

The Sower

Bulletin & Voice of

THE FIRST SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

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Vol. 137, No. 11 July-August 2021

Does Spiritualism Denounce the Miraculous?

(Partial Reprint from Previous Issue)

One of the great classics in Spiritualist literature is Harry Boddington's "The University of Spiritualism." It was first published in 1947 and contains much thought-provoking material. Despite its wealth of information, it is based on outdated and, quite frankly, prejudicial Spiritualist thought of the period.

On page 62 of this book, Mr. Boddington makes a statement which, in my opinion, has been the bane of Modern Spiritualism since its founding days of the mid-1800's. Here is what he says:

"Modern Spiritualism does not believe in miracles. Everything that occurs does so in accordance to natural laws. Miracles assume the idea of a God who is outside and superior to law, and that, to the majority, is inconceivable."

The University of Spiritualism

By Harry Boddington

This June marks our Church's 138th year of service to God, the Christ Consciousness, and to Spirit (in and out of physical form). Throughout our history and its transitional periods, one basic principle has remained the bulwark of our faith: **God is both immanent and transcendent.**

We believe in a God Who is intimately connected to every aspect of Creation, to every facet of Natural Law, and to the lives of every Spirit which resides within Creation. If we are created in God's image, as Spirit, then God must be an integral part of us all. It can be no other way. Natural Law demands an adherence to the Great Law of Karma, or Cause and Effect. Knowing that my

Creator is no further away than my breath or my heartbeat gives me tremendous comfort and consolation.

However, of even greater comfort and consolation is the fact that God is also transcendent. This is what distinguishes us from our Creator: we are all subject to Cause and Effect; God is not. God has the power, through Divine Will, Wisdom, and Intelligence, to reverse Cause and Effect; in other words, rise **above** Natural Law. When this happens, what results? **A MIRACLE!**

In a world which seems to be crumbling at the joints, right before our eyes and because of our distancing from Nature, we need miracles. We need to have faith in a Power beyond ourselves and even beyond Natural Law.

I find the statement that ***"Modern Spiritualism does not believe in miracles"*** to be contradictory to the true essence of Spiritualism, both ancient and modern.

If Spiritualism denounces the miraculous – and many Spiritualists believe that it does – then the religious and spiritual implications of Spiritualism, as a truly Interfaith experience, are destroyed, and Spiritualism becomes simply another Science, devoid of the singularly most vital element of religion: **FAITH**, or trust/belief in things unseen and unproven.

So, yes, Spiritualism does believe in Natural Law which runs the incredible machinery of Creation. But, Spiritualism also believes that there is a Divine Operator Who governs the machinery of Creation and Who knows and understands every detail of Creation's mechanism. Why? Because it was He/She who not only imagined it, but also created it and runs it flawlessly, despite the folly of those who think that it is they who run Creation.

We are living amidst a social - yes, a social - pandemic which seems to be striking at the very core of Humanity. Not a day goes by when we are not reminded of social unrest, bigotry, White Supremacy, and a political ideology which seems to be pro-insurrection and anti-democracy. Why has this come about? Why have so many people been brainwashed into believing the so-called "Big Lie"? Needless to say, there are many reasons for this, but one in particular needs our deep and undivided attention: **Spiritual Distancing**.

How incredibly ironic it is that, in our need to physically distance ourselves from one another, we have come to see how, for centuries, we have spiritually distanced ourselves from one another, as brothers and sisters of the Spirit. And it's all coming to a head. COVID-19 has forced us to look at the **Pandemic of the Soul** which lurks within the darker recesses of Humanity.

The Soul of our beloved Nation is now burdened with three sins:

The sin it committed against Native American by stealing their land.

The sin it committed against African Americans who were brought to our shore, against their will, and subjected to the evil of slavery.

The recent attack upon our Democracy through the January 6th insurrection.

Many would prefer to sweep all of this under the rug and go about their daily lives as if none of these things ever happened. There is a growing movement to remove any hint of systemic racism from public education. And, of course, there are those political leaders who claim that the events of January 6th were nothing more than a casual stroll through the Nation's Capitol.

How sad and tragic: **Those who refuse to deal with and learn from history are doomed to repeat it! Karma will forever have the final word! That's God's Law!**

This season's Sunday Worship services will conclude on August 15th. Sunday Worship will resume again, as we open our 139th Season, on:

Sunday, September 12, 2021.

Spiritualism, as an Interfaith experience and journey of the Soul, addresses these sins and offers a means of spiritual reparation which, in my humble opinion, must be complemented with financial reparations. No other faith or spiritual belief system addresses the unity of Spirit, the grand journey of the Soul, God's Natural Law, and the Divine Intelligence which permeates the whole of Creation as does Spiritualism. Our founder, Marcellus Seth Ayer (1839-1921) defined Spiritualism thusly:

"The Soul's recognition of its immortality, and the progressive development of its Divine attributes and potentials."

He was and is a man of great vision and one who understood the true nature and implications of Spiritualism as an Interfaith Journey of the Soul.

This is the Spiritualism which Mr. Ayer etched into the fiber of our Church when it was founded on June 28, 1883, under the propitious name of **Working Union of Progressive Spiritualists**.

**Working.
Union.
Progressive.
Spiritualists.**

These four words define us. We are a **working** Church. We are **united** in mission and ministry. We are **progressive**. And we are **Spiritualists**.



Our 138th Annual Meeting

At the 138th Annual Meeting of the First Spiritual Temple, the following members were elected to the 139th Board of Directors:

President: Luigina Potash.
Vice President: Rev. Phyllis McEwen.
Secretary & Treasurer: Rev. Simeon Stefanidakis.
Director: Mildred DiLullo.
Director: Karen Gallagher.
Director: Eliza Kendall.
Director: Neal Potash.

We wish them Godspeed, as they help carry the vision and ministry of our Church forward.