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- *Being a reflection of God's light compared to the sun reflecting off Venus*

The God who lights your way belongs intimately and permanently to your journeys. You are indeed in the light, and you are, as you recognize, part of that light.

There was mention of the light in the skies above your earth, a penetrating and dominant light of another planet. That planet is not by itself the total source of illumination. It is illuminated by the same sun that illuminates your days. You are, therefore, observing another heavenly body that receives its light from the same source. Even at nighttime, you know that the sun shines, but it is in that nighttime that you become more aware of the illumination from that same source that is also directed elsewhere.

Keep that vision of a bright light in the night sky, and imagine that in the darkness, there is indeed real evidence of light. When you experience times of darkness, you are never fully out of the presence of light, for the source of that light is always there, even when your lives have turned or spun in a direction that takes you away from seeing that light.

What is it that is the light in the darkness of your own life, the lives of all people? That planet that you saw, Venus, was a single entity, and yet it gave evidence of the sun. In your own personal moments of darkness, there will always be those who can bring light to your lives, and those beacons of light in your lives are reflections of that constant light, the light of the Spirit Center, the light of God.

In your own way, you have been a light in the sky for others who feel overcome by the darkness. You become a reflection of God. Just as the planet Venus can reflect so brilliantly, so can you. There are times when Venus may be in the shadow. There are times when those who bring you light may be in the shadow, and it is then you who become that light.

We know of the great sadness of so many because of the countless victims of this current pandemic. You, in your own way, have within you the capacity to be a light in the overwhelmingly dark-seeming void bereft of any light. How is it that you, that all human beings, can be that light to another? You can, of course, illuminate the path of another just through your presence. It may not be a physical presence, but it is a way of bringing your own spiritual universe and the energy of that universe into the lives of others through your prayers, thoughts, your support, and actions. All of these are ways of being present.

At this time of enormous worldwide suffering and loss, physical presence becomes more difficult and even impossible, but that limitation in no way can diminish your light. What is it that you do? What is it that you can pray? What is it that you can think that becomes light for another? The most important means of transmitting your own light to others is through an acknowledgment of others surrounded by pure, nonjudgmental love.

Yes, you can love others whom you do not know, for the very act of being loving toward others is an act of intention. It is an act of thought. It is an act of prayer. It is the

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attitude that you bring to the process of illuminating another. You can love someone you have never met. You can love someone whose name you have never heard. You can love others in a location that has no identity to you.

The mere effort that you put out with the goal of surrounding others with a love that is peace illuminates, comforts, and soothes. It is a peace of spirit. It is not a matter of peace versus war or conflict, for in the middle of such trials, peace can thrive. We are talking of a spiritual peace. It is not a peace between nations or societies or individuals. It is a peace between souls, between spirits. It is an acknowledgment that you are one, that all others and you are single, totally unified, and interdependent.

Surrounded by such suffering and widespread death, it is easy to let sadness lead to despair, anger, blame, and hatred. None of those directions are directions reflecting that light in the heavens, that spirit that is a part of all human experience. It is, of course, natural to grieve. It is natural to feel suffering and the experiences that result from that suffering. But it is more important to acknowledge how you can respond to those feelings that are then governed by love and not by negative emotions, blame, hatred.

The suffering of many more will continue. That expansion of loss is not in itself a desire or working of God's strength and purpose. What is according to that presence, strength, and purpose is the potential to reach out lovingly in sympathy with support and prayer, and with action when some action can be taken. It is your presence in that situation that is a reflection of God. It is not the suffering itself that God brings.

We have often said that there is no judgment in spirit. There is no judgment from the perspective of God. There is no judgment from us. There is only love. There is only a sense of belonging. There is only the strength of reaching out and caring. That is God's presence in the midst of this crisis. If it were God's will that there would be no darkness, then there would be no darkness in the heavens. But it is part of God's creation that there is darkness in the heavens as there is darkness in human terms in life.

What is a part of the presence of God is the light, and it is that light that shines in the darkness. That beautiful vision of Venus in the skies was not something which just occurred when the sky was dark. That illumination, that reflection of the sun, was present even in the brilliance of midday sky, but such light in the sky during midday is not necessarily visible. It is still there, but it's only when it becomes dark that you see that brilliance. The brilliance remains.

Your ability to bring light to others does not have to be relegated to times of darkness and light. Just as the planet Venus was bright during the daytime, you can be a reflecting body of what God's love really means during times when others are filled with light. Your light can still shine. Your own abilities to reflect God's brilliance will in no way be diminished when all seems well with the world. That light that you can offer can be offered always, and when you find yourself in the shadows, look up to the heavens. Look up. Open your eyes, open your heart, and know that God's light is absolutely, at all times, intimately and permanently illuminating your pathway.

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You are blessed in your darkness. You are blessed in your brilliance. Be grateful in the knowledge that all human beings have within them the capacity to reflect that brilliant sunlight of the Spirit Center. Be filled with gratitude, be filled with humility, and be filled with the light that is always present.

Amen.