

in the beyond

guidance of a soul

Leopold Engel

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preface

The manifestation of a man in the beyond to his son, was written in the spring of 1921. It represents the otherworldly guidance and experiences of a departed man, who was allowed to know and appreciate the new revelations by the German mystic and seer Jakob Lorber (1800-1864 in Graz, Styria) in his earthly life.

The one who revealed himself, is the deceased concertmaster Karl [Dietrich] Engel (1842-1913), who already as a child had shown a special liking for all kinds of arts. As a boy he traveled with his father and brother in Holland and gave concerts. The two brothers were considered child prodigies. Karl became an outstanding violin player who easily mastered all technical difficulties; he played all compositions by Paganini - similar to Jakob Lorber - flawless. In his mature years, Karl E. also made a name for himself as a Faust-researcher. He was an authority in the field of this literature. His interest and understanding also extended to all areas of soul-research and knowledge of the spiritual world.

All the more interesting for our readers may be to read the otherworldly experiences of this important man. Do the insights gained in this world by the seers Emanuel Swedenborg and Jakob Lorber prove true for him on the other side?

According to Jakob Lorber, all souls that leave earthly life without perfect spiritual maturity, enter a kind of dream-life on the other side, initially in the air-atmosphere of our worldly body. As a rule they lose sight of the earthly world and develop from the thoughts, inclinations and urges cherished in the physical, an inner world of phantasy, unnoticed by the guardian spirits and angels of God in the beyond - as if an exceedingly vivid dream. This dream-like inner life of the soul is, depending on the good or bad condition of the soul, either paradisiacally beautiful and good - or hellish, dark and bad.

Through the paradisiacal as well as through the infernal inner experiences, the soul is to be matured to the goal of perfection in God, i.e. to be prepared for overcoming all anti-divine self-love and self-glory through pure love of God and neighbor. - If a stubbornly God-hostile, selfish soul resists this school of God, it will get into more and more hellish and painful inner states full of hatred and anger against God and all fellow creatures - and this is called hell. - If, on the other hand, it follows the angel's call to light and love, then it attains, purifying itself, connection with it's inner God-Spirit spark and through this, with the whole spiritual and material world of creation and may then, as a matured citizen of heaven, find it's bliss in the cooperation in the great work of love of creation and redemption.

In this booklet we learn from the departed earthly pilgrim about his inner spiritual experiences in the paradisiacal dream-life, through which he was prepared to enter the glory of the heavens through highest, zealous love.

It was granted to him by the grace of God, through the communication with his son, Leopold Engel, equipped with the gift of spiritual clairaudience, to let this message go out to mankind still walking in the earthly garment.

May the teachings of this message be for the salvation of many!

Bietigheim, Autumn 1949. The publishers: Lorber-Gesellschaft, E.V. Bietigheim, Württ.

a guest in a foreign country

My dear son! You are ready to write, and that pleases me immensely, since I am convinced that my experiences will also be useful to you and others. Please listen carefully!

As you know, when I was dying, as they say, and also felt that I was coming to the end, I called upon the heavenly Father for help; for I must confess that I did not quite like the thought of having to leave the earth. I would have liked to get well again and at that time I had no idea what grace was actually granted to me, that I did not have to live through the time on earth, which was so bleak for you. - My call did not go unheard; for my father, who also sent you exact information about his death, appeared to me and comforted me, pointed me to the Lord - and all of a sudden, I felt that my body fell away from me like something heavy and I stood there completely fresh and lively. My father embraced me; I was overcome by tiredness, so that I no longer knew what was happening to me, but only felt that I was being lifted up and carried away.

When my senses gathered again and I became aware of my surroundings, I found myself in a beautiful garden. My father stood next to me and greeted me in a most friendly manner. I was now away from the world, he said, and in his home, where I was to stay with him for the time being. Of course I was very surprised by these words, but even more by the fact that my father actually lived in such a house as he described it to you at that time, only now it was considerably larger than the description indicated at that time, beautifully furnished and surrounded by a large garden, which contained flowering and fruit-bearing trees, shrubs and all kinds of plants. Here I also found my late mother, the first wife, not her sister, father's second wife, as well as my sister Wilhelmine. The others do not live with him, not even Frederick, my brother.

I stayed there for a long time in wonderful peace and harmony, but then I realized more and more that this state could not remain like this forever, and that I should not remain inactive. The weaknesses of old age had disappeared from me; I felt strong and lively, but did not yet know how to begin to become independent. You are surprised. I had read the New Revelation writings and the different states of the hereafter could not be unknown to me; but there is a big catch.

Imagine - you write many stories, which also contain more or less good teachings, you have also written writings of excellent content full of wisdom, taught self-knowledge and knowledge of human nature, and yet you often act quite wrongly, because theory and practice are two different things. It was the same with me. You were sometimes annoyed when I had no inclination to apply the events of the Gospel to present-day things of spirituality, since much the same is happening today. You were not wrong in this; for I had to acquire this knowledge only now over here. But I said to myself that if I ask the Lord from the bottom of my heart to give me the right enlightenment and help, I will certainly receive it. I therefore turned to this only true Source full of devotion and hoped to be able to see the Lord Himself soon. The latter, however, did not happen, despite my pleading. The grandfather had seen the Lord Himself at that time, as he told you, why not me? This was very much on my mind; however, I did not find any information about it.

Now, when I had withdrawn in the garden and asked completely from my heart for enlightenment, I heard my name called. I looked up and noticed a few steps away from me, my old friend Thieme, with whom I had already been close friends in Petersburg. He hurried toward me; we embraced and were very happy to meet again.

He explained to me that he had been commissioned to give me information about many things that I needed and that he wanted to set out with me on a short journey, in which he would serve as my guide.

First the journey went to his own dwelling, which, he said, he had built by his willpower with the grace of the Lord. It was a building with approximately the appearance of Greifenburg, only architecturally more beautifully built, in which he had opened a kind of inn for passers-through. This will surprise you; for an inn in the spirit-land seems absurd - and yet it is so.

Think about how many souls arrive here full of inner anxiety and restlessness. They have no other thought than to rush forward, to see other people and areas. They are not bad people, they were kept on earth like prisoners with the eternal longing in their hearts to get out of their narrow circle. Now they feel free, they want to let off steam, yes, they usually know that they are detached from the earth. There are many such people - globetrotters, rich people who could not stay anywhere for long because they had nothing to do, then scholars who believed that all salvation lay in exploring foreign regions. All of these must be given the opportunity to prove to themselves that nothing comes out of this wandering; they must bang their heads to get them to think and must gradually be taught better.

So the inns are a tool to invite them to turn inward, because once they have turned inward, they will not be able to get out again so quickly. For better or worse, they have to submit to the customs of these inns. There are meetings, lectures and all kinds of demonstrations that point to the spiritual self of the person and force one to think when the addiction has subsided a bit. Others receive directions that again pose an obstacle to their restlessness and sometimes bring them into tricky situations, but from which they are always helped out.

Thieme was always a person who, out of human love, gladly helped others with advice and action (on earth, the latter was very difficult for him, since he was only a poor musician); therefore, he was very suitable for this position and showed me many interesting things about how he was allowed to work and how he achieved success.

You know that on earth I often suffered from an inhibiting sluggishness when it came to instructing others. You have always been more fixed in this; I, however, could not do it, could not find the right words and therefore usually said: "You have to read that yourself!"

