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- *Relationship of guides, humans, and spirit*

God, the center of all that has been created, all that exists, blesses you, each of you, in every effort you make to learn the nature of your own lives and the relationship between those lives and ours.

In a sense, all that belongs to the human experience is connected to the concept of relationships. It is relationships that create joy. It is relationships that create deep sadness. Relationships create a loving connection. Relationships build walls and barriers.

Our place in your lives is a kind of relationship. We focus God's love upon your soul, and that focus influences in a direct way your human experience. Your lives are not predetermined, and it is our relationships to your soul that nevertheless create a context within which each of you can choose to function. We say this with considerable intent for we create an environment, we create a context, but it is you who act.

You are given choices in life. Your response to those choices is determined in part by your understanding of the relationship between your existence and ours. Life is a kind of balancing act in which you place your own objectives side by side with your understanding of what meets God's purposes. Your lives are guided by that understanding nearly as much as they are guided by our presence.

Yes, you are given life to live, to experience, to enjoy, to endure, to meet the challenges, to encounter the changes, whether they are viewed as changes or losses or great coincidences. But we, your guides, in our own spiritual evolution, serve not only as guides. We also are a kind of pool from which the spirit entities join the human existence. There is not one group of souls whose assignment is to incarnate into human form, and another group of souls whose responsibilities are to guide those other incarnated souls. That kind of division of responsibility does not exist. There are souls who are guides who have incarnated into human form many times, and there are some for whom such incarnation has been rare. Our relationship to human life is a very close one. All guides at some point or another have experienced human life. We could not serve as guides if we had little understanding of what it means from your perspective to be human.

What is it that takes place? What mechanism is operating that transfers spiritual entities from our plane of life to yours? All souls originally existed only in spiritual form. But it is important for you to realize that the lessons you know of, that you have been told about, that are learned within the human form, cannot be learned only in the realm of the spirit, only on our side of this narrow divide. We must therefore, as part of our acknowledged spiritual development, experience human life. We must experience other life forms which do not exist on your own planetary level. There are many forms of life

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that contain the spirit. You, as human beings, are not the only element of creation endowed with spirit.

We grow in our spiritual awareness, but there comes a time in our growth when we realize it is necessary to experience human life. We are aware of the potential that exists to be connected to human lives in points A, B, C, etc. We know the potential that is available within a community, within a family, within groups. We are fully aware of what that potential may be. But just as your own lives are not fully predetermined, neither are our spiritual lives completely predetermined.

We learn by what is experienced in human form. You learn. Your life, the life of a human being, stores enormous potential. That potential is affected by many areas of life. So even when we identify the kind of existence that we as spirit entities need, we still do not associate ourselves with a human life through absolute certainty of what that life will mean. There are events in the human plane that cut short the human experience. Those events are not predetermined, and when a soul is not given the opportunity to learn what must be learned while connected so intimately to that human life, there is need for further experiences, further opportunities to learn.

Human life is exactly like a school. The teacher learns, the student learns. There is growth on both sides. When you experience human life you grow emotionally, personally, physically, spiritually. That growth is the result of potential. A fine seed in poor soil cannot grow. A fine seed needs a soil that is enriched. It is important to accept that your responsibility in life is to be dedicated to an enrichment of yourselves that will serve the greater purpose of your soul's development.

Ideally, human life is about spiritual growth. That is the essence of life. You do enjoy life, you do endure life, you do suffer in life. Life has its own rhythms but nevertheless, life is not about you. Life is about your soul. Life is about spreading the power of love. Everything you do that fosters a sense of love, that reflects a loving attitude, a loving relationship, follows the wishes of God. Every such life is fully being realized. There is nothing missing from a human life devoted to the spirit. Without such devotion the spirit continues to grow, for the spirit receives God's reflection through us, just as you being human benefit from this guidance, from this reflection of God. You do not have a separate existence from the soul. Both are warmed by the same sun. You both are nourished by the same water. You both are comforted by the same love.

