

Sacrament and Seance



INFINITE LOVE

UNIVERSAL HARMONY

ABSOLUTE WISDOM

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SACRAMENT AND SEANCE

We are glad to greet you tonight, for we feel there is need of bringing before your spiritual vision something to which most men have been blind; and so we will talk tonight of the things which only a few clearly understand.

In the churches the thing which is dearest and of the greatest importance, and which should be the most clearly understood is the least. And the greatest part of the church and its teachings is that which is called the Sacraments, but man has grown away in a sense from the realization of the wondrous truth, the wondrous meaning of the sacrament.

In the outward expression of something he did not understand he has lost the meaning; in the outer expression of a wondrous truth the manifestation has satisfied man, and he has lost the hidden meaning of it. He has departed from that and touched upon the outer symbol; directed his thought entirely upon the surface; he has not sought into the interior to find the real beautiful thought, the real beautiful food for the soul; he has merely touched upon the surface that which manifested to the outer physical senses, because man has for so long a time forgotten that he as an individual must think, must not have another soul think for him, must not have another soul lead him thru life. He must live his own life; he is master of his own destiny; he must think for himself; he must use the power within to think—the power within which is spirit. He must unfold the inner man, and in thus doing he would never be satisfied with the outward expression of the

wondrous things of life, but he would seek into the deep interior to find the meaning of things.

The Sacraments in the churches are so abused because of ignorance, and sometimes prejudice—ignorance and prejudice the two greatest enemies man has, perhaps, in the blindness of mortality, he cannot see this, but these obstacles are ever and ever placing themselves before him.

When he comes into the realization of spirit communion and studies the laws of life, he believes he is broad, and he does not stop to think that he is still narrow, for he narrows into *that* thought—and prejudice and ignorance of other things—ah, they come with him; they are his enemies; and until man can overcome these obstacles he will find in his way their lessons so many times, until he realizes that he (not only his neighbor, but he) is entertaining those two traitors to progress, enemies to the soul's ascension. They are binding, limiting, and retarding the growth of the soul of man; but little does he realize this.

Invariably he will very readily see these enemies in the life of his brother or neighbor, but little does he realize that in looking for them there, he looks over their reflection which is very close to him. And so it is with the Sacrament, the sacred sacrament. How many christian people really understand the interior part, the real deep truth in the Sacraments of their church, of their pet doctrine? Very few—very few.

In baptism how many believe that merely the outward expression was or is all of the sacrament? How many believe that the mere sprinkling of the infant body when it struggles with the soul which is leaving it immediately after

birth—how many who sprinkle the face of that child automatically in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, really know and think of what they are doing— they are merely expressing outwardly this: That the soul leaving that body be cleansed by the waters of life; the eternal waters, the living waters of the Infinite, the waters of eternal life.

Many who do not understand, believe those souls are lost who pass into the next expression without having the sacrament of baptism administered; and perhaps those very souls are walking by their side guiding them into eternal light.

So you see how many times in all the different manifestations of a great truth, how little those who take part in it realize the wondrous beauty of the spiritual meaning, the glorious privilege to bring into manifestation something so sacred, so eternally true. For indeed, before knowing the Infinitude of the Godhead, it is true a soul must be washed in the waters of life.

But poor man—poor man—because the present expression is in the physical, for so long a time all the wondrous things of life, that they may be given to him, were so simplified, and so reduced that he could gather them thru his understanding. Therefore, the symbols must be placed—just as you take the child in your kindergarten and bring the great things of life down to the simple lesson of the child, bring it down to the understanding of the child.

And so in the days thru which you have passed and out of which you are gradually rising, thru those days, you know, the minds of men had not reached that stage of comprehension or unfoldment where they could grasp in a clear

sense something which could not be seen thru the physical eye or heard thru the physical ear or felt thru the sense of touch, or otherwise gathered into their consciousness thru the physical senses.

But remember, the men of today and the men of yesterday cannot be compared mentally or spiritually because the awakening is upon the world in the flesh today when the clearer understanding of things is manifesting. But in the earlier days the same great truths existed, the same great laws of life manifested unseen, unknown, unsought, and yet they existed, for *truth is eternal*—no beginning, no end. Therefore, the same manifested, but man's understanding reaches just a certain stage and out of that he cannot instantly rise, but he must grow gradually, as do all things of nature unfold and grow into their fullness—and so must man.

And thus these Sacraments, these great truths were reduced to water, to bread, to the act of verbally expressing repentance. *How this has been abused* because it has become so common and because of its not being understood clearly, and being forced upon minds not ready to receive it; too young to really know, it has grown to be so much a part of them that it is just automatically manifesting the wondrous truth.

Repentance, remorse, the struggle to rise out of the depths of sin, all these tend to lift man into a higher and clearer vision of things. All of these great truths which are growing and living and of which man is a part, that man might conceive of the truth, that deep understanding, they were reduced that he could comprehend them and then in the worship of these symbols he lost the contents.