Now through the example that Thieme gave me - who already possessed a very excellent oratory gift on earth, I was freed from my difficulty. It also became much easier for me, since physical obstacles were no longer present and I only needed some practice in letting my thoughts out in order to also become a good speaker. So I gained it there and will remain so. - But I also learned other things there. On earth, not all people's company pleased me. That is understandable, because not all people are desirable to associate with; but one should always see the human in the person, his neighbor - not think oneself better than another and say in a pharisaic conceit: "I thank you, my God, that I am not like

that person. - I cannot say of myself that I suffered from arrogance, but something like the feeling of a better self was in me. This makes one hard against others who do not suit you, and I must confess that I brusquely rejected many a poor devil who approached me on earth, which I should not have done. Words like "workers' pack", "bummers", "tramps", were familiar to me in the consciousness of the wealthy pensioner and today I regret them sincerely and deeply.

At Thieme, the most peculiar oddballs, vagrants, drifters, scholars, princes, and the mentally infirm (about whom much enlightenment later), gathered. I learned to socialize with all of them, to teach them, to treat them affectionately and also to support them as far as it was necessary. In short, I went through an apprenticeship with Thieme that was beneficial and joyful for me.

One day Thieme said to me: "It is time that you now get to know something else, dear Karl; because without further knowledge, you stand still and do not come to a home of your own, which however every spirit-man should strive for and possess. Here it is not like on earth, where money alone provides the ability to create a home; with us, money represents the spiritual power in the love for the Lord. He who develops this, possesses everything; he who lacks it, is a poor wretch. So think now of developing your spiritual powers, then you will become a creator in small things and be on the way to becoming like God!"

Of course, I fully grasped these words and was gladly willing to follow the paths that Thieme would show me. But first I have to give you some information about what I did not recognize clearly during my lifetime, and what is still unclear to you, too – it is about the essence of the sphere.

The sphere is the influence which every soul exerts on its environment at any time; but this influence is subject to certain laws. The first law in the spirit-world is as you have already recognized: "Like unto like!" So also a soul can only exert influence on other souls which are on the one hand like-minded to it and therefore also able to understand what this influence aims at. But now there is the second law: "Nobody can approach perfection if he does not ascend step by step in such a way that the overcome step is also completely penetrated and has become his spiritual property in all parts!"

In order to penetrate now into lower and also higher levels, guidance is necessary; because out of himself, nobody can become a mathematician, he needs a teacher for it. These teachers supervise individual groups, enclose them in their sphere of power in a specific way and thus form a certain sphere. In such a sphere, there is of course inflow and outflow. Whoever is called to be a teacher, however, is subordinate to another from whom he learns, but to whom he also transfers more developed souls, in the case where those transferred to him, surpass him. Naturally, everyone wants to progress and thereby expand his sphere. In the own progress and the expansion of your own sphere, lies the grace of the Lord to become a creator yourself. But no work, no reward! I am now in possession of a self-created sphere, in which, in a certain way, a whole number of smaller spheres are nested, which I have transferred to my students, or had to transfer, since I myself have progressed and have to guide the work of the more advanced souls in the same way as I have learned it myself. This will become even clearer to you when I tell you the further progress of my development. -

Journey and contemplation

When Thieme asked me to go with him, he also said that we would not see each other again for a long time, because he would not be able to come to me again immediately after he had left me and would have to continue to manage his house. These words made me feel supported, because I expected to be able to come back to him, and not that he wanted to leave me alone. I had no idea that such traveling now meant entering into another sphere, and that his words therefore included this meaning. - So, we left his house and wandered out in bright sunshine into a wonderfully beautiful region, such as I had never seen before and in which I had a heartfelt joy. You have been to Norway and there you got to know pure, untouched nature. Now imagine a country - even more beautiful, grandiose and mighty in its structure with just overwhelmingly beautiful distant views, and you will then have an idea of the glory that I got to see. I was enraptured and could go no further. Tears came to my eyes over the great creative power of God, and I had to gather my feelings in silent prayer, which otherwise would have thrown me straight to the ground. - "It is right, Karl" - Thieme said - "that the sight of this magnificent region should direct your thoughts to the Lord, that you should recognize His wisdom and love in these glorious creations; but do you also know what you are actually seeing in these mountain ranges, valleys, forests and ice-crowned peaks?" - I looked at him in wonder and questioning.

"All these things represent to you the glories of His revealed truths, the hearing of which, however, deeply touches man, but which in themselves only resemble a beautiful, wonderful region like this one - if man only by looking at it feels the beauty, the wonderful creation of a mighty Spirit of God, but not how He rules in it, how He carefully nurtures every little seed, forms it and fills it with the true balm of light of His innermost being. Yes, this is very overwhelming, but it does not bring man any further; he then resembles a wanderer who is always looking for further beauties, for new beautiful regions, and in doing so, completely forgets to make himself at home in a beautiful, self-chosen place, to build his house there and from there to thoroughly explore and plow the region accessible to him. Look, Karl, you have already had the wonderful landscape on earth, you have read and indulged in the revelations; but what have you actually gained from this? Weren't you just a wanderer who never paid much attention to others who came along the way, who didn't like to be disturbed in his contemplations of the beautiful regions and who possibly hid himself when he heard the footsteps of someone approaching who was unfamiliar with the area and wanted to be shown the right way? And then, of what use was it? Did the observation of the beautiful region make you softer, more communicative, more patient, more forgiving and above all, more loving? Or did you remain only the egoistic enjoyer, but not the joyful doer, helper and promoter, who never says of himself: 'I have worked enough'? What do you think now?"

Thieme's words fell like stones on my heart. It seemed to me as if the wonderful region, which was so clear and sunny at first, was becoming darker and darker, was falling into twilight and became completely dark. An unspeakable fear of life overcame me. I clung tightly to Thieme, who was so close to me, and cried aloud: "Friend, brother, your words make me see the darkness in which I have lived so far! You are the far advanced one, I have long since recognized that; you can also introduce me to the activity of which I am so

urgently in need. Do not leave me, show me above all the way that leads most quickly to the Lord, so that I am now not only a listener and teacher of His truths, but above all, an active performer. I ask you for the sake of our Father Jesus!"

Thieme wrapped me tightly in his arms, and I heard him praying aloud while I was holding my face against his shoulder, asking the Lord to give me strength and enlightenment.

Then it became bright and clear around me again. I prayed with him from the bottom of my heart, and in even more radiant splendor, I now saw the heights and valleys shining all around.

We were standing on the height of a middle mountain. Below us was a happy valley, crossed by a clear stream. Infinite peace seemed to reign there. The abundance of plants, trees and bushes, some of which hung full of fruit, called out to us to descend, to eat and rest.

"Let's go down there!" - said Thieme - "We will consult there about the way ahead." - I was gladly satisfied with that, and we descended.

It was a surprisingly beautiful valley that we now entered, the beauty of which could not be perceived at all from the height as it is now below. I felt it as a blessing to lie down in the high grass and to let the wonderful silence and peace have an effect on me. I felt a strange sense of being home, as if I belonged here and as if this land was my property. It was a very strange sensation that seized me and made me silent.

Thieme watched me smiling and finally said, touching me softly: "Now tell me, Karl, how do you like it here?" -

"Wonderful! I feel as if I should never leave here again!"

