

# The SEARCHLIGHT

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## WHO AM I?

### A Question Answered by an Edgar Cayce Reading Selected and Arranged by Hugh Lynn Cayce

Robert Moore rubbed his chin and stared at himself in the mirror. For a moment the few whiskers which he had missed were forgotten. The question came back to him again, "Who am I?"

It all started the afternoon before on the bus. Dick Smith began the argument by the remark, "Well it looks as if this author thinks man has a soul. He held up a book by Thomas Sugrue, *There is A River*. Smith continued with a question, "Bob, what do you think? Has man evolved far enough for us to believe that he has anything that will live on after his body dies, anything that can be called a spirit, a soul?" For the next ten minutes Smith held forth, and there wasn't much chance of getting a word in edgeways. He was one of those people who ask questions but never give the listener a chance to answer them. His arguments had been pretty sound, in a way. Man in the past million years, more or less, had evolved from one branch of the animal family. His nervous system had become more and more complex as he adjusted himself to his environment. The best had survived and slowly, ever so slowly, man emerged.

"Look," he had pointed out, "how basically savage man still is today. If anything, the records of the German prison camps, and even our own southern labor camps, are worse than anything recorded in the studies of the animal kingdom."

Waxing enthusiastic and realizing that several other people on the bus were listening, Smith had raised his voice and expounded what he thought were irrefutable details. Certain animals showed signs of developing memory, thought, and even reason. Some animals were smarter than most men and certainly expressed more love and faith.

"Oh, I know you are going to ask, 'What about religion and the Bible?' Well," he concluded, "religion is all right for the masses. It keeps them scared and quiet, but for a long time all the smart boys have known that we are just complicated pieces of matter gratifying selfish desires."

Bob had been so fascinated by this sudden burst of materialistic philosophy that he had almost failed to signal for his stop. He had gotten off quickly with a lame, "Well, I'll see you tomorrow."

That night after dinner he had surprised his wife with a question? "Margery, do you think man has a soul?" He chose a bad time as the plates were getting dumped into the dish pan and the rush for the first feature at the movie made further talk about this subject impossible.

It was late that night as he was trying to go to sleep that the question, "Who am I?", first struck him. It had come back again in the clear light of day with the morning shave. And during the next few days it led Robert Moore

through some tangled paths of self-analysis and started him on a quest which finally brought him to 'the River'.

Somewhere along the path there comes a time when every man pauses to examine himself. Some have been fortunate enough to be awakened by Socrates's challenge of "Know thyself." Others have stopped along some road to listen to the words of a Hindu teacher, or while bending over some ancient manuscript have caught a flash. There were those who heard the call of a prophet, or the quiet words of Jesus as he walked by Galilee. In modern times some individuals have come out of a great cathedral inspired to begin the quest, and there are many like Robert Moore who began because an idle conversation such as the one on the bus. Sooner or later the urge to begin a search for the answers to the questions on the purposes of life will come to every man. This urge is stimulated by an inner "still, small voice". If the cares of living shut it out, it will grow fainter and fainter. A man may hear it next in a scream of agony from his own throat, through suffering - his own, or that of someone he loves. It will be the same voice but he will not recognize it now.

Robert Moore asked his friend, Smith, to lend him *There Is A River*. After reading it he wrote to Edgar Cayce for a life reading. He received a personal answer to his question, 'Who am I?'. He found that more than two thousand people, men women and children, had also gotten answers. In many instances they received guidance with difficult psychological problems, vocation directions, help in solving marriage difficulties, etc.

For Robert Moore the real help came through a new understanding of himself. In 1938, after he had received and studied his reading, he commented

as follows:

"Several months ago you gave me a Life Reading. I have read it many times and I have profited by each rereading. It is my conviction that everyone, whether his manner of living be peaceful or turbulent, dull or adventurous, can in the course of his experience point to one or more incidents or events that are milestones in the path of his progress or retrogression. In my own case, my life reading is the milestone that marks the beginning of a new understanding - a full consciousness of what I am.

"This understanding of self is a veritable Gibraltar which can withstand any assault that threatens to upset my peace of mind, firstly of purpose or sense of justice for the reading has taught me that this turmoil is my own creation. In everyday experience I am confronted with all those traits of mankind - hate, jealousy, greed, malice; as well as love, tolerance, generosity and patience - that are good and bad, and their attending reactions.

"The understanding of self has helped to develop a useful, practical philosophy when confronted with these problems of everyday life. The knowledge that I am quick to anger - of those tendencies that are swathed in hate, impatience - an effect of my own causation.

"The understanding of self has enabled me to take the resources of previously unknown abilities and latent talents and has made me a better individual - mentally, spiritually and physically. Frankly, when I first read it, it had no meaning for me. The statements all seemed abstract and I could not find anything concrete in it. It was not until I had summoned up enough courage to stand under the uncompromising light of Truth that I

recognized that what had seemed abstract was if I applied it to myself in the light of truth. I realized that the readings did not tell me what to do, but

what I had been doing and why I had been doing it."