Just as some lives are long and filled with great growth, there are other lives that are also long but not characterized by the growth which is needed. The issue, the question of karma is a question of growth. We spirits must learn what is essential for us in human life form. If that is not accomplished in one life, then it can be furthered in a relationship to another. If you live a life that society says is characterized by evil, as some religions may characterize as sin, if that life is not directed toward being loving, then you must experience more opportunities to learn what must be learned. The Indian concept of karma contains much truth, but not fully Truth. You are not punished by what

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you don't learn. You are each simply given another chance and then another and yet still another until the learning has taken place. It is not a matter of working off what was bad, but rather living to learn what is good.

Nevertheless, the doctrine of returning to life does have some truth. You learn what you must learn. It is ultimately of no importance how long it takes to become loving and ultimately to become Love. Time is not the issue. What is important is the direction of life—life that takes you toward being loving, life that takes you toward being Love. That is all that is important.

We choose to incarnate because we are aware of the lessons that need to be learned. Only we can make that choice, for that choice is never made in isolation, it is never made alone. Such a choice to join human life is made with the loving support of other spirits. It becomes then not a duty, not an obligation, not a burden. It becomes something very natural that belongs to our own spiritual growth. Because we acknowledge that importance, the desire to join in a spiritual relationship with a human being is a natural one, freely made and filled only with enormous joy and anticipation—anticipation of what may come from this life.

Your spirit center, your soul, is filled with great optimism, is filled with enormous strength. It is filled with the loving power of its presence. Your spirit is filled with a desire to connect with you and with God. That is all any of us are involved in. It is you we wish to be connected to, and it is God that provides the framework for that connection, that relationship.

You live life to the fullest when you live it lovingly. That is all that is asked in life. You are not asked to exert power, to exert influence, to change other people. You are not asked to be the savior of the world. You are asked to live lovingly. There is no higher purpose, for in your efforts to be conducting a loving life, you are becoming more loving. Your soul in this experience learns more about the potential held within a loving framework.

Do we choose you as individuals? Yes and no. We choose to join your human life, but we don't make this decision with a full "picture" as it were, of what your life will be like, for we cannot predict your choices. You may choose to seek an awareness of spirit. You may choose to deny an awareness of spirit. That is your choice. But even if you deny spirit, spirit grows. Spirit grows because you interact with others. Your relationship with others characterizes all that you do. If you deny God, God's presence is still there. If you deny your spirit center, that spirit center is still there. There is nothing that will change that reality, but in acknowledging your guides, in acknowledging your spirit center, you become so much more receptive to the importance of that presence.

You go through life often stating, "I have been richly blessed." And when you make such statements, if it is an acknowledgment of God's presence in your life, then that may be a true statement, for all souls are richly blessed. All human life is richly blessed. But even if you say that statement implying your being richly blessed somehow

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places you separate from others, wrong as that statement may be, your guidance, the blessings of your guides continues at its pace unabated. There is no human being that is more richly blessed than another. If in thinking you are richly blessed you are actually thinking you are so fortunate to be aware of the blessings that are yours, then that is an affirming statement that brings strength to your lives and affirms the loving presence of your soul. This relationship between you and your soul is simple and yet of great profound importance. There is nothing simpler than being loving to another and there is nothing more profound.

Live your lives with this profound simplicity. Form your lives around a commitment to be loving. Form your lives around a commitment to support that spirit that lies within each of you, for in doing so you are affirming all that is good, all that is permanent, and you are affirming the equality of every human being you encounter. There is no human being without a soul. There is no human being who does not experience some growth. There is no human being who exists without the need for relationships. There is no human being who lives alone.

Celebrate your relationship to the spirit. The Thanksgiving that you anticipate should be a thanksgiving of spirit, a thanksgiving for all things loving, and a thanksgiving for all that holds within the potential for future loving relationships.

We are blessed in our relationship with you, and we are blessed in your acknowledgment of us.

Amen.