"There's nothing to stop you. In the present state, no cold, bitter season, no storm, no rain will chase you away. As it is now, this area remains yours; so nothing forces you to leave it. - But after all, you would become terribly bored with staying here; don't you think?"

"Of course I want to work, to do something, according to the will of the Lord. I think you will tell me what is the best thing for me to do" - I replied.

"Listen, my dear friend, I don't think I need to tell you at all; you must know that yourself! Playing the violin all alone, without an audience, is not likely to please you much here; even though we appreciate and even highly appreciate music and liberal arts skills, there is nothing to be done with them alone in the long run. With us, it means doing practical work, as you have learned with me; so start with that!"

"Will other souls come to this, as it seems to me, quite unknown region?" - I asked.

"Souls come everywhere where they hope to receive enlightenment and the magnetic love-influence draws them. Especially the last one is important, because without it, neither can you approach them, nor they you. The others will then be led by those under whose guidance you yourself stand. If you know and follow this mysterious law of love-activity, you actually have pretty much everything that conditions life and activity. You cannot approach God in any other way, and He will not make Himself known to you if you do not attract Him through the magnetism of your love. So act accordingly, and you will soon possess everything!"

When Thieme spoke to me in this way, my mind was immediately made up. "I will stay here, my dear friend" - I said - "and I will try with all my might to create the home you spoke of, which I wish with all my heart to build for myself and others. I realize very well that things are somewhat different in the spirit-world than I had thought on earth, and that one must first think of one's own active work before one can expect the rest. If I missed some things on earth, I will be all the more active now. Talking about it a lot, bragging about good intentions, is useless - deeds prove it! So tell me now, first of all, how to start building a little house for myself; for I was not a mason or a carpenter, but I suspect that one can be both here without having learned these trades at all."

"You are very right there, my dear Karl!" - exclaimed Thieme, laughing - "I, too, never learned that either, and yet now possess a beautiful home; so you will be able to procure that for yourself, too. Now listen carefully and don't be surprised that I've never talked to you about these things before!"

"It is also a law of the spirit-world - or, better said, here in the real existence of life - that a soul is given the necessary enlightenment only when it needs it and when it desires it. We never impose knowledge on a soul if it does not desire it. This law, based on the comprehensive effect of free will, is responsible for the fact that spirits often remain on a lower level for such a long time, because they do not yet have the desire for a higher knowledge. It must first awaken; only then can the desired, possibly fervently longed-for, be given. Now, my dear Karl, I ask you, what is the visible creation of God in it's origin?"

"Undoubtedly the fixed will of our Lord and Father, who revealed Himself in Jesus Christ as the sole Creator of heaven and earth."

"Well answered! But if the Lord is able to do this out of His will alone and gave us the promise that we would be able to do it, even greater things than He did on earth, and He also performed His miracles only through His will, then it is clear that we must follow the same path if we want to achieve something. The activity of the will alone is able to create all the material you need. So use your will, and you will get what you need!"

I was very surprised at these words and answered: "My will alone is too weak; only if the Lord wills it, will I be able to achieve something, otherwise not? After all, we pray: Lord, your will be done, not mine!" - Thieme looked at me with an indescribable look, which caused me the sensation as if I had said something very stupid, and yet I believed to have spoken a fundamental truth.

"My dear Karl" - Thieme addressed me after a pause - "it is quite strange what totally wrong concepts prevail among people and especially the Theosophists about the basic cause of giving up one's own will and entering into the will of the Lord, and I know that you do not have any clarity about this yet either; But without this, nothing will succeed here at all, and without tremendous effort of your own will, which is completely independent of the Lord, you will not even be able to build yourself only a doghouse!"

It is a matter of course that everything depends on the will of the Lord; but it is also a matter of course that the Lord has not given man a will of his own only for him to give it up. If man has received a free will, he must also form and apply it according to the laws which the Lord has clearly prescribed for us, and which - what is equally self-evident - have been given in order to direct the free will from the outset in a direction which is not capable of

doing anything contrary to the will of the Lord. Once the latter has been recognized and the fulfillment of God's laws had become flesh and blood, the words about the constant surrender of one's will to that of the Lord, are but vain phrases; for that is precisely what the Lord does not want! But what He wants is: 'You should be a creator as I Myself am; for only by this can you, oh man, become like Me! Strive thoroughly, independently of Me, but in the direction of the laws of God known to you, the powers given to you, which lie in the personal will ruling in you; then show Me your creation, so that I may have a real joy in you and call you a faithful servant, who has grown abundantly with the pound entrusted to him! But if you bury your pound of the creating own will, I will reject you from Me' - says the Lord; 'because you are not able to give Me even the smallest proof of own activity!' - Do you understand that, Karl?"

"Certainly, but it seems to me that giving up one's will demonstrates great humility after all." -

"Yes, a great laziness and ignorance, which is only aimed at shaking off from oneself as much responsibility as possible for what has to be done! Tell me, who will be more agreeable to the Master: the one who always comes with the phrase 'I do nothing, if the Master does not tell me to do this and that' - or the one who engages vigorously when it is important to do something and is not afraid to even do something wrong without any intention? The one is a slave, the other an eager worker, whose possible mistake is easily corrected as soon as it is pointed out. The one is not helped by the Lord, because otherwise He would only strengthen his laziness and lack of understanding, the other advances quickly through experience and instruction. - With us in the real life it is like that and no different."

"Well then" - I answered - "I will also act according to this governing law! If I understand you right, then I must direct my will to the already existing laws, which the Lord has given for the welfare of all, and thereby direct them according to my will. Thereby a new work must be done and completed, which can never be directed against the will of the Lord, because His laws, whose effect we can and should use, are within His will, which we should learn to use in order to become creators ourselves. Is it so?"

"You have fully understood the situation, so apply these laws! - I will give you an example: See this very beautiful region. As already said, it is nothing else in correspondence than the beauty of the Lord's revelations presented to you. Every thought presents itself to us in some plastic shell, by the exterior of which we recognize whose spirit-child it is in itself; therefore, we immediately recognize the inner nature of the souls approaching us, who can no longer hide anything from us after they have taken off their body, which serves as a mask. These thoughts are not bound to a fixed form, but they change according to the progress of the thought-bearer; they are also nothing real, but only phantom-like and therefore dissolvable and destructible.

It is different with the thoughts of God, which always move in an indestructible reality, and also work through and in man, as soon as he has known and accepted them as truths, which flow out of the Eternity-Born. Therefore also this region, which corresponds perfectly to your cognition, becomes a perfect reality for you - in short, it is your most own sphere which produced this strange feeling of home for you, which overtook you when you saw it. That I see exactly the same, thus can enter your sphere, is simply because of our

similar cognition, which in general completely coincides, even if it shows itself differently in details. If this were not the case, and if our characters did not show differences, with otherwise quite the same striving, then the individual spheres would resemble each other like one egg the other. I do not need to discuss the differences and their necessity; every thinking person knows their basic causes.”

my own home

"So pay now focused attention! Imagine vividly in your mind a house as you would initially wish it to be, hold the picture tightly in all its details and fill yourself with the desire to let this picture come into being in reality! - Did you do that?"

I was able to answer this question in the affirmative; for, strangely enough, the little house in Oldenburg, in which I spent my first youthful years, and whose picture is still in your possession, presented itself before my memory - as one says, to the point of being grasped. I saw it with all its details, as you will also be able to imagine it, since you know it and have entered it. - Thieme now continued: "Now turn to the Lord in your innermost heart, ask Him for strength and blessing for your work and especially for the strengthening of your own will!"