These vessels which held the liquids of life, these vessels which held the wondrous food of the soul which taught man and brought him thru manifestation over a road which leads to infinite unfoldment. But he stops at the symbol, stops at the vessel, holds it, clings closely to it thinking that it may lead him across the great chasm of death into happiness. Poor ignorant man—one came to tell him 'tis not the vessel, but the contents which will carry him thru. He is urged to drink of the sacred waters of life, repent within his consciousness, eat the bread of life—symbols brought to his understanding.

Thru the messenger, the sacred, humble, glorious, spiritual messenger, Jesus, whose pure soul stood in the flesh amongst them, a brilliant man, gloriously illuminated with the wondrous truth of life consuming within his consciousness all the days—*all the days*—the *contents* of these symbols. Thru His *message* they found the bread of life, the food of the soul; but the church centered upon the flesh and blood to show clearly the sacrifice—the sacrifice of the physical body—but what else could they do but reduce a great lesson to the simplicity of the student minds and bring it down to their vision or stage of understanding—thus *man lost the message of Jesus*.

In the churches prejudice arose—the great monster ignorance—the real inner working of these things prevented man's learning and growing into a realization of the truth.

And so all these symbols were held in the churches as sacred—'tis true, they are sacred, but in the improper application man loses the reality in his holding close to him

the symbol. And, behold, today the churches hold the symbols—and some are empty.

Man has sought along the outer edge of the great truth and he has felt satisfied (until the great awakening) with the outer expression, never delving into the hidden things. Now, in all of this there were some souls who were drinking the waters of life, who were gathering the great truth, who were basking in the glorious light of realization, who had gone below the surface; but the masses moving along down the years carried the symbols close to their hearts, thinking they were saved—ignorance on one side and prejudice on the other—leading them on and on to find some time that they must pick up the thread of life and *use the wonderful power to think*; and then some time the spark of the Infinite within them responds to their desire to grow, and progression begins—but many times these obstacles stay with them after death.

Some have faith that those receiving Confirmation will be saved—little do the children receiving this Sacrament realize the meaning of it, but when they receive a slap upon the cheek which means that they must be willing to suffer physical pain to protect their faith (this is a part of the ceremony in some of the churches) little do they realize this, and when they do they cannot even then apply it. The meaning of the sacrament, the inner part of it does not touch their consciousness; they merely receive it and they have gone only that far in their faith.

And in marriage it is the same—it should be the union of souls, and I believe, in fact, I know the time is not far distant as the sense of intuition grows greater in the coming generation, there will be fewer unhappy marriages be-

cause there will be a clearer understanding, less deception for men are rising into a broader field, a more spiritual stage of unfoldment. A few have gone before and still greater numbers will follow, and so on until you will find there will be peace on earth good will to all.

And so it is with all the great truths; they are all held within symbols until you grow out of the necessity of those things, until you have grown to that degree of unfoldment where you can grasp the big things of life; when you can hold the truth within you which does not need to reach your consciousness thru any one of the five physical senses, but reaches you thru the psychical, your spiritual sense, your power to reason, your thinking powers, your free will to walk out of the powers of prejudice and ignorance.

People have grown out of the narrow orthodox churches into the newer thoughts embracing some particular branch of the new thoughts (I do not mean organized New Thought, I mean all the broader thoughts of the present day) when they take one thought and embrace it how frequently they close up again with that one—it is their great enemies, prejudice and ignorance, which they do not know exist. They do not believe this one of the new thoughts—this particular one they have embraced is right, and all the other expressions of truth are wrong—theirs is right—prejudice and ignorance walk with them, enemies. And when man can find these hidden enemies, these hidden obstacles and overcome them, growing beyond them, and getting into the universal thought where he can detect the wondrous good in all the various manifestations of one great truth; where he can find the interior part of the outer manifestation; when he seeks beyond the surface, he is ascending the spiritual alps which lead to perfection.

So as man searches for that particular interpretation of the laws of life which reveal to his consciousness harmony, then he can find more readily the avenue upon which he can travel knowing and understanding more clearly, for the light of understanding will reveal to him the truth back of the manifestation. And so with spirit return, as man goes into the seance room to witness the wondrous mysterious things which some power unknown to him can produce, and as he witnesses the wonderful manifestations he is carried away and rushes here and there becoming almost crazed seeking the wonderful manifestations of spirit power, which hold the proof of the continuity of life.

'Tis true that the first stage of investigation is this, else why would it be reduced to that degree where man could gather it thru the physical senses? It must reach him that way to be proven to him until he grows broader in thought, and beyond it, and overcomes by perfect illumination these enemies—ignorance which holds you back; makes you near-sighted, spiritually speaking, you see just a limited way—prejudice is a wall or mental obstruction which prevents you from obtaining information from other minds or thru avenues of thought.

