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- *Being a voice of God*
- *Ignoring the importance of nature has consequences*
- *Death is moving from one community to another*
- *Affirming all forms of life is affirming God*

God speaks for all to hear. The Spirit Center that is God is present for every human being. That presence is like a voice, for just as you communicate with symbols that are heard or read as a means of communication, God's symbols actually are each of you. It is you and every human being who are the means by which God's voice is heard.

God speaks because human beings live. God speaks because your guides live. God speaks because nature of all sorts lives. It is life itself that is the voice of God. If you want to hear God speak, listen with your heart. You do not need ears to hear the voice of God, for without the gift of hearing, you are still the recipient of the goodness of others. You are a recipient of the reaching out. You are a recipient of the compassion, the care and caring that is all around you. You are part of all that is around you. The natural world that surrounds your lives belongs to that voice of God.

We say that the guides that are a part of every human being's life belong to the voice of God. But these guides are a part of the entirety of the spirit energy or form, all of which serves as a voice of God.

You wonder about the sense of gratitude, gratitude for family and friends, gratitude for the earth. The earth is a voice of God, and as you care for the earth, you are responding to the voice. All human beings, not just your group, can hear God's voice and know of the spirit presence. For some, it is experienced through the care of others. For some, it is the experience of caring for others. For many, it is caring for the earth and all of nature. For many human beings, the recognition of the beauty and value of living, simply living, is an acknowledgment that God's voice is being heard.

The Bible and other sacred texts often portray the voice of God in human terms. If you consider those anthropomorphic analogies in a broader sense, then you recognize that God is being heard, for when you ignore nature, when you deny its importance, you ultimately see the impact of those denials. That is a kind of judgment. God does not judge in a punitive way, but there are always ways to find affirmation that you are proceeding in a way that reflects harmony with the spirit presence, agreement with the creative force that is God. Denying the creative force is denying the validity of others, denying the importance of some parts of nature at the expense of affirming others. Your relationships with one another are in truth your relationships with God.

You are loved because you belong to the ultimate harmony that is God. Even when you deny that harmony, there is a connection, a tendon, that keeps you tethered to that Spirit Center. God is life. God is life after human life. God is life before human life. God is

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life before the planets that you know existed. God is life before the sun, before all the suns. God is life before the formation of all the universes.

You affirm the sacredness of life and thereby affirm the sacredness of God. By denigrating the value of life, you serve to reject the constant presence that is God. Such a rejection does not alter God's presence but merely clouds your sense of connection to that presence. When you care for all that exists, you are in effect showing and expressing gratitude to God.

When you pray for peace, we often speak of praying for balance. When you pray for health, you are praying for balance. In truth, all your prayers ultimately are prayers of acknowledgment. Even in the darkest times, praying for relief, praying for release, praying for understanding are in all ways an acknowledgment that there is in existence that to which you pray. Praying when you feel desperate is opening the heart to God. It is opening an awareness that somehow in the most meaningful ways you are not alone, that God is present, that life exists and has value.

There are many who continue to experience the anguish of loss, loss of loved ones, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, even an awareness of the enormity of worldwide loss. It is difficult for those who feel they have lost so much to find an affirmation of the value of life. Such losses are a part of all life, for all life-forms transition from one kind of energy to another manifestation of energy. But in changing, while experienced as a loss by some, those who are released from human life do indeed become immediately aware of a greater life. There is no loss of life; there is change in life. The life that you know will change for all people, but life does continue, because the presence of God is the presence of life. With no real loss of life, there is no loss in the presence of God. You move from one community to another, but you are still alive. The community that loses you may experience sadness, but that sadness is merely offered in the spirit of love and the sense of the enormity of change. Life goes on because God is always present.

Affirm life in all its forms, and you are affirming God. Affirming nonhuman life is an affirmation of God's presence. Affirming all human life acknowledges God's presence. That affirmation of all that exists, that openness to accept and embrace all that exists, is hearing the voice of God, for you cannot turn away from that voice and yet turn toward your neighbor. Acknowledging your neighbor is welcoming God's presence into your life and your neighbor's life.

Communication is a two-way street. It is the openness that you demonstrate, and it is the receptivity of another to that openness. It is, of course, so often the case that you offer your support, your love for another, and yet find no acknowledgment of that offer. Nevertheless, you have been a voice of God. You cannot be responsible for the behavior, the receptivity, the attitudes of others, but you can always act as a reflection of that voice. You can always remain the voice of God. There will be those who hear your voice and those who deny that voice, but your voice as the voice of God can always be present. In so doing, you become part of that constant presence of God speaking. God speaks, and

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you are given the opportunity to listen, and in truly listening, you become part of what God says. You become part of God's actions in the world. You become part of the total affirmation of life.

You are alive. Embrace the life you know, and embrace the knowledge that the life you know, your awareness of others, your awareness of the voice of God will never cease. We, your guides, belong as you belong to God's voice. It is God's wish that you, that we, together always affirm that Spirit Center that speaks of life that is indeed eternal.

Be blessed as you are open. Be blessed in your efforts to open your hearts. Be blessed in your sensitivity to the needs of others and feel the constant love and hear the constant voice of God.

Amen.