Here is the reading he received. It may contain answers for you!

## Reading 1650-L-1

Mr. C: (In going back over years from present - "1935 - '32 - disturbing Periods- '31 - '36 - '26 - not any too peaceful! - '25, '24 - etc., on back to birth date.)

Yes, we have the records here of that entity now known as or called #1650-L-1.

In giving an interpretation of the records as we find them, it is well .. especially for this entity ... that there be given a premise from which the reasoning is drawn.

Upon time and space is written the thoughts, the deeds, the activities of an entity ... as in relationship to its environs, its hereditary influence; as directed ... or judgment drawn by or according to what the entity's ideal is.

Hence, as it has oft been called, the record is God's book of remembrance; and each entity, each soul . . . as the activities of a single day of in entity in the material world ... either makes some good or bad or indifferent, depending upon the entity's application of self towards that which is the ideal manner for the use of time, opportunity and the expression of that for which each soul enters a material manifestation.

The interpretation then as drawn here is with the desire and hope that, by opening this for the entity, the experience may be one of helpfulness and hopefulness.

Thus, in seeing self as it really is before the SELF, before the Throne, before the Universal Consciousness - it

is the hope that this will bring a better understanding as to what the purposes of an experience are in the material plane; with the daily activities and urges that arise from material circumstance, mental attitudes and the work to be accomplished of whatever nature this may be.

Hence we find from the records, the astrological aspects or sojourns of the entity or soul between its earthly manifestations indicate that which has been a part of the entity's experience. For as the tree falls, so may it lie.

Yet remember, God has not willed that any soul should perish, but has with each temptation presented a way, a manner of correction, of atonement, of betterment.

Thus as the soul passes from the aspects about the material environs, or the earth, we find the astrological aspects are presented as stages of consciousness; given names that represent planets or centers or crystallized activity.

Not that flesh and blood, as known in the earth, dwell therein; but in the consciousness, with the form and manner as befits the environ. And the judgment is drawn as to the mental attitudes.

Hence we find the mental body is both finite and infinite, a part of self and yet a part of a universal consciousness-- or the mind of the Maker.

Thus those activities of consciousness present attitudes that may be a part of the individual activity

of an entity in the material experience; depending upon the choice of what it, the entity, through its will may choose to manifest.

Hence as we find for this entity, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars are all a part of the entity's environment - as is the real environment of the mental forces.

We find these attributes, then, a part of the entity's experience through this material sojourn:

One of high mental ability. One of mien and manner through Venus (Mercury the mental) (Venus that of the beautiful, that of the sympathetic, that of the ability to make or hold friends.)

These depend, to be sure, upon what the entity does with these attributes of the real self.

In Jupiter we find the inclination for the seeking of larger things, of associations with the masses as well as the individual groups.

From Saturn we find the sudden changes that have been and are a part of the entity - in which Mars plays a part. When these are together, there is an adverse influence or force; a wrath or madness is represented in same; and with the changes come great disturbing influences or forces into the mental being of the entity.

Hence it behooves the entity to have before itself an ideal; not merely idealistic, but a judgment by which itself's activities may be drawn, to make for that in which there may come the experience - through the turmoils that arise in all the associations and experiences - of knowing what is the Right, the Ideal! not just for self.

For if you would have life, you must give it! As the laws are in the spiritual, so in the mental. For the Mind is the builder. And if you would have life, you must give it. If you would have

love you must show thyself lovely. If you would have friends, you must show yourself friendly. If you would have peace and harmony, forget self and make for harmony and peace in your associations.

So often is the ego so enrapt in self that it feels it will lose its importance, its place, its freedom. Yet to have freedom in self, Give it. To have peace in self, make it - give it!

These are immutable laws!

And as the individual entity practices, works at, does something about such, so come into the experience those things that make the vision broader, the purposes worth while, the desires holy.

Then you begin to sow seeds of the Spirit in the mental attitudes and activities; which are first Patience! For "In patience possess you your souls!" In patience you become aware that the body is but a temple, is but an outward appearance; that the mind and the soul are rather the furnishings, the fixings thereof, with which you dwell, with which you live constantly!

And in patience, in brotherly love, in kindness in gentleness, in those things that are of the Spirit, of the mental attitudes, you will find closer walks with the purpose of the material entering.

For each soul is in the process of development to become fully aware of its relationships to its Maker. And in the manifesting of the fruits of the Spirit you find these are attitudes and activities towards your fellow man, those you meet day by day. And as your Lord has given, 'In the manner you do it unto the least of these you meet day by day, so you do it to your God.'

