

# Voices From Spirit

MAGAZINE

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## IN TRIBUTE

By; Rev. Speaker Gerald A. Polley

Recently the world has lost a good friend, Michael Landon, not merely an actor, but a humanitarian and a man who worked against the Hollywood system not to just produce flashy, glitzy entertainment, but something of lasting value that made people think about the problems in the world around them, and, entertain them at the same time. While doing this, he also worked with legitimate, charitable organizations to help feed the hungry, and house those that had no place to go. We will miss you, Michael. The world will miss you. But those you have tried to help have prepared a mansion for you, and we pray you enjoy it as long as you wish to stay. Blessed be.

## BOYCOTT LOUISIANA!

Louisiana has passed the toughest anti-abortion law in the United States designed to be a direct challenge to Rowe vs. Wade, and to deprive American women of the right to an abortion.

We encourage all our readers to join in the growing boycott against Louisiana. People such as these must be made to understand that they will pay a price for trying to force their religious opinions on others, and deprive others of their basic human rights.

If you know of anyone planning on attending Mardi gras in New Orleans ask them to cancel their reservations and explain why. If you know of any companies that produce in Louisiana, do not buy their products.

Those who believe in the separation of church and state must begin to make themselves heard soon, or they will not like the society they will find themselves living in.

## LET'S KEEP HALLOWEEN!

Last October we were somewhat amazed to read in the newspaper that because of the growing problem of Satanism in America, parents were being encouraged by Christian Fundamentalists to literally cancel Halloween for their kids!

True, some of the Halloween films and costumes are a bit disturbing to some young children, but wearing a simple, fun costume, and going to a decent Halloween party does not a Satanist make. The idea of the holiday is to dress up and scare demons away, NOT create them. Let's not let fundamentalists frighten away Halloween forever!

Have a safe and happy holiday! Blessed be.

If you take away all hope you leave only desperation.

STRAIGHT-TALK ABOUT FAITH:  
KNOWING WHAT REALLY MATTERS  
By; Joel Bjorling

We ought to know what really matters in life -- what enhances our self worth, makes us feel good about ourselves, what makes us strong, what enables us to love and get along with one another. We desperately need to know such things. We can't live without them.

Religion and, more specifically, faith, is a way to know what really matters in life. It proclaimed that life has worth and value and a potential for promise. It affirmed that life is, or can be, a good experience and is worthy of celebration. Sometimes religion has become oppressive and bigoted, but the flame of life's worth and promise has kept burning even though it was loaded with heavy burdens. Even the smallest flame can grow to consume the most loathsome burden, and truth, like a tiny flame, exists and persists in spite of the grossest errors.

Some have claimed that religion is based on myths, implying that it is no longer meaningful in an enlightened, educated age. Yet what is a myth? It is more than a fanciful story, or a fairy tale. Myths convey deep truths. They communicate ideas we can feel, which are intimately moving, which cannot be specifically enunciated into words. Jesus taught many of his teachings in parables, yet inherent within them were essential truths which could transform the quality of life. Though some have asserted that religion is a crutch, an excuse for weakness, we all need something to hold on to. To an injured person, a crutch enables them to regain their strength. We need truths, ideas, and convictions that make us strong. We need that which weaves a sense of hope and promise, that life, indeed, holds meaning even when its foundations are shaken. Discovering and implementing resources for strength and hope are crucial to all of us, regardless of or lack of formal religious affiliation.

Religion has affirmed the reality and presence of God because God is a creative power and source of all that exists. God is the essence of life and as we partake of life, we partake of God. We reach out to God, to a reality beyond ourselves, beyond material circumstances because God is part of us and we are not complete until we make our peace with God. In God, there is peace, healing, transformation, and reconciliation. Through God we find what really matters in life. We discover and are confident that life can be trusted, that even when things don't turn out as we planned, still there is hope, still there is promise. Belief and faith in God is no pipe-dream or illusion, but an affirmation of life itself, of the possibility of trust, hope, and promise.