I also did that.

"Now excite your will as strongly as you can, fill yourself with the firm confidence that it is capable of mastering matter and want that the image clinging to you in your soul should present itself plastically in the place where you want it to be realized" - Thieme advised.

I followed these words. A strong impulse flooded through me, a feeling of strength arose in me, such as sometimes seizes a person on earth; a confidence filled me, such as I had never felt before, a rock-solid conviction that I will succeed in my undertaking - and lo and behold! In the middle of a level meadow, which I had already chosen, the house first emerged like a fog in transparent outlines as I exerted my will, and finally stood fixed and ready, as if the best craftsmen had built it, tangible and solid on the spot.

When the building had completely formed, Thieme said: "So, now we'll go inside and convince ourselves of the reality of this house!"

We did so, and I can only say that everything was there, down to the smallest detail, as I remembered it from my earlier youth. We went out into the open again.

"You are now, as they say, well-accommodated, dear Karl" - Thieme said - "and I can continue to leave you to your own cognition and activity. You know exactly the recipe according to which you have to act, you also know how to attract to yourself precious or less pleasant souls. Furthermore, you know exactly how to approach the Lord; therefore, you lack nothing for your own progress, and I can calmly go back to my sphere of activity and leave you alone."

"I regret the latter very much, because I will still be your student, and I will miss your loyal advice. - We will meet again, won't we, Thieme?"

"Of course! We can meet at any time; you only have to want to. The will is the lever everywhere here and triggers every activity, every meeting, every appearance that catches the eye, you know that now. So become and remain strong-willed in the Spirit of the Lord and Creator of all things, and you will succeed in everything!"

"Your advice, however, I shall still miss!" - said I.

"Oh no; for you have quite another Counselor to Whom you must turn, Whom you know, and Whom you do not yet dare to approach, though you know Him very well. Until you

overcome this shyness - which is not quite acceptable to me - until you actually surrender yourself completely to Him in your innermost being and attract Him with all longing, He will not visibly show Himself to you either. Precisely because you know His revelations, you have a harder time than others to whom they remained foreign. To whom much is given, much is demanded. Souls who are of good heart, even if they are still in ignorance, can show themselves to the Lord far sooner out of grace and mercy than to those who know His nature, but still do not manage to draw Him in real longing.

"It is a peculiar thing with the knowledge and full execution of soul-emotion. There are so many subtle differences, which can lead to inhibitions, that you, even with further experience, cannot emerge from the amazement. Believe me, there are also a great number of souls here who got to know the new revelations on earth completely, were marveled at by their relatives and fellow believers as brutes of wisdom and were only too much under the delusion of their own excellence, and who still all have to go through a rather hard school of self-denial, still far away from only seeing the Lord, let alone living in His fellowship, as they surely thought. But why? Because at the bottom of their hearts, they love the Lord only for their own sake, but not truly in the renunciation of all self-love. As the Lord's chosen ones, they wanted to be recognized leaders of the people, of the individual brothers, in order to reap a rich harvest of admiration. These souls pay themselves through their addiction, live in a kind of megalomania and want, more or less unconsciously, not to be promoters of God's grace but rather representatives and worshipers of an egoistic self-importance. They are Lucifer's children, not God's children; they are stained of heart, live in self-deception, arrogance, are pious in externals and do not consider that a pious, really devoted-to-God mind does not strive for any external recognition, that this is even most unpleasant to Him and that faithful fulfillment of duty of such a soul is higher than all praise of the world, of the fellow believers. Therefore, remember to please the Lord alone, no longer by deeds conditioned in this desire, but by renouncing from the outset all thanks and recognition, not thinking at all of this effect!"

Thieme embraced me and I him, then we silently pressed our hands; he waved me a farewell, turned and was quickly gone. I, however, went to my self-made little house, to my new home, to settle in.

I liked it quite well in the little house. All the memories of my childhood reappeared, and I can say that in a short time, I lived through all the years of my youth; for, as already explained by Thieme, here all thoughts present themselves vividly, more or less as in a dream, only far more substantial, which is lacking in a dream. The dream is also a structure of the soul, even if without reality, i.e. without tangible representation; but the thought in the other has creative power, even if the structure dissolves again into its original elements. Who now uncritically devotes himself to his thoughts, lives in a phantom-world, which he believes to be a real one, and from which he finds his way out with difficulty, especially if the soul in question continues to live without any faith in the Lord.

So, as I said, I relived my whole youth in this way, without, however, falling into the mistake of taking these memory pictures, which presented themselves vividly, for a present reality. They served me only to recognize my development, my mistakes, and in this respect they served me only for the purification of my soul.

Now it is quite true that, after this period is over, finally an irrepressible boredom must seize an idle soul; but I did not let it come to that. I did not even try to let my further life pass me by in a plastic way; because I had already fully recognized mistakes later on in Thieme's work, so I did not need to study them again, but seriously thought about how I wanted to organize my further work.

I was alone, completely alone. My thoughts were therefore naturally directed to those people and relatives who had already died before me on earth, and whose fate naturally interested me very much. It is easy to see that I was thinking first of all of my wife, your mother, but where should I find her? - It also seemed necessary to me to get to know my surroundings, to investigate them, so that I first investigated my own sphere.

I still couldn't quite wrap my head around it, even after the fact. This whole environment should be my sphere and at the same time - in the correspondence, however, but nevertheless with it also really - the beauties of the revelations known to me, thus in a certain way owe their emergence only again to this. How does it actually happen that something given from the beginning, well-recognized by me, but still not my property, could now give up the ground and soil of my sphere, to the production of which I was not aware of having created anything so far?

I said to myself: "There is no headache; I accept the existing gratefully, as it is, and leave the desired enlightenment to the future and wait for what the Lord wants to reveal to me, either Himself, or through others, about this fact! So I briskly started the work of a journey of discovery. I left my house and wandered around the area.

Very soon I made a strange discovery. I wanted to climb one of the heights surrounding the valley - after all, I had descended one with Thieme! - but I could not reach its foot. It was as if I was mistaken about the distance, or as if the heights were receding before me. I might wander and wander, I could not reach the mountains!

"This thing has its catch!" - I reflected - "It must not be the Lord's will to let me climb these heights! For I have now walked and walked, but I cannot reach my goal."

As I looked around for my home, I noticed to my amazement that it was standing very close behind me, as if it had followed me, or as if, despite my hours of wandering, I had covered at most about 200 steps. That made me think. The problem that I was worried about, had decidedly increased.

But what to do? - I thought of Thieme, thought of calling him to me, as he told me; then I rejected the thought and said to myself: "It is already a mistake on earth to always lean on others, but here it is certainly a far greater one, if one does not trust in oneself and in the help of the Lord! - All at once it became clear to me that I had not yet given much thought to the Lord since Thieme's departure, and that fell heavily on my heart.

I now realized quite clearly that it was first of all a mistake to want to undertake this walk without firm trust in the Lord, without first having asked Him to strengthen me for this purpose - and then secondly: what need did I have to always march on, when a completely different power was at my disposal in my will, if I only used it correctly?

