

A
VOICE FROM HEAVEN.

THE SPIRIT

OF

MOTHER ANN LEE

TO

JAMES PEEBLES.

Take heaven and earth to witness. For I have broken the
evil in pieces and created the good. For I live saith the Lord.
Mother, embrace thy children and bring them up with gladness, for I have chosen
thee, saith the Lord. — 2 Esdras 2:14-15.

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Zion's Center of Union in
the Kingdom of God on Earth:**



The Shakers of Sabbathday Lake "Chosen Land"

**707 Shaker Road
New Gloucester, Maine 04260
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Have You Already Read The Particulars of Mother Ann Lee?

1. To Elder Frederick Evans, Mt. Lebanon, New York:

Spiritual manifestations of all sorts and gradations, as Shaker visionists and mediums prophesied many years before the Rochester rappings, have truly gone forth into every nation, city and hamlet, as witnesses of the immortality of the soul. Accordingly, I find spiritualists in all portions of the earth, and even the distant isles of the ocean.

2. Do you not remember Bishop Heber's hymn, commencing:

"From Greenland's icy mountains."

And then, these lines:

"What though the spicy breezes, Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle,
Though every prospect pleases, And only man is vile."

Well, I am here on the Isle of Ceylon, the land of cinnamon gardens, perpetual flowers, eternal summer, noxious insects and huge, poisonous serpents. How true that:

"Every pleasure hath its sting, And every sweet a snare."

I shall hurry away as soon as I accomplish my mission relative to looking up the records of ancient Buddhism. Kanda, as every scholar knows, was the fountainhead of Buddhism in 250 B.C.

3. Since leaving my native land, I have met a medium encircled by three grades of spirit intelligences, the higher of which were Messengers between the world of spirits, and the Divine realms of Celestial life. I enquired of one of these usually controlling spirits while entrancing the medium, if he knew Ann Lee in spirit life? "I do not personally", was the prompt reply. "She is far above me."

4. Can you communicate with her? Answer — "I can probably do so by proxy — that is to say — as she is much higher and Holier than I am, I can ask one of my Teachers — a Heavenly Messenger, to bear to and receive from her a message, if you so desire."

5. I am anxious to have her answer me a series of questions. Answer — It will be best to prepare them in writing. Read them to me, and I will telegraph them on, by the law of mediation; and if she is disposed to trust me, I will bear back to you the responses as best I can."

6. Thus encouraged, I prepared the following questions, which, having been read aloud, the controlling Intelligence put the medium into a deeper trance, and said "the chain of sympathy is now established; I will report to you what is given to me."

7. To Ann Lee, founder of that Order of Believers known on earth as Shakers. Pardon me for intruding on one who has so long summered in the Heavenly Land of Promise. Let me assure you, however, that my object in propounding these inquiries is neither curiosity, nor the selfish gain of knowledge. But it is

rather to possess more of that "wisdom which cometh down from above", and which as an Apostle said, "is first pure and then peaceable, and full of good fruits of righteousness." In all sincerity of heart then, permit me to ask: Do you continue to have a deep interest in Believers — that body of people known as Shakers?

8. **ANN LEE'S** Responses — "Turning my mind to that land of spiritual darkness, the earth, I respond through mediating Messengers to our Servant in the field of reform — the one who calls upon me; and through him, if so desired, to those who often speak of me, though yet dwelling in their tabernacle of clay. To my dear Sisters and Brethren upon earth, one and all; — *the Love of God, the peace of Heaven, the patience of the Saints, and the purity of the Angels be and abide with you, forever.* I continue to feel the deepest interest in *Believers*, and trust that the stream of purity which has flown thus far may continue to flow in every direction till all souls are washed, and every heart is cleansed in its Heavenly waters. Remember, oh my children, that purity is the key that unlocks the inner gate of paradise. "The pure in heart see God."

