## A LESSON IN ACCEPTANCE

As spiritual beings, we are solely responsible for everything that occurs on a spiritual level. As energetic beings, we create and manifest our experiences through the power of allure and the principle of attraction. Whatever we put out comes back to us in some shape or form through the law of attraction. We attract what we are in the deepest sense, but also on the energetic level because like attracts like. This is the principle of "Resonance," which states that things of a similar vibration will resonate at the same frequency. Many people have been taught that opposites attract, and this is true on the physical level. However, on a much deeper level, spiritual rules supersede physical laws and have a greater influence over creation. It is this level of existence of which I am speaking.

On an energetic level, we attract examples or depictions of what we are experiencing on the inside. Therefore, every situation, whether we perceive it to be good, bad, or indifferent, is only there to reflect back what we are sending out on a vibratory level. Given this information, we are now authorized to bypass the "blame game," and take responsibility for what we are creating and experiencing. Interestingly, this knowledge can be both liberating and disappointing at the same time. Liberating because we can now begin to cultivate and create the lives we've always desired, and yet disappointing because we have to take full responsibility for everything that comes into our awareness, whether we like it or not. The responsibility we take is nothing more than learning to accept life as our own creations. If we are displeased with the results of our manifestations, then we seek to change ourselves starting on the inside, and the physical outcroppings reflect back this change.

Acceptance is an inside job. It starts and ends with each of us. Acceptance is not about seeking to blame some outside source for the way our lives are—it's about taking full responsibility as co-creators with the Divine. It means knowing on a much deeper level, that we create our lives as we go with the thoughts we cherish and the beliefs we embrace. It's about coming to terms with ourselves and facing the facts about why certain situations keep re-appearing in our lives.

In any given situation there are always two options: 1) we can accept the situation with the knowing that nothing happens by chance and it is exactly as it should be; or 2) find the courage to change whatever it is we don't like, by looking within to see how we have played a part in bringing this into our awareness, and more importantly, what greater purpose it might serve. Ideally, it is suggested that we seek God (whatever we perceive that to be), for the wisdom to know the difference between these two. Oftentimes we mistake acceptance for complacency because we choose not to change a situation claiming it to be "God's will for us," when in truth, this is nothing more than an excuse not to seek change. If we are truly aware of our connection with God, then we know that God's will for us is our will for ourselves; therefore, the two can never be opposed. As carnal-minded beings, we have the tendency of confusing God with being an outside entity lording over us from the "out-side-in" when in truth God is the Higher Self—contained within each individual, seeking expression from the "in-side-out." In that regard, our will can never be apart from God's will in the highest sense of awareness. Quite naturally, there are many who would argue this point when we look at all the things we perceive as, "not-being-of-God." However; from a much higher perspective, there is nothing that can exist without it being God's will, and to suggest otherwise, would be declaring that God is not all powerful, all knowing and everywhere present.

Real acceptance demands that we be courageous. It suggests that we embrace life's difficulties as lessons and our adversities as teachers. It calls us to change our perspectives about who is to blame and turn our gaze inward. Acceptance is about finding the internal strength to take responsibility for everything that is seemingly wrong in our lives, and seek to change those aspects that continually show up in our awareness. It's about coming face-to-face with our own creation, in whatever forms they take, knowing that we are both Picasso and Dr. Frankenstein. Acceptance on the spiritual plane is about knowing that we are co-creators with the Divine Architect and that we are either consciously or unconsciously, creating our lives from the in-side-out with each stroke of our mental brush.

Understanding acceptance on a deeper level helps us embrace life's greatest challenges. If we are able to know at a soul level that nothing can come to us unless we *summon* it, then we probably wouldn't resist the things that come into our lives. If we knew on an inherent level that life—and every nuance in it—has been chosen purposely by our higher selves, we probably wouldn't feel victimized by what we perceive as hardships. If we knew beforehand, the spiritual rewards of our challenges, we would welcome them. I know this may sound like a difficult thing to do but it's the truth. This is not to say that we are required to always seek adversity in order to build upon our spiritual growth, but we do well to know that *everything* that happens occurs for a Divine purpose. Generally, the purpose is not known until *after* we have experienced growth—at which time we can reflect back on the experience and be able to thank the Divine.

The sooner we arrive at a level of acceptance in any given situation, the faster we will settle into the experience and accept what it has to offer us. When I look back over my life, I can honestly see where everything I experienced was for the greater good of my spiritual growth and evolution. Granted, at the time I couldn't see the wisdom behind the events that were occurring in my life. Today, I am the sum total of all my life experiences, and I am better as a result of them—not in spite of them. We become stronger as a result of our willingness to embrace life's lessons with humility and acceptance. Through wisdom, we learn that life strengthens us. We come to understand that the universe always orchestrates life in a way that serves the greater good for all concerned. And within this understanding, it becomes evident that everything is intricately connected for the sole/soul purpose of carrying out a Divine plan.



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