Thieme had clearly explained to me that one should use one's own will within the recognized laws of the Lord, and there I ran and ran, exerting my will to grope my way out,

but not to use it to reach those heights, but rather to put myself there! - I said to myself: "Go back to your house and immerse yourself in the love of the Lord first of all! When you will have done that, your intention will certainly turn out differently!"

Well, I did not have far to go to my little house; I went back, looked at everything in it again carefully and strengthened my will in the preservation of this dwelling-place. I felt that these 4 poles, as they say, were really my property.

Now, standing in the door, I looked at the marvelous surroundings, and suddenly it struck me like a flash of lightning in my soul that these marvelous mountains, valleys and views, represented the beauties of the revelations known to me, but - that these had by no means become my real spiritual property, and that I would not reach even the smallest hill before that quality which corresponded to that very hill, had also become flesh and blood to me - thus had become my own! Involuntarily, a great fear came over me. What a huge amount of work was necessary to eradicate in this way everything that must still be defective in me (and I had already imagined that I had overcome all mistakes), until all these mountains and what grew on them, had become my property, due to me having had fully absorbed the truths represented by this wonderful region! It could take me eternities to reach the goal!

I was quite contrite at this realization. Soon, however, I slapped my head, for a second bolt of thought flashed through me brightly and clearly. What did the Lord say? What would be the noblest commandment? "Love God above all things and your neighbor as yourself; Moses and all the prophets hang on this commandment!" And then: "He who believes in Me and asks the Father in My name, to him He will give everything!" - Now look in the New Testament what is said about these words, which I mention only briefly!"

Matth 7:7 - Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.

Matth 21:22 - And whatever you ask in prayer, if you believe, you will receive it.

Mark 11:24 - Therefore I say to you: All things whatsoever ye shall ask in your prayers, only believe that ye shall receive them, and they shall be given you.

Joh 16:23 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, If ye shall ask anything of the Father in My name, He shall give it to you.

Joh 16:24 - Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be complete.

You found the words right and exactly. Like you now, I also found them among the few books in my house, and now I also knew what I had to do.

Everything is given to him who faithfully trusts; and if I wanted to take eternities to climb each mountain one by one, could I achieve anything but the attainment of the highest commandment? No, - never.

So why try to reach by detours, with fear and sweat, what is given according to the promise to everyone who has faith in his heart?

in the presence of the lord

After this realization flashed in me, I immediately acted on it. I stayed in my house, always directed my thoughts with all willpower and with deep longing to our Lord and Master Jesus and awaited what was coming.

For a long time, nothing happened. I was in a state of joyful expectation without expecting anything special and consistently directed my thoughts to the Lord. Then, quite unexpectedly, something strange happened.

My wonderful environment always remained the same until then; it did not have a special division of day and night, it could not have it, since the astronomical laws and the physical ones of the earth were no longer considered here. I was no longer on a rotating globe, which, as a result of its rotation, causes day and night! I also saw no sun shining in the sky. It was indeed always bright, as shortly before sunrise, but there was no sun in the sky. I also found this natural, however, I had not thought about the "why" more deeply until just the mentioned strange thing arrived. So what was this?

Quite unexpectedly, between two mountains that enclosed a valley that stretched far and wide and could be seen beautifully from where I was standing, I saw the upper edge of a sun rising very slowly, shining, radiant and warming, like the midday sun in July with you. I was amazed, could not bear the brilliance at all and expected the further rising; but this did not happen. It did not advance by a millimeter, it remained as before with its outermost edge above the horizon.

How did this happen? What kind of sun was this that showed itself to me, but whose brilliance was nothing like the earthly one?

As I stood there, completely absorbed in looking at this edge of the sun, I suddenly saw a figure appear from far away, quickly approaching me. I could not recognize it; because the rays of the sun blinded me, so that I saw only the outlines of the figure like a silhouette. My eyes were glued to the approaching figure, and suddenly I knew - it is the Lord Who is approaching!

I was seized as if by a magnetic force, all my soul-forces were drawn towards what was coming, and with all haste I rushed towards the Lord, Who had now come so close to me that I could recognize His face. He stretched out His hands to me, and I rushed towards Him in all haste, seized the hands that were held out to me, and fell down worshipping at the Lord's feet. I cannot describe what I felt; only those who truly love the Lord can understand and sympathize with it.

The Lord pulled me up and looked me in the eyes. Oh, what eyes, so penetratingly clear, and yet so infinitely loving! No human eye can look like that! No human eye can look so deeply into the heart; only His eyes has this infinite power, this radiating love and majestic might!

I could not utter a word, but had constantly only look into those eyes, and with this looking, the recollection of distant times came to me and it became clear to me what I had already been once, and which past life I had already gone through.

With an infinitely kind voice, the Lord said to me: "Have you now experienced yourself how difficult it is on earth to live and remain in My service? Has it now become clear to you that it is also infinitely difficult for the spirits who serve Me and are always ready to fulfill My words - as long as they do not carry the heavy burden of earth - to go through the struggle on the place of My former suffering activity?"

Behold, you once thought that I should send you forth, not only to attain childship by following in My footsteps, but you also then wanted to bear witness of Me and My nature on earth! But did you succeed? Did you not get so caught up in the heavy matter that you did not succeed in breaking through the matter as you hoped and to reach the goal you set for yourself? Now look back at all the times you lived through, recognize the chain of your life that formed you into what you have become, and be happy in the memory of the little you achieved. I do not reproach you that you failed so much with your plans, because you can still make up for much with My strength; but give an example to all who think that they can easily accomplish much for Me and in the end do not achieve what they hoped for without the weight of the body and thought they would surely accomplish.

"I no longer leave you, for your love and truthfulness to Me has caused you to see the seat of My Spirit in the edge of the spiritual sun; it will be up to you whether it will rise higher and its rays then penetrate you completely. The sight of this outer edge already rises above many difficulties, and by its falling or rising, you will know whether you are progressing or regressing. But call upon Me in trouble, and I will save you; and draw Me in your love, and you shall see Me at all times, and speak as you now see Me, and as I now speak to you!"

The Lord drew me again to His breast, an infinitely sweet feeling of security and love flowed through me, and then He gently pushed me from Himself and - was gone.

But I continued to see the edge of the sun shining, radiating and warming.

about true prayer

I was alone again and thought over what had happened, and then the following became clear to me - stood clearly, tangibly before my soul: It became clear to me above all things that I can expect all salvation not by so-called deepening, not by staring and thinking about the Lord, not by long phrase-like lip prayers, searching for words and beautiful speeches, but solely by firmly embracing, by joyful, eager work. Working in the service of the Lord is already prayer - only talking in order to shine before others, is a waste of time and a complete waste of strength. The higher spirits do not lay in the dust on their faces at the Lord's feet and worship Him, that would be idolatry. The Lord wants cheerful workers who firmly trust in Him, who bring mankind and themselves closer to perfection, but not sanctimonious, lazy people who sing litanies and spend their time in long prayers, who believe that they are serving the Lord by their wrong actions, that they are pleasing Him and that they are acquiring a treasure in heaven. All of these are lazy servants who bury their entrusted pound instead of increasing it. For this reason, monasteries, prayer societies and all kinds of circles that wait for the Lord to give them what they ask for, are wrong paths that lead not to the Lord, but away from Him.

It is certainly necessary for the soul to rise up and, in the consciousness of serving the Lord, to feel not only sentiment but burning love, but this very sentiment is acquired only by a firm will to fulfill one's duty, by heartfelt joy in the work to be done, not by brooding and lurking for the Lord's grace.