9. Do you still consider that your mission was heaven-appointed, and that the "*Second Coming*" — the Christ Spirit — was manifested in and through you? Answer — "Most conscientiously do I still believe, yea, I know, that my mission on earth was heaven-conceived and Divinely directed. And further, it was superintended, under God, by Angels and Archangels, and was, among other things, for the purpose of revealing the Christ-principle in woman, thus establishing the equality of the sexes. But in this I take no honor to myself. It is

God that worketh in us through His ministering Angels, to will and to do. Accordingly I humbly bowed in submission to the Divine decree that so ordained me to be a vessel, a humble Instrument for the Divine manifestation."

10. Do you consider that the genius of true Shakerism, as manifested in and taught by you, and by the Pillars of the Church, contained the principles of progress and the Law of unfolding cycles? Answer — "The Church of Believers on earth, found in whatsoever land or clime, has its counterpart in heaven. And this Spiritual Church, overshadowed by the Christ Spirit, and cared for by the Messengers of God, certainly contains the principles of all true spiritual progress. Much that is called progress on earth is not *true* progress. Fire must try it *all*. Divine Truth is from the heavens, and certain mortals, as well as many in spirit-life, are vessels through which it is poured. Therefore, it is with thanksgiving and with praise that I turn to God, and His Holy Angels when reflecting upon the principles that I sought, and still seek, to engraft into you."

11. Is there in the higher heavens a Shaker Church triumphant — the New Jerusalem — of which the Church of Believers on earth is but a faint reflection? Answer — "There is a *Divine Church* — Holy assemblies of Brethren and Sisters arrayed in white — in heaven, that the dragon cannot hurt! It is the Church of purity and progress, and from its life-bearing trees, drop leaves and fruits that tend to the healing of the nations. Many full of the pride of life; many accounted rich and great on earth, have, upon entering the world of spirits, suffered such torments and endured such fiery judgments, that they earnestly, yet meekly and tearfully, cried to God for help, and at once sought

the fold of Spiritual Love and Truth. Oh that the children of men would confess, repent of and turn away from their sins, before summoned to the suffering and discipline that otherwise awaits them. God is not to be mocked, nor just penalties to be escaped. Those that sow to the flesh reap corruption, while those, and those only, that sow to the spirit and live the calm, pure spiritual life, reap life everlasting."

12. Are not *you*, Jesus, John and other Divinely inspired souls, now Christ-Angels — ministering to the Church of Believers on earth — to truth-loving, aspirational souls in all lands — and to the more receptive in the world of spirits? Answer — "Jesus and all Christ-Angels, are engaged in the blessed work of mediation and ministration."

13. If *truth* is its own authority, should not the Teachers and Leaders in the Shaker Church be governed more by the Spirit of Truth — the Spirit of a Living Inspiration — than the letter of the Law, or the customs of an antiquated past? Answer — "There is ever a necessity for reform in all unclean habits; and for such progressive methods as shall give newness to and vitalize the past. The most useless things on earth are gravestones; for they neither grow themselves, nor let the grass grow under them. Believers, as a body may well be compared to a City set upon a hill, a leading purpose of which is to illumine valley lands below. They are also standard bearers; and as such, they should step into the spiritual waters in advance of all others, that the healing waters of life may roll more freely. It is the Spirit — the *Spirit of Truth* — that giveth life, while the letter killeth. Believers have been baptized of Christ, and reposing upon the foundation of purity, peace and a union of inheritance,

their principles must necessarily contain the very essence of progress, and will admit of both growth and expansion of method. With the widening of thought, the deepening of wisdom, and the expanding of truth-loving souls, religion, which may be summed up in **LOVE** — Love to God and humanity — should keep pace. Conserve, then, all the good that the Fathers and Mothers gave, but add ye more good thereto, and thus as the Apostle commanded — "grow in grace."