We are all religious people, though our ideas about life -- which is the substance of religion -- may be vague or undeveloped. We are religious because we seek to understand life, to make sense of it, and to find fulfillment. Maybe our religiosity is

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## THE SPIRITS SPEAK

This is an interview with the Spirit of Queen Nefertiti of Egypt. The questions have been provided by Dominic Kazutoff of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The answers are channeled by Rev. Speaker Gerald Polley.

\* \* \*

1. I've read THE RA MATERIAL over and over... the information is amazing, but somewhat difficult for me to understand. Is the information contained in the four books completely accurate?

A. I am not totally familiar with this work of Pharaoh's spirit. I am told it is somewhat confused, but a sincere effort.

2. I am personally especially interested in the information provided in THE RA MATERIAL regarding "second density pets" helped in their progress toward third density existence by their "owners" and the love and care the pets are provided by their owners. These factors strengthen the awareness of the pets regarding "the upward spiral" to "enlightenment"--an idea found in more than one religion practiced on this planet at this time; I believe Hinduism and Buddhism, but I'm not certain of this. I think I'm right.

A. It is the duty of the higher souls to care for the young and growing ones, rather they be pets or domesticated animals, or wild beasts of the field. All life is precious to Pharaoh's spirit, and should be nurtured and treasured, and never wasted.

3. In the time of the Great Pyramids were you here on Earth to bring the Truth to this planet and its inhabitants, and, were you successful?

A. I was not here at the time of the Great Pyramids, though I have had many sojourns on Earth. We consider our mission somewhat successful. We spread the seeds of Pharaoh's spirit that have given forth to every nation and every people, and therefore we did well.

4. The vibrations of planet Earth are changing. Are we expecting another polar flop soon? THE RA MATERIAL states that the "inconveniences" have already begun, and that preparations are being made for the harvest. I'm uneasy but optimistic--are we on schedule? Can you tell us something about the timing involved here?

A. We are aware of nature's habit of, from time to time shifting the power flow of the world. Such a shift is near...HOW near, it is impossible even for us to tell. But mankind has Pharaoh's spirit, and though many may be called to the next life, some of Pharaoh's children will survive to carry on.

5. Pyramids were made worldwide to some extent and then discontinued; they fell into disuse and were used inappropriately. I've noticed conflicting information and confusion about pyramids, their angles, orientation as to the Earth's polarity, and present day usages. Would you care to comment on this and suggest correct angles, orientation, placement, and use of pyramids today?

A. Pyramids are focal points of what this one calls psychokenetic energy. They should be used to refresh the eternal spirit and as

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places of religious fellowship. As to their alignment, they should always be placed according to magnetic north in their location and not according to TRUE north, so the energies within them will flow properly.

6. I am assuming that you and your husband were on this planet as members of the social memory complex "Ra" which would be the same "Ra" considered to be a god in Egyptian history, mythology, and ancient religion. Is this correct--and then the assistance Ra provided and the information brought were distorted so that Ra left?

A. What you call Ra we call The Spirit Of Pharaoh. The Spirit Of Pharaoh has many other names...Yaweh, Jehovah, Buddah, Krshna, Allah, The Spirit Of Pharaoh has spoken to many men. He is never disappointed. If each man he speaks to only leads one hundred from the Darkness, then He is pleased. The Spirit Of Pharaoh is proud of some of His children, saddened by others. But He would never forsake any of them. He gives unto the dying those to care for them, and unto the living those to guide them.

7. In order to correct the distortions and misuse of information, Ra made contact with the entities Carla L. Rueckert, James McCarty, and the departed Don Elkins. This trio proved to be a good channel but the usefulness of the group was disrupted by the leaving of Don Elkins. Contact was lost and not restored. Does he continue to work in this manner with a different group or individual, and is such contact ongoing at this time?

A. The Spirit Of Pharaoh works with all who seek truth. It is unfortunate that those who lost their third could not find another to reestablish their triangle. But the work of Pharaoh's Spirit continues each and every day.

8. The positive path, that of service to others, seems especially difficult in these days as the demands on each individual to provide themselves with money for existence and life, itself are complex and difficult to maintain. As someone far more advanced than myself once said "I wish to learn so I may serve," or words to that effect. I feel this way, but I also feel "boxed in" and ineffective and I think that surely there must be a better way. Would you address the subject of Earthly existence at this time?