The time has passed when we waited for the seed to come up and the blossoming of the grain only required attention, faithful care and guarding against damage from the wild; now we are at the beginning of the harvest, we must cut the grain, gather it, bring it into the barns and then, only then will it be threshed, the chaff separated from the wheat and delicious bread baked from the fine flour. Whoever understands this picture, will know what hour now strikes, and how the world will be shaped in the time to come.

All this became clear to me now, and clearly before my eyes was what I had to do.

Yes, there was once a time when I already went through a previous life. It was not on earth, but on a planet whose inhabitants are not yet as far in freedom of will as those on earth, but who recognize and love the Lord far more than the chosen children on earth. Standing in this love, they know that the Lord can only gather around Him those who follow in His footsteps, who pass the hardest test of freedom of will through their own, purpose-conscious will.

He who feels love in himself, believes that he can overcome everything through the service of his love, and so it seemed easy for me to be a follower of the Lord. "For what can one lack if one lets oneself be guided by this love alone?" - I thought - and yet I did not suspect how infinitely difficult this test of freedom of will is, because then one must win everything anew, create and work only out of oneself, yes, even have to awaken and cultivate anew the love for the Lord that was so ardent at first. There are angelic spirits who did not pass this test in Eden - even if they were not able to fulfill their assumed task, because they tasted the delights of the imaginary worldly pleasures, which they did not know before, as a supposed sweetness and found it tasteful. On the other hand, others,

completely misjudging their task, fell into disgust against those worldly pleasures, excluded themselves from them in embarrassment, believed that escape from these activities was overcoming and thus did not reach their goal. Then there are those souls of whom Goethe said: "Two souls dwell, alas, in my breast - the one wants to separate from the other; the one holds on to the world with clinging-organs in crude love-lust; The other lifts itself forcibly from the alluring to the high realms.

Here it depends completely on which soul wins the upper hand. Depending on this, the destiny of man will be formed, he will be lifted up to the high realms, or he will perish."

I am telling you all this so that everyone can check whether he is on the wrong track or whether he has hope to execute the task he has taken on, which will illuminate his actions like a little light that rests in him like a foreboding of a beautiful task. Yes, this foreboding is often noticeable, but the actual task is misjudged. Self-deception all too often takes the human being away from the real goal. He believes to have a right idea, a clear concept of the task placed in him, then he confuses his own desire, which develops into wanting, with the original intention, then he chases after phantoms and misses his course on earth, which is everything but following Christ.

See, my earthly life is also a clear example of the truth of these words.

What should I do on earth? Besides my own education and striving for perfection, I was to become a teacher in the service of the Lord; I had asked to be able to bear witness on earth to the Lord's teachings, to awaken love for Him and to seize all fellow human beings in their innermost hearts so that they confess the Lord and Master of the universe.

That's what I wanted and was supposed to do.

Born into lowly circumstances, the world was soon open to me. Not without reason was I led to Russia and got to know there the low, worldly mind of the people. I believed that I could influence minds through my art, and in many ways I succeeded in overcoming the technical difficulties, the mastering of which always arouses much admiration rather than influencing minds through a play in which the soul shows itself. In Petersburg, I first received the right guideline, through acquaintance with the books of Swedenborg and others. Especially through my friendship with my colleague Thieme, I was made aware of many things that I would not have learned without him; but nevertheless, my own will outweighed the 'supposed to'.

Already as a boy I was inclined to attract attention through special skills, no doubt as a result of the 'supposed to' that was dormant in me and had not yet come to consciousness, but this inclination took a wrong turn. I had a great liking for sleight of hand, for magic. Since, as your experience also teaches, the opposite pole is always trying to confuse and distract the will above the 'supposed to', I found quite extraordinary opportunities in Petersburg to pursue my obsession.

The purchase of the many magic apparatuses, the friendship with Schreinzer served only to strengthen my inclination and to direct the anticipation of influencing people on the wrong track.

I sensed that I should collect! What? - In any case, only the people of good heart, whom I should teach - but I collected Faust books, became an authority in literature, wrote a lot of

writings and books about this and related subjects, but collected only the books about Faust's literature, not human souls.

Do you understand the connection between 'supposed to' and the wrongful execution thereof? Search within yourselves whether you have not done something similar and are still doing it, turn back while there is still time, find out whether your intentions are in harmony with the intentions of your daily work and do not be afraid to avoid wrong ways, to turn back if necessary, to start anew; because the power of the Lord will always help you to correct recognized mistakes, to direct your intentions onto the path of the intended.

in service of love

After I had now become completely clear that work - activity - was above all also necessary for me, I now set about carrying it out. I wanted above all to visit my friends, to see my wife and my brother - in short, all those whom I knew in earthly life and who perhaps needed my help. Since I knew that in the present state it depends mainly on the will, I concentrated my will especially on seeing my wife, your mother, first.

I called upon the Lord and willed with all my might. There I felt lifted up and led away. I left my valley and was transferred to a completely different area, which I did not particularly like. It was not bright there as in my beautiful valley, more dimly, like after sunset.

I let myself be carried by my will, which was firmly founded in my heart, and arrived at a house resembling a farmhouse, as you know it from the north. The surroundings also resembled this Nordic countryside. I saw no-one, no human being, no living thing and entered the house as if forced by an inner pull. A corridor, narrow and short, showed itself to me, which led to a door.

I opened the door. A small, insignificant room appeared, in which a figure sat on a resting bed, staring forward. I was seized by a boundless pain; for I knew my wife, your mother, who looked just as apathetic as you had seen her in the last period of her life. You know that she always lacked willfulness, that it was difficult to bring her to a serious decision, that she was not very independent and that she was inclined to dreaming, i.e. to the uncritical acceptance of the thoughts that influenced her. She had crossed over in a state of clouded soul-power, and she had not yet found her way out of this cloudiness, despite her so good and pure heart.

With one look, I understood what had to be done here. This soul urgently needed a guide who would arouse it to serious will, who would show it what the Lord demands of every human being, without which the soul would go astray.

I spoke to her. She did not recognize me, but asked who I was and what I wanted.

"I've come to take you out of this house to a better place, if you'll trust me!" - I replied, taking her hand.

She looked at me with the stupid, spiritless look of her last days and said: "Where shall I go? I've been here so long and I don't know any other way. Surely I must stay here with the good people? I don't know; they come and go, give me food and drink, and otherwise leave me to rest here!"

"Have you never asked the Lord to deliver you from this loneliness and lead you away?"

"The Lord, - yes - the Lord - I have heard of that before. You mean God? Yes, I have asked Him, but it is of no use. I've been waiting so long!"

You can easily imagine what effect these words had on me. This is what happens to the souls who do not get up in their will, who do not have the strength to become strong in love, although they are of the best intention. Yes, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak! The 'supposed to' is known to all, but the will is lacking. "He that has, to him shall be given; and he that has not, from him shall be taken even the little that he has!" Whoever acts

according to this rule of life and spirit, is secure in this world and in the hereafter, everyone may be told, regardless of the spiritual direction they belong to.

