

- *Having vision for the journey ahead*

It is always with God. It is always because of God. It is always a pathway that leads to God. We have spoken in the past about light, and we have spoken about the shadow. It is appropriate and necessary to continue this approach to life by speaking a bit about vision. We refer to your vision of the light and to the vision of the shadows in what exists within the darkness, but let's step back and think more about what vision is and your place in that vision.

We speak of vision of the heart. You understand already that vision of the heart involves the true seeing of another, another human being, another aspect of God's creation. You know it is a kind of recognition. There is more than that when we refer to vision.

Think for a moment about your application of vision in human life. Vision is not just seeing what is up close. It is also and perhaps most importantly a view of what lies ahead because it is in knowing the curves of the road that you safely negotiate the journey ahead.

This also is the same with vision of spirit. First of all, we can say something of our vision of spirit, for that relates directly to the vision that you are asked to encounter and exercise. A clear vision is a vision guided first and most importantly through a communication of love. Because your guides love you, we are able to see the path ahead, but this sense of the pathway beyond your immediate life is not a vision of something predetermined but rather a vision guided by an understanding of who you are and where you are on your own pathway. We could say that because we understand much of what motivates you, we can envision much of how your life unfolds, not the specific events, but how that evolution of your journey is characterized. When we see a human being who is motivated by concern for others, we know that there is a strong presence of compassion, a desire to understand, a wish to serve, a commitment to the sacredness of life.

You have an expression, "life happens." There is much truth to that. As human beings, you encounter events and circumstances that were not anticipated. We, who are with you, know very well what you bring of your own to such circumstances, and we can therefore see in our heart vision much of your response. With that vision, we are able to strengthen the legs that support you. We are able to strengthen the spirit of perseverance. We are able to strengthen the outpouring of love and understanding. We are able to enable you in your efforts to overcome difficult challenges.

The vision that we have, therefore, is not a vision of specific events but rather a vision of your responses to whatever you encounter, and it is that vision that guides our energy in a way that strengthens you according to the needs of what lies before you. If we consider vision of spirit from your perspective, such vision is not fundamentally different, and yet its application to the present moment may be more specifically applied.

You all have concerns about the future however that may be defined, whether matters of health or politics, economics, social justice, security, or balance. Living with so much uncertainty, it is easy to become overwhelmed by a sense of helplessness, by a feeling of being victimized by circumstances. An understandable response may be a kind of giving up, not in the sense of giving up life but giving up a commitment to the essential quality of vision. For human beings, true vision is not knowing the future because the vision has been predetermined. Vision, rather, is a confidence, a firm belief in your capacities to draw upon your experiences and always to be adequate to the challenges that come your way.

Being adequate does not mean knowing immediately how to proceed. Being adequate does not mean knowing the final outcome, but rather it means the strength of belief that you can endure. You can move forward. You can grow. You can become deepened. You can become more loving. You can become more compassionate. You can become more sensitive to the love offered to you by others. That belief in the adequacy that is part of your lives is a recognition that there is a vision of the road ahead.

When you embark on a long journey, you do not know what will happen during your travels. But you travel with a belief that you can prevail, that you can live, that you can grow, that you can be inspired, that you can be strengthened, that you can gain insight, that you can be fully receptive to all that is around you. There is no guarantee of a specific outcome but only your capacity to prevail, to keep going, to know that there is a course that leads forward regardless of the circumstances. When you travel that way, you are traveling with a vision. You're not predicting specifics, but you have faith in the journey itself.

This, in a spiritual sense, is what is meant by heart vision. You see others, but regardless of the situation, you see others as a manifestation, good or bad, of where they are on their pathways. You may see an opportunity to reach out, to embrace, to encourage, to strengthen, to guide, to love, but such heart vision does not exist when you are consumed by the moment, for the moment is just the moment. There is no sense of the road ahead. It is only what is directly beneath your steps. The journey is not given meaning because of what is under your feet. The journey is given meaning because you place yourself upon a path with faith, with love.

There is no pathway that leads to darkness. There is no pathway that leads in a direction without shadows. For there to be shadows, there must, of course, be the presence of light, and therefore, there is light on every pathway for the entirety of the spiritual journey. That illumination, that light presence, consists of your guides, consists of the overwhelming brilliant presence of love.

We say you are never outside of the love of God. There is nothing that will block you from that light. If you acknowledge that reality, then your heart vision is clear, for regardless of your experiences in human form, the presence of spirit, the presence of a guiding love, the presence of a light that comes from that love is always illuminating your

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pathway. When you open your heart's vision to acknowledge that presence, then you travel your pathway in faith and without fear and without being overcome by the isolation we spoke of in this gathering. When you travel your journeys always know that you have been given the vision, the strength, the conviction that you can fully engage in all that is on your pathway.

There are no events, no individuals, there is nothing that can put up a blockade preventing your growth, preventing the increase in your ways of being loving. There is nothing that can stop your journey. Knowing that you are fully able to travel your pathway does not imply that all is easy, that all is perfect, but it does mean that you can never be defeated. You can never be totally lost.

Human life is a journey, and it is a journey that is not characterized by all being predetermined, but it can be characterized by strength of spirit. We use that strength as we view your pathway, and we try to transmit that strength so that it may continually broaden and clarify your vision. Life is a gift, of course, but each of you, all of you, all people are part of the gift of life. All have roles to play. All move according to what is most appropriate on their pathways. No one is stuck. No one is lost. No one is surrounded by darkness. All have an ability to see with the heart.

There are, of course, countless people who find such a truth to be unexplainable, incomprehensible, and that is okay. The difficulties that they may experience in growing in their vision of the heart in no way interrupts the love with which we surround all human beings. No one is lost because we see all of them. We see everyone. We see their spirit. We see who they are as they interact along their pathway. We provide strength. We provide growth. It is not something to be asked for and granted. That vision is there. It is only for you to embrace that vision, and in that embrace the curves that lie ahead are welcomed, accepted, negotiated, and such curves strengthen and deepen the spirit in the act of being loving.

You are blessed in your vision just as you are blessed in the light and in the darkness. You are blessed because you are. It is not something asked for. It is always a part of each human being.

Seek out opportunities for your vision to expand. Be confidant in the knowledge that there is nothing on your pathways that can separate you from God's light, God's love, God's strength, and God's vision.

Amen.