the past becomes almost awe-inspiring. In each one of these documents, life after life, scene melting into scene with the liquid continuity of a moving picture, the drama of a soul unfolds.

The knowledge, then, that such sensitive plate exists, registering our every thought and every act with relentless fidelity to fact, gives us a

heightened sense of the importance of everything said and done from day to day. Not an 'importance,' certainly, in the sense of being important to anyone else. But importance in the sense that a picture is being taken of each of us, and "I would rather not be embarrassed some day to have others, beside myself, see that picture. . . I would like to be a sincere, transparent record. . . I would like my movements to have been characterized by grace of spirit and beauty of intention."

This is, perhaps, the greatest lesson to be learned from the life readings of Edgar Cayce. This is the warning to be taken from the Candid Camera of the Cosmos.

Lights, Camera—Action! You are now on set. The cameraman is cranking toward you; the sound track recording. Let that moving picture of you be a beautiful and significant one.

ARCHETYPES AND AURA CHARTS

Visitors to the Cayce home have always been struck by several unusual paintings on the walls of the Cayce study.

Unlike most paintings, they are oblong, measuring about one foot in width and about two and a half feet in length. One of them seems to be a pastel sunburst of geometrical figures, exquisite interwoven designs upon a gray-blue background. The other contains a series of vignettes, after the manner of a comic-page story, except that these little pictures read from down up and seem on first glance to have no apparent sequential connection.

Let us examine these two strange paintings in turn.

The first one, we find, is the work of Nancy Lansdale of New York City. It seems that some twenty years ago Mrs. Lansdale discovered that she had the strange faculty of seeming light symbols

above people's heads. She had for some time previously seen the aura: but this was different from the aura: it hung like a chandelier above the head and the light which emanated from it merged with the aura but was distinct from it. Unlike the aura, the pattern of symbols remained constant from birth to death; moreover it was as distinct and individual for each person as his face or his fingerprint. And so, after much study and observation, Mrs. Lansdale interpreted this strange and beautiful thing to be the individual's energy pattern upon which the structure of his body and personality was based.

It was vibratory in nature. Some of the symbols were like whirling vortexes, and emitted a faint but discernible sound as Mrs. Lansdale "tuned in" upon them. Sensing that this beautiful mathematical pattern—which she called the archetype—had important implications for the understanding of the occult constitution of man, she began to transcribe what she saw to paper. These transcriptions served two important purposes: first, they enabled a person to see his own super-sensory energy-pattern; second, they enabled Mrs. Lansdale to keep accurate record of what she saw and to carry on painstaking research over a period of years.

Very little seems to have been written about the energy-pattern that Mrs. Lansdale sees. Here and there, however, in ancient books on philosophy and occultism, there seem to be fragmentary and elusive references to it. In an old text-book on Agni Yoga, for example, there is this statement: "As an open book is inscribed the personality of a man. Above his head burns the continuous mark of his nature."

The late Dr. Raymond Pearl, professor of biology at Johns Hopkins

University, wrote not long ago: "What we are pleased to call the same identical man at the age of 70 is composed of extremely little, any, of the same material substance that made him up when he was 20 years old. Probably there is not a single molecule in him at 70 that was there at 20. In the intervening years the only thing about him that has survived is his pattern, a sort of transcendental or spiritual wraith through which has flowed a steady stream of matter and energy. It is the pattern which is the essence of the business. It alone survives."

It is Mrs. Lansdale's belief that the pattern of which Dr. Pearl speaks, as well as the "mark" of a man's nature to which Agni Yoga refers, corresponds exactly to the archetype that she sees.

Interestingly enough Mrs. Lansdale can tune in on people's archetypes through a photograph or a signature as easily as if the person were bodily present. The reason for this, Mrs. Lansdale explains, is that each person has a typical energy pattern which expresses itself intimately in everything he says or does.

Mrs. Lansdale finds that animals, insects, and plants have an archetype as well as human being; and - among other interesting discoveries - sees that horses and camels have the whitest light of all the animals; the others have instead a yellowish-green light predominating. Cats, dogs, and monkeys show the greatest individuality, she says.

When Mrs. Lansdale paints an archetype for an individual, she tries to interpret this four-dimensional symbol to him such that the experience will be a helpful one to his self-understanding and his spiritual growth. In addition to her personal archetype portraits, Mrs. Lansdale is at present engaged in making intensive comparative studies

on archetypes of different human races and of all the species of plant, animal, and insect life.