What, then, is the purpose of the entering of a soul into material manifestations?

In the beginnings, or in the activities in which the soul manifested individuality, it was for the purpose of becoming a companion of Creative Force or God; or becoming the whole body of God itself, with the ability even as your Pattern, as your Savior, as your Guide and Guard - to know yourself to be yourself, yet one with Him!

That is the purpose for each entering into the material activities.

And as these from the astrological aspects are a portion of the deeper MENTAL self, so have the material sojourns been a portion of the emotional self - or through which you became more and more aware of that consciousness that awareness of the relationships to the Whole.

Before this, then, we find the entity was in the land of the present nativity, - yes, among the environs of its present sojourn, when there were those activities just prior to the Revolution, just in those periods with the reconstruction after same.

The activities of the entity then, in the name John Venerable, were as a trader with the peoples of the forest - or the natives.

Hence we find nature in all of its forms as a part of the entity's dreams and visions often; as well as the abilities to draw contracts, trades or activities in which there are dealings with the fellow man - these arise from those activities.

The entity gained, the entity lost.

In the present the entity finds self meeting many of those same problems. For it is not what someone else has done to you, but what you have done to your neighbor. For what is the law? A you sow, so shall you reap!

Be not - BE NOT deceived--do not misunderstand—God is not mocked! for what man does, man reaps; and he constantly meets himself! For what you

have done, that you must meet.

If you attempt to meet it alone in yourself, THEN it becomes karma. But Who stands--WHO will stand in your stead?

Do good, as He gave, to those that despitefully use you, and you overcome then - in yourself - what you have done to your fellow man!

Through what? Through whom? Through Him that is the Creator of all that is good and perfect, Him that is the way, Him that has shown the way.

Why? How? Because He is that in which you live and move and have your being.

Thus, as your measure day by day--not by might nor by power but by "my love" says the Lord, - so do you meet yourself in your daily activities, in your dealings with your fellow man. So may you come to know in whom and in what you have believed, and you will find in your experience that He is able to keep all you commit to Him.

How? In your dealings with your fellow man!

Before that we find the entity was in the earth during the earlier portions of the journeyings of the Norsemen to the land now known as America.

There we find the entity, from the Norse land, came with those early settlers under Ericsson - and among those groups who remained in that known as Vinland; or a portion of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts as termed in the present.

Hence there is a constant call to the entity from those portions of the land, and they appear often as the portions in which only those things worth while materially are or may be accomplished.

This comes from the experiences and hardships through which the entity passed during those sojourns there as a

builder, yes as a waiter; yes as one longing for those things that had been and were not, those lands and scenes and environs and surroundings from which the entity had attempted to escape and did materials - yet the mind, the heart often dwelt there!

And these often produce confusions in the present, deep in the soul and heart of the entity. These often bring unsettledness, the desires to roam, the desires to change.

Yet rolling stones gather little of the compression, or of the moss that rests in peace and harmony in the minds of those that would know peace.

Then quiet yourself, even as you did in the latter portion of that sojourn, in those environs which would now be near to Hartford, Connecticut.

And in those environs may the entity, materially speaking, find some of the happiest, some of the most pleasing experiences. But it isn't the easy way that is always that which makes for growth. For whom He loves He chastens or He allows those things to test—even as He.

Then as you brought harmony into the experience and environs of many, as Hansen Olensen, so where you are use what is in hand. And as you use what you have, what you know today, tomorrow may be given the greater things to you.

For the Lord has knowledge of you, for you are a portion - yes, each soul! You do not become aware of your pulse beat until disturbances arise. So in the heart and mind of your Maker, your Creator, when you are disturbed He becomes aware of your disturbing forces.

Then keep peace, in your own heart and mind. And as you apply yourself you will learn, as you did in the latter portion of that sojourn, you made

for the educating and helping of those who were weak, those who were discouraged - in helping the discouraged you found courage; in helping the weak your became strong.

And so is the law.

Then you were an educator or teacher, or one who gave those activities in which not only the mind but the hands were directed in ways and manners to bring not only comforts and ease but conveniences in the activities of the experience.

Hence those things which are products of the fields, products in which life is sustained, are a part of your own being; the creative forces as in turning the simpler things into the supplying of elements of body and mind to those in a material world.

Before that we find the entity was in the Roman land, during those periods when the Romans held a protectorship over the Palestine land; during the days When the Master walked in the earth.

The entity was among the soldiery, and stationed in the garrisons of the Roman soldiery about Bethany and Jerusalem to the southern most gate through which the Master passed!

These the entity saw, though the entity comprehended little during those periods of the persecutions; though the entity followed the dictates of those that were in authority.

Know, as the experiences then taught the entity, that in whatever place or position an individual may be - whether in a place of authority, a place of confidence, a place of security or of what ever nature the activity may be - no individual is in such a position but that he has merited it, for the opportunities of manifesting in such position the glory of the Father through his activities with his fellow men!