14. Do you from your present position see on earth an increasing necessity for a governing celibate order — an order whose solid foundation is *purity, peace and all things in common*? Answer — "Looking down upon the world today, with its vices; its cloaked contaminations and its polluting virus poisoning the infantile fountain of Society, I see the greatest necessity for the most rigid chastity — yea, more for true celibacy, which is the equivalent of positive purity. Virgin purity is as natural to the spiritual, as is polygamy to the animal plane of life. I see pressing requirements for a complete change in the tide of human nature — a change from profligacy, indulgence, and deep-seated worldliness, to the most earnest self-denial and virtue. So long as the marriage-beds of earth are the hot-beds of lust, so long will prisons frown, nations fight, the earth mourn and the ingathering to Zion be stayed. Considering the weakness of human nature, it cannot rest safely half way. To taste is to drain the cup — to drain the cup is to die. Therefore my words to the world are, handle not — touch not that which defileth; but practice chastity in its most godly sense, ye who are of the world; and ye, *oh ye* who have risen into Christ, practice celibacy not only in *deed* but in word and thought. The difference between spirits and Angels, is that the latter are pure.

We have here in our Angel world of peace a Home — a Mother's as well as a Father's Home, where we enjoy all things in common. And we thus enjoy, because we are unselfish; because we Love one another; because our life is pure, and because our souls are United together in the spiritual bonds of fellowship and Holy affection."

15. Are not the present wars, catastrophes, excitements, struggles and general *unrest*, prophecies of a future increasing interest in cooperation, communism and that quickening of the spiritual nature which must ultimate in a flocking to Zion — a vigorous ingathering of her vested souls? Answer — "There are prophecies almost innumerable that foretell the coming Brotherhood and Sisterhood of humanity. All pure ideals are ultimately attained; and by the means of prayer, will-power and work. From the most primitive condition of the races to the present, the growth has been towards the blessed consummation. Then work ye well; *yea*, labor diligently, for the time shall come as the end result and fruit of your labors, with the additional labors of Heavenly Teachers, when humanity shall have no despots, no kings, no rulers, no cities, no subjects; for it shall have become one vast Community, under the Government of POWER, WISDOM and LOVE — GOD." (See 1 Corinthians 1:24).

16. Are you acquainted with that distinguished celibate of earth, Giordano Bruno, who was martyred in Rome near the close of the sixteenth century? He resides I am told, in Pure-Love City, and wields great moral power in the world of spirits? Answer — "Yea; I am aware of Bruno's existence; of the martyrdom he suffered in Rome, and the extensive influence he exerts in his Heavenly Home of Love."

17. Have you words of cheer and comfort for me to bear to Believers — to those who, though not having seen, yet Love and honor you as Mother? Answer — "There are many things which I would like to say to the inhabitants of earth — and especially to the Loving Brethren and Sisters who in private and in public assemblies name my name. Let me admonish them to perseverance — to patience under trials — to continue instant in prayer and to give little heed to familiar spirits, who, while really of the world, stand behind a screen and delight in much speaking. Though spirits, their spirit-world is the earth-plane of existence. And every communication purporting to come from me that would loosen moral obligation, or lower the standard of personal purity, is from the Adversary. The beloved Apostle well said — 'believe not every spirit; but try the spirits.'"

18. "Permit me to further say, what has been often said, yet too little heeded by the world — that freedom is the natural result of Virtue, Love and Harmony, guided and controlled by Wisdom. All true freedom is within the limits of Divine Law; and *obedience* to Law must precede the ripening of the soul. God is infinitely free because He is infinitely Pure. That which worldly men call freedom, meaning the full exercise of the propensities without restraint, is the deepest and most deadening form of slavery. Such putrid waters drown the soul, and such teachings drag it to perdition. Envy, jealousy, lust and kindred passions, are not to be modified and regulated, as some blind Teachers have taught; they are to be extirpated, *annihilated!* Freedom, based upon obedience, and practical godliness, with the exercise of prayer, brings the soul into communion with the Christ-Angels. And these often draw near to you in your devotions, and shed upon you their sweet and Heavenly

influences. The prayed for increase will come, the invisible forces of heaven are at work — there is a leavening power going on in the widespread field of humanity — the darkness is breaking — and the long, tearful serving shall surely bring golden sheaves into Zion. And then, the fullness of times having come, shall the *Church*, humble in Victory, become the glory of our God.