Your mother knew the Lord on earth quite well; she therefore had a treasure in the faith and the will of His goodness, and even that - had been taken away from her again, because she lacked the truly active love and the firm will. So what she had lost, had to be given back to her. The touching thing here is that she lost without guilt! She had committed nothing that could be regarded as guilt, and yet she had to feel the severity of the law until I found the way to her through the grace of the Lord and through my gained faith. Thus I was able to help her, to give her from what I possessed. And listen all of you, dear ones, this is the eternal law of the Lord: "Obtain much with iron strength, with the most earnest will, so that you can give much to others in need! Do good and do not forget to share, for such is the kingdom of heaven!" Understand these words correctly, in the bright sense of the transfigured enlightenment!

You can easily imagine what I then did. I awakened your mother's awareness of the existence and activity of the Lord, taught her how dear the Lord is to all His creatures, made it clear to her that she had long since gone to the other world - for she also lacked this awareness - and as I was able to awaken her spirit step by step, to strengthen her will, to stir her up, her unnatural rigidity also gave way, and finally - she recognized me.

Look, this was a great joy for both of us. The affection, the love, which then embraced us, how it is so infinitely far from what is called love on earth! How very differently the souls that belong to each other grasp each other when they recognize each other as belonging to each other, and what bliss they both taste in the shared striving for perfection!

But I will go ahead and report in more detail.

In a shorter time than I had hoped at first, I was able to straighten out the disturbed and confused soul, and of course, with the awakening of the inadequacy of her present condition, the desire to escape from this uncomfortable environment, arose. But that did not happen so quickly. I had entered another sphere! I felt that; but to whom did it belong? Were there other souls here who needed me? - My wife had spoken of good people who came to her, to whom she had to be grateful, and under no circumstances did I want to and was I allowed to abduct her - without thanking them, without informing them - from a circle to which she had belonged until then. So it was necessary to investigate this circle, this sphere, in which she had lived so far.

There was a new - to me, wonderful - surprise. I united with the Lord in heartfelt prayer for clarification, and there I was led out to the front of the house.

In shining clarity there stood a figure before me, who smiled at me, but whom I did not know. She spoke to me and said: "You do not know me, and yet I am well-known to you. I now show myself to you in a form by which you may recognize me; for see, I am already intimately united with the spirit that belongs to me, living in heavenly marriage with the masculine principle assigned to me by God, and can therefore show myself both as man and as woman. Know me wholly!"

In an instant I recognized the speaker; for it was a woman who now stood before me, resembling to a hair's breadth the image - only in incomparably enhanced purity and beauty - which you hold in honor of your mother's sister who died early, whom neither I nor

you knew on earth. It was Julie, your guardian spirit, whose work and guidance you so often felt.

She explained to me that this sphere, in which I found my wife, was the lowest of her sphere in which she worked and had left the up until now so apathetic soul until now in this state of rest, because it was destined to be my work to awaken her and to win her for me for heaven. She was infinitely happy to see that I had succeeded in finding her once earthly sister and now to hand her over to me for further guidance.

I thanked her from the bottom of my heart. It is only natural that after this explanation, I thought of Emilia's parents, my parents-in-law, and asked where they were, like all those relatives who likely belonged to her circle. She said to me: "Come and see for yourself; but first listen to what I still have to explain to you!

"You shall be instructed about the interrelationships of the individual souls who lived on earth as relatives, so that you may learn to intervene correctly in this respect as well, and you will not have any erroneous results.

soul-relationships

Already on earth, man generally assumes that relatives - even if they are not blood-relatives, but married ones - are embraced by a certain, more or less clearly felt bond of friendship, which manifests itself as a mutual feeling of belonging. It is not always easy to fight against this feeling once it has awakened; indeed, it is often strongly expressed when help is sometimes needed, even reluctantly, but actually given. On the other hand, even among relatives, a mutual feeling often makes itself felt, especially as they soon have bad experiences among them, so that one or the other part says that they would rather have to do with strangers than with relatives. Despite all this, however, it is not possible for both to completely eliminate this peculiar feeling of belonging; it appears again and again, if only in the sometimes merely curious question: "What might such and such a one be doing, what has become of him?"

He who knows how to discern well and observe keenly, will find that this feeling of belonging arises from a source which embraces less than love and more than mere friendship, and which is not merely a bland interest by itself, but a curious mixture of soul-sensations, the origin of which lies deeper than man is aware of. All bad and good experiences among relatives, which also give rise to soul-sensations, are out of the question in this investigation, and these must be disregarded.

Whoever is now able to see more deeply, will at least suspect that this feeling of belonging, which after all exists and can never be completely extinguished, is subject to an influence from the beyond, which remains unknown on earth. Where did these souls, who now get to know each other as relatives, come from? Does one believe that it is so completely indifferent whether - with people who meet as relatives - the source of their origin is completely different from each other or more common? That is to say, is it not much more likely to assume that a kinship of souls already exists before the earthly course, which only makes itself visible on earth?

"When two people of different genders marry each other, they do it only because they at least believe that they can live together harmoniously. Surely one does not marry in the hope and desire to be enemies with each other? If, however, the latter occurs after some time, then the first hoping and believing was an error, a misjudgment and misunderstanding, originated by dazzling works of the earthly material way, which should be overcome. This desired and also existing harmony, which leads to a marriage bond, is already a soul-bond of a former relationship, i.e. the consequence of an otherworldly and this-worldly law of life, that like shall gravitate to like. This law is such that it does not suffocate the specific individuality, but that it can develop quite well, like the leaves of a big tree, which are all alike, without being congruent, as the mathematician says, i.e. mechanically as if pressed out by a stamp.

"Now if the mentioned harmony is present, also similar soul-particles are attracted, which form a human soul. A mother will always give birth to children who correspond to this law; if then these children nevertheless show themselves later as very different in moral and ethical relation, then it is to be remembered again that a tree also produces very differently formed leaves, which are nevertheless of the same kind. In man, however, his later form

depends on his character, educational influences, environment, concepts, his diligence, will, physical condition, on his successes and failures in life - so that what I want to point out, has initially nothing at all to do with these differences of the later individual person. Here it shall only be pointed out that the feeling of belonging arises from the fact that harmonious deeper principles of the soul already come into effect from the previous life. Where it is entirely absent or extinguished again, this existing source of kinship is not present."

Julie further explained to me that distance on earth plays no role in bringing together the related souls. Then earthly relations - so-called coincidences occur, in order to draw closer to each other, regardless.

The basic law of all harmony of souls is attraction. Repulsion is the cause of disharmony. However, attraction and repulsion do not have to appear immediately in the daytime-consciousness, this develops with experiences and over time, depending on whether the feeling of kinship awakens or proves to be a mistake.

I should now practically test where my spiritual relatives are and collect them, i.e. unite them in my sphere.

I clearly felt that my wife was the closest to me. It became clear to me that we had already known each other on that planet, which I left in order to attain God's childship, and thus a soul-relationship had arisen, which originated from the previous life. Already there I had been her guide, and I should be even more so on earth. The fact that she was born in Petersburg and that chance (?) led me there, was only a confirmation of the aforementioned basic law, and that it was the same for my brother Frederick, you will easily understand.

Julie now handed my wife over to me, who developed surprisingly fast after first the power of will became effective, and we now wanted to go on together in search of the relatives of the earthly career.

Since I had already found my parents, my wife's wish was to see hers again. This wish was quickly fulfilled; for that house in which she had so far stayed, belonged to her parents, who were temporarily absent, but always returned. They were absent, since this region of the sphere was no longer their dwelling place; but they had not yet been able to free their daughter.