A. I think everyone of Pharaoh's children of every age have had the same complaint! They thought they were doing little. It was only after their life was weighed, and its value known, that they understood the purpose of all their struggles. You do not know how much you contribute. Others know not how much THEY do. The Hour shall come to pass when you know how great your value. Do not think that your circumstances hold you back. Each one does according to their means, and this pleases The Spirit Of Pharaoh.

9. Is the calling now strong enough com-

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ing from this planet to bring Ra once more to Earth to put out a helping hand as it were and gently tug us along the path we wish to follow ?

A. The Spirit Of Pharaoh is among you, closer than you think. He who denies The Spirit Of Pharaoh most, serves him best.

9. Wars and conflicts and injustices are prevalent on this planet at this time, as I'm sure you've noticed--Ra mentions that one reason for this is we are from many planets, eleven in all. Is this correct? And is this diverse background of Earth's population today the reason the different population groups don't get along well?

A. Actually we count fourteen races. Some writers tend to leave some out, if they arrived after their own species. YES, this diversity of racial influences is PART of the problem. The greatest part, though, is the nature of some of the races to be domineering, to seek to supplant their will over others... to make THEIR social ideal the prominent one. This is the cause, the greatest cause, of man's conflicts...those who will rule, or, destroy.

10. I have a friend who states that Planet Earth is a combination penal colony/insane asylum for the outer planets. He is certain of this, and there are times when I think he is absolutely right.

A. I am afraid your friend is wrong. Earth is more like a lifeboat sustaining the remnants of several races.

11. My own interpretation of the situation is that there are opportunities on Earth now to as Ra says, teach/learn for us all to use. Free will is at the root of the choices and all have that and must use it as best we can. Earth itself, is an experimental planet. Not easy, Queen Nefertiti!

A. You are right, dear child, free will is the key. People must learn to use it wisely, merely not for their own selfish interest, but for the good of others, as well. Man's greatest problem is his greed, his fear of others being equal to him. This must come to an end. Man must understand the wisdom of Pharaoh's Spirit, and live in harmony with one-another and accept each-other's differences.

12. I think that my friend, himself, is from a different planet and life here is hard for him because he doesn't understand the lessons here. Am I correct, and might the same be true for many of us on Earth today, myself included?

A. I do not know if your friend is of this world or not, the chances may well be he is not, as this world is approaching a 2/3rds density of non-native souls. I have not been trained to reveal these things, so it is not for me to do. But your suspicions may well be correct!

\* \* \*

The following questions have been provided by an anonymous source.

13. Was it difficult being the founder of a religion in Ancient Egypt?

A. We were not the founders of a religion. As you are, we were the Awakeners of an old faith twisted and defiled by the greed and lusts of man. You, of all others, would understand the difficulty of this task.

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14. How did you decide to build a city for yourself, your husband & followers?

A. A pure place was needed, a new place, free from the corruption of the false teachings of jealous priests. This is why we sanctified a new ground for The Spirit of Pharaoh.

15. Why was your husband depicted as a woman, and, smaller than you in some carvings?

A. The physical size of a man by no means determines his character. A man of small stature can have a far greater character than a man of great height and physical blessing. My Pharaoh had a weakness for the plate, and in his later years tended to be big of stomach and chest. This, by no means, distracted from his manliness.

16. Were you ever in love with your city's sculptor?

A. I was in love with many men. Mere affection between men and women is common. Pharaoh understood this, and pardoned my pursuits of companionship as his duties often took him to other beds. He was not a man to deny a woman's needs simply because he could not always fulfill them. In this way he was more gracious than other men.

17. Why was the city abandoned so quickly, forever?

A. The jealousy of priests is great. After they had dispersed and murdered our followers they wanted our way forgotten, and attempted to destroy all memory of us, but Pharaoh was wiser than these ignorant men. He sent his seed forth in the bellies of princesses and slaves, in the loins of princes and warriors. Such was the wisdom of Pharaoh.

