

IT IS ALWAYS enjoyable and refreshing to meet someone who after having experienced the delights and fun of meeting Mediums, contacting Spirit Guides and receiving Psychic Messages that emphasize the reality of Life After Death, want in their own turn to develop their psychic gifts; they ask if it is possible for them to develop the same powers as those mediums they have encountered.

Naturally, and guardedly, the answer is *Yes*, for all people have some degree of psychic ability and sensitivity, much of it often dormant and/or repress by circumstances or other people from birth on.

Proper development of the latent powers can release, sharpen and heighten the psychic sensitivity of everyone, with one significant qualification; the gifts developed will never be quite the same as those of the mediums admired, simply similar.

For, as with the mind, skills and other talents of the individual (eg: mathematical ability) the content and degree revealed and developed will vary from one person to another; the cashier at the market register can hardly be compared to the professor teaching higher mathematics or the quantum theory. He is not lesser in being than the professor but in this one area of mathematical skills *they are not the same*.

So with mediumship. The difference is simply one of degree. Similar skills can be developed but they will not always manifest to the same degree. David and Goliath were similar but not the same.

Understanding the following three steps is important for anyone undertaking the development of their psychic gifts:

INSTRUCTION

Ideally, development of ESP sensitivity should always be undertaken with the guidance of an experienced teacher of the subject, one who not only understands the spectacular nature of psychic gifts and revelation, but also the hazards that might, and often do, arise in the exploration and development of psychic gifts by the untutored and often very unprepared student of the occult.

A teacher is preferably *NOT* someone who has simply read up on a few books of the occult, mastered the jargon of the esoteric, sat in a few circles and possibly met a real, or sometimes an alleged guru; who after a few months *Experience*, looking suitably mysterious, sometimes assembling an impressive array of theatrical paraphernalia designed to impress the unwary, then starts out to teach and woo prospective clients or followers.

Often they can also muster up a passable appearance of being in trance acting as a channeler. In this connection, remember that *three grunts and a snort* do not a medium make, the content of the message will help determine the authenticity and wisdom of the spirit controlling.

Many such teachers can be found wandering the jungles of California, New York, London, Hawaii, Haiti and most large cities where ESP is now fashionable.

HAZARDS

Would-be mediums and unfortunately, sometimes even their worthy teachers, tend to overlook one very important factor affecting mediumship and life in the spirit world. When people die, all people, they do not suddenly sprout wings and become *Angels*.

They remain, often for very long periods of time, much as they were when on earth, both the benevolent and the malevolent. The transition from earth to spirit does not magically transform the new spirit being into some kind of saint. Their spiritual and emotional content, ethical qualities (or lack of them) persist in their new domain.

These people, wise and unwise, often remain very close to people on earth and in body.

Just take a look around the earth now. In all countries. It doesn't take a lot of imagination or thought to recognize there are a lot of people, wealthy and poor, running around whom you would not lightly welcome into your home, or consider renting them rooms in your house.

They too will die one day. Right now their *Dead* counterparts in spirit are roaming the world in countless numbers, many of them drawing very close to us all, and many of them wanting to make contact

in a very much more personal way, both the benevolent and the malevolent; they continue knocking on our psychic doors seeking entry into our spiritual temple.

Many a landlord has learned to his cost that an empty house is better than a bad tenant. And so too, has many a would-be medium discovered there are bad would-be tenants waiting in spirit.

It might be a poor analogy but it will suffice to emphasize that when a person wants to develop their psychic gifts, wants to be *used* by spirit as a medium, they are in effect preparing to rent out their own spiritual temple to another entity from the world of spirit. Choose the tenant carefully and remember the landlord.

It behooves the developing medium to make sure they are being host to a spirit who is more truly a wise guide rather than some impatient and aggressive spirit being who is more interested in possessing their host for selfish purposes and influence and maybe for the promotion of their own devilish and passionate desires.

In view of all the above it cannot help but become apparent why it is so important for a student to be sure he is safe in the hands and care of an experienced, enlightened instructor whose main concern and responsibility is to see to it that his student is protected against unwelcome intrusion by unevolved spirits, that only the wise and loving *Spirit Guides and Teachers* are allowed contact and entry into the spiritual temple of the student.

Spirit guides and teachers only enter when invited, they never *possess* a person. But become simply, willing, loving partners of the earth friends to whom they have become attached, advising helpfully, while never taking away the *freewill* and *choice* of the individual to make his own decision on matters of importance.

All the above leads to another important aspect of ESP

SITTING FOR DEVELOPMENT

The general policy of the Centre over many, many years has been to advise (very strongly) against

sitting alone for development of psychic gifts or power.

In view of all that has been touched upon so far, the advice is still the same today, *please don't*. The hazards are many and varied; some have been touched upon. But all of the reasons against are valid and support the continuing advice. (Silent meditation is another matter and vastly different, a subject we'll deal with at another time).

All the above prompts another question. "*is it alright to sit in more than one circle at a time, conducted by different instructor?*"

Yes and no. *Yes*, if the two or more circles are conducted by different teachers, but teachers who have all been instructed following the same pattern and format initiated and developed by tried and proven guides and mediums following one school of thought and instruction. But *No* if the teachers conducting the circles have all been instructed and influenced by different schools of thought and methods using different formats.

This is not to say that one teacher or school is worthier than another, but rather that as each tends to emphasize some points and approaches, and underplay others, inevitably some apparent difference could not help but arise between the two schools of thought and teaching.

Inevitably the pupil would simply fall between the two schools of *thought and approach* and would emerge totally confused. Either teacher and school of thought pursued on its own would probably help a student make good progress, but neither would be as successful if attempts were made to follow both at the same time.

Such a situation is not fair to either the pupil or the teacher. So make a choice and stay with one leader and system at a time.

Move on if you feel dissatisfied and hop to do better, but first be sure that the personal dissatisfaction is not due more to your own impatience rather than that of the teacher's incompetence. After all, you might simply be revealing, psychically and spiritually, a personal reflection of the material world of the present day, the instant syndrome; instant coffee, instant pleasure,

instant success, and in this respect, a desire for instant mediumship!

Be aware that psychic and spiritual development is an ongoing process, never ending. No six, eight, ten or twelve week course is going to help one achieve graduation in this area of one's life. And recognize, too, however good your teacher appears to be he or she is also still developing, no one is perfect.

In conclusion, one cannot emphasize often enough the difference between psychic gifts and powers and spiritual qualities. The first, one possesses in a degree and can develop, truly they are gifts and talents. The second, spiritual quality, is never a gift. It has to be earned, most often the hard way, many times involving *Sacrifice, Suffering* and *Service*, to others, not to the self!

Psychic development and awareness can help one see more clearly the path to be trodden in life, and help determine whether the spiritual self is up to the tasks and challenges revealed and lying ahead. It helps us, hopefully, to make of our beliefs and faith truly a real *SPIRITUAL-ISM!*

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Psychic Awareness and Development



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