When they have witnessed spirit manifestation some stop right there, and say, "I am a Spiritualist; there is no truth in any of the old religions; I am a Spiritualist; I get knocks, raps, I hear voices, *wonderful manifestations*." And they stop in that one stage of enlightenment because right before them are the two great enemies to their soul's progression, ignorance and prejudice. They are interested so much in spirit manifestation, knowing nothing of the danger of delving into the hidden things of life without

searching spiritually; without searching thru the hidden closets which hold the secrets of life with the light of spirituality which will illuminate the dark places one enters, going into the invisible world of thought.

Do you not realize as you see the little ones growing up in some orthodox church partaking of the Sacraments, little knowing the meaning, that they are in the same place as those who attend seances and circles and readings, rushing here and there and everywhere in searching for spirit manifestations without finding the spiritual food of the soul therein—it is the reflection of the great plan of life. Find the reflection of the Infinite in all of that.

Poor man, ignorance has caused him to hold back and fall into the depths sometimes to be rescued by missionary spirits who are working to help and to lift and to show man the way. Some thru ignorance are stopping just in the field of manifestation without penetrating beyond to find the cause behind it; they stop right there, knowing nothing of how to protect themselves against the danger; for just as true as there is an underworld manifesting upon your planet, just so true there is an underworld in the life beyond.. And as they are blind and they are deaf, spiritually, and know not what they do, save that they are seeking for avenues of manifestation which reach their consciousness thru their physical memories, do you believe they will be a help and guide to you, and always touch upon clean things?

Do you know that your insane asylums are full of poor unfortunate creatures who have attracted to themselves unenlightened souls who have not reached that stage of spiritual unfoldment where they have risen out of the destructive condition?

It is the manifestation of the great truth of spirit return which I fear stops a great many in their investigating further.

So reach out to that which stands behind it all, the Infinite; search for the interior truth, the truth beyond the manifestation, beyond the symbols of life, beyond the things which prove to you thru your physical senses that a world does exist which holds those who have passed from the flesh. Do not stop there—overcome those two enemies who are standing between you and a deeper search. There are spiritual and wondrous truths which manifest thru the symbol of spirit return.

It is a great pity so many wonderful minds of the present day are standing right in the field of manifestation. True, it is mystifying, it is wonderful and it holds them thru curiosity and wonderment. But you who have never seen the sacrament administered, if you go into a church and witness it you will be filled with curiosity and wonderment; but you do not realize there is something deeper and more beautiful within; and so it is with spirit return, something greater beyond.

Behind and in all the manifestations you will find the wondrous truth. 'Tis merely a vessel which holds this food of the soul, which holds this part of God's great plan which man has only grown great enough to understand. It is one of the manifestations of God's great Infinite plan; it is only one more proof of what eternity really is. We have been a long way from what we thought eternity was. We lived the life in the flesh and said, we must prepare for eternity, speaking of eternity as a time beyond.

And all the time man has been growing mentally and spiritually thru the great law of evolution until he comes in sight of the manifestation of life beyond this. But do not stop at the manifestation; keep on in your search ever protecting yourself in all the dark places in life; Spiritually speaking, search and you will find beyond that manifestation a greater one, and something still beyond that—and something greater beyond that.

Oh, man, do you realize that each individual one of you is a spark of the Infinite which is eternal? You are creating conditions about you which will time and again in some future day pain you. But when you are doing the best you know how, when you are living up to your highest standard of good, why, can you do more? No, but you will realize that you are growing, growing spiritually into the broad universal thought where you can understand the fallen sister, where you can understand and have sympathy for the man who acts as a cruel master of his people; when you will understand the little child, and when you will understand old age and its peculiarities, and when you can be kind to all, and have a feeling of love within you for all of God's children.

So let us unite as one great brotherhood working with the great thought of bringing forth the realization of the individual man, not so much the masses as the individual, better that one man stand correctly and perfectly striving to ascend the mountain of progression and spiritual unfolding than that millions accept just the symbol and know not of its contents. You will always love the symbol, you will not cast it aside—look what it holds, it will grow greater and more beautiful and you can grow more and more spir-

itual, holding the manifestation sacred, for you will then know, and there is peace in knowing. Therefore, strive to save the soul of one better than just to reach out broadcast and waste the glorious seeds of life and the realization of truth.

Therefore, do you not see as man begins to realize that manifestation and symbols are only an invitation to seek further and find the Infinite truth, and to search and find God? And when man does this (you may not think the time is near, but it is not far off) there will indeed be peace on earth, good will to men.

This is one of a series of lectures delivered thru the instrumentality of Mrs. Josephine Brace while in complete entrancement. These lessons are given by the higher intelligences every Sunday evening at Utica Court, corner Main and Utica Streets, Buffalo, N. Y. These are free to the public and you are cordially invited to attend.

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