In the spring of 1941 Mrs. Lansdale tuned in on Edgar Cayce's vibrational nature and painted the beautiful archetype which now hangs in the little office overlooking the lake. The painting naturally aroused a good deal of interest, so that shortly after receiving it, the Cayces decided to have a reading on it. The reading was taken in August, 1941, and questions were asked on the meaning and value of Mrs. Lansdale's work.

The answers given were in general accord with Mrs. Lansdale's own interpretation of her strange faculty, among other things, the reading commented on the value of the archetype as an aid to understanding oneself.

Other people in Virginia Beach and Norfolk became interested in the matter and wished to pursue it further through the medium of the readings. For experimental purposes a reading was taken on Miss Gladys Davis, Mr. Cayce's secretary; and inasmuch as the original reading has used the term "aura chart", the suggestion was given as follows: "You will give an aura chart of the entity Gladys Davis, indicating the symbols, colors, and the meaning of each, that they may be made into a drawing that would be of help to the entity".

The resulting instructions were quite different from the archetype of Mrs. Lansdale, inasmuch as they traced the important past incarnations and planetary sojourns of Miss Davis in symbolic form. In the lower left hand portion of the chart, for example, there was to be placed a globe representing the earth and the map of Atlantis, colored red, upon it; on the lower right was to be placed Saturn and its rings.

The complete instructions, covering the major incarnations and sojourns given in Miss Davis' life reading, were transcribed to paper by Miss Esther Wynne of Norfolk, and the resulting painting is an interesting high-lighted symbolic summary of Miss Davis' past.

In all, eighteen people obtained aura chart readings from Mr. Cayce. They were not much publicized nor well-known to the general public that knew Mr. Cayce; moreover his illness and untimely death made it impossible for many people who had requested aura chart readings to obtain them. Those few people who have had their aura charts described and painted, however, are unanimous as to the personal benefits they have derived from it. The pictorial summary of past follies, foibles, and strengths serves as a reminder in moments of doubt or discouragement as to the inmost attainments and purposes of the real self.

The suggestive power of a symbol has hardly been touched on in the therapeutic methods of modern psychology. Religion has made some use of it: the Catholic finds comfort and renewal in contemplating the crucifix, as does the Buddhist in contemplating the image of Buddha. In primitive religions much fuller use is made of symbolic objects; but here - as in Catholicism and Buddhism - the danger is that the symbol itself becomes the object of worship, and fetishism results.

In the new psycho-religious system which, phoenix-like seems emerging from the ashes of orthodoxy, new techniques of achieving self-awareness and awareness of God must of necessity develop. Once reincarnation is widely accepted by psychologists, it will be found valuable to have some symbolic means of recalling to mind, and keeping present in consciousness,

the major purpose of the present incarnation. Inasmuch as the purpose of any single incarnation is intimately bound up with the lives which have preceded it, the aura charts that Mr. Cayce gave seem to presage one method, at least, of achieving just such a visual reminder.

Even previous to the time when Mrs. Lansdale's archetype painting stimulated the first aura chart readings, Mr. Cayce had frequently given in life readings what were called "life seals". These consisted usually of a circle in which were to be placed three or four distinct symbols - such as, for example, a house, a rose, a book, a torch. Each one of these symbols was the concentrated summation of some former life, some forgotten virtue of the soul, or some latent possibility deep in the subconscious.

People who have had life readings from Mr. Cayce will probably regret never having received their aura chart or their life seal. But if they recognize the symbolic value of such a thing to the leading of an inner life of ever-expanding awareness, there is no reason why they should not use their creative and intuitive faculties to devise their own chart or seal on the basis of their

SPIRITUAL STIMULI

The readings of Edgar Cayce contained far more than prescriptions for sick bodies. They were filled with wisdom and stimulus for discouraged and bewildered souls. Here is a group of selected extracts.

ANGER

No. 412-1 "Woe unto him who is ruled by wrath. Woe unto him who allows temper or impulse to be overshadowed by what is momentarily necessary for the activities of life, and not grounded in Truth, that arises from spiritual concepts."

