

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Reunion

It was a long wait until the next Thursday. I had a million questions to ask John, but the most important thing to me was just to see him again. I wanted to share my dream with him, even though I assumed he knew the story. Now the problem was that I wasn't sure how to contact him. Just before noon on Thursday I went to Albertsons to see if he was working there again. I was disappointed to find that same substitute there again. Of course, the substitute did not know anything about when John may come back.

I went back home and had lunch with Elizabeth and shared my frustration with her.

"Are you sure you heard John right, that you would see him in a week?"

"I'm sure," I said. "But who knows what all things a 2000-year-old man must attend to. Maybe he had to go to Bosnia or something."

"Even so, if he is a man of his word, he should contact you today, shouldn't he?"

"You would think so. Who knows! Maybe I'm not good student material and he gave up on me."

"I don't think so," Elizabeth assured me. "From that dream you told me about, it sounds like you passed some type of test."

"Maybe so," I said. "I suppose I'd better get back to work. I have to go show a house."

After showing my client the house, I drove back to Albertsons and several other bell ringer locations. I looked everywhere I could think of, just on the off chance that John was somewhere in the area. Finally, when my work day was done, I headed home with the thought that contact was John's responsibility. "If it happens, it happens," I thought.

Elizabeth and I spent a quiet evening together. Finally, she broke the ice. "Have you done any more thinking about the first key?"

"I've done a lot of thinking, but don't think I can go much further until John tells me about the man-God idea."

"What if he says that we're not gods? You've covered about everything else. What's left?"

"I don't know. Maybe we're just animals," I said sarcastically.

"You may be just joking," said Elizabeth, "but I guess we have to be open to anything."

"I guess," I agreed.

We went to bed just before eleven (which was quite early for me) and I lay on the bed trying to drift off to sleep, disappointed that I had not seen or heard anything from John.

Then, as I drifted off to sleep, I heard bells.

Bells?

I woke up suddenly. "I heard bells!" I exclaimed to Elizabeth.

She woke up. "Bells? It must be John."

"Yes. It must be John. But now I'm awake, I can't hear them."

"You always hear them when you're close to sleep. Try going back to sleep."

"You're right. I'll try that," I said. I tried to go back to sleep, but sleep had fled from me. After a moment I said, "I couldn't sleep right now if my life depended on it."

Elizabeth sighed. "Why don't you just try lying still and tuning in? Maybe John will send you something."

"I'll try," I said. I lay still and tried to tune into my inner self. At first, nothing happened, then faintly I heard the bells again. I somehow knew I was supposed to focus on the sound and did so. As I focused, the sound became clearer, and an image of John formed within my mind. I saw him drinking a cup of coffee at Denny's at the exact same seat where we talked before. Somehow, I knew he was there waiting for me.

"He's at Denny's!" I exclaimed as I rose up out of bed and headed for my clothes.

"Denny's?" Elizabeth asked sleepily.

"Denny's," I said firmly. "I'm going there now. I may be awhile, so don't worry about me."

Elizabeth turned to me and asked, "Sweetheart?"

"Yes?"

"Tell John thank you for giving me faith again. Even though I've lost that extra strength, I now have hope I can be healed."

"I'll tell him," I said.

In a few minutes, I was in my car approaching Denny's. I found myself wondering if there was something special about Denny's, or if it was just a convenient place. Oh, well, that question was far down the list. As I walked into the restaurant, I noticed that the time on the wall clock was about one minute to midnight. I hurriedly walked to the corner where we met before, and there he was drinking coffee looking exactly as I saw him in my mind a few moments before.

"John," I said reaching out my hand. "I've never been so glad to see anyone before!"

John smiled as I sat down. "Not every beginning student feels that way," he said. "Are you sure I am not a prince of evil and deceit bent on leading you to some eternal hell?"

"You know all about the dream then?"

"Yes. It was not unexpected. He pulls a similar trick on any student I have that shows promise."

"He? Who is he?"

"Who do you think?"

"Well, I do know this. Whoever he is was capable of disguising himself as an agent of God; yet, when I sensed his true nature, it was an evil vibration beyond anything I have imagined. If there is a devil, this has got to be him."

John smiled. "In the days of Jesus we didn't use the silly-sounding word "devil." We called him "The Adversary." The word "Satan" in the Hebrew text means "adversary." Today we would call someone like Hitler, Saddam Hussein or a terrorist an adversary or enemy, but it would sound silly to call them devils. We didn't use bogeyman-like words, fluffy words or fairy tale-like words back then. We were dealing with real energies, real beings and real situations. The religious authorities of that day were the ones who feared illusionary bogeymen."

