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- *The unity of all souls*
- *Celebrate diversity rather than focusing on differences*

All of your guides are gathered with you at this time, but we are not merely a collection of guides. We are also a collection of the souls for whom you pray. Even the souls of those who live human lives are a part of this gathering. Souls, you see, have no sense of space. Therefore they are able to be with the human form to which they belong but also with us, for there is essentially no separation between where we are and where the souls are of all who are of concern to you.

The unity of spiritual creation is undeniable and universal. All souls who have experienced human lives in the past and souls who are experiencing human life in the present share the same presence with God. It is important for you to establish your awareness of presence. It is easy for human beings to be aware of their physical location, but when we speak of presence, we do not speak of physical location. There is really no such thing as a *here* versus a *there* anymore than there is a real distinction to be made between *now* and *earlier* or *before* or *in the future*. The idea of presence means that everything, *everything* is continuous. There is no separation. The only separation that exists is a physical separation of physical property.

Although you are aware of the spiritual life, you are not aware of the real implications of presence in the spirit. You may be separated by thousands of miles from someone you love, but that separation is a physical distancing. Spiritually, there is no distance, no separation, no here or there. There is only presence, existence, being—that's the unity that is shared by all souls.

Perhaps when we say that the souls for whom you pray are joined with us, such a statement may seem unusual. Indeed, it really need not be stated, for not only are we joined by the souls for whom you pray, but we are joined by the presence of all souls. But our greeting indicating the presence of the souls for whom you pray is a way of helping you feel that presence in a personal way. Also present are all family members from previous generations and the souls of all who have lived human life whom you have never met. The souls of all humanity are present. The souls of perfect strangers living in far distant places are present.

If you look at a sheet of steel, you do not see the individual molecules, but all of the molecules are a part of that sheet of steel. It is meaningless to conceive of a molecule at one end of that item being a great distance from the molecule at the opposite end of that item, for all molecules are necessary for that steel to be a unit. All souls must be present in order for the spiritual reality of life to exist. It exists without boundaries—no boundaries of time, no boundaries of space. So in a very essential sense, everything that is a part of creation, past or present or future, belongs to one another and is each a single entity.

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You are as much a part of the spiritual flow of life as the Buddhist monk in Tibet. There is no difference between you. You must give more thought to this concept because it implies that there is in reality no place in the spiritual creation for disharmony. The disagreements, the strife, the wars, the anxieties that are experienced in the human condition are a human construction, but underlying all is this union or unity of the presence.

You feel that unity on occasion when you are with certain people. You feel an increased sense of sharing, of belonging, of being together with another. But that sharing, that belonging, that unity is no more real than it is between you and someone you have never met. It is just that you are not reminded of it because you have not met another. That unity is the same whether you have met someone or not, whether you agree with someone or not, whether you speak the same language or not, whether you share the same culture or not, whether you share the same life-form or not. You are indeed connected with all that has been created. It is vital, therefore, to concentrate on that presence, to focus your attention on how you are linked to all that is and all that has been. In so doing, you become more aware of similarities and are less swayed by differences that are perceived or even experienced.

There is no difference in the souls that are a part of the spiritual creation. Certainly there are some who have developed to a high level, and there are others who are still developing but at a lower level. But what differentiates these two are the levels of development, not the spiritual realities. You are each other's brother and sister, mother, daughter, father, son. All of you are really family. You are family to those with whom you work. You are also family to those with whom you disagree. You are families with nations who have different objectives from yours. There is really no essential difference.

You may believe that it is easy to say such statements but quite another thing to live according to them, and you are right. But knowing the unity of presence, your relationships with others can be altered. Patience becomes a by-product because it is a part of love. When you love something that is a part of you, that shares a common ground with you, patience is less of an effort. Patience becomes a challenge when you are focused on the differences between people.

