

## **We Are All Received**

### **September 14, 2014**

With the anniversary of Sept. 11 this past week, I noticed a lot of “remembrance” posts on FB. People changed their profile pictures or cover photos. If I had a TV I know that most stations would be commenting on the anniversary, showing movies, dissecting terrorism, and more. I know that those who lost loved ones 13 years ago are still suffering from the absence, still experiencing the hole left behind.

The pain is renewed every year, with cries of Never Forget! Some fear-based patriotism soars, and crimes against Muslims go up. This is how we’re “remembering” our loved ones. But what is it that the spirit people keep telling us? That they are *fine*.

Small comfort sometimes, when we can’t look them in the eye or hold them in our arms. But the spirit of who they are lives on. We as spiritualists believe this. We’re lucky this way. Many religious traditions have some kind of afterlife, but often these are gated communities that souls need to earn entrance to.

Our own tenets say that the door for reformation is never closed in the here or hereafter. (I like to amend that slightly to be that reformation is not needed in the hereafter.)

I had one client who was a total wreck. Her son died from a drug overdose and right before she came to my circle, her co-worker, a Jehovah’s Witness, shared her beliefs that her son wouldn’t recognize her when they met again in the spirit world. The Jehovah’s Witnesses who come to my door -- well, they don’t come anymore -- tried to convince me of their views that we all just sleep. I can go toe-to-toe with them on Scripture, so they don’t engage me anymore. I think I’m the one house in the neighborhood who says, “Come in, I’ll put on a pot of coffee, let’s talk!” They avoid me now.

I’ve heard all sorts of things about rungs of heaven, purgatory, nirvana, and I’m not defying all of those traditions. I’m only saying what the spirit people have told me over the years I’ve gotten to know them.

Here are some of the frequently asked questions and answers I’ve heard. By no means the definitive description of the afterlife, but I offer it and the messages as something to consider when you hear absolutes:

### **Where are they?**

Where they are isn’t a place or a location. It’s hard to describe the feeling I have when they show me this answer, because I exist in a physical body in a physical place -- and the spirits apparently do not. It seems like a state of being that has no edges. Like a dream sequence, the way the mind feels in a dream. Not in a body that is present, but certainly in a state of *being*.

We identify life by physical experience: being *in* a church, being *close* to nature, giving a loved one a hug or kiss. It's hard to understand what it feels like not to *be* somewhere, because we equate *being* with physical presence.

### **Are they all together?**

The honest answer is, "Who knows?" I can have only one conversation at a time, so if they are all together I can't say.

But I've been shown that we *are* all together all the time. One lady in spirit gave me the image of droplets on a windshield that run together and collect to form a bigger pool. She told me the afterlife was like this -- becoming one again or part of a whole one. Again, hard to describe because our conscious minds want to compare to what we can understand -- this is why they show pictures and symbols. One woman at a group got very upset with me because her sister came through, but why didn't she bring the others in spirit? Didn't she know her living sister would want to talk to everyone? This led her to believe they weren't together, because "she would never come and not bring our mother!" (when she was alive).

### **Do they miss me?**

No, because everything is like the present, existing all at once. Their experience of *your* life hasn't changed. One spirit told us about a memory he had. He was a young father who left two small kids behind. His older niece cared for them and taught them to swim after he died. The father showed this memory and said for him it isn't something that happened in the past, or even something that never happened for him. For him, it is present every moment as if he were witnessing it right now. His whole life and the lives of his loved ones he showed like this. Always right now.

### **He was so young; she never had a chance**

You don't have to be a certain age or gender to get to the afterlife. You don't have to take care of unfinished business. The only unfinished business I've ever heard a spirit comment on is to express love.

### **She stopped believing in God**

It isn't open to only a few. You don't have to have a certain profession, or be doing a certain thing when you died. In Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, Hamlet won't kill his Uncle Claudius at one opportunity because he's praying, and the belief then was whatever you're doing at the time of your death impacts your reception in the afterlife. Hamlet didn't want to send the man who killed his father to Heaven, simply because he was praying when the opportunity arose to take his revenge.

We are neither together nor separate, sleeping nor awake, higher or lower than each other. The spirit -- and knowledge of the holiness of the spirit -- is all that is. Of course that has been said to be pure love, total bliss and joy, perfect health, eternal youth.

Those poor people who were killed on 9/11 or died in any other way, aren't "poor people" anymore. They are vibrant, compassionate loving energy, and more than anything they want us to know that -- to stop exacting revenge on each other, even in the form of judgment.

"If you're going to memorialize me, let it uplift you!" said one spirit. Another noted that someone was upset because they couldn't make it to the yearly memorial. Another noticed anger in the family because the wife treated the remains differently than the family of origin thought correct. Yet every spirit person says, "Don't feel guilty on my behalf."

"Don't do anything in my name that isn't joy, that doesn't reflect love, patience and kindness. I don't need anything. I don't need you to focus on the tragedy that killed me," said one spirit. We aren't asked by the spirit people to "never forget" Sept 11 or the holocaust or the drunk driver who killed our loved one in order to keep hate, anger or revenge alive in his or her place. Focus on those things if they bring holy action in the world, but don't do it because you think the spirit person needs it or, worse, because you think *not doing* it dishonors them. Many good things *do* arise from tragedy, such as MADD, but good things do not arise from revenge.

Why do you think spiritualism exploded during the Civil War in the US? For the first time ever, the ordinary person could see the results of battle. Matthew Brady and other early photographers published pictures of hundreds of bodies, dead young men with faces that resembled mothers and fathers. These were human beings! Sometimes they looked like they died in agony, or were violently torn apart. These weren't people who died at home of old age, injury or illnesses, where the rest of the family could observe the dying process and its natural progression. The everyday person, after seeing those images, came away with the unsettling question about whether those poor lads were at rest.

Why do you think mediums are so popular now? Right after 9/11 medium visits and mediums' popularity exploded again. We living people need to know that our loved ones are safe, happy, okay, in the company of other loved ones. And the spirit people need *us* to know that they are still vibrant, living, holy persons whose expanded awareness equates and infuses them with pure, unadulterated LOVE. Not love if only we would stomp those terrorists. Not peace only if everyone attends our memorial service, or only if we'd get along down here, or only if you be sure to put me in my favorite jersey before burying me.

(Families have been torn apart by that, by the way. I had a client whose in-laws won't speak to him anymore because he wanted to bury his young wife in one of his flannel shirts that she loved to wear. He felt it would give her comfort and a part of him to take to Heaven. Her mother was scandalized and refused to speak to her son-in-law to that day).

The spirit people don't care about that stuff!! They tell us repeatedly, "If memorializing me uplifts you, carry on! If it causes division, disharmony, or any other negative feeling, don't do it, not in my name!"

Every spirit person can communicate with us. Every one of us can communicate with a spirit person. Mediumship is not mysticism, not reserved for the chosen few -- just as the afterlife is not reserved for those who have earned it. Take every opportunity to be aware of your loved ones in spirit. They have so much wisdom and joy to share, so much energy to give us, if we'll only listen and acknowledge.

If you feel your loved one is around you, trust that he or she is okay. Not restless or seeking revenge. They urge us to remember that judgement happens here, not where they are. Every spirit who has passed in every way that I've met in 15 years says the same thing:

*We are all received.*

Amen.