I nodded. "I could certainly tell that being was an adversary. I knew he wanted to destroy me when he learned I saw his real self."

"He still wants to destroy you. You really made him mad when you laughed at him." John laughed.

"You told me to do it!" I exclaimed. "I didn't realize I was just making him mad. That's all I need -- an enemy of immense power from the underworld." I frowned. John paused a moment and

studied my face.

"As long as you side with light and truth he will be your mortal enemy with all the force he has available." Then, grinning, he said, "I figure you might as well get a dig in when you can."

"That doesn't sound like turning the other cheek," I countered.

"As Solomon said, there is a time and place for everything. Through his control of agents here on earth, he has had me killed and tortured about twenty times. The last time I was hung by piano wire and the first time I was boiled in oil. That alone should be enough to deserve the reward of laughing at his defeat. You'll never realize the joy you gave me when you followed my instructions."

"I think we really pissed him off all right," I laughed nervously.

"That's an unpious term," John scolded, "but I couldn't express it better."

I took a sip of coffee. "It still makes me nervous. He might try to take it out on me." God, as if I didn't have enough problems in my life!

"From the moment you saw through the illusion and passed the test you became a mortal enemy. But don't worry. He cannot harm you if you follow the light of truth and the Holy Spirit within you. At present you are following the highest you know, and you are completely protected. But there are energy points in time and space like acupuncture points on the body. When one of those points is arrived at, it provides an opportunity for both good and evil. For instance, the other night you had a visit from a strong evil force and also a powerful good force. The fire you felt was what we used to call the "baptism of fire." If you go forward, you must risk the chance of going backwards."

"What would have happened if I had fallen for the illusion?"

"I would have kept my word and seen you today, but because you would not have felt the spiritual fire you would have rejected me and the knowledge I have for you."

"Would I have been some servant of evil then?"

"Not in the sense you are thinking," John replied. "That would only happen if you have very selfish intent within your heart. What he seeks to do with basically good people is to neutralize them. After they are neutralized he generally leaves them alone and goes on to other work. Only if a person sinks to great illusion and selfishness can he then be of conscious use to the Dark Brothers."

"Who is this 'Adversary' and who are the 'Dark Brothers?'"

"They are just like you and me," John replied. "They are brothers of ours, but very wayward brothers. As you know, there must be opposition in all things. If there is an appearance of a positive force, then that appearance can only be held if there exists the appearance of a negative force."

"Why do you use the term 'appearance?'"

"Because positive and negative is real to you in this world, but in a higher reality there is only one energy, and that is God. It is important for teaching's sake that we always deal with the reality we are in. If you try to solve the riddles of a higher reality before you understand your own, you can get caught in an illusion that will cause you to wind up far behind the simple realist."

I nodded. "I do notice that many intelligent dreamers do not seem to accomplish anything, whereas the dull-witted plodder often achieves a surprising amount."

"Your statement deserves to be reflected upon," he said evenly. I must have hit upon something important to my progression.

"So are these Dark Brothers burning in Hell like the preachers tell us?"

"They live in a world with no glory but the illusion of glory. To understand what that means, you must solve a future key." He shifted in his seat and clasped his hands. "Let me put it this way. All of us have a spark of divinity within us. As you follow this spark, your glory, light, truth and power of love is increased. There are certain very selfish individuals who, through conscious effort, shut themselves completely off from soul contact. After this they completely deny all things that are good and true. Because they are conscious beings with no true spiritual contact, their consciousness creates a world that is complete illusion, with no real light or glory. They believe that the true spiritual plane created by God is illusion and that they have discovered or created the only true reality. Because this false belief is so real to them, there is no escape, and all that makes them personalities is in a state of death or disintegration. This drawn-out death often takes many years, but after it happens the spark that is their true self will continue, and the person will be re-created in a future opportunity on an earth that does not even exist yet."

"Heavy doctrine," I replied. "Does that mean there is no burning in Hell?"

"There is in a sense," he replied. "When one has rejected light, surrounds himself with illusion and then comes into contact with real light, it produces a spiritual pain something like a fire. Why do you think the Adversary fled so quickly when the Spirit descended upon you the other night? The light and fire of the Spirit was painful to him beyond anything you can imagine. Even though he wanted more than anything to destroy you, he was forced to instantly leave."

"It was the most sudden exit I've ever seen," I nodded.