18. What happened to your sculptor?

A. The priests plotted his death, but Pharaoh's Spirit was over him and he fled to another land to bring Pharaoh's word to others. He was faithful to Pharaoh and his Queen to the last breath of his life. No greater love had any man.

19. What happened to you and your husband in the end?

A. My Pharaoh before me succumbed to the passage of time. I continued for some time to carry on his work. Though the priests thought me impotent and decrepit my mind still carried on the work of Pharaoh's spirits and my servants were like a thousand of theirs. In time I, too, succeeded to the ravages of time, but my mission among men was fulfilled.

\* \* \*

Our November interview will be with the Spirit of Lou Costello, one of the best American comedians. Also, our Nefertiti interview will be followed up. If you have any questions you'd like answered in these, get them to us by October 15th. We also welcome any suggestions from our readers of Spirits you'd like to see interviewed in future issues.



ORPHEUS SPEAKS

Through Bishop Tamadhi Hill N.D.

Channel, Healer, Past Life Reader

Greetings of Love and Light to all my fellow readers of this fine publication. When this article was requested of me, I pondered about what to write and kept drawing a blank. I find it hard to write about myself, and this article is supposed to be about me and my Beloved Master Guide, Orpheus, who saw my dilemma and offered to write the article through me...

Tamadhi and I have been together in many past lives; therefore our alliance in this life is not new, although we are in different forms; she in the body of flesh, I in my Spirit Body. Tamadhi is my student, and our relationship has always been one of love and service to the light. Tamadhi is a very old soul with the life theme of humanitarian, and she originates from the planet Venus in this system and galaxy, as do I. Some of you, who I serve as guide, and there are many of you, know me by the name of Sananda of Venus, and some know me as Orpheus, while yet others know me as Jesus, which was my last life in human form.

I know this will come as a real shocker to some of you, yet a select few are already aware of this truth. I wish to set the record straight here and now. My life as Jesus was simply a former life of mine, and I would like all the razzle dazzle to stop, here and now! It's foolishness and nonsense and is not helping anyone at all. Take me down from the pedestal, and remove me from the cross, please, I beg of you! This is not what that life was all about! It was about love and kindness to one another and getting in touch with and becoming the God within (one's own Higher Self-Soul, Spirit). I and my Father are One, beloved ones, means exactly that. I know that is not what the bible says; however, that is the true meaning. The bible is not the word of God. It was written by man. Yes, there is some good and truth certainly in the bible, just as is there also in other such type books.

There is NO ONE WAY...all are equal parts of one. It is likened to the tree containing many branches; each branch being a system of belief, yet all branches are equal parts of the one tree, who has her roots firmly planted in the Mother as she reaches her branches upward to the Father. I know this may be hard for some of you to swallow, yet others will smile with acceptance of truth.

By the way, I am not the only one who died and took my body along for the ride, so to speak; others before me achieved this also. I wish to validate here and now that yes indeed the second coming is in the heart and many of you have already achieved that mystery! Many of you have come much further on your own personal pathway than you are aware of. Take time to go within your own inner sanctuary to see where you are at, and remember, you are all branches of the one tree...rejoice and celebrate the wholeness of the one.

POETRY SPACE

DEATH OF A BUTTERFLY...?

By; Bevy Jaegers

Rise up on shining wings  
MAN..the unconquerable..  
fearless leader, hearth and home..  
defender of the faith..  
Taste now...the crystalline fluid  
...wellspring of all life!  
Murky, soupy, turgid with chemicals..  
slime in every glassful lurks unseen  
what...without water?

Spread your wings and fly, humanity...  
Fly through clouds of sulphur dust,  
into burning lungs draw acid fumes..  
corrode the spongy keepers of your breath..  
Smarting eyes, straining helplessly to see..  
colors dimming, grass near death  
birds fall poisoned from the sky..  
belching chimneys welcoming the sun..  
How...without air?

Races tangled tight in shifting hues,  
blood...fire...chants...freedom...  
Pity flees the flames..  
Power rides the world in fierce reaction..  
wrenching burning anger into gentle men..  
Metallic toys of war keep growing  
...and proliferating..  
Obliteration yawns beyond tomorrow  
Who...without life?

