

1-THEME: Importance of forgetting the past

2-OBJECTIVE: The child must identify that forgetting the past is a mechanism of divine mercy to help in the evolution of the incarnated spirit

3- BIOGRAPHY:

L.E. 218 to 221, 383 and 392 to 399, ESE, cap 5:11

The Consoler (Emmanuel/F.C. Xavier), items 116 to 119; Barn of blessings (Joanna de Angelis/Divaldo P. franco), cap 21; Messengers of the Light (Andre Luiz/F.C. Xavier), cap 12

4- CLASS:

a) Initial incentive: Group discussion

The teacher will form groups and give some questions to each group. Give the students 10 minutes to answer the questions. Each group will then discuss amongst its members.

Question 1: State some reasons or motives why we do not remember our past lives.

Question 2: Many people would like to get to know what their lives were in the past. Would knowing our past lives really bring us any benefit? Yes, No? why?

b) Development: After the group discussion, the teacher will ask for the answers, writing them on the black board, or he can ask a child to write the answers. Next, the teacher will further explain according to the Spiritist doctrine as follows:

Kardec asks the spirits what is the usefulness of the spirit having to go through the infancy stage. The encoder wishes to obtain a logic explanation of the reasons a spirit who has already learned to talk, walk, write, read, reckoning, and already has had an artistic, technical, or scientific development needs to reincarnate as a child. The Spirits answer: "Incarnated, with the objective of self improvement, during this period the spirit is more susceptible to the impressions he receives which may then aid in his progression, and which may be contributed by the ones in charge of his education."

The need of past forgetfulness becomes evident when we compare how much easier it is to convince a child to change habits than it is to convince an older person of the necessity of change.

The older person comes to realize the need of change, usually after facing obstacles himself which brings his attention to it through suffering, and so, becoming convinced, he moves into an action process of changing his habits.

Of course, it would be interesting that someone who once had high knowledge of arts or science returned to Earth having memories of everything. This way, he would not have to make any effort on acquiring new knowledge. However, the memory of the past could not be only partial. And so the spirit would not only have intellect field memories but also memories pertaining to the field of feelings, and moral, and these latter mentioned usually require transformation, meaning reeducation.

There is a difference between intellectual progress and moral progress. The intellectual progress is cumulative, meaning, the spirit continues learning other fields in science, other techniques which is then added to the ones he had previously learned. It is not always as such concerning the moral progress. In most cases, a real inner transformation is crucial so that the creature is able to give up certain habits and vices. Imagine someone has the vice of alcoholism, of theft, of dishonesty, slander. Would it be easy to convince this person to change his habits? And even if he is convinced he must change his habits, is it easy to

Change? We know that as we get older the human creature becomes more resistant to changes.

If we intend to take an adult to a complete "realization of the need to change", we will find the obstacle of the habit or vice still present in his memory and also he has been practicing the habit at the present moment. But a child is different, because the spirit has not yet suffered the direct influence of the habit or vices, and so, even if the spirit carries vices, these vices have been forgotten and again the child has not suffered the direct influence of the habit forming, hence the child has the opportunity to receive, accept and follow new suggestions on behavior. Whom then is it easier to convince the need of change, a child or an adult?

As we know, the spiritual evolution does not regress, hence, we can come to the conclusion that no one could have been better in the past, in the field of feelings or moral, than in the present. One does not lose his spiritual evolution achievements just because he has incarnated. The spirit cannot be deprived of accessing all his achievements in the field of feelings and moral. However, the same does not happen concerning the intellectual progress. A spirit can return to Earth in a new incarnation without the possibility of remembering all that he knows, as a result of the influence of the physical body's limitations.

This can happen, and many times by request of the spirit himself who wants to make sure that his intellectual abilities will not overshadow his efforts on his moral aspects learning such as kindness, humility, resignation, tolerance etc. The learned, wise people have more difficulty in the assimilation of the Gospel teachings, for the reason of pride and vanity which the light of intellectual intelligence causes to the soul, and exactly to the souls who most need the Gospel.

Earth, as a world of trials and expiations, shelters incarnated spirits which for most part still carry many spiritual maladies such as egoism, pride, revenge, intolerance, jealousy and other inferior feelings. The same feelings which, in the past, were the cause of our mistakes, consequently compromising us before the divine justice. Hence, we many times encounter enemies of dislike from the past in schools, in our homes, at work as well as in other places, to whom we could very possibly have caused harm in the past, material or moral, or we were the ones harmed by them. If it were possible to remember, this memory would be very unpleasant, very sad for all who were involved, and so it would affect social relations in a very negative way. It is then easy to understand there would be no harmony, peace, trust nor serenity in our daily activities, for it would not be possible to face a parent, a school friend, a coworker, if we were able to recognize them as enemies from the past.

Many children bring with them memories from the past, but in most cases, these memories disappear as time goes on. It is rare when the creature hangs on to the memories until adult age. Indeed, there are people who remember their past lives. These memories cause more troubles than they help, however, these creatures render a service to humanity as many times they become subject of research.

Sometimes, during our corporal life, we have a slight remembrance, a intuition of what we were in our past life. This happens for some people as a slight notion, but it can also be an illusion resulting from a super stimulation of the mind. Therefore, we must be alert so that we are not influenced in a negative way, and that we do not harm our psychological balance. Generally, we just need to look inside ourselves in order to know what we were before, by paying attention to our wishes and tendencies for good or bad. One thing is for sure: We were not better than we are at the present. For this reason, when we arrive at the spiritual world, we must not have the illusion of a revelation we were in the past a kind, giving, charitable creature if that is not what we are not in the present moment.

Although we know that even in the spiritual world we don't immediately remember our previous reincarnations, there are people who have a great curiosity of finding out about the past, thus searching mediums who render these types of services. Spirits, however, advise against doing such, not only because it could cause harm, even if they were true revelations, but also, in the case of false revelations, it would lead people to ridicule, in addition to creating a favorable atmosphere for contact with spiritual entities who take pleasure in lying and deceiving others.

We must keep in mind that the past is gone, finished. It's useless to worry about it now if we don't have any means to change it. The important thing is to concern ourselves with the present, and develop a deep confidence that we are reaping what we sew in our past, good or bad- most important to be aware- we are sowing the future!

Evaluation: dialogue

After explaining, the teacher will check what the groups discussed, checking the notes from the beginning of the class, and further explain if necessary.

Education material: blackboard, paper, pencil and eraser.