John continued. "When people die and go to the next world they reside with others who have a similar light to their own. Many are disappointed when they realize how little light they have followed on this earth, and they desire to go higher. This desire takes them near the presence of a greater light, and it is very painful to them. They want to move toward the light, but the approach is painful like a fire, so they are in hell two different ways. They have to live with

others who are of lesser light and not very pleasant company, and secondly, a desire to escape leads them to a fiery pain."

"Are they stuck in that situation forever?"

"No. A way is made for their progress, but we could spend days on this subject. Let us move on." John nodded to a waitress passing by for more coffee.

"I have one more question first," I pursued after she left.

"Go ahead."

"Where have you been? I didn't expect you to disappear like you did."

John frowned. "Actually, I didn't expect it either, but my Master needed me."

"And that would be ...?"

"Who do you think?"

"Jesus?" I asked in wonderment.

"*Jesus* is the modern pronunciation of the name he went by two thousand years ago in Palestine. Of course, the preachers of this age have become attached to it, but those within His inner circle just call Him "The Christ" when making a reference to Him. When I get the opportunity to speak to Him on a personality level, as I am with you, I just call Him *Josh*

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The original pronunciation of the name Jesus was something like

Yay-soose

, but that name is pretty obsolete now. He decided a couple hundred years ago to use Joshua, the English translation of the Hebrew equivalent of Jesus, because it is still a name in common use."

"Joshua Christ," I smiled. "That will take some getting used to."

"He wouldn't think of using the name Jesus except for purposes of identification. Every time He hears one of the preachers speak or shout the name in that religious twang, He cringes."

"You know, I always wondered what Jesus thought about how the preachers massacre his name."

John reflected a moment: "There are many mysteries to be revealed which are associated with Jesus, as you call him, and the Christ. I know Him by two of His names and He has a third which only He knows."

"What's the other name that you know?"

"I couldn't tell you that without His permission," he replied softly.

"What's the purpose of having more than one name?"

"I cannot tell you at present. That knowledge is contained in one of the keys you will learn in the future. I can tell you a little about the term *The Christ*. It is not part of His name, but is the name of an office. The most enlightened teacher associated with mankind on the planet has this office and is called *The Christ*. Joshua will not always hold this office. In about another thousand years He will leave this solar system

and the position of The Christ will be taken over by a close disciple. The title Christ, without the article 'the' is used by many disciples who share what has been called 'the Christ consciousness.' I am one who is free to use the name of Christ for myself as long as the one being communicated to does not mistake me for the master teacher. Those who bear the name of Christ are not permitted to knowingly deceive, and the wrong use of the title could produce deception. Self-deception, however, will often occur because of wrong interpretation of doctrine transmitted by the teachers."

"So, why were you called away so suddenly?" I probed.

"There was an emergency," John looked serious.

"Can you tell me anything about it?"

"Not a lot. I can tell you that a situation developed where some terrorists had an opportunity to obtain nuclear weapons that would have been planted in Washington DC. This event was not in the plan and had to be prevented."

"What did you do to prevent it?"

"Even if I could tell you I do not have time to go into it. Joshua needed my assistance and fortunately I was there to help. It was at great sacrifice that I was able to make this appointment with you. There are still some details I have to return to attend to."

"Is saving the world from nuclear attack something you do often?" I quipped.

"The last time we had a crisis like this was back in the early '80s when scientists were working on the neutron bomb. Its perfection would have been too great a temptation for any nation at this time, and this weapon and several others had to be contained."

"So, do you control men's minds to avoid catastrophes?"

"The Disciples of Christ, or the Brotherhood of Light, never force men's minds. We are obligated to honor free will. The Dark Brothers, on the other hand, will use force whenever they feel the need and have the opportunity. They often find that all they have to do is create a little illusion to have their way with the masses."

John paused a moment. "You've done a good job sidetracking me, but we need to get on with your education. Do you at least remember the question I posed to you last week?"

"I think I got that, anyway. It is 'WHO OR WHAT AM I?'"

"I am pleased you remembered the exact wording. Now can you give me your answer?"

"Well," I said nervously, "with a little help from my friends and the Gospel of John, which I assume you wrote, I concluded that men are gods."

"So are you God with a capital G or a god with a small G?"

I stumbled for a moment. "Well... the Mormons say we are becoming a god with a small G and the New Agers say we are God with a big G."

"What do you say?"

"Well," I stumbled again, clearing my throat, "if I am one with God, then I must be God with a big G." It sounds weird to say that, but that's my answer."

"Are you confident in that answer?"

"Sort of."

"What makes you *sort of* confident?"

"I've had several coincidences pointing me in that direction. I figured they must have happened for a reason."