Unwind the tight-wrapped strands of  
cocoon minds..  
The LOVE of money, the old books tell  
is the rotten stinking root, brothers...  
...of all evil...  
Rise up again, poor butterfly called Man..  
Sow seeds of love, long sterile..  
Freely, gladly give of life..and hope..  
compassion  
Soar on proud wings, spreading, all  
enfolding..  
This globe's a tiny lonely ball...our  
Earth!

\* \* \*

THE SECRET

By; Lady Cat Powers

Pussycat...pussycat...where do you go  
When you disappear, to where only you know!  
I look under each bed: I crawl on the floor  
I peek in each room and behind every door!  
I search every place, that a kitty could  
hide,  
I've called, and I've crawled, and I've  
lost all my pride!  
So, I then try temptation, and put out a  
"treat"...  
And just sit and listen for little cat feet!  
But, the silence prevails: no purr-r-r do  
I hear  
Tho, something inside says you're really  
quite near!  
I'm sure from some corner, you'll soon be  
emerging,  
You'll come when YOU want! And not from my  
urging!  
So, where do you suppose those little  
toes go?  
Where is that place, that only cats know???

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Life, at any price, has a name. It is  
called SLAVERY.



not like that of formal, institutional religions, but we are religious none-the-less. Religion has been and is a promise and affirmation of life's potential good. It has provided a multitude of wisdom to assure and encourage us along life's way. Though religion has been the cause of bigotry and oppression, such is a misunderstanding and abuse of its purpose. Its purpose, its real, genuine concern is to enhance the equality of life, to encourage self respect, to inspire hope, and enable us to live harmoniously with one another. Isn't this what really matters most in life?

#### BOOK REVIEW

By; Rev. Speaker Linda J. Polley

THE DREAM LOVER- TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH DREAMS By; Les Peto. Llewellyn/Quantum edition. Llewellyn Publications, P.O. Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383. \$9.95.

If you're tired of the dream dictionary method of interpreting your romantic dreams, this book's for you. A somewhat psychological approach, complicated is not exactly the word for it, but, complex. It honestly does contain much useful information. Interesting and recommended.

THE DREAMWEAVER- A POSITIVE LIFE PATH PUBLICATION. Subscription rates \$15.00 per year, bi-monthly, \$3.00 for a sample issue. Featuring interests in Self Healing, Dreams, WICCA, Native American Paths, Crystals, Vegetarianism, Animal Rights, Environmental Issues and Much More! Editor; Ladyhawk, POB 150692, Fort Worth, TX 76108.

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THE OWL FEATHER- Spiritual enlightenment for pagan renegades. Published by the Guild of the Grey Owl, four times a year. \$5.00 per year. P.O. Box 280-341, Lakewood, CO 80228.

BEWARE 1-900 PSYCHICS- they are a waste of your money. Their only ability is to make a profit.

SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY/GLOBAL WARNING  
By; Freedom, Box 234, Newell, NC 28126  
(Continued From Last Issue)

Because any negative results as to the outcome concerns our OWN individual transition and its perfection. We must know how this influences our transition! There may be more perfect places to make our transition. (Note: We should also give serious consideration if CREMATION has a negative effect on the perfection of our transition. Just because certain cultures do this does not mean it is the correct thing to do now.)

Consider, if power points and vortexes attract UFO activity, the coarse energy they use is not going to be beneficial to the fabric of adjoining planes and dimensions of finer vibration. People are reporting more negativity in these areas and are not as drawn to these places as they once were. Mt. Shasta is a case in point.

Remember, if things were so perfect in adjoining planes and dimensions this perfect influence would be showing in and on our own plane of living. When one contemplates and evaluates more fully "As above so Below" in relation to the problems at hand, one will more readily comprehend and avoid the above mentioned syndromes so one may move ahead and accomplish what one must for one's highest good.

PSYCHIC PATHWAYS NEWSLETTER- NEWS AND VIEWS ON PARAPSYCHOLOGY. Subscription \$15.00 per year. Bi-monthly. P.O. Box 418, Woodmere, N.Y. 11598.

