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An article entitled THE GUARDIAN WALL, reprinted from the *Australasian T.S. Newsletter* for December 1990, appears as the lead article in the current March 1991 *Theosophic Link*, published by the American Section of the Theosophical Society - David Spurlin, Editor.

Author Andrew Rooke cites data from the August 1990 issue of *Astronomy* which indicates that on March 23rd, 1989 a huge asteroid travelling at 50,000 miles an hour passed within 450,000 miles of the earth [approximately the distance of the moon from earth] -- a close shave in cosmic terms. Had the asteroid hit the earth, it would have left a crater 5 to 10 miles wide and a mile deep -- landing in the ocean it would have produced tidal waves several hundred meters high. ... Rooke goes on to say that in our Theosophical tradition, we are told that the Masters of Wisdom are continuously acting as a "Guardian Wall," shielding and protecting mankind from a vast array of cosmic and terrestrial dangers.¹

Those wishing to read the entire article can request the issue by writing David Spurlin at 3037 Zane Grey Terrace, Altadena, Ca. 91001, or by calling 1-818-798-8610.



With the above article in mind, I was struck by the astonishing parallels with a recent episode of *Star-Trek, the Second Generation*, a TV space age drama series. In this episode, entitled “Data’s Friend,” the crew of the Enterprise find themselves serving in a similar way as a “Guardian Wall” for the humanity of the small planet Drayma 4. Their task is to find a course of “right action” which is compassionate and, at the same time does not violate the provisions of the Prime Directive, their ethical mandate.

For those unfamiliar with *Star-Trek*, the following brief introduction should be helpful. The episodes take place on the huge Galactic-Federation Starship ENTERPRISE in “Space, the final frontier,” whose mission is to “Seek out new worlds and new life in the universe -- To boldly go where no one has gone before.”

The principal characters are: Cmdr. Jean Luc Picard; Cmdr. William Riker, second to Picard in command; Lt. Worf, a half-human Klingon; Lt. Cmdr. Geordi La Forge, a human Black - blind from birth, who wears an optical sensor over his eyes to afford vision; Lt. Cmdr. Data, an artificial humanoid life-form who describes himself as a machine; Dr. Beverly Crusher, ship’s physician; Ensign Wesley Crusher, her teenage son; Counselor Deanna Troi, whose mother was human and father was a non-human Betazoid -- which endows her with super-human powers of reading the feelings and emotions of humans as well as remote sensing of the presence of life forms in space outside the ENTERPRISE.

Synopsis: The ENTERPRISE enters the Drayman Star-System Sector to study a strange geologic phenomenon which is affecting all the planets in the Sector. The last unmanned planetary probe to Drayma 4 indicated a stable and healthy eco-system but now the sensors aboard the ENTERPRISE show the buildup of tectonic stresses along fault lines and increasing volcanic activity that threaten to destroy the planet and kill its millions of inhabitants.

Young Ensign Crusher has been assigned his first leadership role to form a team to study the geological puzzle to determine its cause and to see whether a way can be found to intervene and reverse the process.

Meanwhile, Data, out of curiosity, has been running some Electromagnetic field scans outside the assigned frequency range and has picked up voice signals from a young female humanoid calling herself “Serzenka” on Drayma 4. In the 8 weeks since the first contact, Data has been communicating with her and has learned that the geologic activity on the planet threatens to destroy all life there.

A conference has been called to discuss the situation resulting from Data’s unauthorized communications with Serzenka -- a breach of the Federation’s Prime Directive: that of non-interference with normal evolution of planetary life-forms within the galaxy:

Picard: It is no longer a matter of how wrong Data was, or why he did it. The dilemma exists. We have to discuss the

options. So please talk freely.

Worf: There are no options. The Prime Directive is not a matter of degree -- it is an absolute.²

Dr. Crusher: I have a problem with that kind of rigidity. It seems callous and even a little cowardly.

Picard: Yes, doctor -- I am sure that is not what the lieutenant meant; but in a situation like this, we have to be cautious. What we do today may profoundly affect the future. If we could see every possible outcome --

Riker: We'd be gods -- which we're not.³ If there is a Cosmic Plan, is it not the height of hubris to think that we can, or should, interfere?

La Forge: So, what are you saying -- that the Draymans are fated to die?

Riker: I think that's an option we should be considering.

La Forge: Consider it considered -- and rejected.

Troi: If there is a cosmic plan, are we not part of it? Our presence at this place, at this moment in time could be a part of that fate.

La Forge: Right, and it could be a part of that plan that we interfere.

Riker: Well, that eliminates the possibility of fate.

Data: But commander, the Draymans are not a subject of philosophical debate. They are a people.

Picard: So, we make an exception, the death of millions.