"So you had some signs leading you toward the answer?" John smiled.

"I guess you could say that," I replied.

"Have you read what the Master said about signs?"

"I think he said several things, didn't he?"

John got out his old Bible again and turned to Matthew chapter 16. "Read verse four," he said, pushing the book toward me.

I carefully held the old book and read: "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign ..."

I just about dropped the book. "I remember reading this scripture, but I never thought about it

in the context that is now entering my head. I thought the answer may be that I am God because of signs, but Jesus said the wicked seek signs."

"You were not actively seeking a sign," John assured me, "but several appeared to you, and you thought they meant something."

"So are you telling me they didn't mean anything?" I asked, somewhat disappointed.

"It is true that there is a reason or a cause behind each happening," John replied, "but when people see coincidences they often read much more into them than should be. Suppose you roll dice hundreds of times. Sooner or later you will roll a '7' three times in a row. Does that have any deep meaning, or did it happen just because you rolled the dice many times and the law of averages tells us you will eventually roll three sevens?"

"So, you're saying that coincidences just happen now and then?"

"Generally, that is the case, but then every once in a while coincidences are contrived by a higher power. But what usually happens is that when a coincidence happens to a superstitious person, much more will be read into it than is based in reality."

"So the fact that both Wayne, Lance and that Dark Brother mentioned man and gods was just coincidence and means nothing?"

"Not entirely," John replied. "You, Wayne, and Lance have been friends for many years and as such tune into each other's frequency and share many of the same thoughts. This greatly increases the chances that you will all come up with similar conclusions on various ideas. What happened with you three was not nearly as much of a coincidence as you thought. You were looking for an answer, and you were happy that something finally seemed to jump out at you. It was no coincidence, however, that the Dark Brother jumped on this. It served his purpose."

"So, what about the answer, then," I asked. "Is it right or wrong?"

"Let's regress just a moment," John said, putting his fingers together. "Why do you suppose Joshua said a wicked and adulterous generation seeks for a sign? Now in reality wicked means 'mislead.' So how is one misdirected who seeks for a sign?"

"I've never thought of looking for a sign in a negative light. Most people see signs as a positive thing."

John was silent, evidently waiting for a concise answer. I continued, "OK, let me see. If we use a sign to guide our lives, then we are using something outside of ourselves. Perhaps we are supposed to look within."

John smiled. "There is hope for you yet. I think your light is increasing. Now what is adulterous about seeking a sign for guidance?"

"That's a tough one. I don't see a lot of relation there."

"There is a lot of correspondence here, said John. "Answer me this: What is adultery?"

"It's where a person betrays his marriage partner and has a sexual relationship with someone else," I replied.

"And who is your spiritual marriage partner supposed to be?"

"You mean someone other than my physical wife?"

"Yes."

"Could it be God?"

"You are correct. This is taught throughout the scriptures. The Israelites are called the *Bride of Jehovah* throughout the Old Testament and the Church is called the *Bride of Christ* in the New. Both Israel and the Church are symbols of those who have the light of the Spirit of God within them. So how does a bride of Christ or God commit adultery?"

"Perhaps by leaving God and leaning on or uniting with someone else, or another God."

"Very close," said John. "The brother of light senses the Spirit of God within himself and has made a commitment to follow it and be one with it, similar to a marriage relationship. If he actively seeks a sign outside of himself for his main source of guidance, this causes a shift of attention away from the Spirit. So his God becomes a false God outside of himself, and the inner God is ignored and betrayed. He has committed adultery against his only true source of guidance, which places a black wall between his personality self and the God within."

"Fascinating," I said, feeling like Spock again. "So the New Agers, who are always teaching about the God within -- yet at the same time are always seeking coincidences and signs -- are really teaching one thing and doing another?"

"They are not alone," John smiled. "On the other side of the spectrum, the very religious also seek for signs rather than an answer from God through prayer as they claim to teach."

"So, are we to look within for all answers?"

"Not exactly. That would mean the outside world has no meaning or purpose. The purpose of

the outside world is to stimulate with experience, and the purpose of the inner is to verify. Without the outer world there is nothing to verify, and without the inner there is no source to find the point of truth that exists in all things."

"It would appear to me, then, the religious fundamentalists look without for their answers, and the New Agers try to look within, but both are concentrating too much on either side of the pendulum," I said.

"Another good answer," John said smiling "Now, you're going to want me to tell you if you have the right answer."

"I've been very curious all week." I leaned forward eagerly.

"Let's get another cup of coffee and we'll explore your thoughts."