As you used throughout that

experience those opportunities for learning and gaining a comprehension as to the meaning of life, and the truths which were manifested by those who were the professed and true followers of the teachings of the Master, so may you apply in your present experiences, in your present dealings with your fellow man those tenets, those laws that were His - and the whole gospel to love the Lord with all your mind and heart and body, and your neighbor as yourself. This is the whole law!

The entity gained throughout the experience, as Pitmumus; for you gained much. And you rose to positions of power, you rose to places wherein little or no censure could be drawn from your judgments about your fellow men, whether they were Roman, Greek Parthenon or the hated Jew in a portion of your activity.

Thus may yourself find that He, your Lord, is not a respecter of persons but to do good to all men is the whole duty of man.

Before that we find the entity was in the Egyptian land, during those periods when there were turmoils and strifes; when the Priest was banished, and when there was a Guard set by the Young King to see that there was the carrying out of the edicts of the Council.

The entity was among those who were the guards, and those who reported to the King during those activities - yes, during the whole period of the nine years sojourn of the Priest in the Abyssinian land - or what is now the Abyssinian land.

Thus the entity came closely in contact with activities after the return of the Priest; in the united efforts not only

of the Egyptians but the Atlanteans and those from Mu and On - and from India, Carpathia and the Incal land, from all of those lands where united efforts were a part of the activity of man.

There the entity in the later portion saw to it that the edicts of the various groups were carried forward.

Hence the abilities as a datastician a statistician, were and are a part of the entity's experience; the abilities to make reports to those in authority as to all conditions. The name then was Il-Enar-ar.

As to the abilities of the entity in the present, and that to which it may attain, and how:

Study to show yourself approved in all good conscience to what you set as your ideal, and know - as has been indicated - that your ideal is only in Him who is the keeper, who is your Brother, who is your Friend, your Lord - even the Christ!

Then as you pattern your life by His you will mete the fruits of the Spirit to your fellow men day by day, in whatever field of service is chosen.

And as indicated, as a statistician or datastician in any direction which may be given by others who are in authority, the entity may carry forward the services; and thus find himself coming to that standard as set.

For as you report in your material plane, so will your mental and spiritual self - be able to give the answer for the faith you have in your Lord, by the manner in which your measure to your fellow men those tenets that are His, - yes, they are YOURS! for you are His, if you open your mind and heart to Him!

## **KARMA AND FAMILY ANTAGONISMS**

### **A Selection from an Edgar Cayce Life Reading**

*Q. Would it be best to remain in the same apartment with my family for the present or try to borrow money enough to get a place for myself?*

A. It would be better to remain. If the environ is such that the antagonisms between self and family continue, then change. However, if there is sought by the entity not the differences that exist in the minds of the family and the associations, but ways the entity may help those in the family to finding their relationships with Creative Forces, this will make for better surroundings, bringing security for the entity in its abilities to stabilize itself in a much surer and a much better means or manner.

"Separation would leave not only a grudge and an animosity and a feeling of spitefulness on the part of self but also on the part of the family, building that which you have learned or been taught to call 'karma'.

*"Q. What is there wrong about my personality which is holding me back, physically, mentally?"*

"A. Nothing, save the proper evaluation of experiences of every nature in their proper sphere of activity and relationship.

"These extremes that have come into the experience that have made for the unbalancing of activities in the physical forces of the body as related to the mental and spiritual self, indicate improper evaluation in the experience.

"Know that Life is God; Life in self then is God. Then the use of God in relationship to others is to do for others what you would have others do for you, or have your God do for you. For as you act toward others you are acting toward

the God in Yourself. Thus, you are by example as well as precept making the true relationship with Creative Forces, which may aid you from without to arouse the influence or force of God within self.

*"Q. Please tell me if this is my own father in this appearance and ..... is my brother?"*

"A. Who is your father; who is your mother? They that do the things necessary in your experience that you may learn, that you may know your Heavenly Father the better.

"These are your material parents. Then aid them in seeking, not by preaching, not by mere precept, but by living a normal, balanced, Godly life .... with them.

*"Q. Is there some karmic debt to be worked out with either or both of my parents, and should I stay with them until I have made them feel more kindly toward me?"*

"A. What is karmic debt? You have made this a bugaboo. This you have over balanced within yourself. What is your life but the gift of your Maker that you may be wholly one with Him?

"Your relationships to your fellows through the various experiences in the earth develop according to your expression of Creative Forces toward the act itself. In individual activities toward your father your mother, your brother or the like, self is being met, in relationship to what they are working out. It is not a karmic debt *between* but a karmic debt of *self* that may be worked out *between* the associations that exist in the present!

"And this is true for every soul."