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- *The life and growth of spirit*
- *Antagonistic relationships must and will be resolved*
- *Reincarnation may involve other life-forms*

God, who is the creator of all, opens your hearts with a warmth of that loving presence that is with you at all times.

Your conversations together at this moment are centered around a search for context, a search for an understanding of where you fit into the larger reality of God's creation, and you wonder whether such increased insight can be of value in guiding your lives from one day to another. It is true, as was stated, there are two components to your reality. One is the form as you identify it which is temporal and another which is pure spirit.

We can first affirm that yes, the spirits, the souls of each of you have been in communion with one another for a long time as you would measure it. Your souls have recognized one another, and in that recognition, you are brought through God's presence, God's light, together once again. Your relationship with one another although extending far beyond the limits of form, the limits of your current human form, is a relationship that has been nurtured in God's presence.

The relationships that you have at the moment are not new, and they are not unique. In fact, we can affirm that relationships that you and others experience are never completely random. Sometimes human beings can describe an encounter with someone else as if they have known one another for many years. There is a kind of resonance that brings you together. This relationship between friends is a relationship of longer duration than human life. It is not limited to current friendships,

The work of spirit, your spirit, your soul, extends beyond the limits of physical life. Most souls experience human life-forms multiple times. There are those incidences when relationships between two souls must develop a reconciled presence with the illumination of God clearly recognized. There are human beings who in previous lives were profoundly antagonistic toward one another. Those relationships of stress must be resolved, for in the process of becoming all love, one does not simply cast off and forget those relationships that were not characterized as loving.

Souls develop. Souls must develop. For many, part of that development is experienced through human life. When you observe for example, two individuals who seem to oppose one another constantly, that negative energy must be placed in the light. That relationship must be given to a commitment to God's presence. On a very superficial level, one can say it is important to find reconciliation when there is deep divide. That is, of course, true.

Acting as a reflection of God's presence implies in part a commitment to reconciling what separates and rejoicing in what unites. But that explanation for human

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life is also a part of the growth of spirit. When there are spirits filled with anger and antagonism, spirits who are devoted to being separate, to denying the exercise of love, such spirits must find reconciliation, and that reconciliation is often achieved through the accompanying of human life.

What we are saying is that the fact that you as individuals have known one another prior to this human life does not apply simply to those who are seeking together a greater understanding of God. Such truth applies to all people, even those who seem committed to confrontation. Human lives are about growth. Spiritual lives are also about growth.

Because we exist only in spirit-form does not mean that we are by definition perfect. We learn. We evolve. We sometimes return to human form. We sometimes return to nonhuman forms who are conscious of the reality of a Spirit Center, of God. Growth belongs to who you are and to who we are, and your lives in human-form are only a small portion of the extent of your journey of understanding and of becoming pure love.

You are related to one another, but you are no more related to one another than to those with whom you have great differences. All human beings are related in some way. All human beings have had contact with one another spiritually at some other place on the sphere that represents the spirit unity. You all belong to that sphere. That sense of unity is part of who you are, and the unity of God's creation defines the truth that each of you is connected and that each of you exists beyond the limits of the human form.

You may ask when considering the issues of reincarnation whether you were in the past or shall be in the future a life-form that resembles nonhuman life-forms on earth. Were you a bird or a ground-loving animal in an earlier spirit-form? We can say that the spirit exists in all life-forms. We can also say that the spirit exists in all forms that are not defined as living, so yes, the spirit that is yours has been a part of all life-forms.

But the spirit living in a human form with a capability of conceiving of a Spirit Center, God, is not shared by all life-forms. Being unaware of a Spirit Center does not mean that there is not a connection between that life-form and God, that such forms of existence are somehow insignificant or less valuable. We can say, however, that there are many knowing life-forms, knowing in the sense that there is an awareness of a greater spiritual reality.

Such knowing life-forms are not limited to humans as you experience them. There are other forms of knowing life. You may think of them as other forms of knowing energy, and those forms also belong to this continued growth of spirit toward love. Human beings are limited in their perception of other knowing life-forms, but they exist and they flourish and they are just as real and present and as equally valued as human beings.

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When we speak of reincarnation, we refer to a renewing of understanding of the Spirit Center, of God. That renewal may or may not be in human-form, but it is always in a form that is capable of knowing and feeling God's presence. Human beings are not unique in their search for understanding, in their search for a clearer vision of God's presence. That search belongs on the path of all knowing beings whether present within the reality of your earth or within the reality of another location. Not all knowing beings are connected to a physical place, for knowing energy is not entirely reliant upon the physical characteristics that you identify.

Growth continues. Spiritual awareness evolves. You grow; you evolve. We grow; we evolve. We grow and evolve independent of human life, but we grow and evolve when we are associated with other life-forms, for the lessons of experiencing human life are different than being engaged in the knowing lives of nonhumans. Each soul has different needs. Each soul must grow according to its own needs, its own characteristics.

Not all souls are guides. Some souls are engaged in the illumination of pathways that are not part of human life, but it is in that engagement that we grow. You see, human life is only part of the reality of understanding of God's presence. It is the part you are engaged with, and it is our loving presence and commitment to your growth that provides sustenance for us. You grow in your awareness of us, and we grow through our loving support of you.

Human life is indeed a part of a much greater firmament. The heavens that you see above you are only a microcosm of what is part of God's continuing creation. God did not create the heavens as you know them and the earth and all the animals and all that exists on earth and consider creation completed. God's creation is a loving force that continues. That creation expands just as your understanding expands, just as our understanding expands, for the energy of love is not in a container. That energy only expands. It does not disappear. It does not stop. There is no point in which such love reaches its greatest potential. Human beings are part of this magnificent creation, and it is helpful always to recognize that you, as human beings, are in no way entirely unique.

You are where you need to be. You know what you know. Your relationships are what the relationships are. Your understandings are what they are. But all of that evolves. All of that deepens. All of that is strengthened through spirit. All of that growth is part of the growth that is the loving energy referred to by you as God. You belong to that Spirit Center. You are part of it. The spirit presence grows because you belong to it. It grows because other souls are expanding and growing.

At a time when you are aware of such suffering and such injustice, it is important to acknowledge that growth is occurring. The power of the Spirit Center is expanding because of your presence. Each of you has a role to play in this totality of creation.

If there is one wish for all human beings it would be an acknowledgement that there is more to life than what you are aware of. There is a mystery to that unknown.

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There is a kind of magic to that mystery, for in acknowledging the existence of what is unknown, you are drawn forward on your journey. You are being pulled toward a greater understanding. In the process, your heart vision is opened, and in the midst of crises, you can find grounds for the joy that can be felt through your commitment to expand and to evolve and to draw ever more close to the creating Spirit that is God.

Be comforted in the glimpses you have of that Spirit Center. Be guided in your growing awareness of the connection that all people have with one another. Affirm your own growth. Affirm the growth of all, and bring a sense of peace which is the real joy into your hearts.

Amen.