Dr. Crusher: Yes --

Picard: And this is the same situation if it is an epidemic and not a geological calamity?

Dr. Crusher: Absolutely.

Picard: What about a war -- if generations of conflict, of killing millions -- do we interfere?

---(Silence)--- Ah well, we're all a little less sure of our moral certitude. What if it's not just killing. It's an oppressive government enslaving millions. -- You see, the Prime Directive has many different functions; not the least of which is to protect *us*. To prevent us from allowing our emotions to overwhelm our judgement.

Dr. Crusher: My emotions *are* involved. Data's friend is going to die. That means something --

Worf: -- to Data.

Dr. Crusher: Does that invalidate the emotion?

La Forge: What if the Draymans asked for our help?

Data: Yes, Serzenka's transmission

could be interpreted as a call for help.

Picard: Sophistry --

Dr. Crusher: I don't buy that excuse. We're all jiggling madly on the head of a pin anyway.

Worf: She could not ask for help from someone she does not know.

Data: She knows me ---

Riker: What a perfectly vicious little circle. --- (Silence) ---

Data: We are going to allow her to die, are we not? ---

Picard: Data, I want you to sever contact with Drayma 4.

Data: (moves to computer panel and enters the command as ordered)

Computer: Isolating frequency ...

Voice: Data, Data, where are you? Why won't you answer? Aren't you listening? I'm so afraid ...

Picard: Wait --- (sighs) --- Data, your whisper from the dark has now become a plea. We cannot turn our backs.⁴

Data is then given permission to "beam down" to the planet in order to rescue Serzenka and bring her to the ENTERPRISE and

safety. Meanwhile the scientific team headed by Ensign Crusher has devised a plan to reverse the process that is producing the tectonic stresses in the continental plates. The plan is implemented and sensor data indicates reduction of stresses along fault lines and cessation of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

But Serzenka must be made to forget her encounter with the ENTERPRISE and its crew, for to remember would complicate her life. She must be allowed to be the person she was born to be.

Here we see a harmony between the Federation Prime Directive and the theological principle that the evolution of the spiritual monad must be won by its own 'self-induced and self-devised efforts - admitting no privileges, save those won through its own personal effort and merit.'

Can we not see, in this modern myth, Serzenka is us and the Enterprise crew is the Brotherhood of Adepts - working unknown and unseen to nurture and protect us - the *Guardian Wall*? They work within the law of Karma - they *are* the LAW, tempered with compassion.

Footnotes

1. "It is taught that the accumulated efforts of long generations of Yogis, Saints and Adepts, especially of the *Nirmanakayas* --

have created, so to say, a Guardian Wall of protection around mankind which shields mankind invisibly from still worse evils.” [Voice of the Silence, note 28 to Part III].

2. Is the Prime Directive here analogous to;

(a) Natural Law, i.e., karma,

or (b) an ethical structure laid down for human guidance, e.g., the *Ten Commandments*?

3. Compare the following from Master K.H.:

The major and minor yugas must be accomplished according to the established order of things. And we, borne along on the mighty tide, can only modify and direct some of its minor currents. If we had the powers of the imaginary Personal God, and the universal and immutable laws were but toys to play with, then indeed might we have turned this earth into an Arcadia for lofty souls. But having to deal with immutable Law, being ourselves its creatures, we have had to do what we could and rest thankful.

[*Combined Chronology - Mahatma Letters*, T.U.P., Pasadena, p. 35]

4. Inaction in a deed of mercy is action in a deadly sin. *Voice of the Silence*.

The Hidden Hand

The above captioned article by theosophical history researcher Joscelyn Godwyn in the April 1990 issue of *Theosophical History*, investigates the premise that one or more lodges of the Adept Brotherhood were the impetus behind the various kinds of ‘phenomena’ which sparked the interest in and rise of spiritualism.

In the article, he offers citations from H.S. Olcott, A.P. Sinnett, Annie Besant and others which lead to the implication that Adepts of one or more un-named lodges either sanctioned or were instrumental in the production of psychic phenomena. Their evident purpose was to ‘counteract the gross materialism’ of the late nineteenth century by ‘revealing that there is an unseen world around us -- as real as the world of the senses.’

Godwyn, in his research, has uncovered statements made by Countess Wachmeister and later supported by Annie Besant to the effect that it was a group of American Indian Adepts in a Yucatan lodge -- re-incarnations of Atlantean Adepts of the fourth Root Race who gave the impulse for the phenomena.

Concluding the article, part 1 of a series to-be-continued, Godwyn poses the question: “What could have been the source for the Atlantean Adept theory? By a process of elimination, C.W. Leadbeater emerges as the most likely one. ... Where else, after all, did Annie Besant get such ideas that have no source in H.P.B.’s works? Our witnesses, of both schools are virtually unanimous on one point: that the beginnings of Modern

Spiritualism ... were deliberately caused, and nurtured thereafter by living persons.