JUDGE NOT

No. 6-1 "While shortcomings broken confidences, false friendships are

reading. People who never had the privilege of a life reading can adapt the symbolic technique even without a knowledge of their former lives. In their case perhaps the choice of symbols can be based on the ideal of qualities they wish to unfold in this experience, or the circumstances they wish to make manifest. The placing of such a pattern of symbols on one's bed room wall, where it can be contemplated the first thing on arising and the last thing at night, can do much towards steering the course of one's destiny.

Coming back once again to the two strange pictures on the wall of Mr. Cayce's study, we compare the two and observe that the archetypes of Nancy Lansdale have an abstract jewel-like mathematical perfection which is not found in the aura charts given by Mr. Cayce. On the other hand, the aura charts of Mr. Cayce are more pictorial and personal symbols of the soul's evolution through many ages past. But both are valuable contributions to the ever-growing new science of man, which shall soon place psychoanalysis and psychotherapy upon an entirely profounder and more spiritual level than ever before.

ever to be abhorred, yet condemnation of each is condemning self. They should not be held as grudges, for what is built or held against another is built within the environment of the self, and must be met in some manner."

TRUE SECURITY

No. 2506-1 "From that sojourn there often arises fear, causing the entity to desire security - when there is no security that an individual entity may

have save a clear, clean conscience of ever being channel of helpfulness to others."

LOOSEN THIS BONDS OF IGNORANCE

No. 1 568-I "Loosen the bonds of ignorance everywhere you can! For in its stead, a workable knowledge of the relationship of Creative Force or God, in the experiences of men will make for the opportunities of greater joy, harmony, and peace. For 'what you sow you reap' is the unchangeable and irrefutable law; you are constantly meeting yourself!"

WHAT IS A CONSTRUCTIVE EXPERIENCE?

No. 522-1 "What is a constructive experience?"

"The answer is: If it is to the glorification of the bodily emotion or forces alone, it is not constructive. If it is to the glory of good, or the fruits of the spirit of truth and good, it is constructive whether through hardships or through gratifying of what may appear to others to be only body forces or emotions."

YOU HAVE NO ENEMIES!

No. 3250-1 "Is it true, as I have felt, that I have enemies, who are trying to do me out of my inheritance?"

"You have no enemies. Let this ever be within your heart: Do right in self. And that which yours cannot, will not be taken away from you. Those who try such are enemies to themselves. Look not upon them as enemies to you. Feel sorry for them for their misconstruction of right."

DIVINITY MUST BE SEEN IN EVERYTHING

No. 1298-1 "For until the beautiful or the beauty of a Creator must be seen in the vilest of the vile that is expressed in mortal body, there is little pure concept of the relationship of the souls of men with God, with the universe.

"For as the earth is only a portion of a mighty array of forces and influences in our own little solar system, so man - though but a speck, upon the earth and only as a grain in the universe - is a portion of that divinity that urges on and on and On and ON!"

TO FIND OUR PURPOSE SHOULD BE OUR AIM

No. 528-1 "To gain first the purpose for which he has entered any given experience should be the aim of every entity seeking to know its place, and seeking to be a channel for the greatest manifestation of what the entity sets as its ideal.

"Let the entity then first determine in self, 'What is my ideal, physical, mental, and spiritual.' And know that unless it be founded in things spiritual, it must eventually turn and rend you."

THE ONE WAY TO HELP OTHERS

No. 443-1 "Can you help me to help myself?"

"No soul may help another except as to that which may aid in aiding to find its own self and its relation to the Creative Forces."

GOOD FORTUNE DEPENDS UPON EFFORT

No. 1 235-1 "Will I be much benefited by this experience, and how?"

"It depends upon the application. Everything in the experience depends upon the application. How will you use your opportunities? For good or for bad? These are not set! They do not happen irrespective or regardless! Life is earnest, life is work, life is doing; not having it poured out, not having it given, but work!"

THE SPIRITUAL MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE MATERIAL

No. 3653-1 "How can I best help my family financially?"

"There is much more important

help to the family than the financial. If this is put first and foremost, you may lose the way. If the ideal is set first, the finances will follow."

UNDERSTANDING IS A SLOW GROWTH

No. 1301-1 "For life and truth and understanding and happiness, in the greater sense, are but a growth. For you grow in grace, in knowledge, in

understanding. And knowledge without wisdom is indeed a dangerous thing!

"Then as you have applied what you have gained, the ability comes to be of help to those who are stumbling - some blindly, some gropingly, some discouraged, some overanxious, some overzealous of their own particular twist or turn - yet all seeking, seeking the light."

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