

SPIRITUAL INTERMEDIARIES + LBL

Dear Dorothea:

I have been thinking about your thoughtful posting regarding the spiritual future of civilization. You mentioned that our LBLs provide the public with individualistic religious (spiritual) perspective. This is so true and I would like to expand on that theme. You also expressed the idea that various religions provide many roads toward one unified and common origin. This is a broad, humanistic view that is shared by many people who believe the world has a rising awareness of other faiths and that eventually this attitude toward pluralism will lead to the common good in society in terms of spirituality. This is truly a worthy objective.

However, I also believe that this "Interspiritual Age" is developing rather slowly because we have so much religious baggage from the past. In particular, we must recognize the historical dangers of what has been called, "Priestcraft," in spiritual practices. One of the great benefits of our movement is to educate the public about the fact that our LBL facilitators are unique in that we engage in a shared partnership with those who come to us for spiritual guidance. Thus, we are spiritual counselors, not an elite class of practitioners who hold ourselves above the seekers of truth in spiritual matters. So, when I speak of danger in terms of spiritual enlightenment in all parts of the world, I am thinking about priests in a variety of religious communities who engage in theological exclusivity.

This concept has a long history that began with the ancient primal religions. Shamans within tribes spoke with spirits (including demons) on behalf of their followers who did not possess in their view—the special gifts necessary to communicate with spirits directly. Spiritual intermediaries have always been with us to interpret aspects of the other side for the ordinary citizen. We see this with Wicca priesthoods, Mediums, Oracles, Seers, Diviners, Sorcerers, Alchemists, Prophets and so forth where these "priests" are considered exclusive conduits on interpretation of spiritual matters. As spiritual human history evolved into the world's major organized religions we have the well-documented excesses of priestly castes within Judaism, Christianity and Islam. A direct spiritual experience has been denied to people except for a privileged few. Often, the fear of death has been used as a club by an inner priestly circle of elites to bring people into line. The eastern religions have a different tradition with a long lineage of monasticism connected with teacher-disciple relationships involving mythology and ritual that a suppliant must pass through for purification and spiritual awareness.

Our movement has no special class of the spiritually enlightened which is why the word "facilitator" is so appropriate in what we do.

Essentially, we are spiritual healing counselors to help people more easily achieve personal spiritual enlightenment. This comes from within the minds of the individual not from a spiritual director. We do not set ourselves above the client who comes to us for help. We believe that the source of spiritual power comes from the individual and not through someone with ecclesiastical trappings. Thus, Dorothea, I believe we are the wave of the future where eventually all roads may lead the faithful into a divine sphere during incarnation rather than afterwards.

Best wishes.....Michael