SPELL CASTING-By Dr. John Kurluk, MsD. A spell book of positive rituals, with easy to follow directions. This book is written for the average individual or beginner Spell Caster. Price; \$2.00 + P. & H. Send to; Dr. John Kurluk, MsD, POB 6186, Baltimore, MD 21231. Also available Tarot Card Readings, \$10.00.

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IMAGINATION'S PLACE  
FICTION

TRIAL IN SPACE

By; Rev. Speaker Gerald A. Polley

THE ANCIENT ONE was extremely used to exchanging bodies with alien telepaths of all shapes and sizes, but being in the body of the foot long sea creature and running around in the Imperial ship in its travel capsule still amused him. Almost childishly he made the capsule perform areobatic maneuvers, in the corridors, when no one was around, sometimes even travelling upside down! But as he approached the doors of the theater his thoughts became serious. He righted the travel capsule and slowed to a dignified pace. The guards at the doors each took one step over in precision, seized the handles, and with two, swift side-steps opened the doors.

As The Ancient One crossed the threshold, a voice cried out,

"All stand in the Imperial presence!"

The Ancient One hated such formality but the Imperials INSISTED on treating him as an authority figure whenever he was on their ships, no matter what body he used at the moment.

"I request you seat yourselves," he announced, and everyone immediately obeyed. He took a moment to survey the scene. Five officers sat on the stage along a simple table. To their right a woman sat, both handcuffed and shackled. This did not distract, however, from her incredible beauty. She wore the dress of an Imperial lady, though the customary jewelry of her position was missing.

The middle officer rose and bowed. "Most gracious planetary Lord," he announced, "in the Emperor's name I greet you; and ask that you take a few moments of your precious time to take part in these sad proceedings."

"You are most welcome, Commander," The Ancient One announced. "How may I be of service?"

The Commander made a motion and from the corner of the stage an officer pushed a resting rack for the travelling module behind a small podium.

"Will you be so kind as to take the witness stand?" the Commander asked.

The Ancient One obliged. As he settled down an officer approached, carrying a scepter, and touched it to the travelling module.

"Do you swear, before this Imperial court, that the testimony you are about to give is complete and truthful to the best of your knowledge?"

"I so swear!" The Ancient One answered.

The woman rose, with surprising agility, considering her bonds. "I object," she said, "on two grounds...one, that is not the legal oath. Two, I have a right to face my royal accuser face to face, not in this abomination. At least you could have the decency to use one of your own telepaths, but even then this individual can survive in our air and our temperature. I DEMAND if he is going to accuse me, then he must do so in his true form, before me!"

The Commander looked troubled but his answer came clearly and sharply. "The prisoner will be seated, but I will answer her objection. The native Lord's power is too much for our

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telepaths. He does not effect the Kreons so radically, and anyway, their religious structure is so similar that no cultural harm will be done to them, where it WOULD be done, and, HAS been done to our own telepaths. Their services are required, and under the law is acceptable, and it does not matter what body the native Lord possesses, he is just as present in THIS one as any other one. To expose him to the danger of actually bringing his physical presence here is totally uncalled for.

True, the oath has been modified so as not to offend him, but as it still carries its most important proponents, it is still legally acceptable. My law officer has assured me of this. With your objections of this answered, I believe we can proceed. Prosecutor, will you explain the circumstances?"

From the first row of seats an officer approached. "This is a military court of inquiry," he announced, "to determine rather the Imperial princess Bella Kemp, shall be tried on the military charge of illegal violation of Imperial treaty, a charge that could bear a sentence of twenty-five years in penal service, or, turned over to civilian authorities on the charge of conspiracy in the murder of her brother, first heir to the throne, who came to this world in an attempt to reason with her, to persuade her to come home.

This native Lord was the last to speak with the late Prince before this ill-fated mission. His testimony is crucial in these proceedings, as the Prince told no one else his exact plans other than that he was making a landing.

I must ask you, sir, did the Prince at any time, tell you that he had been in contact with his sister, that she had accepted his signal of parlay, and agreed on a mutual landing place?"

All fell silent and all eyes turned to The Ancient One.