19. "To the FAMILIES, and *all* true, unselfish workers on earth, I say, God bless you — let your light shine — continue faithful — be forgiving — Love one another with the Love that Angels know. And, oh, my children in Zion, think of the depths of a Mother's Love — listen to her voice of admonition — pray in your times of labor for the presence of Heavenly Hosts — sing with the spirit and with the understanding — worship in song and speech, in march and dance, with enthusiasm. Shake away all vain worldliness; struggle to conquer the apathy and selfishness of yourselves — strive to be Living Stones of crystal whiteness in the Temple of God, and fruitful branches upon that vine of which Christ is the root. I know your trials and your tribulations. They are trifling compared to the suffering and martyrdom of the 144,000 seen in the Revelator's vision. Numbers do not constitute strength. Jesus trod the winepress alone. Be patient, then; — drink from the fountain that quenched the thirst of Prophets and Apostles — abide by the Law and the Testimony — walk humbly, trustingly by the still waters — yea, walk and worship in the beauty of Holiness — walk, too, in the ways of simplicity, and *keep the Faith*, till the Harvesters, the Christ-Angels of the resurrection, put upon your heads Crowns of Life, into your hands Palms of Victory, and upon your spiritual bodies Robes of Purity, preparatory to a glorious and

victorious entrance into the blessed and peaceful Home of immortality."

20. Thus ends the message. If true in the past it is equally true in the present, that, "without vision the people perish." Visions, trances, prophecies, spiritual gifts and seasons of worship are all helps to higher spiritual attainments. I believe this communication in the form of answers to my questions, to have emanated immediately from Ann Lee, the blacksmith's daughter, the Christ-appointed Mother! But the very fact of mediations through fallible channels, implies modifications and non-infallibility. Accordingly, all communications and revelations necessarily partake of individual idiosyncrasies. The Indian chief said of the Interpreter, "His much words no just give my meaning — blow through onion stalk, breath smell onion 'tother end." Though the Indian's dialect was rough, and his illustrations homely, nevertheless it contained a very practical idea. In conclusion, I have to say, that in this matter I sought to be a faithful amanuensis, taking down the sentences as they dropped from the medium's lips. Mother Ann's words to me personally, while piercing as a two-edged sword, were both encouraging and beautiful. She is certainly an exalted and Holy Angel of Love with the Christ-principle of purity.

LOVE UNIVERSAL

O this Love Universal I want to be gaining,
As pure as the heavens, without spot or stain,

I want to be forgiving and to be forgiven,
I will drink at this fountain again and again.

To live to the truth, heed each tender conviction
Is the faith that my Mother has given to me,

To live to the order that's set for protection
O here I find power, O here I will be.

To thee O my God I have consecrated all,
My time and my talents, my body and soul:

Bear me up in Thy Love,
Shield me with Thy Holy Power,
O guard me in each most trying hour.

Shaker Communities

THE PROPHECY

A Worldwide Kingdom of God and Zion of His Likeness on Earth (Daniel 2:44).

FOUNDER

Ann Lee, the Bride of Christ (1736-1784) of Manchester, England.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Virgin Purity, Peace, Justice and Love

Expressed Through: Celibate Life, Complete Confession and Forsaking of all Sin,
Non Resistance, Community of Goods and Divine Order.

BELIEFS

Duality of the Deity, Father and Mother God (Power and Wisdom). The Mighty Dual Spirit, Creator of Life, Light, Truth and Love. Duality of the Christ Spirit, as manifested by Jesus Christ and Ann Lee, Immortal Life, Progress of the Soul, Faithfulness, Lawfulness, Equality of the Genders, Equality in Labor, Equality in Property, Temperance in all things, Justice and Kindness to all Living Beings.

GOVERNMENT

The Head of the Shaker Order is Christ.
Represented in a Dual Order of Leaders, Ministry Elders and Trustees.

COMMUNITY

Serious Minded and Competent individuals who vow to never deny the Father God, the Mother Wisdom, the Son Jesus Christ or the Daughter Ann Lee.

SHAKER MOTTO

Hands to work, and Hearts to God.—ANN LEE

Zion's Center Of Union