It is not my intention to name here all the relatives we visited and to describe their conditions; everyone who knows our writings, knows that exactly the inner development corresponds also to the surroundings, and something extraordinary, which would be necessary to describe, I did not find there.

It is sufficient, therefore, if I explain that after this wandering together and namely awakening of my wife's clouded spirit, we returned to my small realm and took possession of my cottage for the time being. The area was still the same, the sun shone over the horizon as before. I explained everything, and Emilie took everything into her mind and heart as it could only be desired.

in earthly spheres

Now, however, my work began; for I understood very well that my place of residence could not be that of all spirits who were not yet in the sight of the truths of God, that in any case - if I wanted to work according to the will of the Lord - others would also have to be accessible to me, similar to the lower region from which I had brought Emilie. I therefore thought about whether it would not be appropriate to go to the sphere of action of the earth, in order to observe from there the ascension of the departed souls and to learn what happens to them.

I did that, equipped with the will and the power of the Lord, and there I saw very many strange things that I want to present to you.

A whole number of advanced spirits are always ready to receive the souls of the deceased. Approximately every second, a human being dies somewhere, i.e. not 60 per minute, but 50 on the average in otherwise normal conditions, as they prevailed approximately before the war, which caused about 72,000 per day and over 26 million per year. There is therefore quite a lot of work to be done, but it is very much distributed if the great total host is taken into account, which intervenes lawfully and takes over the work belonging to it according to their progress. People do not die only on the earth, also on many, many other planets of the most different solar systems. Then also souls develop from the beings of the earth and must be clothed just like those souls, which already possess a past life. So there is work to be done for the one who possesses cognition and willingness to work.

However, I fall back on what I learn. At first, I did not like it at all to enter the earthly spheres again. Imagine that a cork is to submerge in water; it always floats on top and pushes with omnipotence to the surface. If it is to submerge, however, it must fill itself with weighting substances, otherwise it will not succeed at all. This is how it is with an etheric spirit that lives in pure zones. It must weigh itself down with earth-substances, or better, it must procure a diving garment, which enables it to descend into the abandoned depths. Not only does this have to be learned, but it also requires a great deal of effort. Nobody likes to go down into a cesspool, and the earthly sphere is such a cesspool compared to the pure spiritual spheres. He who has to do direct work, has to overcome himself to put on the heavy earthly garment again and to descend into a stuffy air which he did not even know at the time of his life. Every human being spreads a so-called aura, i.e. a life-vapor around himself, which is more and more repulsive, the lower he is in his inner being; the living are hardly aware of this aura, but it is very strong for the working spirits. It is therefore no small matter for the latter to approach such people, partly to influence them favorably, or to receive them after their death. Also their aura will not be improved by the transition of death. How necessary it is therefore that you improve your aura as much as possible, to keep it pure, if you wish that higher spirits approach you, is clearly evident from what has been said.

So when a human being dies, an advanced spirit - that is all those who already have their own sphere - always receives him and takes care of him. Since every soul that has passed on very quickly, receives an exterior that corresponds to its interior, the receiving

spirit also knows exactly how far the soul has progressed and into which region of it's sphere it can introduce it, or whether it must not receive it at all and transfer it to the manifold reformatories so that it can be purified. These reformatories are now most wisely established, and I may tell you a few more things about them.

Much is already known to you; so you know, for example, that according to the inner desires of a departed soul, it's outer environment can actually be formed, but that then it's desires turn against it and it must feel no satisfaction, but on the contrary great suffering, or at least dull boredom, in order to see the folly of it's desires and to be led on the right track. But you know - less from direct manifestations than from poetic outpourings, fantasies, in which, however, a good part of revelation is inherent - that the most hardened souls can also rage against each other, seek to destroy each other - and yet cannot, because their present astral bodies cannot be killed like the earthly ones. Here you have hell in the true sense, in that there are horrors enough, not by tormenting demons and devils, but by themselves and mutually tormenting souls, which let off steam by admission and now experience in their own bodies how what they have done to others, feels.

Especially the war has strongly populated hell by the many atrocities committed, and it needs all attention - often abrupt intervention of the higher spirits, who act as prison wardens, so to speak, to bring such particularly rabid souls to their senses.

Nor is every spirit at a higher level suitable for such work, just as on earth one would not be able to place every educated person in such a post. Special qualities, a great energy, a very special firm confidence and if it must be, a certain hardness belong to it, in order to continuously occupy - i.e. for a longer time - such a post. Not everyone is suitable to be a criminal investigator; apart from the character traits, love for this profession is also required, which not everyone feels or can feel at all, because their abilities lie in another direction. I, for example, cannot do it, even if I am not afraid to go into the deepest hell equipped with the power of the Lord in order to save some soul, but it would be impossible for me to supervise these regions all the time. My abilities, goals and work are just different.

From this information you can see that in many things, the beyond is not so different from the present, it cannot be different at all, because the improvement of the souls - their perfection - cannot be separated from the ground of their once earthly activity. The latter is always the foundation-stone on which the further development is built; therefore also after the transition - i.e. the death of a human being - his ego can only continue in such a way as it is formed at the moment of his death.

The threat of the transition is that every mask falls, the bird is recognized by it's feathers and every hypocrisy, self-deception, whitewashing and self-praise disintegrates into nothing, the soul presents itself bare and only in it's true, inner form. That is why it is said: your deeds follow you!

good-bye

My beloved, I do not have much more to say to you, because to tell you in the wider circle how and in which conditions I now met my relatives, is not the purpose of my announcement, it is only to show you how one can miss his goal on earth, but still reach it in the hereafter, if one is only faithfully attached to his God and Lord. I have only the following to say.

I soon found my house too small and had to think about enlarging it. Well, I knew how to do that, and I also followed the given recipe.

The construction expanded, and soon I had a house that was not inferior to Thieme's. Thieme also came to see me again, was pleased about my progress and showed me some mistakes that I had made and that consisted in the fact that my intentions had not always formed a clear picture down to the smallest detail, so that the construction was not consistently solid. Since you now know that the exterior is only a reflection of the interior, it was not too difficult for me to improve the interior of my being accordingly, and thus the externally visible defects as well. These damages also correspond to the inside and are then recognized as mistakes of one's own will.

It is not necessary to point out that I also carried out my intentions; for the will of the Lord lives in me, and my will wants nothing but it's fulfillment. I am happy in the execution of my accepted duties, now I see those around me who were dear and valuable to me on earth and in my former existence, ready to serve the Lord alone. To follow Him and to fulfill His commandments completely in the hereafter. So I have now achieved what our purpose in life is to achieve, and this is what every person who departs from earth, should also strive for.

I am not allowed to say more now, because if you knew our life exactly, if you could only feel the joy and delight of the hereafter for one second, it would be impossible for you to stay in this world any longer.

Let no-one be afraid of the transition, but let no-one long for it before the full conviction has awakened in him that he has completely fulfilled all his duties and that the time of his recall is truly at hand.

Leave the right hour to the Lord alone, then you can be sure of a joyful reunion, of a happy, busy, but in every respect glorious life with your loved ones. May the love of our holy Father in eternity, whom we recognize as Jesus Christ, the Savior of all souls, the Comforter of all who suffer, the Guide of all the righteous, and the Creator of all things, help everyone to achieve this.

Amen