"The Prince did not actually speak to me," The Ancient One answered, "he spoke to my wife. He was a quite good telepath in his own right. I remember only vague, sketchy, memories of the conversation. If you understand a telepathic connection, both beings are aware of what is going on in both places, only one set of circumstances is stronger than the other. But I can say without doubt, as long as these circumstances are understood, the Prince told my wife he had contacted his sister, she had responded on the emergency frequency, and agreed to the meeting."

The prosecutor turned to the commander.

"I think," he said, rather sadly, not wanting to look up, "we have heard what we needed to hear. The Lord's explanations of the limitations of his testimony are acceptable. The testimony is valid, and condemning."

The prosecutor stopped, wiped his eyes with his sleeve very unceremoniously.

"With this testimony," he continued, "I have no choice but to ask that this lady be returned to the capitol planet, given over to the civil authorities, and face the charge for which, if she is found

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guilty, she must sacrifice the remaining portion of her life."

The Commander nodded and the prosecutor returned to his seat. The Commander turned to the prisoner. "Do you have any other objections?" he asked. The woman shook her head and stared at the floor. "I will now ask for the officers to vote," he announced.

Without a word the first officer to his right withdrew a ceremonial dagger. With a loud cry he drove it into the table. The officer next to him repeated the gesture.

On the opposite side of the table the two other officers followed suit, leaving only the Commander. He, too, pulled his dagger, but without a sound, drove it into the table.

"The judgment," he said, "is unanimous. The lady is released from military justice and turned over to the civil authorities. May The Great One have mercy upon her. This court is dismissed!"

The officers retrieved their daggers, rose, and departed through the wings of the stage. Those in the audience filed out. In only a few moments only The Ancient One, the Commander, and the prisoner remained. Even the guards, though The Ancient One was sure they were not far away, had departed.

"You have refused the lady an audience," the Commander announced, "but I ask you now, if you could answer a couple of her questions."

"Proceed," The Ancient One answered.

"Before my father's death you spoke with him," she said, "did he leave me any message?"

"Only that he wished you peace," The Ancient One answered, "and he hoped that I found you before your people did."

The woman nodded. "Did he say anything else?" she asked.

"Only," The Ancient One told her, "that of all things that ever happened to him in his long life, you were the worst, and, most bitter disappointment and heartbreak. Now, if you will excuse me, I must go."

The woman nodded, and The Ancient One withdrew. The Captain followed him. "It is now," he said, "only a matter of formality. I doubt if she will bother with a trial. We will be withdrawing soon, leaving you in the safe hands of the Squig and the Mora. We still do not understand why you will not accept our assistance and protection but we are consoled to it. May your people join us in the stars."

"So must it be," The Ancient One told him. He found a quiet place and returned to his own body, left the bedroom, went out onto the porch overlooking the little pond, and stared skyward.

"So must it be," he said to himself, "so must it be."

The Imperial warships had been gone several days when the Mora telepath sent him a quiet message as he was doing his daily work. "The Imperials just informed us," the telepath began, "that the Imperial princess was found dead in her cabin. Apparently she had decided not to embarrass her brother by having to sentence her to death, and someone provided her with a black tablet."

The Ancient One nodded and said to himself "It's something I've been expecting."

One of his coworkers looked at him strangely. "What were you expecting, Reverend?" he asked.

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"Oh, nothing," The Reverend replied, "just daydreaming."

"You know, Reverend," the coworker remarked, "you're awful spooky sometimes!"

The Ancient One laughed. The Imperial princess had been a serious pain for several years, caused him no end of trouble. But her death still saddened him somehow. He already missed the annoying Imperials. Some day they would take their place among the Great Races of the galaxy. They just needed a little time. As long as they kept out of HIS affairs The Ancient One saw no reason to get involved in theirs.

He brought his mind back to the task at hand. Tapping the old hot water heater he looked at the disassembled controls again.

"If it was only as easy to fix some things, old girl, as it is to fix you! If it was only that easy!"

THE END

The preceding story is fiction. Any resemblance it bears to true persons or places is coincidental, and not the intent of the writer.

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