

WAS LINCOLN GUIDED BY HIGHER MASTERS?

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Strange tales could be told by great statesmen if they would publicly acknowledge the debts which many of them consciously owe to psychical supervision in conducting the affairs of vast numbers of mortals. .

Was Abraham Lincoln guided or influenced during his masterful administration of the nation by Great Masters of the Wisdom that worked through him to control the destinies of the American people?

Every disciple of the doctrine of inter-plane communication, who investigates certain acts of Lincoln while in the White House, is inclined toward the conviction that the Great Emancipator followed the dictates of the divine hierarchy so often referred to in the pages of this publication, even to the extent of holding up the Emancipation Proclamation until he was given word that the moment was auspicious for its release.

Secular minded historians of course attribute his hesitancy in proclaiming emancipation to political reasons, without being able to explain exactly how delay redounded politically for its acceptance.

With his susceptibility to superstition, it is easily conceivable that the President should become interested in the time-honored query: "If a man die; shall he live again?" That he was greatly interested seems apparent. He read assiduously what literature he could find upon the subject of survival and frequently discussed the theory with others who were equally interested. It is true that with them he made no secret of the fact that he regarded the ultimate destiny of man with considerable concern.

It is equally true that Lincoln attended seances and that he was greatly interested in the question of the continuity of existence. Many mediums, famous in those days, visited at the White House and conducted private seances there at the President's

invitation. Among these were Charles Colchester and the lauded Charles Foster.

Though Lincoln attended seances, it is said that he found the information given to him so contradictory and so irreconcilable that he attached little importance to it. Concerning these communications, Lincoln once said: "These advices of the spirits are as contradictory as the voices of my own cabinet, of which meetings the seances somewhat remind me."

The President's interest in the question of survival was in no way abated by his inability to receive any satisfactory evidence of it through mediums. It is related that once, when desperately ill, he asked Secretary Seward what he knew of the future life.

"Very Little, Mr. President," replied Seward.

Nor I, either," sighed Lincoln, "but when a man is in the position that I am, it seems to be the one thing in the whole world worth knowing."

During the last half century it has been customary for some speakers at spiritulists meetings to declare: "The destinies of the nation were once controlled by spiritualism, when President Lincoln consulted a medium just before issuing the Emancipation Proclamation."

As a matter of fact, however, President Lincoln sought no advice from the spirit world as to his policy on the slavery question. What basis there is for the claim of the spiritualist emanated from a statement by Colonel S. P. Case, a millionaire railroad builder of Philadelphia.

Colonel Case said in an interview: "That the late President was a spiritualist there is not the least doubt. Why, some of the happiest experiences I have ever had in connection with the whole subject of spiritualism, covering a space of nearly thirty years, I enjoyed in company with the chief and Mrs. Lincoln."

"Do you contend that the Emancipation Proclamation was

was issued as a result of a communication from the world of spirits?" inquired the interviewer.

The colonel tipped back in his chair, a pleasant smile on his face. "There is not the least doubt that a spirit of communication turned the scales and was the pivot upon which one of the most important events in American history revolved."

"Do you mind being a little more explicit, Colonel? What is the basis for that assertion?"

Colonel Case got his cigar going. "I'll tell you the whole story. It was in 1862, when I was attending to some of railroad interests that were then before Congress, that I first had the honor of meeting Mr. Lincoln and our acquaintance grew into one of the most pleasant friendships of my life.

"Being always interested in new things, I incidentally learned through Judge Wattles of a spirit medium named Mrs. Laurie - then living in Georgetown - and with him arranged to attend her seances, as they were called. I was surprised when one evening the judge and myself were shown into the little parlor where the seance was to be held, to find several ladies and gentlemen prominent in Washington society, already there, and among the number, President and Mrs. Lincoln.

"After a little conversation, Mrs. Laurie announced that her daughter was a medium for psychical manifestations and that while she was seated at the piano, the instrument itself would be lifted from the floor upon unseen hands, and that any number of persons sitting upon it produced no perceptible difference in the result.

"Someone suggested that Judge Wattles and myself sit upon the top of the piano and see if our united weight would hold it to the floor.

"We accordingly did so, but at times the piano was raised wholly from the floor. President Lincoln joined us in our elevated position but the levitation persisted. We then sat about a table for a time while loud raps were heard in all parts of the room.

"What I have been telling you thus far is not responsive

to your inquiry, but I thought it might be interesting to acquaint you with what occurred prior to the incident that has caused so much discussion.

"The manifestations at the table having ceased, Mr. Lincoln entertained us by the relation of some peculiar mediumistic experiences he had enjoyed with a medium by the name of Conkling. As the President paused, there was an instant of absolute silence.

"Suddenly, a younger daughter of Mrs. Laurie, who had been sitting in another part of the room, arose and slowly advanced to the place where we were all sitting. Her eyes were tightly closed. Stepping forward, she paused directly in front of the President and raising her right hand, dramatically, she pointed to Mr. Lincoln and addressed him pointedly upon the subject of human freedom. She closed her remarks by declaring in a most impressive manner:

"There is in the spirit world a congress of wise spirits who hold the welfare of this nation in their keeping. You, sir, have been called to your present position to serve a great and mighty purpose. There are to ay thousands who are in physical bondage, from whose neck the yoke of oppression must be lifted, that this republic may lead the world. Thou art the man!

"Issue, we implore you, a proclamation of emancipation giving freedom to the slave and from that hour victory will crown the Union army and heaven and humanity will be served.'

"I wish you might visualize that young girl as she stood there in the dimly-lighted room her hair falling to her waist, her face aglow with enthusiasm. She was the very personification of inspiration. Joan d'Arc in her most illumined moments could not have manifested more power. We listened spell-bound to her burning words and when they were ended there was not a dry eye in the room.

The young girl finally recovered consciousness and started back, abashed at having addressed the President. Mr. Lincoln was greatly overcome by what he had heard, which was in fact one of the most powerful pleas for human rights to which I have evern listened. The controlling spirit was said to have been Seneca, the great Roman philosopher.

"On taking our departure the President turned to me and said: 'I am deeply impressed at what I have heard.'

"This was late in December, 1862. On January 1st, 1863, the great Emancipation Proclamation was issued and from that time the twenty-six battles that followed were all successful to the Union side. The exact prediction of the young girl had been fulfilled.

"In subsequent conversations which I had with the President he spoke of numberless seances which he had held with Charles Foster, Mrs. Maynard, Mr. Conklin, and others, and he frequently referred to that eventful night in 1862, and always in the same serious tone."

How many great men at high-voltage situations in their lives, when great issues depended on their actions, have been visited by similar counsellors and given concrete instructions for the benefit of humanity, will never be known. But the ignorant lay public, skeptical because of its general illiteracy in such matters, would be stupefied if it knew the numbers of men high in counsels of government and business even in the present who seriously accredit and act upon advice which comes to them clairaudiently.

The anecdote has been related in these pages before, of a poll taken one night in a certain sophisticate college club in New York City of all men in the great smoking lounge at the moment who were psychical adepts, who did automatic writing or received advice from sources above the mortal. Out of twenty-five men, nine of them admitted under coaxing that clairaudience with them was a common practice of their daily lives.