They agree substantially about the motivations for this action, and about the eventual failure or perversion of the original intent.

Beyond there, it seems, we have the choice of Theosophical orthodoxy as it would develop in the Besant-Leadbeater era, giving ultimate responsibility to the White Lodge; or else the intriguing suggestion concerning a less lofty occult order, the "Brotherhood of Luxor," whoever they may have been in 1848.

A third option - that there is some truth in both - would involve one in one of the most complex speculations about the hidden influences on history and on esoteric movements, and may in the end be the most fruitful line to pursue.

With more to come in succeeding installments, we look forward to the results of Author Godwyn's further researches.

Theosophical History is published quarterly by the Theosophical History Foundation. The subscription rate is \$12.00/year U.S. or \$24.00/year outside the U.S., airmail. Checks should be payable in U.S. funds to:

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Dept. of Religious Studies
California State University
Fullerton, Ca. 92634-9480

***** Book Review *****
Just Another Spiritual Book
by Bo Lozoff

378 pages. \$12.00
Human Kindness Foundation, Rt. 1 Box
201-N, Durham, N.C. 27705

Bo Lozoff is a quite unique figure in the western community of spiritual teachers. Back in the 1960s, Bo and his wife Sita were "hippies" and were among the angry anti-war activists.

Through a series of meaningful coincidences in which; his brother-in-law was "busted" twice for attempting to smuggle marijuana into the U.S.; he and Sita spent a period of time in an Ashram, he met Ram Dass and gradually became involved in spiritual work with prisoners. Thus was born "The Prison Ashram Project."

Through his association with Ram Dass, Bo became aware of the wider world of eastern spiritual traditions, beyond the Judeo-Christian heritage of the west.

His penetrating insight and intuitive understanding of the inner wisdom at the roots of world-wide spiritual traditions, combined with his own no-nonsense, gut-level experience gathered from seventeen years of face-to-face encounters with convicts behind prison walls, has evolved Bo into a powerful and compassionate *teacher*.

In the Preface, Bo says;

Perhaps the best potential of JUST ANOTHER SPIRITUAL BOOK is to reveal how alike we are, from a ninety-year-old meditating grandmother to a twenty-five-year-old mass murderer; from a psychologist in training to a weary prostitute-junkie.

Like a roomful of mirrors with only one object in the middle, the hundreds of pages in this book reflect a single, simple truth: Life is the Great Mystery, not The Great Problem.

Each of us can directly experience the Heart of the Mystery if we but learn to see clearly and act in truth. No one's life is easy, but living in truth is astoundingly different from what most of us consider "normal life;" astoundingly freer, more intense, powerful, magical.

The book is divided in two parts; I - Beating around the Burning Bush, a distillation of Bo's teachings from his prison talks and Newsletters and,

II - Dear Bo, containing highlights from Bo's correspondence with prisoners.

The book is a good companion to have nearby for a few minutes of inspirational reading before bed-time or anytime. Highly recommended.

SUBSCRIPTION TIME

This is the last issue on your present subscription. Although the Postal Service has increased first-class rates to 29 cents, we will continue for 1991/92 at last year's subscription rate of \$7.50. Reproduction cost savings in the new format make this possible.

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When subscribing, your comments on editorial content and suggestions for future topics are definitely welcomed. Which topics did you like to most? Which the least, and why?

Calendar

Sunday May 5th

Marcella Manor
Apts., Craft Room.

Judy Modig, 477-
4788 for details.

W. 66th Ave. at Wadsworth. (7600 W.)

Iris Rawls continues in her fourth presentation of teachings on the Kabbalah Tree of Life. Powers in the sounds of the vowels of the Hebrew alphabet, continued. Donation suggested.

1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Friday, May 10th

Barbara Ginsberg's
home -: 696-0794
for directions.

(Tentative date) Call Judy Modig at 477-4788 to confirm.

Al Skrobisch leads study of *Introductory Study Course in Theosophy Part II* -- Lesson VII: The Monad and the Ego, continued. Meeting begins at 7:00 P.M.

Monday May 13th

Park Hill Public
Library

Montview Blvd. at
Dexter St.

Take Colo. Blvd to Montview (2000 N.), 7 blocks E. to Dexter.

Gerald Lee will complete his presentation on Esoteric Healing.

Meeting begins at 6:00 P.M.

Friday, May 24th

Barbara Ginsberg's
home -: 696-0794
for directions.

(Tentative date) Call Judy Modig at 477-4788 to confirm.

Al Skrobisch leads study of *Introductory Study Course in Theosophy Part II* -- Lesson VIII: Universal Brotherhood. Meeting begins at 7:00 P.M.