You are not asked to agree with everyone. There is indeed value to having your own opinion. It is most natural to see life from your own perspective, but those differences can be a welcomed part of the sense of unity, the sense of presence, for presence does not imply sameness but rather confirms the value of diversity, as you would call it. When you accept diversity in life, in customs, personalities, objectives, and behavior, then you are on your way to seeing the ultimate reality of total union with one another.

The patience that you exert in a challenging situation is really a recognition of some common ground that can unite you with another. Indeed, patience *is* a virtue, but

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it is a virtue not because of the strength of the one who has patience, but rather because it illustrates the vision that one has of another.

Therefore, broaden your vision of humankind. Broaden your vision of your place in the continuum of all that has been created and all that will be created. Alter your vision to recognize the commonality of everything. It is a grand statement, but it is also extremely valuable and fruitful for you to pursue.

If you worry about the outcome of meetings, deliberations, and considerations of others, you are concentrating on the differences and not the sameness. Eliminating your fear of the outcome allows you to become part of the process of common spiritual creation. There is no longer need for great anxiety. There is no longer need for worry. There is no longer need for jealousy or territorial ownership. There is no more need for pride, for pride sets one apart from another. If everyone is equal, there is no reason for pride. There is only respect and love. You respect yourself for what you are given as gifts, but those gifts are no more or less valuable than the gifts that everyone is the recipient of. Recognizing that, you cannot separate yourself from others. You merely affirm the equality of all.

Too much energy is spent in human life categorizing differences, clearly defining those differences, establishing societies based on those differences, and establishing norms of behavior based on those differences. Imagine how your life would change if everything were geared toward your sense of equality of all. Many of those barriers would come down, for they would have no meaning. If you build a wall, then there are two sides. But if you perceive life to be unified, the wall has no meaning because you are walling out precisely what lies on your side of the barrier. You're not walling out something totally different. This can sound very idealistic in a superficial manner, but taken seriously, it can be the foundation of a new way of perceiving your own life, a new way of working with others, a new way of establishing priorities of what is important in your life.

Two people will have two very different gifts, but those gifts have the same value. There is not one gift which is more important than another. The fact that all receive gifts of the spirit is evidence that all are equal. Do not go through your life assuming people are essentially different and that one must try to change others to be like oneself. The differences you observe are a part of the unity of the presence. Those differences are cosmetic, superficial, and not really essential.

The problems the world faces on the road toward peace are the result of focusing on differences. There is no clear vision of unity. There is no clear sense of a continuity of all life. There is no view of a philosophy of being that has within its structure no room for walls. Such a view that you often see is limited and limiting.

This congregation of souls, this collection of spiritual entities of which we speak that are with you now are the same souls that are with you even when you are not assembled in a group. Nothing has been added here. The only difference is your

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awareness of this collection, but the collection continues permanently. There is nothing that really separates a molecule of water in the Indian Ocean from a molecule of water in the Pacific or the Atlantic. They are all part of a continuous presence of water on the earth. There may be some interruptions in some place for continents, but the water is really a single unit.

Think upon the unity that you experience with others on occasion and expand upon that concept, that feeling, to allow for a unity with everything that comes into your own awareness. Relish that unity, embrace it, recognize your part in that unity, and you will find it easier to live a life of love and patience and understanding and compassion, for what are these other than responses to a sense of unity? God's presence is really your presence as well, your collective presence. God's presence is really the presence of all that has been created and all that will be created. There is no separation at all.

Our presence in your lives is permanent and is not separated by space, for your soul and our souls are part of that same, single entity—spiritual creation. We are attached to you individually and collectively. We are never separated. You are attached to one another and to all of humanity. You are really never ever separated.

These concepts are difficult to fully grasp, and we understand that, but we urge you to devote time in your lives to pursuing a vision of this reality, for it will enhance your lives, give greater meaning to the experience of life, and provide you with the joy that comes from knowing that you are a vital part of God's creation.

We bless you with God's presence, and we also bless you with the presence of all spirits, those who have experienced human life, those who are experiencing human life, and those who await the experience of human life.

Amen.